

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

As I am writing this, I have had the pleasure for the past two weeks to enjoy the hospitality of many of you. We came together to bless the Holy Water for the new year, and I have been roving since then sprinkling this from home to home. In each place, there is always the greeting, always the chance to sit and talk and eat. I have joked that the people of St. Nicholas Church want their money's worth, so they are at every opportunity attempting to make me a bigger priest by feeding me. Jokes aside, though, this eating and speaking and being together has made real something I learned at seminary.

There is an idea in the thoughts of some of our theologians that the Holy Liturgy prepares us to live sacramentally every day. Recall that the sacraments of the Church are those acts and offerings made holy by our participation and God's generous grace. To live sacramentally then is always to be offering, always to be

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offering, always to be praying. Some have even written that the call of Christians is to recreate the Eucharist—that intimate Communion when Christ becomes bread and wine for us—at every meal. As at Church, we gather; hopefully, we pray for the Lord's blessing; and we become a body as we eat together enjoying the generosity of a God who cares enough to feed us. This is why attendance on Sundays and

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

The holidays are over, but we continue to have snow, snow and more snow!!! It makes it very hard to go on with our day-to-day lives and activities. However, the events and activities of the Parish continue.

House Blessings are in full swing with visits by Fr. Nathan to your homes. Make sure you make an appointment for this very important visit.

Sunday School and Albanian Classes are held on Sundays. It is important for our children to receive a good religious education, so Parents, please make arrangements to bring your Child/Children to Church every Sunday.

Also, we need your help to complete the 2011 Pledge Card Program. Please fill-in the family information on your Pledge Card and submit it as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. To serve the community, the Church needs your participation, your family information and your financial Pledge for 2011.

In the next few months, we look forward to the:

- Beginning of Great Lent and
- Parish's Annual General Meeting which reviews and discusses the status of all church activities, finances and future projects.

**Your Active Participation in the Life of the Church
is Needed and Encouraged!!!**

DAUGHTER' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

It certainly has been looking like a "winter wonderland," like all those beautiful paintings we've seen. However, maneuvering around with all this snow, ice and slush and keeping warm is another matter. Yet still, every Sunday has had a good number attending regular services and memorial services too. We look forward to daffodils popping their heads!

Thank you to all the women that participate in our Coffee Hour Fellowship Hosting program. It is enjoyed and appreciated every Sunday by all. We are, though, in need of additional women to cover a few more Sundays. Please contact Christina Liolin or Father Nathan to volunteer.

Wisdom:

There are four things that you cannot recover in life:

1. The Stone.....after it's thrown,
2. The Word.....after it's said,
3. The Occasion.....after it's missed,
4. The Time.....after it's gone.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Shkurt, 2011

Këtë muaj do të lexoni një pjesë nga Metropolitoni Antoni Blum i Londres për marrëdhënjet me njerzit dhe një pjesë nga një vjershë e Naimit:

Ikona e Dëmtuar

Vetëm duke depërtuar në brendësi të njeriut,
 Mund të shohim bukurinë që ekziston në të dhe mund të pëlqejmë dikë tek ai.
 S'mund të përkrahim dikë tek i cili shohim vetëm gabime,
 Ç'është e shëmtuar, ç'është e dëmtuar në shpirtin e tij.
 Kur Krishti vëzhgonte njerzit që takonte, prostitutën apo hajdutin
 Ai shihte një bukuri që fshihej atje.
 Ndoshta ishte bukuri e dëmtuar, por Ai e quante atë "bukuri".
 Dhe Ai gjithmonë e ndihmoi këtë "bukuri".
 Të njëjtën gjë duhet të mësohemi ta bëjmë edhe ne për të tjerët.
 Por kjo bëhet vetëm me një zemër të pastër,
 Me një qëllim të kthjellët, me një zemërgjerësi që jo gjithmonë e kemi...
 Që të shohim tek njerzit bukurinë që fshihet
 Duhet të mendojmë se secili nga ne është një imazh i Zotit
 Që duhet konsideruar si një ikonë e dëmtuar...
 Sikur të na jepej një ikonë e dëmtuar nga koha, nga rrethanat,
 Apo të shkatërruar nga urrejtja njerëzore,
 Ne përsëri do ta trajtonim atë ikonë me respect, me kujdes, me butësi.

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THINK WITH YOUR HEART



We are blessed by God with material possessions, health, abilities, and life. Also, with intangible blessings – forgiveness, strength, courage, and ultimately eternal life. Therefore it is certainly a given that we should give back to God in return.

**Pledging is Stewardship –
PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD TODAY!!!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- Charlie Pochari became a great, great grandfather for the second time with the birth of Sara Nicolle on Tuesday, December 14th. Her parents Dina & Mark Stevenson and big brother Ryan James (15 months old) are so thrilled with this new addition. We wish Sara a very long, happy and healthy life.
- It's first time parents, Fyona & Ilir Fundo rocking the cradle of their son Thomas, born on Thursday, December 16th. The family is so happy to have Fyona's mother visiting here for a period of time to share in the caring for this new life. The proud grandparents, Zana & Thomaq Fundo are enjoying this new experience. May God bless them all with good health and much joy and love in their lives. Baby Thomas was churched on Sunday, January 30th marking the fortieth day since his birth, and the entrance of mother and child into the life of the Church.
- Our sincere sympathy to Bill Peters and his sisters Martha Pucca and Caroline Verleger on the passing of their sister Marie. Marie leaves a son, a daughter and two grand daughters.
- Please contact Linda Foundos, ggsutter@aol.com or 516-671-8071, with any news to share.....birth, special anniversary. vacation, major accomplishment or academic honor, new house, new job, promotion, etc.

