

# THE ORTHODOX POST

September 2014

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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

For most of my life, I have been spared the heavy hand of tragedy. Great losses, overwhelming pains, these have been second-hand events for me related, narrated, or retold but yet unknown or un-owned personally. Some say that God permits such things only to those in whose endurance He has faith. Such statements, though lacking in theological finesse, leave me glad that I may be counted for now among the weak—those upon whom the tide of hard things has yet to crest. But I try to be prepared because, though tragedy has not yet visited my own life, I have seen it elsewhere; it is no stranger to my friends and family, to many whom I love. And I have seen the toll it extracts. As a social worker before and now as a priest, I have tried to play my supporting role, and though I write this today as someone with admittedly limited individual and gritty knowledge of hard, hard things, I have seen still enough, still enough to know that preparation is necessary if I, too, am to weather that storm. No one in this life escapes unscathed.

Surprise is very often the reaction with which I am met when responding to the intrusion of crisis into one of

## President's Message

by Jim Liolin

### Water, Water Everywhere!

The headline may seem unusual but you'll understand as you read on.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. It's now time for the kids to start their school work routine. And the rest of us will settle into our normal routines.

One routine program for our Parish is soon to start and that is our 2015 Pledge campaign. We will be asking everyone to once again make their stewardship commitment to help sustain the work of the parish.

I know most are familiar with the reason for pledging but I wanted to share with you a very real unexpected

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the many lives that constitute our community at St. Nicholas: surprise that hardship has come with its great interrupting force. So while I do my best to comfort and to offer the riches of our Church's heritage and tradition with prayers and hymns and holy acts, I try also to speak a little bit of the truth these services hold for us. These are sometimes unpleasant truths.

In the gathering of the Church at prayer, we petition God each time we meet for peace, for health, for goodness to grow, and for us each to come to a good end in our life upon this earth. We ask for these things because they express our hopes and our needs. We ask them also because we are very often powerless to see that our wishes are

**Continued on Page 5**

need that occurred and shows why we need your pledge. This past July we had a major **water pipe** burst which flooded the street in front of St. Nicholas and the City said it is our responsibility to fix it. It cost the Church \$13,000 which was an unplanned expense and an item not covered by insurance. Also in August the **water heater** broke in the Church which cost several hundred dollars. It's things like this that add to our operating budget.

By now you know the routine for making a pledge so I won't repeat it here. Information for the 2015 pledge program will be available in the coming weeks. Finally, we are a community and we all appreciate what we have in St. Nicholas. To preserve this we must share in the support.

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Shtator, 2014

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 të papërshkruar fizike. Është një ndjenjë shumë e forte e cila nuk shuhet deri sa të ngopemi. Në të njejtën 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 sic dreri i etur kërkon përrënjte për të pirë ujë, ashtu dhe shpirti im të kërkon Ty, o Zot i gjallë." Zoti premton se ata "që kërkojnë rrugën e drejtë" do t'u plotësohet dëshira. Ai do t'u japë atyre qetësi dhe kënaqsi 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. Vendosi 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?...

## Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

The end of summer is near. We've had so many perfect weather weekends to enjoy. We hope you have made some great memories. Please contact me with any news you would like to share regarding vacations or any special events or occasions. We'd love to hear what you've been doing all summer.

Looking ahead, it's back to school and fall activities here at St. Nicholas. **The Daughters of St. Nicholas will have a meeting on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> following services.** Please plan to join us with some energy and ideas. Our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale has been scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, November 1 & 2. You know the drill by now. As you do your fall clean-up, please search your home for those unwanted, unused items still in good condition to donate to our rummage sale. We accept almost any type of item.....kitchenware, blankets, toys, shoes, decorative items, coats, etc.

Christina Liolin has been monitoring our meshe inventory to be available for services. Father Nathan has ordered special meshe pans with the seal embossed which make the task even easier. Please talk to Christina if you would like to offer to make a meshe for a special event or to participate on a more regular basis. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## Church School Begins



Bring Your Children!!!

Registration & Treats  
Sunday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>



**Schedule**

Registration 11 am  
 Shotgun Start 12:30 pm Sharp  
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**Donation**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 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.

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 HOLE  
 THE WOODLANDS**



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox  
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**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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**Golfers Names**

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



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

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## Community News - by Linda Foundos

