

# THE ORTHODOX POST

December 2013

Volume IX, Issue 12



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432  
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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

I have started writing this article at least a half a dozen times. An earlier version or two will linger on the desktop of my computer, orphaned texts nearly complete, until I find the heart to push them into the bin and hit delete. It is a difficult thing for me to try to sum up the three weeks of my trip to Albania. When asked how it was, my answers seem, even to me, too vague, as though I could speak only in generalities or had seen and done but little. The opposite is true. Filling my eyes and ears for those weeks with so much, I simply don't know where to begin. So let me start at the end.

After three weeks in Albania I was ready for one of two things. I was ready to stay for good but not as the itinerant, out of a suitcase wanderer that travel had made of me, or I was ready to come back home and be surrounded once again by friends and familiar things newly appreciated by their absence. Here I am, and I am glad now to be back but already trying to think of how and when next to return. Though a decently long stretch of time, these three weeks, I learned that my days there were only ample to permit me to see the beginnings of things, to start to know how much more there is to know and see and learn. I have already begun to say to many of you, "Next time," when you inquire about hometowns or aunts or cousins and brothers. Such is my hope, that there will be a next time. **Continued on Page 7**



## President's Message

by Jim Liolin

***Who will be the big winner of the car raffle? Will it be you?***

The EXCITEMENT is growing as we draw near to the St. Nicholas Luncheon, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The winner could be you or someone you sold the ticket to. Sharing or splitting tickets increases your chances so if you haven't bought or sold tickets do it real soon. Come to church this Sunday and see Tomi Beno, or any council member for tickets. Don't miss the chance to be a winner.....

When it comes to staying busy we at St. Nicholas are experts. This November started off with the General Meeting. I might add it was one of the better attended meetings. And it wasn't because the people were staying to help prepare for the FLEA MARKET but because they are truly interested in how the Church will function in the future.

Many items were discussed at length and among them are: the 2014 Budget, other semi annual financial reports, new Sunday School ideas, improving communications by adding a translated POST. There will be an increase in the price of the Mt. Tomori plots. Obviously, the number of plots have decreased over the years and the regular retail price set by Cypress Hills Cemetery is \$5500.



So the General Meeting voted to increase the price for members to \$3500 and non-members to \$5000. If you have questions concerning the Mt. Tomori plots please see me or Bill Peters.

The 2014 Pledge campaign is off to a good start please bring your pledge card in on Sunday or mail it to the Church. We ask for your support so the Church can continue to blossom here in New York. It can only succeed if we work together.

The Council and Fr. Nathan hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and Albanian Independence Day. We also wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Korrik, 2013

Këtë rradhë po japim pjesë nga "Libri i Fjalëve të Urta".

Qëllimi i fjalëve të urta, sic është thënë dhe më parë, është për të njohur diturinë dhe për të mësuar gjykimet e mëncura.

...Përfitime për diturinë...

...Biri im, mos harro mësimet e mia dhe zemra jote le të ruajë urdhërimet e mijë, sepse do të të shtohen ditë të gjata, vite jete dhe paqeje.

Mirësia dhe e vërteta mos të lëncin kurrë; lidhi rreth qafës, shkruaji mbi tabelën e zemrës sate; do të gjesh kështu hir dhe arsye në sytë e Perëndisë dhe të njerzve.

Ki besim tek Zoti me gjithë zemër dhe mos u mbështet në gjykimin tënd; pranoje në të gjitha rrugët e tua, dhe ai do të drejtojë shtigjet e tua.

Mos e mbaj veten të ditur në sytë e tu, ki frike nga Zoti dhe hiq dorë nga e keqja; kjo do të jetë shërim për nervat e tua dhe freskim për kockat e tua.

Ndero Zotin e pasurinë tënde dhe me prodhimet e para të cdo të ardhure që ke; hambaret e tu të grurit do të jenë plot e përplot dhe vozat e tua do të gufojnë me musht.

Biri im, mos e përcmo ndëshkimin e Zotit dhe mos urre qortimin e tij, sepse Zoti qorton atë që do, si një baba djalin.

Lum ai njeri që ka gjetur diturinë dhe njeriu që ka përfituar arsyen. Sepse fitimi i tij është më i mirë se fitimi i argjendit dhe fryti i tij vlen më tepër se ari i kulluar.