Pastor's Message

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feast days is so vital. We come to Church not for something distant from our regular life but that we may find our regular life also holy, also changed and made Godly. The great heresy of the modern world is to find a place for the Faith in our life when we ought, instead, to locate our life in our Faith everywhere and in everything. The temptation is to segment and fracture our lives into ever smaller pieces, choosing when and with whom to share ourselves, but we do not worship the god of Sunday or of Easter; we worship the God of all. All our time, all our things, all our problems are His.

The life of the Church is not necessarily one of intellect and study. Many of its most profound thinkers were illiterate. Rather, the Christian life is a constant recognition that we dwell always in the presence of our creator. Those actions and thoughts proceeding from this knowledge are our finest worship. May every meal be a thanksgiving offering. May we approach the Chalice as a family. May we see God everywhere.

I look forward to visiting your home, blessing it, and sharing a little time and food with you.

KENDI SHQIP - Continued from Page 2

Ne përsëri do ta trajtonim atë ikonë me respect, me kujdes, me butësi.

Ne s'do t'i kushtonim rëndësi faktit që ajo është e dëmtuar

Por do na vinte keq për tragjedinë e saj dhe do të shijonim "bukurinë" që i kish mbetur

Këtë duhet të bëjmë edhe ne kur flasim për marëdhënjet me njerzit...

SHPREH

Kam shumë shpresë

Te perëndia

Që të mos jesë

Kështu Shqipëria,

Po të ndërtohet,

Të lulëzohet!

Pa vjen një ditë

Që të na sjellë

Të madhe dritë

Q'ajo të pjelle

Qytetarinë

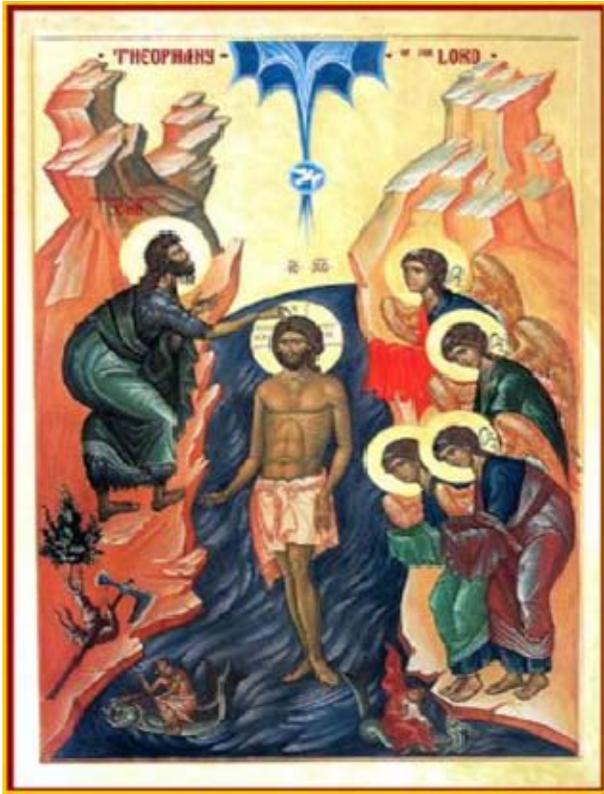
Fatbardhësinë!

Bring Your Child to Sunday School and Albanian Class Every Sunday, Beginning January 16



Plan now to bring your child/children to Church School on Sundays.

It is important to arrange for them to attend classes on a regular basis.



The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in The Temple – commemorated on February 2nd

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses, a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law. The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy

salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel". St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem". In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth." Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

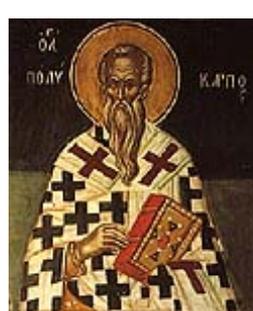
MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN FEBRUARY



Hieromartyr Charalampus (St. Haralambos) February 10



Hieromartyr Blaise February 11



Hieromartyr Polycarp February 23



Finding of the Head of John the Baptist February 24



Saint Raphael of Brooklyn February 27

Major Church Activities and Events

- Wed, Feb 02: Great Feast of the Meeting of The Lord
In The Temple
- Sat, Feb 06: Lecture at St. Vladimir's Seminary, 1:30 p.m.
The Meaning Of Icons
- Sun, Feb 07: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Feb 14: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Wed, Feb 16: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sun, Feb 21: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Feb 28: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Mar 6: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
- Mon, Mar 7: Beginning of Great Lent

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe

- Feb 06: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra
- Feb 14: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
- Feb 21: Bill PETERS / Ilia LUKA
- Feb 28: Ken GJIKA / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Mar 06: Tomi BENO / Ardian MILE
- Mar 13: Ilir FUNDO / Stefan BALTADORI

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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