

# THE ORTHODOX POST

October 2014

Volume X, Issue 9



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

There were, when I worked at the shelter, certain maxims—ideas needing to be remembered—to help one throughout the day and throughout the job. And the longer I worked there, after the sheen of novelty had long worn from my tasks, and as more responsibility was handed over to me, particularly that responsibility to help and direct and inspire others in our jobs, the return to these fundamental ideas, these maxims, became a necessity. One of these of which I needed routinely to be reminded and to remind was quite simple: “To walk through those doors is an act of bravery,” those doors being the front doors of our building off a side street in downtown Newark. And though the bravery referred to might be thought to be that of the staff, who so often endured thankless abuse and long hours and minimal tangible reward, the real commendation of this phrase was for that bravery of the young people who were our clients. It took guts to walk through those doors. It was an act of bravery to come for the first time into the crisis shelter because to do so meant that one was seeking help, needed it. This admission of need was an act of courage and of faith. For us who staffed the place, it was a sacred trust, a commitment that such nakedness and vulnerability must be met by discipline’s hard-fought change, yes, but never apart from charity and compassion and, when we could muster it, that gentleness needed to greet the broken.

## President's Message

by Jim Liolin

**FOR THE CHURCH TO HAVE A FUTURE WE NEED YOU NOW!**

The Sunday School registration began on September 21 and 28 and classes will begin Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, with a new format. There is a different schedule for the classes. If you haven't registered your child contact Fr. Nathan to learn about the new schedules. I'm sure they will enjoy their time. This is important for them.

### PLEDGE

As we head toward 2015 we will begin our Pledge Drive in early October. The letter requesting your gift to the church will be arriving this month. We did have some major unexpected expenses (broken water main) this year and it is reasons like this we need your continued support. We would like your

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Pastor's Message &amp; President's Message</i>	1
<i>Daughters' Corner &amp; Flea Mkt/Bake Sale</i>	2
<i>Golf Outing</i>	3
<i>Community News &amp; General Meeting</i>	4
<i>2015 Pledge Program</i>	5
<i>September Feast Days</i>	6
<i>Merchant Ads</i>	7-9
<i>Major Events &amp; Ushers' Sunday Schedule</i>	10

My life now as your priest is differently frenzied than it was before. The fights I have to break up are not physical; the food and welfare to be expended not always so immediate; the case planning, though, is sometimes quite similar. There are not so many unexpected knocks on the doors of our Church, not so many people walking in for the first time. Most of us are, one way or another, regulars. But what I yet must remind myself still is that entry here, too, is a brave act. At least, it should be because for us to come to Church and to appear in this place is not only a commitment of our time, a commitment often of our resources and finances, it must be a commitment also of our need. Church is a place for us to be denuded of what we think are our virtues and strengths as we try to meet with God, He Who is the source of all true virtue and strength.

**Continued on Page 4**

support. We would like your pledge cards returned by November 30<sup>th</sup>. All pledges will be blessed on Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> when Archbishop Nikon will be with us to celebrate St. Nicholas.

### SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

On October 19<sup>th</sup> we will hold our semi-annual meeting. We urge you to attend so you can hear what has been done the past months and we need your participation in the discussions. Some issues that we will review are the Diocese activity, our financial status, how we can encourage and increase attendance, the new Sunday School program, the localized in-home social and religious discussions, and more.

Don't forget the FLEA MARKET will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information see Linda Foundos at church. More information will be sent.



Our Church School is changing in some exciting ways. Parents, please be sure to take a look at the information below so that you children can take part.

\*Church School will meet on the first Sunday of each month and start at 10am. All children from Kindergarten to 5th Grade are invited.

\*Nursery School will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month and start at 10:30am. All children four years old and under are invited to attend.

\*Please be on time so that your kids don't miss out!

For more information, please get in touch with Fr. Nathan or take a look at the bulletin board halfway down the stairs. See you in Sunday School!

