

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Heresy. This word does not have much meaning for us anymore. We children of the Twenty-first Century rarely reflect on this. Indeed, it is not a word that comes up much in any conversation. Perhaps we hear it in Church regarding some dusty and long-dead opponent of our faith, but that is history bearing little on the topics and issues of today. We are trained to find commonalities and smooth out the rough edges of difference since doing otherwise would mark us as impolite. This is not a bad thing, to try to embrace the differences of those around us with charity. However the problem with heresy was never that it was found out there in the minds and actions of the outsiders; it was not an issue of external attack upon the Church. The problem with heresy is an internal one. It is in our hearts, and, as such, we overlook it.

One of Orthodoxy's greatest recent voices (who

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was also a New Yorker) wrote that the chief heresy facing all religious persons right now is that of secularism. By this, he did not mean the draining of religion from public life. The secularism he lamented and condemned was not the removal of prayer from schools or shift in public mores away from traditional values: topics now of endless television debate. These are, after all, external—things out there.

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President's Message

by Bill Peters

March continues our Parish's very busy schedule of activities. House Blessings by Fr. Nathan are well underway. Make your appointment! Many Pre-Pascha activities are planned as follows:

- Sunday, March 6th, "Forgiveness Sunday"
- Monday, March 7th, "Great Lent Begins"
- Wednesdays,
March 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th at 7pm
Pre-Sanctified Liturgies
Followed by a Pot-Luck Lenten Meal
and Religious Education Study
- Friday, March 25th at 9 am, "Divine Liturgy:
Feast of The Annunciation"

Of course, are encouraged to attend all Sunday Liturgies and the Special Services.

Also in March, our 2011 Pledge Program comes to an end. It is important for the life of the Church and its ability to serve the Parish Community that everyone supports St. Nicholas by making the best-possible financial Pledge they can make for the year. To make sure everyone's Pledge has been properly recorded, the names of Parishioners whose Pledge for 2011 has been received will be listed in the April issue of The Orthodox Post. If you have not yet made your Pledge, please do it very soon and so you can get on the List of supporters.

On Sunday, April 3rd after Liturgy, our General Parish Meeting will be held to review Church programs, activities and other business.

Plan on attending this important meeting!

DAUGHTER' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

As Lent begins, we should use this opportunity to mentally, spiritually & physically prepare ourselves for Pascha, the heart of Orthodoxy. One of these activities is Soul Saturday, at which time Fr, Nathan offers prayers for our loved ones that have gone before us followed by a light, lenten meal with parishioners in attendance and a visit to the Mount Tomori Cemetery. Our next Soul Saturday is June 11th. We hope that you will take the time to attend and remember your loved ones too.

The Daughters need your help and participation. We must have a meeting this month to discuss Pascha responsibilities, a long overdue luncheon, fund-raising & other activities and elections. Please join us. The Daughters play a very important role in the life of St. Nicholas. We must make it stronger. This is YOUR church community. Come and be part of it.

Wisdom:

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see".

General Parish Meeting

Sunday, April 3rd, after Liturgy



Come to our Meeting!!!!

Important business of the St. Nicholas Parish will be discussed: including Building Expansion Project Completion, Religious Education, Church Finances, Social Activities, Daughters of St. Nicholas activities and Parish Council Member Elections.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Mars, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë për urinë shpirtërore dhe një paragraf nga libri "Shqiptarët" i Edwin E. Jacques.

"...të bekuar janë ata që kanë uri dhe etje për rrugën e drejtë, sepse ata do të ngopen dhe do t'a shuajnë etjen"

Të gjithë kemi provuar uri dhe etje te papërshtuar fizike. Është një ndjenjë shumë e forte e cila nuk shuhet deri sa te ngopemi. Në të njëjtën mënyrë, Kristianët duhet të kultivojnë një dëshirë të zjarrtë për të përqaftuar një jetë të drejtë, duke kërkuar gjëra shpirtërore. Kjo nevojë shprehet shumë bukur në lutjen 42;1-2: "Ashtu si dreri i etur kërkon përrënjtë për të pirë ujë, ashtu dhe shpirti im të kërkon Ty, o Zot i gjallë." Zoti premtonte se ata "që kërkojnë rrugën e drejtë" do t'u plotësohet dëshira. Ai do t'u japë atyre qetësi dhe kënaqësi të brendshme, duke i bërë të lumtur me njohurinë e të vërtetave të Tij të shenjta. "Do të ngopem kur lavdija Jote do të manifestohet tek unë".

