

# THE ORTHODOX POST

March 2012

Volume VIII, Issue 3



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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

I have never been one much for poetry. By this, I don't mean that I have not and do not enjoy it. I do, really. But it has always remained at the top of my food pyramid, something delicate to supplement a steady diet of novels, short stories, monographs, and histories. Poetry has never been my bread and butter, my bukë and djathë. My sister, though, had a passion for it. She copied her favorites by hand into bound volumes, augmenting their meaning and tone with individual drawings and intricate marginalia. Late at night, it was not uncommon to pass by the door of her room, heavily hung with art and signs, and hear her inside reciting: sonnets, scenes from Shakespeare, a steady stream of memorized beauty. In contrast, I put to memory as little as possible, filling my shelves instead with volumes in easy reach, trusting that the length of my arms could compensate for the shortness of my memory.

Though necessity has compelled me to memorize much, poetry is still little among this. Prayers, hymns, concepts, Psalms, music, maps—yes, but ask me to recite poetry and I may begin to look a little desperate. There was, however, one poem that as a younger man I did set about intentionally to remember and recite with competence. It is the first stanza

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from a longer work by the English writer G. K. Chesterton. Not surprisingly, it is religious.

O God of earth and altar,  
bow down and hear our cry,  
our earthly rulers falter,  
our people drift and die;  
the walls of gold entomb us,  
the swords of scorn divide,  
take not thy thunder from us,  
but take away our pride.

**Continued on Page 4**

## 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:

- Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, "Great Lent Begins"
- Wednesdays,  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Pre-Sanctified Liturgies  
Followed by a Pot-Luck Lenten Meal  
and Religious Education Study
- Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am,  
"Divine Liturgy: Feast of The Annunciation"

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

Also in March, our 2012 Pledge Program approaches 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 2012 has been received will be listed in a future 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.

Looking ahead – make plans to attend services for Palm Sunday on April 7<sup>th</sup>, Holy Week (April 8<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup>) and Pascha on Saturday night, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

At our January meeting, elections were held. Our new slate of officers is: President: Linda Foundos, Vice President: Tina Korra, Secretary: Pauline Logore, Treasurer: Irma Mile, Sunshine Person: Silvana Kutali, Coffee Hospitality Scheduling: Christina Liolin and Coffee Hospitality Caller: Adelina Llupa.

A huge thank you to Viola Kallinikos as outgoing Treasurer who served in that capacity for over 10 years with great dedication and enthusiasm. Her efforts have been very much appreciated. Also, outgoing is Irma Mile as our past Vice President. She is now reactivated as our new Treasurer. We thank all of those that step forward to serve.

Plans were also made for some activities following the Lenten period. Information will be coming soon; so please plan to join us. Arrangements were also made to accommodate some church needs and to help with the Valentine's Dance which was a huge success.

Wisdom:

Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist,  
While you guys were busy arguing about the glass of water, I drank it!!  
Sincerely,  
The Opportunist

## COMMUNITY NEWS

If you have news you would like to share with the Parish Community, such as a birth, a wedding, engagement, special anniversary, vacation, new house, new job, major accomplishment or academic honor, etc

Please contact Linda Foundos,  
[ggsutter@aol.com](mailto:ggsutter@aol.com) or 516-671-8071.

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Mars, 2012

Këtë muaj po japim një lutje kur jemi në vështirësi, dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Korça" e Naimit

Lutje kur jemi në kohë të vështirë

O Zot, Ti që na ndihmon dhe përkrah gjithmonë, që je i drejtë dhe mëshirëplotë; Ti që je ndihma dhe kuraja jonë, që dëgjon lutjet tona, kujdesu për mua, një mëkatar i varfër; ki mëshirë për mua dhe më nxir nga kjo gjëndje e vështirë në të cilën jam futur dhe që e meritoj të vuaj. E kuptoj dhe besoj, O Zot se të gjitha provat e kësaj jete jepen nga Ty për mëkartet tona, kur ne largohemi nga Ty dhe kur nuk zbatojmë këshillat e Tua; mos më gjyko pasi t'i kem bërë gabimet, por më gjyko sipas mëshirës tënde, sepse jam krijesa jote dhe Ti m'i njeh më mirë dobësitë e mia. Të lutem më dhuro hirësinë tënde hyjnore dhe më jep durim dhe fuqi të përballoj vështirësitë e mija duke iu përlulur dëshirës tënde. Vetëm Ti m'a njeh shqetësimin dhe vuajtjen dhe vetëm tek Ti, e vetmja shpresë dhe shpëtim, vij për t'u lehtësuar dhe kam besim tek dashuria jote e pafund, që, kur të jetë koha e përshtatshme, Ti do të më nxjerësh nga kjo gjëndje ku jam futur dhe do të ma kthesh mërzitjen në gëzim dhe në mëshirën tënde, do t'i thur lavde Emrit Tënd të Shenjtë, O At, Bir dhe Shpirt i Shenjtë, tani dhe përherë, në jetë të jetëve, Amen.