- It's "baby blue" for Nevila & Ivan Kondili! Oliver was born on June 12<sup>th</sup> weighing nearly 9 lbs. Seven-year-old, big sister Eva is delighted! Urime to the grandparents, Lina & Fotaq Kondili too! May God bless Oliver and his entire family.
- It's "baby blue" for Eneida (Kutali) & Orges Kabaj as well! Leonel Orges was born on July 8<sup>th</sup> weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. Leonel's big sister Emma loves to play with him. Nothing like having your own little, real-life doll! Congratulations to Silvana & Andrea Kutali, the proud grandparents. May God bless Leonel and his entire family.
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Dhemetri Gregory who fell asleep in the Lord on June 12<sup>th</sup> leaving his 2 daughters, Siobhan & Alessandra (Gregory) Barrett and beautiful grandson William. Jim was the brother of Lee Nasi, uncle of Bill Nasi. May his memory be eternal.
- We send our greetings to Mary & Peter Durniak who have moved to Poughkeepsie, New York to be close to family. We wish them well & hope they enjoy their new environment. They are missed at St. Nicholas!
- It was a beautiful July 5<sup>th</sup> for Florinda Xheka & Jonel Rehova as they stood before the altar for their betrothal ceremony with many family & friends in attendance. Our sincere congratulations to the happy couple and to Jonel's parents, Kostanza & Stavraq Rehova, and Florinda's family in Albania. A joyful reception followed. We wish them a lifetime of happiness!
- Congratulations to Dr. Fjona & Ilir Fundo on their new home in Garden City Park, Long Island. Little Thomas & Brother Darrien are thrilled with the back yard! May God bless them with good health and many, wonderful memories in their new home.
- Alison (Papalexis), Marc & Alexandra Ladd have a new home in Rockville Centre, Long Island. It is another exciting new chapter in their lives. May God bless them with much love, laughter & happy times.
- There's no stopping Kristi Kutali! She's a girl on the move. Kristi spent 2 months in Spain working at camp teaching children English. What a wonderful experience. Her parents, Silvana & Andrea, family & friends are very proud of Kristi.
- Happy Birthday to Marjeta Papa who will celebrate her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 17<sup>th</sup>; and Happy Nameday as well on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Shen Maria. Ta gezosh emrin! Marjeta's parents, Luiza & Pandeli, her brother Koli, Cousin Ina, and family in Albania, Greece & Italy are all so proud of her! She is a wonderful young lady who is working hard & pursuing a degree in law. Happy Birthday also to Koli on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday! AND.....Congratulations to Cousin Ina Koraqe on her recent engagement to Arjan Qema. Urime per fejesen! Happy Nameday to Ina also celebrating on August, 15<sup>th</sup>, Shen Maria! The Papa family has many reasons to celebrate. May God bless them all.
- Ngushellime. Our deepest sympathy to the Beno family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Agathia Noti, mother of Diana Beno & Mira Gjika, grandmother of Thoma Beno, Beti Beno Tsamblakos, Vasken Gjika & Korina Spinel. Agathia was a warm & kind woman who was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by family & friends in the USA & Albania. May her memory be eternal.
- Laura Papalexis, daughter of Barbara & Mark Papalexis, looked like a princess as she & Gregory Di Tulio were married on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. It was a perfect, joyful, fun-filled, beautiful day of celebration! Our congratulations to both families and our best wishes to Laura & Greg as they begin a new chapter in their lives.
- Wedding bells rang for Anna Stoupine & George Bujaj on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> as they exchanged their vows with family & friends in attendance. The celebration continued with a beautiful touch of Albanian culture. We wish the happy couple all the best as they embark on a new life together. May God shower them with many blessings.
- Kudos to Andi Mitre who has relocated to Los Angeles for this summer to work for NBC in a Computer Programming Internship. He is very excited about this great experience & wonderful opportunity. His parents, Ermira & Thoma, & sister Mariela are very proud of him.
- Kris Kutali has made her parents, Silvana & Andrea Kutali, very proud; as are we all. She is the Event Coordinator for Ann Taylor Loft. The company has sent Kris to Madrid, Spain for 2 ½ months with their Youth Leadership Program. What a wonderful, adventurous opportunity for her! Kudos to Kris! She is on her way to bigger & better things; she is working her way up the ladder.
- Melissa Heiser is in Paris, France for 3 weeks for a photography course sponsored by St. Johns University. We are so proud as our youth shines & excels in that which they are involved. Joanne & Doug Heiser are so proud of their daughter as are we all! We're sure Melissa will enjoy the great experience!

- Kim Oswald, a student at the University of Maryland, recently returned from one semester in Madrid, Spain. She took 2 engineering classes, a Spanish language class and a Spanish architecture class. Kim enjoyed the opportunity to travel and attended several soccer games for the European champs, Real Madrid. Donna & Jim Oswald are delighted with Kim's accomplishments.
- Tina & Bill Peters were delighted with a surprise visit from their daughter Alexis from Switzerland for some very special family celebrations.....a 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for her father & Cousin Laura Papalexis' wedding!!! We wish Bill many more happy & healthy years! All in all, it was a joyful family bonding time. Even Jenny Peters' mother, Rosalia Suyat, from California, Damian's mother-in-law, flew in and will stay for a while to enjoy her adorable granddaughter Gabrielle, and of course daughter. Gabrielle even got to celebrate her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday with all the family at the Jersey shore!!! Does it get any better than this???
- Congratulations to all our graduates. Their families & friends are very proud of them & their accomplishments.
  - George Beno, son of Beti & Isidoros Tsamblakos, graduated from St. Mary College Preparatory High School and will be attending St. John's University in the fall. We have confidence that George, grandson of Drs. Diana & Dhimiter Beno, will continue to shine.
  - Natalie Kelapire, daughter of Ronnie & Michael Kelapire, graduated from New York University with a degree in Music Business. We look forward to great things from Natalie; granddaughter of Betty & the late George Kelapire.
  - Justin Kelapire, son of John Kelapire, graduated from University of Central Florida with a degree in Accounting and Finance. Justin is the grandson of Betty & the late George Kelapire.
  - Andrew Feimer, son of Lisa (Kelapire) & William Feimer, graduated from Wheatley High School will attend Penn State this fall. Andrew is the grandson of Betty & the late George Kelapire.
  - Brian Gradt, son of Maryanne & Jim Gradt, grandson of Ellen (Pochari) Gradt, graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management with a concentration in Global Supply Chain & Operations Management.
  - Nicole Gradt, daughter of Maryanne & Jim Gradt, granddaughter of Ellen (Pochari) Gradt, earned her Master of Science Degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Scranton. She attended University of Connecticut for her undergraduate degree. Nicole currently works for FactSet Research Systems as a business analyst in the Content & Strategic Partnership Department.