Ajo është më e cmuar se perlat dhe mbarë gjërat më të këndshme nuk mund të barazohen me të.

Trego mirësi me të tjerët ; mos i refuzo të mirën atij që i takon, kur e ke në dorë ta bësh.

Mos i thuaj të afërmit tënd: "Shko dhe kthehu; do të të jap nesër", kur e ke me vete gjënë e nevojshme.

Mos kurdias asnjë të keqe kundër të afërmit tënd, ndersa ai jeton me besimin tek ti.

Mos bëj padi kundër askujt pa shkak; po të jetë se nuk të ka bërë asnjë të keqe.

Mos ki zili njeriun e dhunshëm dhe mos zgjidh asnjë nga rrugët e tij sepse Zoti e neverit njeriun e coroditur, por këshilla e tij është për njerzit e ndershëm.

Mallkimi i Zotit është në shtëpinë e të pabesit, por ai bekon banesën e të drejteve. Me siguri ai tallet me tallësit, por i fal të përvuajturit. Njerzit e urtë do të trashëgojnë lavdinë, por poshtërsia do të jetë trashëgimia e atyre që nuk kanë mënd.

Ati fton të fitosh dituri

**Continued on Page 7**

## Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday weekend. It's another perfect time to pause to reflect & count our blessings and appreciate those special people in our lives whom we may often take for granted.

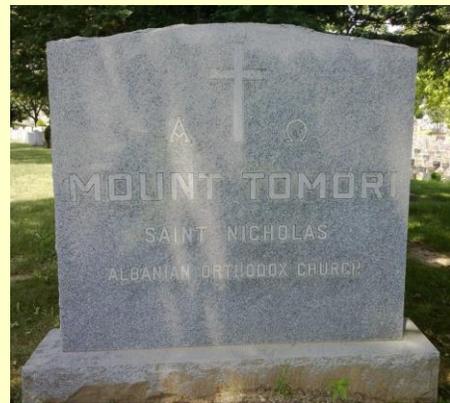
Our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale was a success grossing over \$5,000. It was a great team effort! I don't want to start listing names, but all your help & cooperation was outstanding! A heartfelt thanks to all who worked & contributed in a variety of ways. Our regular customers were once again so pleased & thankful for all the bargains and to see our smiling faces once again!

December brings us to our St. Nicholas Day celebration on Sunday, December 8th as well as our exciting car raffle. On December 22nd, the Daughters will host our annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast along with the Tony-Award-Winning Christmas Pageant presented by our Sunday School.

Let us keep in mind all these days, the true meaning of Christmas.....Christ is born!

## Mount Tomori Cemetery

### Plot Price Increase



A price increase was approved at the November General Parish Meeting for new purchases of grave plots at the the Church's Mount Tomori Cemetery section.

The Cypress Hills Cemetery had advised that their current price to buy a plot directly from the Cemetery is \$5500.

Since the prices to buy directly from the Church were significantly lower, the price increase was proposed and approved at the General Meeting.

The new prices for a Plot at Mount Tomori, effective January 1, 2014 are as follows:

Member:	\$3,500
Non-member:	\$5,000

Reservations for Plots that have previously been made will continue to be priced at the old rates.

# ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 2014 BMW CAR RAFFLE

**DONATION: ONLY \$50 EACH TICKET**



<b>No. 0001</b>	Name _____ Address _____ Telephone _____	<p><b>St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church</b>  <b>2014 BMW Car Raffle</b>  <b>Drawing: Sunday, December 8, 2013</b>  <b>St. Nicholas Day Dinner</b>          Jamaica Estates, New York 11432</p>  <p><b>1st Prize – BMW 328i Sedan 3 Year Lease or \$15,000</b>  <b>2nd Prize - \$1,000</b></p> <p>Donation: \$50 each Ticket          A Limit of 1000 Tickets being Sold  <i>Winner Need Not Be Present at Drawing</i></p>	<b>No. 0001</b>
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**A LIMIT of 1000 TICKETS BEING SOLD**  
**BUY YOUR TICKETS SOON!!!!**

**Christmas Pageant  
&  
Pancake Breakfast  
&  
Santa's Visit**

**Sunday  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>**





# St. Nicholas Day Luncheon

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
(Church Fellowship Hall)