Korça

O vëllezër shqipëtarë!  
Gëzohi që erdh' kjo ditë,  
Kaq' e mir' e kaq' e mbar  
Që sjell gjithë mirësitë.

Kjo është dit' e rezë,  
Që bije vëllazërinë,  
E dëbon jetën e zezë,  
Ndarjen e marrëzinë.

Lumja ti, moj Korç' o lule  
Q'i le pas shoqet e tua,  
Si trimi në ball' u sule,  
T'a paçim për jetë hua.

Kushdo që është sot burrë,  
Dhe Shqiptar i vërtetë,  
Emëri s'i shuhet kurre  
Dhe nderi i rron për jetë.

## House Blessings



Speak to Fr. Nathan now  
about coming to bless your home.

Appointments should be made soon!!!

Church: 718-380-5684

Cell: 208-818-3372

## Church School (Sunday School & Albanian Class)



**BRING YOUR CHILDREN  
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### *Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church Published in The Orthodox Post (See Pages 6 & 7)*

In this issue there are advertisements (Ads) promoting businesses that support our Church which are being displayed in The Orthodox Post on a monthly basis. These Ads are on pages 6 and 7. They will help to financially support our St. Nicholas Church. Therefore, we ask that Parishioners look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

## Pledge Program for 2012 – Return your Pledge Cards

To date, some parishioners have still not returned their Pledge Cards for 2012. If you have not submitted a Pledge Card yet, please mail it in or bring it to Church and give it to Jim Liolin, Lou Foundos or Fr. Nathan. St. Nicholas Church needs all parishioners to make a Pledge for 2012 and submit a Pledge Card. This makes it possible to operate the Church and serve the community.

We appreciate your continued generosity and it is your spiritual, physical, and monetary support that maintains St. Nicholas here for us to gather together as one community.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from Page 1)

Ask me for some poetry, and this may be all you get.

These words come back to me now at this time of year as we enter into Lent. While we give up food and time, these lesser battles with stomach and stopwatch are mere skirmishes strategically bent towards the larger goal of waging outright assault and violent war on our own pride and ego. As the poem makes clear, we lack not the mighty grace of God to do good in this world; our deficit is of humility.

Whether we look broadly at country and town, or more intimately at parish and family, we see these same things. Alienation is there, unforgiveness, the refusal to admit that we may be wrong, and that terrible denial of the face of God—His image in every person. “Take away our pride,” could be the refrain of every Lenten prayer.

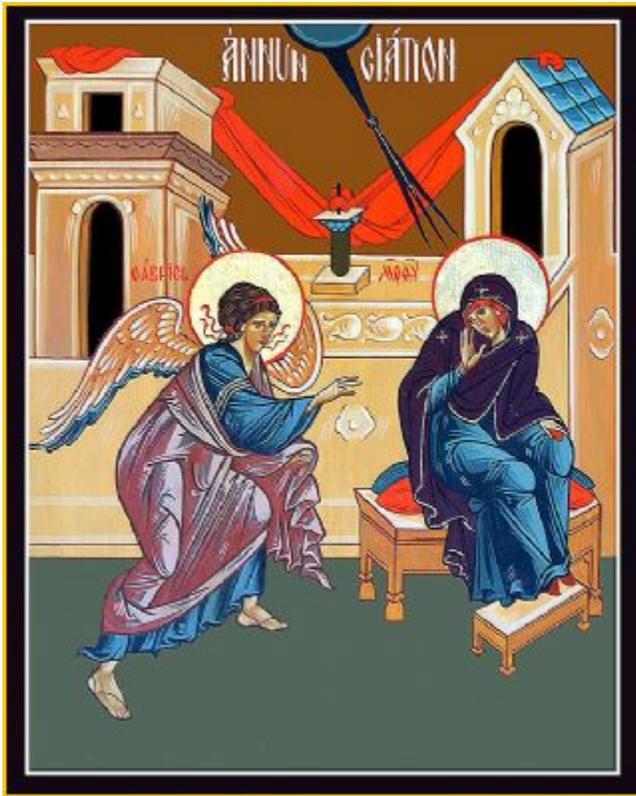
Take away our pride at coffee hour, so that the new and lonely do not ever sit alone. Take away our pride during the services of the Church, so that the conversation I would like to have with my neighbor does not intrude upon the prayers of so many others struggling to pray. Take away our pride, so that, hearing those voices of distraction while trying to make my prayer, I know that God is present whether I feel it or not and that He is present also to that chatterer. Take away our pride at meetings, so that all can be heard and none resented. Take away our pride at home, where we fall into habits and assumptions that enslave those around us with our expectations. Take away our pride at work and school, on subways and freeways. Take away our pride in the streets with friends or strangers. Take away our pride with those asking for spare change and those in fancy cars.