## Daughters' Corner

By Linda Foundos

A Daughters meeting was held on September 14<sup>th</sup>; we discussed some of the church needs and began organizing for our annual **Flea Market/Bake Sale** scheduled to take place on **November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**. After your fall clean-up at your own homes, **you may begin to bring your items for sale in clean, good condition on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**.

In the next couple weeks, we will be asking for volunteers to help with pricing and working the sale weekend. **Please see Joanne Heiser or Linda Foundos to offer your time. Tina Peters is in charge of the Bake Sale**; she will be asking for your help to donate baked goods for sale, etc. This is a major fund raising effort for the Daughters; we ask that you please help us make this a success. It is said that "one man's junk is another man's treasure." Our regular customers especially look forward to our event. There are always wonderful bargains to be had!

Please see **Christina Liolin** if you would like to participate in our Coffee Hostess rotation, or host a special Sunday. You may also see Christina if you would like to make a meshe for services periodically or a special Sunday. A heartfelt thank you to all of you that already participate. It certainly contributes in a very nice way to life at St. Nicholas. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

## FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE

November 1<sup>st</sup> & November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday (10am-5pm) & Sunday (12noon-4pm)



COME ONE  
COME ALL!!!!

HAVE FUN

&

SUPPORT  
ST. NICHOLAS





**Schedule**

Registration 11 am  
 Shotgun Start 12:30 pm Sharp  
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 for directions or information E-mail:  
[doawald@cigarcoasis.com](mailto:doawald@cigarcoasis.com)

**Participating Levels**

Individual Golfer- \$175  
 Awards Dinner Included  
 Golfer Foursome- \$650  
 Awards Dinner Included

**Sponsor Opportunity**

Hole Sponsorship- \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$250  
 Prize Sponsor- \$100 - \$300

**Donation**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax-Deductible Contribution

**ST. NICHOLAS  
 ALBANIAN  
 ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**17TH ANNUAL  
 GOLF OUTING**  
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2014

**HISTORY**

For the past 17 years the golf outing has been a significant source of income for the church as well as an opportunity to bring the church community together with both Albanian and Non-Albanian friends.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church is a part of the Albanian Archdiocese within the Orthodox Church in America. Established in 1942 in Manhattan NY, the church relocated in 1970 to its current location in Jamaica Estates, Queens. The parish community which encompasses the metropolitan New York City area is multi-ethnic in nature, e.g. primarily Albanian, Greek, Russian and Eritrean. Its services are performed in English.

**ST. NICHOLAS  
 17th ANNUAL  
 GOLF OUTING**



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 SILENT  
 AUCTION**

**HOLE-IN-ONE  
 CONTEST**

**DINNER FOLLOWING  
 GOLF  
 6:00 P.M. AT THE 19TH  
 HOLE  
 THE WOODLANDS**



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox  
 Church  
**Golf Committee**

Phil Foundos- 631-972-5695  
 Tomi Beno- 917-952-9252

**Members**

Bill Peters- 516-509-7597  
 Al Foundos- 516-520-5227  
 Lou Foundos- 516-520-5227  
 Jim Liolin- 914-670-0596

Send Registration/Sponsorship to:  
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 181-14 Midland Parkway  
 Jamaica Estates, NY 11432

**Golfers Names**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



**Contact Person or Sponsor Name**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorships**

Hole Sponsorships.....\$250  
 Prizes/Merchandise.....\$100-\$300  
 Please Respond by **September 21, 2014**

Make all checks payable to:  
**St. Nicholas Church**  
 Donations are Tax Deductible

## Community News - by Linda Foundos

- Our deepest sympathy to Nasi and Thea Pavlo on the recent falling asleep in the Lord of his mother/Thea's grandmother, Julia Qirko, in Tirane. May her memory be eternal.
- Our deepest sympathy to Vitori & Mitro Mertiri and family on the passing of her mother, Marika Vlashi. Marika leaves behind a wonderful legacy of so many that loved her. Members of Marika's family accompanied her body back to Albania where she was laid to rest. I perjetshim kujtimi.
- May God bless Amanda Alla who was recently baptized. We welcome Amanda into the faith. Best wishes to her parents Ana & Ermir Alla and Amanda's Godparents, Helena & Dhimitraq Cati.
- FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE, November 1st & 2nd. Remember to turn back the clock that weekend as it is the end of daylight savings time.