"Shqiptaret" shkruar nga Edwin E. Jacques më 1995

...Njerzit pyesin"Ku e kanë zanafillën shqiptarët? Mos janë ata pasardhës modernë të grekëve apo të romakëve, të sllavëve ballkanas apo ndoshta të turqve?" Per t'iu përgjigjur këtyre pyetjeve, së pari do të shqyrtojmë gjetjet arkeologjike, pastaj punën kërkimore shumë të hollësishme të ekspertëve të gjuhësisë dhe në fund traditat popullore të ruajtura në kronikat më të hershme të dijetarëve të lashtë... Ky popull i lashtë pellazg shënon një datë më të hershme se zhvillimi i civilizimeve të Greqisë dhe Romës. Vendosmeria e tyre për të ruajtur identitetin e vet etnik, pasioni i tyre për tokën, gjuhën dhe lirinë e tyre u kërcënuan nga të dyja perandoritë e krishtera, e Lindjes dhe e Perëndimit, dhe më vonë nga turqit Otomane. ...Pse shqiptarët, historikisht të krishterë, do të ktheheshin kryesisht në myslimanë?...

2011 PLEDGE PROGRAM IS COMING TO AN END!!!

Pledging is Stewardship, Pledge with Your Heart

**To Make Sure Everyone's Pledge Has Been Properly Recorded,
the Names of Parishioners Whose Pledge for 2011 has been Received
Will Be Listed in the April Issue of The Orthodox Post.**

If you have not made your Pledge yet, make it soon and get on this List.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE
BY RETURNING YOUR PLEDGE CARD OR CONTACTING
JIM LIOLIN OR LOU FOUNDOS BY MARCH 15TH!!!**

***St. Nicholas Church needs your Financial Support and Participation
to Properly Serve Our Parish Community.***

PRE-SANCIFIED LITURGIES DURING GREAT LENT

March 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 pm



***The Service will be followed by
a Pot-Luck Lenten Meal
and Religious Study***

**Participate in this Activity as a
part of your Preparations
for PASCHA**

Bring Your Child to Sunday School and Albanian Class Every Sunday



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

**It is important to make arrangements for
them to attend classes on a regular basis!!!**

Pastor's Message

– Continued from Page 1

Heresy remains in the heart; it remains in our hearts. The secularism he bewailed was that insidious drive we all possess to segment our lives, cordoning off what and who and where belong to God and His Church. If we give Sundays, the rest of the week is ours. If we give five minutes to prayer each day, we can forget God all the remainder. Relegating God only to those areas and times in which we are comfortable having Him denies the claim we make as Christians that he is *Pantocrator*, all ruling. A god that can be banished is no true god. So in such scheduling and apportioning of our lives into those arenas where He is welcome and where we would rather he were not, we become idolaters, worshippers of a cheap deity. This is heresy, and we are its devotees.

The increased awareness that the Great Fast is intended to share with us is one medicine of the Church against this very weakness. The services increase. The food (theoretically) decreases. With every inconvenience we reign in our minds, evangelizing ourselves with the true message and good news that God cannot be anywhere else but here and now. Christ is in our midst! He is and **ever shall be!**

AN ARCHDIOCESE REPORT – 2010 College Conference East
“Behold, I make all things new...” –Revelation 21:5

On December 28th, 2010, I arrived at Antiochian Village Conference Center with a group of students from Worcester, Massachusetts to attend the 2010 Orthodox Christian Fellowship College Conference – an annual event held at the Antiochian Village in Bolivar, Pennsylvania. Almost as soon as we had finished checking in, Vespers began in the Conference Center chapel, and was chanted collectively by all present. After the beautiful service and dinner, the conference attendees gathered to hear Fr. Anthony Yazge, the director of Antiochian Village Camp, introduce the Conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Gayle Woloschak, who was speaking on the issue of modern science, technology, and the issues they present for Orthodox Christianity. Dr. Woloschak gave a brief introduction to the subject she would be speaking on, and also about her qualifications and research in her field. Following her talk, the students broke up into small groups for discussion.

The next day began with Orthros and Divine Liturgy, served by the clergy in attendance, at 8:00 am. Liturgy was followed by brunch, and then the first part of Dr. Woloschak's keynote address, in which she discussed the topic of modern science and technology, and the moral issues and questions that new technologies bring up for Orthodox Christians, such as cloning and genetic engineering, among other things. She touched upon the various issues that emerge for Orthodox in the light of these new technological developments, especially given the core Orthodox belief of the sanctity of life.

After the conclusion of her address, six different workshop

leaders dispersed to various parts of the conference center to present their topics. The workshops were also on various relevant topics for Orthodox Christians. Deacon Nicholas spoke on the topic of repentance and confession, which was an extremely popular workshop among the students. Kouriya Stephanie led a discussion on baptism – a particularly relevant issue for many attendees, due to the fact that many of them were baptized as infants, and also because many are commonly confronted by Protestant friends who contest that infant baptism is pointless. Her presentation was very helpful in addressing both issues. Natalie Nixon spoke on the topic of Orthodox marriage, as well as courtship and dating, and addressed many questions from the unmarried students in attendance. Finally, Fr. Nicholas Dellerman led a discussion on Orthodoxy and the transformation of modern culture – some which, he contended, can only be achieved through living an active Orthodox Christian life.