## Pastor's Message – Continued from Page 1

executed and brought to be. Yet they are a part of that human need and Christian virtue of hope. But what we cannot afford to do and are not permitted to do is to accept these things as given, to assume that because we are faithful or virtuous or righteous people, because we think of ourselves as "good" people, these hopes will always be met. In fact, apart from the litanies—the petitions of our services—our prayers are more often filled with consolation and a purer hope, guiding us through the difficult or painful present with the acceptance that suffering, though unwelcome, is ok. We sometimes delude ourselves that happiness and peace are our natural state when even a brief review of history would seem to indicate otherwise. We forget that turmoil was what Christ did promise his disciples yet turmoil and hardship transfigured and made meaningful. It is no mere coincidence that so many of our saints suffered, some tormented in body, others in mind or soul or spirit; they were Christ's followers after all.

Bad things happen; bad things to good people, this we all know. The gift of our faith is not as a buffer to insulate us from what dread may come. It is to assure us that we do not walk the hard path of life alone and that there really is no virgin territory of pain. We go together as a community and the saints before us, and before them, as the true good shepherd, is Christ Himself, treading the uneasy and uneven path that does lead to salvation. Whatever then causes us to look up from where we are, to look to Him and identify our need and our hope with Him, is but a step on that same journey. We were not promised a god of comfort, a god of good health, or any divinity of blessed ease. We have, instead, God with us, and we are here in a very real world of very real problems, but He is here too.

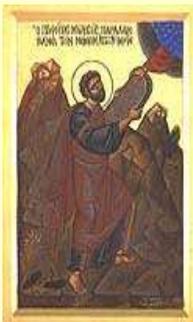


**THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS** –  
**Commemorated on September 14 th** (Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God’s assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: “By this you shall conquer.”

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord’s Body. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying “Lord have mercy,” reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

**MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN SEPTEMBER**



**Holy Prophet  
 Moses  
 Sept 04**



**Prophet Zachariah  
 Sept 05**



**Righteous  
 Elizabeth  
 Sept 05**



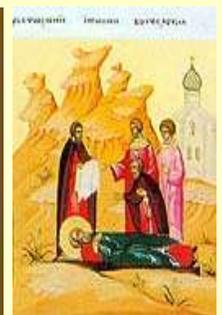
**Nativity of  
 the Theotokos  
 Sept 08**



**St. Joachim  
 Sept 09**



**St. Anna  
 Sept 09**



**St. John the  
 Evangelist  
 Sept 26**

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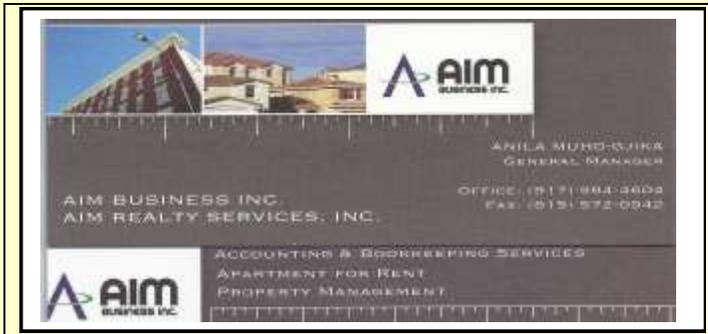
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**Major Church Activities and Events**

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

September 06, 13 and 20 (except Sept 27)

- Mon, Sept 01: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.; Beginning of the Church Year
- Sun, Sept 07: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Vespers, 5 p.m., Nativity of the Theotokos
- Mon, Sept 08: Liturgy, 10:00 p.m.; Nativity of the Theotokos  
Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, Sept 13: Vespers, 5 pm; Exaltation of the Cross
- Sun, Sept 14: Liturgy, 10 am; Exaltation of the Cross
- Wed, Sept 17: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.; St. Sophia
- Sun, Sept 21: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Church School Registration
- Thurs–Sat, Sept 25–27: Archdiocese Assembly,  
St. Peter & St. Paul, Philadelphia
- Sun, Sept 28: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

- Sept 07: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS
- Sept 14: Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Sept 21: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
- Sept 28: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
- Oct 05: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

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