### Pastor's Message – Continued from Page 1

If we come to Church in any other state of mind or seeking any other role than supplicant or patient or penitent or beggar, we had best to have gone elsewhere. Our roster of members contains only those who are being saved, i.e., those who have not yet made it and are ready to be helped. Our ranks are the roll call of the needy.

It's hard for us sometimes to understand worship: what we do in Church and what we should be doing in our lives of prayer and faith outside of Church. It's hard for a number of reasons. We know well that our parish needs us and needs things from us: finances, attention, the work of our volunteering, and, most elusive of all, our precious time. These are real obligations for a real flesh and blood community. But what we cannot afford to do is to slip into thinking that, because we are needed, we are somehow removed from our most basic place—needing. Three different statements in three of the different Gospels proclaim but one message: Christ did not come for the righteous or the good, not for the upright or helpful, not for the successful, the unsuccessful, or those hoping to find success, He came for sinners; He came for the desperate and grasping. And, if we dare to think truthfully, we are those sinners and weak ones. We are the needy. Anything that pretends at something else is a robbery, stealing from us that one brave act that is ours to perform: to enter these doors of prayer and come into this place of faith with hope and need and expectation that God will receive us, the bold and broken.

### General Parish Meeting

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, after Liturgy



**Come to the Meeting!!!!**

### Participate in Important Church Business

- Sunday School
- Religious Education
- Events & Activities
- Fundraising Plans
- Financial Review
- Archdiocese & OCA News

## Pledge Program for 2015

October and November is the period of our Annual Pledge Campaign. This is when we in the St. Nicholas Parish Community indicate our expected level of financial support for the next year. We do this by praying and considering our own lives at St. Nicholas; determining the financial giving we expect to make in 2015; indicating it on a Pledge Card; and returning the Pledge Card to church.

Pledge Program letters are currently being mailed to the St. Nicholas Community. As we look into 2015, we see a need to cover expenses of approximately \$145,000. Last year, more than 100 families made a Pledge. Most pledges were in the \$500 to \$3000 range. We ask you to consider making a generous Pledge. Please consider increasing your Pledge over last year's amount or making a first time Pledge for 2015.

The Pledge Campaign will end on Sunday December 7th at our St. Nicholas Day Celebration when all the pledges received to date will be blessed at the end of the liturgy, in a special prayer of joyous thanksgiving. Pledges can be put in the collection basket or mailed to the office as soon as you've filled them out. Please do this as soon as possible.

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.

## 2015 Pledge Program – Questions and Answers

**Q. Does my pledge really matter?**

A. Absolutely! Your pledge is a vital sign of your commitment to the church. Like individuals, the church cannot make a budget without knowing what its income will be. More profoundly, your pledge - as an act of giving back to God - is a tangible sign of your gratitude in response to God's grace.

**Q. But I always put an offering in the plate. Isn't that the same thing?**

A. Plate offerings are always welcome, but they're widely variable, and the church needs to plan. Without a Pledge Card, Pledge Envelop, and related member account, you will not get credit for your donations.

**Q. What is proportional and intentional giving?**

A. The Church asks us to recognize the Biblical tithe, 10% of our income, as a standard to which to aspire in our giving. Few people, however, are likely to start tithing all at once. Realistically, most of us may not be in a place to tithe and the 10% standard can seem out of reach. Proportional and intentional giving refers to the private process each of us makes to prayerfully designate some percentage of our income to the church. As we each grow in our spiritual journey we will likely find our percentage increasing, even if we start at one or two percent. When we no longer give to the church whatever we have left over after all of our other expenses - but take a percentage of our income off the top from the beginning for the church - we are being intentional and proportional in our giving.