*Featuring the Raffle Drawing*



*1<sup>st</sup> Prize ~ 3-year Lease on 2014 BMW or \$15,000 Cash*

*Come and Celebrate our St. Nicholas Feast Day!!!*

*Space is Limited.*

*Please Buy your Luncheon Tickets in Advance*

*Fish Lunch: \$25*

*Children Lunch: Free*

*Tickets will be sold in advance at Coffee Hour on  
Sundays, November 17 & 24 and December 1.*

**Also, Buy Tickets by Contacting:  
Ilia & Agathia Luka, Linda & Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin, Tina Korra  
or other Parish Council Member.**

To Reserve Tickets, Email [ilialuka@gmail.com](mailto:ilialuka@gmail.com) or  
Call Ilia at (646) 529-9709 or Agathia at (917) 568-2106



### 2014 Pledge Program – In Progress

**PLEDGE CARD**  
 My total pledge for the year 2014 is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I will pay my pledge to St. Nicholas Church (please check one)  Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Yearly

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Census**  
*We are continually updating our parish database. Please take a few minutes and fill in the information requested below. Please print clearly. Thank you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other family members in household:**

Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____
Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____
Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____

Every year, St. Nicholas Church asks each Parishioner to make a financial Pledge for the next year in order to support the Church. The Pledges provide the money that enables the Church to serve the Community, to perform its day-to-day operations, and to be there when each of us needs the Church. The Pledge Program campaign runs from October into the Winter. It begins with letters and Pledge Cards going to Parishioners asking for an individual Pledge.

It is important to the life of the Church that everyone participates in the Annual Pledge Program. Please think about how important St. Nicholas Church is to you and your family. Then make as generous a Pledge as possible for 2014. Fill in the information about you and your family and mail the Card or bring it to Church.

**Submit Your Pledge Card Soon!!!**

### ICON AUCTION

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - After Liturgy



### ICON RETURN

**Bring in your Icons  
 from last year's Icon Auction,  
 As Soon As Possible!!!**

**We need them to prepare for  
 the January 12<sup>th</sup> Icon Auction**

### Flea Market & Bake Sale – A Great Success!!!

On Saturday and Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the Daughters of St. Nicholas ran their annual Flea Market & Bake Sale. Our community and many neighbors in the area attended this event. People especially enjoyed buying and eating the variety of ethnic foods – lakror, baklava and many other pastries, as well as shopping for clothing, jewelry, books, toys, games and household goods among other things. A special “Thank You” goes to all those who worked on the extensive preparations for this event and who worked to sell food at the bake sale table and kitchen, as well as to the sections selling clothes, shoes, jewelry, books, electronics, household goods, children’s toys and sports equipment. A hearty “Congratulations and a Job Well Done!!!” goes to co-chairwomen Linda Foundos, Tina Korra and Tina Peters and their Team of Hard-Working Parishioners.



# Flea Market & Bake Sale – Photos Continued



**KENDI SHQIP** – Continued from Page 2

...Dëgjoni, o bij mësimet e Atit dhe tregoni kujdes që të mësoni të gjykoni, sepse ju jap një doctrinë të mirë; mos braktisni ligjin tim. Kur isha ende femijë pranë Atit tim, njomëzak dhe i dashur në sytë e nënës sime, ai me mësonte dhe më thoshte: “Zemra jote të kujtojë fjalët e mija; ruaji udhëzimet e mija dhe do të jetosh.

Fito dituri, fito gjykim; mos i harro fjalët e gojës sime dhe mos u largo prej tyre; mos e braktis diturinë dhe ajo do të të mbrojë; duaje sepse ajo do të të ndihmojë.

Dituria është gjeja më e rëndësishme; prandaj fitoje diturinë. Edhe sikur të humbasësh ato që ke, fito diturinë.

Bëjë tënden diturinë dhe ajo do të të lartesojë; ajo do të japë lavdi.

Ajo do të vendosë mbi krye një stoli prej nuri, do të të rrethojë me një kurorë lavdije.