In another area of the conference center, students joined together in assembling hygiene kits to be sent to IOCC and distributed around the world. Vespers at 5:00 p.m. was followed by dinner, and a discussion with our small groups. Instead of Small Compline, the Paraklesis service to the Theotokos was served in the chapel at 11:30 p.m.

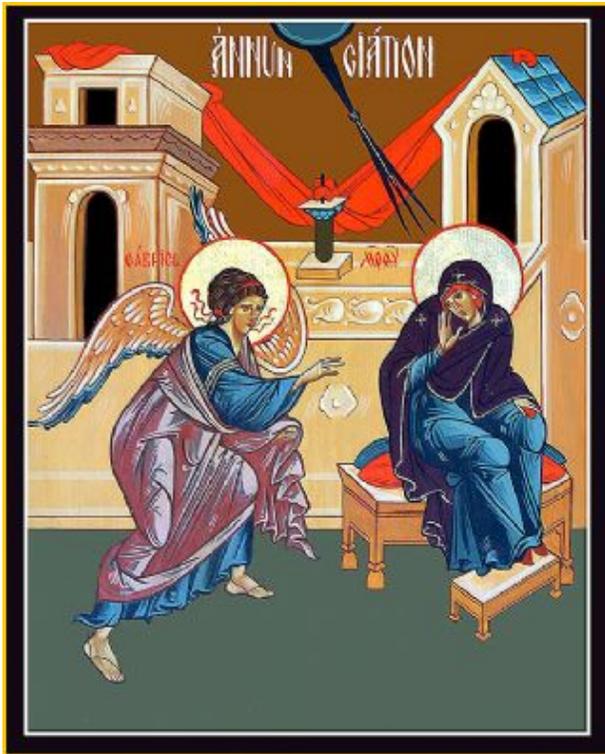
The third day of the conference started off with Orthros in the Conference Center chapel at 9 am. The day continued with the workshops led by various speakers, followed by lunch and discussion in everyone's small group. Lunch was followed by the final portion of Dr. Woloschak's presentation on science and technology and a question-and-answer session as well. After the conclusion of her talk, Fr. Yazge, the director of Antiochian Village Camp, thanked Dr. Woloschak for speaking to the students who attended the conference. Vespers for the Leave-taking of the Nativity was served at 5 pm. As a symbol of the pan-Orthodox nature of the conference, the much-loved hymn “O Pure Virgin” was chanted at the end of Vespers in English, Greek, Arabic, Slavonic, and Spanish by several students before heading to the dining hall for the dinner and dance. Compline was again served later that evening, and many students stayed afterward in the church to chant various popular hymns. On the last day, Orthros was again served at 9 am, followed by brunch. Afterward, the various attendees of the Conference all returned to their homes for New Year's Eve.

All in all, OCF College Conference 2010 was a very enjoyable event. The presentations and workshops were very interesting and very applicable to living an Orthodox Christian life. It was also wonderful to see many old friends from around the country, many of whom I had not seen in several years, and also to make new friends as well. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Albanian Archdiocese for providing me with the funds necessary to attend the event. I would heartily recommend it to other Orthodox Christian college students as well, who would like to learn more about their Faith while strengthening their ties with other Orthodox young people.

In Christ,

Timothy Gabriel Cremeens

Student at Hellenic College, Brookline, MA; Member of Saint Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church, Worcester, MA



The Feast of The Annunciation – commemorated on **March 25th**

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of St Luke. The troparion describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to St. Joseph: "Hail thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in

thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34).

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1:35-38)."

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MARCH



Cheesefare Sunday
(Forgiveness Sunday)
March 06



St. Theodore – 1st
Saturday of Great Lent
March 12



Orthodox Sunday – 1st
Sunday of Great Lent
March 13



Synaxis of the
Archangel Gabriel
March 26



Veneration
of the Cross
March 27

Major Church Activities and Events

- Wednesday March 9, 16, 23 and 30:
Presanctified Liturgy, 7 p.m.;
Potluck and Faith Study after
- Sun, Mar 6: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
- Mon, Mar 7: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Mar 13: First Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of
Orthodoxy; Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Reset your clocks !
- Sun, Mar 20: Second Sunday of Great Lent –
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Fri, Mar 25: Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m.
Feast of The Annunciation
- Sun, Mar 27: Third Sunday of Great Lent – Veneration
Of the Cross; Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Sun, Apr 03: Semi Annual Parish Meeting, after
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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

- Mar 06: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- Mar 13: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltadori
- Mar 20: Petrika Troja / Nasi Pavllo
- Mar 27: Andrea Kutali / John Jance
- Apr 03: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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