**Q. If I have a very modest income, wouldn't a proportional pledge be too small to make a difference?**

A. No pledge amount is too small to make a difference in the parish if it makes a difference to you and the way you live your life.

**Q. There are many worthy charities to which I make gifts. How should St. Nicholas factor in?**

A. We appreciate that so many of St. Nicholas members support a variety of worthy causes. But consider these two points: As an organization the parish is a small entity. Our parish is almost entirely dependent on the generosity and support of its members both past and present. We do not receive grants from outside sources like many charities. Without the support of all its members the St. Nicholas would not exist. Secondly, and more profoundly, stewardship is not about philanthropy and fund-raising. Stewardship for Christians is about the spiritual journey of giving back what we already acknowledge to be God's grace, given to us abundantly and freely, in our lives.

**Q. What does the church do with the money we receive?**

A. The Church pays for all our clergy, ministries and programs. Activities include worship, pastoral care, music, youth ministry, all our Sunday school and adult education programs, stewardship and outreach to the wider community. Also the Church pays for the utilities, insurance as well as building and grounds maintenance. This is the time when we, as a community, review our commitments to staff, and to programs to sustain and further develop these ministries for a new year. Without pledges we are unable to make these commitments.



**THE VENERABLE JOHN (KOUKOUZELIS) – THE HYNOGRAPHER OF MT. ATHOS, ALBANIA – Commemorated on October 1st** (Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

Saint John Koukouzelis, a native of Dirrachia (Bulgaria), was orphaned in childhood. Endowed with a very fine voice, he entered the Constantinople court school. He found favor with the emperor John Comnenos (1118–1143) and became a chief court singer. The sumptuousness and luxury of the imperial court bothered the pious youth. Once, when asked what he had eaten for dinner, he replied, “Beans and peas.” The name Koukouzelis (beans and peas) stuck with him ever after. John began to seek ways to escape the enticements of the court, as well as a marriage arranged for him by the emperor. By the will of God, John met an igumen from Mt. Athos who had come to Constantinople on monastery business. John revealed to the Elder his desire to leave the court. The Elder blessed John to come to the Holy Mountain. There John was accepted and tonsured a monk. He was given the obedience of tending the monastery’s flock of goats. He took the flock to remote areas of the Holy Mountain to graze. There in the wilderness the youth was able to pray, contemplate God, and sing the divine hymns in solitude. Charmed by the angelic beauty of his voice, the animals gathered around him and listened as though entranced.

Out of modesty and humility the singer did not reveal his gift to the brethren. But once, a wilderness dweller overheard his moving pastoral song and informed the igumen. St John then revealed to the igumen that he had been a court singer. He tearfully implored him to remain in the wilderness with his flock. The igumen was afraid that the emperor would find out that his favorite court singer was on the Holy Mountain and force him to return to court. Wishing to avoid the emperor’s displeasure the igumen journeyed to Constantinople to explain what had become of John and begged him not to hinder the young man from his salvific path.