Rri Larg Njerzve të Këqij

Mos hyr në shtegun e të pabesëve dhe mos ec në rrugën e njerzve të këqij; evitoje atë, mos kalo nëpër të, largoju prej saj dhe shko tutje. Sepse ata nuk mund të flenë, po të mos të bejnë të keqen; gjumi i tyre zhduket po qe se nuk mund të kenë rrëzuar dikë; ata hanë bukën e paudhësisë dhe pinë verën e dhunës.

Por shtegu i të drejtëve është si drita e agimit, që shkëlqen gjithnjë e më mirë deri sa të bëhet ditë e plotë.

Rruga e të pabesëve është si terri; ata nuk shohin atë që do ti rrëzoje.

Biri im, trego kujdes për fjalët e mija, dëgjo thëniet e mija; mos u largofshin kurrë nga sytë e tu, ruaji në qëndër të zemrës sate; sepse janë jetë për ata që i gjejnë, shërim për gjithë trupin e tyre.

...Dhe një vjershë...

“Dyert...”

Shih mbrapa dhe falendero Zotin.

Shih përpara dhe beso Zotin.

Shih për qark dhe shërbeji Zotit.

Shih në vetvete dhe gjeje Zotin.

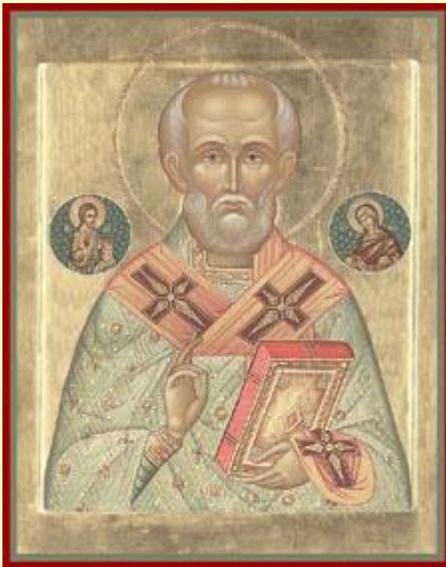
Zoti mbyll dyer që asnje nuk mund t'i hapi

Zoti hap dyer që asnjë njeri nuk mund t'i mbyllë...

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE** – Continued from Page 1

I arrived in Tirana October ten and remained there until the fifteenth, just enough time to catch up on my jetlag addled sleep, acclimate myself to the city, and see some of the Churches, some of the work of the Church. After this, I was nearly a week at the monastery of S. Vlash near Durres. There, I fought off nightly raids by an army of mosquitoes, though those who knew better informed me that the numbers of these were greatly reduced from their summer height. I attended some classes with the seminarians, went to the daily services with them in the chapel, a privilege I have not had for a long time and since I was myself a student, and I learned to override my well-deserved sense of shame as I inflicted my badly spoken Albanian on those who know better. Because I had expressed an interest in visiting the monastery of Ardenica, arrangements were quietly made, and I was told one evening to be ready the next morning. Those who have been there will, I hope, appreciate my silence, as I would require many pages to put into text the beauty of that treasured place. I spent a day or two at S. Vlash also with the Macdonald family, missionaries newly arrived only some six months prior. At the suggestion of their children, we reveled in an afternoon on Mt. Dajti, watching dusk come to the long plain that stretches from Tirana to the sea. My most restful week spent, I was then bundled onto a minibus and enjoyed the scenery of the growing mountains on my way to Korce. Even now, I am probably able to hum, if not sing along to, the top forty Albanian hit songs that were the soundtrack of that ride and its reverse back north again the following week. Pulling into Korce then hailing a cab to the Cathedral, I began immediately to regret the appointment in Tirana the next week that would pull me away too soon, limiting my stay to but a few days. I was very surprised to find a familiar face, unexpectedly meeting Anesti and Yllka Terova, not yet returned back to Worcester for the winter. Thus, with native guides I saw much of Korce and spent a day in Voskopoja, recipient again of that hospitality for which Albanians are so justly famous. The return of Metropolitan Joan back to the city fresh from his own travels opened then my last couple days in the south as I accompanied him to see his newest project in Vithkuq. After serving with him and his clergy in the beautiful cathedral, I ate two farewell dinners and, the next day, boarded an early minibus bound for Pogradec, an afternoon in Macedonia, and Tirana again.