Lord, take away our pride! We are tired of being ourselves: unthinking, uncaring, unloving. We are tired of being without You! That is the beauty of this season. That is the poetry of the Christian life. It is something worth memorizing.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

By Linda Foundos

- Memorial Services were held in memory of Miriam Solomon Tuku who passed away on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Miriam is the aunt of Britu Haille. Miriam's family from across the United States had all gathered for her funeral. What a large, wonderful and loving family. Miriam will be greatly missed. May her memory be eternal.
- Tommy & Sandra Ligor are seeing PINK with the birth of their sweet baby girl Brianna born on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Tommy is the grandson of one of everyone's favorite people, Georgina Ligor who is no longer with us, but was a true pillar of the St. Nicholas community. Heartfelt congratulations to Brianna's entire family. May God bless them all.
- Happy, Happy Anniversary to Diana & Dhimiter Beno who celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary! What a beautiful milestone with a lot of living, never a dull moment and quite an interesting story. Their loving family and the St. Nicholas community wish them all the best and many more years!
- Happy, Happy Birthday to Jim Oswald who celebrated a “special” birthday. You're a good man loved by all! As the Albanian expression goes.....”may you live as old as the hills!” (and that's pretty long; they mean the huge, old mountains!)
- May God bless the Peters family as little Jackson Gabriel was baptized on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. He is the son of Regina & Bill Peters, grandson of Tina & Bill Peters. Jackson is son #3, after Will #1 son and Daniel #2 son. The proud Godparents are Damian Peters and Melissa Onorato. What a beautiful family!!!



**The Annunciation of The most Holy Theotokos – Commemorated on March 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 (1:26–38). 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 (Genesis 3:15): "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 icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

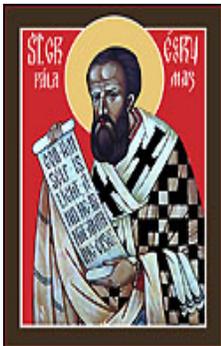
In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. 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)."

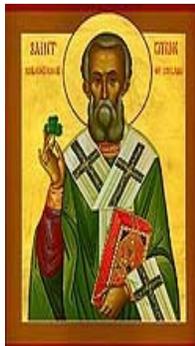
**MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MARCH**



March 04  
Sunday of  
Orthodoxy



March 11  
St. Gregory  
Palamas



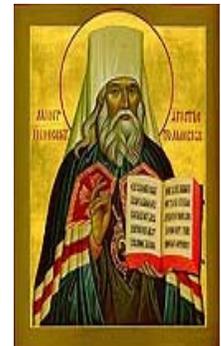
March 17  
St. Patrick  
of Ireland



March 18  
Veneration  
of the Cross



March 26  
Archangel  
Gabriel



March 31  
St. Innocent of  
the Americas

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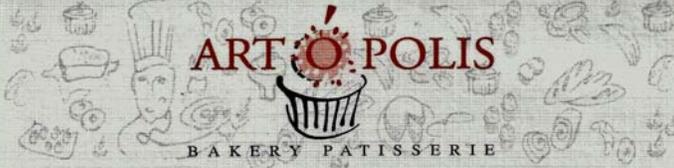
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**Major Church Activities and Events**

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

“HOUSE BLESSINGS” continue

- Sun, Mar 04: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, Mar 05: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Mar 07: Presanctified Liturgy and Adult Study, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Mar 11: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed, Mar 14: Presanctified Liturgy and Adult Study, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, Mar 17: St. Patrick Prayers, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Mar 18: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed, Mar 21: Presanctified Liturgy and Adult Study, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Mar 25: Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed, Mar 28: Preanctified Liturgy and Adult Study, 7:00 p.m.

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

- Mar 04: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
- Mar 11: Bill PETERS / Ilia LUKA
- Mar 18: Ken GJIKA / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Mar 25: Tomi BENO / Ardian MILE
- Apr 01: Ilir FUNDO / Stefan BALTADORI

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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