Thereafter John Koukouzelis sang on the right clerics in the cathedral on Sundays and feasts. Once, after singing an Akathist before an icon of the Mother of God, John was granted a great mercy. The Mother of God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Rejoice, John, and do not cease to sing. For that, I shall not forsake you.” With these words she placed into John’s hand a golden coin, then became invisible. This coin was placed beneath the icon. Many miracles have been credited to the coin and the icon. The icon, named the “Koukouzelissa” in memory of St John is located in the Lavra monastery of St Athanasius. It is commemorated on October 1, and on the 10th Friday after Pascha. The Mother of God appeared to St John again and healed him of a grievous affliction of his legs, caused by the long standing in church. St John’s remaining days were spent in intense ascetic efforts. He also worked hard on the discipline of church singing, gaining the title of both master teacher and regent (overseer). He arranged and compiled melodies for church stichera verses, troparia and kontakia. He edited texts of hymns and wrote his own troparia. Some of his compositions are also in the following manuscripts: “A Book, by the Will of God Encompassing All the Order of Progression of Church Services, Compiled by Master Teacher John Koukouzelis,” “Progression of Services, Compiled by Master Teacher John Koukouzelis,” “From the Beginning of Great Vespers through to the Completion of the Divine Liturgy,” and “The Science of Song and Singing Signs with all the Legitimate Hand–Placement and with all the Arrangements of Song.” Foreseeing the hour of his death, St John took his leave of the brethren, and in his last wishes bade them to bury him in the Church of the Archangel that he built. Church singers reverence St John Koukouzelis as their own special patron saint.

## MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN OCTOBER



Protection of  
The Theotokos  
Oct 01



Martyr Bacchus  
in Syria  
Oct 07



Venerable Sergius  
Oct 07



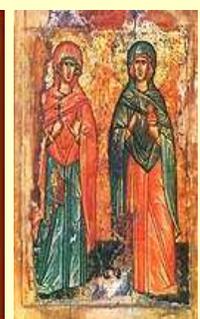
Apostle and  
Evangelist Luke  
Oct 18



Apostle James, the  
Brother of the Lord  
Oct 23



St. Demetrius  
Oct 26



Martyr Anastasia  
the Roman  
Oct 29

## 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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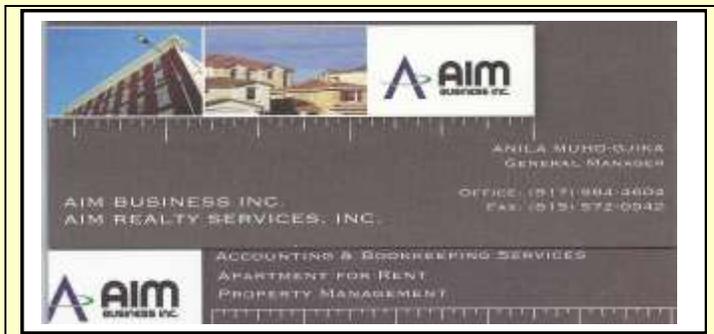
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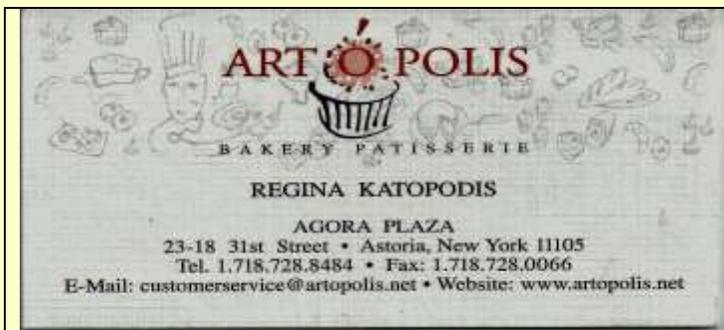
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**Major Church Activities and Events**

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.  
October 11, 18 and 25 (except Oct 04)

Wed, Oct 01: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.;  
Protection of the Theotokos  
Sat, Oct 04: Orthodox Education Day  
at St. Vladimir's  
Sun, Oct 05: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Mon, Oct 06: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing -  
Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course-11 a.m.  
Sun, Oct 12: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Mon, Oct 13: Parish Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Sun, Oct 19: Liturgy, 10 am; General Meeting  
Mon, Oct 20: Jamaica Estates Meeting  
Fri, Oct 24: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.;  
"Joy of All" Icon  
Sun, Oct 26: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Demetrios  
  
Sat-Sun, Nov 1 & 2: Flea Market and Bake Sale

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

Oct 05: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE  
Oct 12: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS  
Oct 19: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA  
Oct 26: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS'  
Nov 02: Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

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