What I have not and cannot adequately describe in this very limited account is the time given to me by so many, the patience with which they endured my many questions and the wholesale abuse of their language which my ignorant tongue inflicted. I am very, very happy to report that I spoke to a great number of people about a great number of things. This was my aim. To know a place is more than just to be in it or to see the sights and sites. I am happy to report that we, St. Nicholas Church, have friends there, friends new and old who think of us, who pray for us, and who wish us well. Let us do the same.



### St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia – Commemorated on December 6<sup>th</sup>

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God. As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St. Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in

vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor. There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St. Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desparation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St. Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St. Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds. Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, St. Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust. In the year 325 St. Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith. Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St. Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness. Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of St. Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to St. Constantine in a dream, St. Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers. He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

### MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER



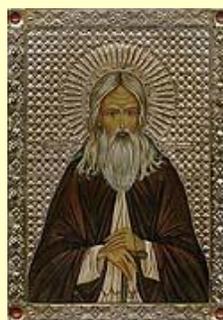
St. Barbara  
of Syria  
Dec 04



The Conception  
of the Theotokos  
Dec 09



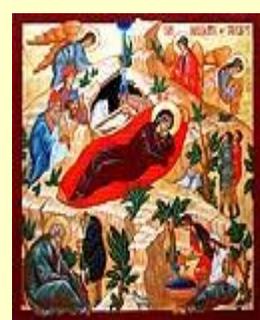
St. Spyridon the  
Wonderworker  
Dec 12



St. Herman  
of Alaska  
Dec 13



Prophet Daniel  
Dec 17



Nativity of  
The Lord  
Dec 25

## *Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church*

Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

**Tell the Merchant that you are from St. Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!**

For New Ads Please Contact – Tomi Beno at (917) 952-9252

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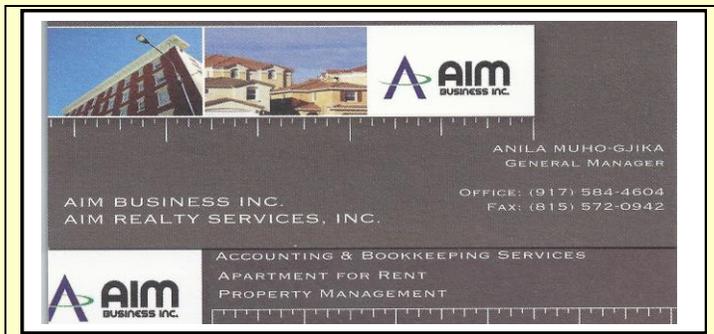
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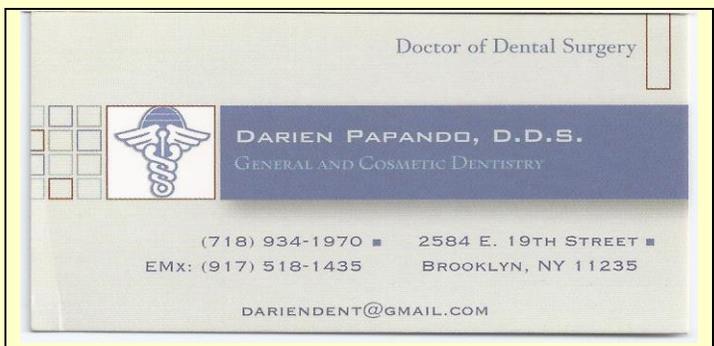
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## **Major Church Activities and Events**

**Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.  
December 7, 14, 21 and 28**

- Sun, Dec 01:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Flag Day prayers
- Mon, Dec 02:** Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Fri, Dec 06:** St. Nicholas prayers, 11:00 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 08:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Nicholas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall; Car Raffle drawing
- Fri, Dec 13:** St. Herman prayers, 6:00 p.m.
- Sun, Dec 15:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 22:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Christmas Pageant and Pancake Breakfast
- Tues, Dec 24:** Vespereal Liturgy, 8:00 p.m.; Nativity of the Lord
- Wed, Dec 25:** Nativity Prayers, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 29:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed, Jan 01:** Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Basil

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

- Dec 01:** Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
- Dec 08:** Tomi BENO / TBD
- Dec 15:** Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
- Dec 22:** Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
- Dec 29:** Roland LLUPA / Edi SERRA
- Jan 05:** Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

*We're on the Web!*

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