

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Pascha has come, and we have come again to meet it. We have come again to this high point of our calendars, our Church, and our lives to enter into and to live inside of this feast so that we may learn again what it means to be Christians. This is refreshing, and it is challenging. For these past many weeks, we have followed behind Christ listening to His teachings and recalling His miracles, walked behind Him in approach to Jerusalem's victory, suffering, and victory. We have recounted many betrayals and observed the forgiveness by which these are washed away, flooded away by the love of God for His people. Palms, thorny crowns, a gambled cloak, nails, and a rooster crowing denial, these all somehow have been balanced out again in the dark mystery of the tomb, in that place where salvation was birthed. We know that Christ is risen; we even greet each other in this season with these redemptive words and proclamation; but what do we walk away with? Where do we go from here, so that our passing through Pascha is more than just a return again to the same same-again of our calendars and Church and lives?

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whims. We are not free to continue to tailor our lives to our own choosing. Because we dwell in Paschal light, that light symbolized in the lighting of our many candles from the one source, we must live within a particular kind of knowledge and must then approach our lives and this world with a particular kind of disposition. The joyful hymns still ringing in our ears during this bright season need to be for us more than music and certainly more than background noise. So where do we go from here? We can choose to go again where we have already been, a routine route returned to, but this is a failure or worse.

Continued on Page 5

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

April was a special time with the many glorious Pascha services that most were attended by parishioners and visitors. It is always a good time when we are able to enjoy the gifts of life. Most gifts are good... some not so good in our minds but make no mistake there is the purpose to strengthen our faith.

I want to thank all the ushers for being there at the services and doing their best to make everyone comfortable. Also, the altar boys Alex Oswald, Jamie Beno, Johnny Tsamblakos and Subdeacon Bill Nasi for the service. Their presence always makes the services special.

In the next few months the Council will begin the preliminary stage of forming a committee whose project is the "Beautification of our St. Nicholas Church temple. More information will be announced as appropriate.

On May 10th Mother's Day, the men of the church will serve our ladies a simple yet loving coffee hour in honor of the all ladies in the parish. They have always worked hard to help the church in flea market fundraising, holiday breakfasts, Pascha and Christmas decorations and more. It's a way for us to say thank you for their tireless efforts. Don't forget to bring your mom.

Finally, at the last Annual General Meeting the following were elected to the Council, Lou Foundos, Bill Peters and Ilia Luka. So the new 2015/2016 Council is: James Liolin, Tomi Beno, Lou Foundos, Bill Peters, John Jance, Mark Papalexis, Izzi Tsamblakos, Tina Korra, Ilia Luka, Damian Peters. They took their oaths on April 26th.

Don't forget the Church picnic on June 21st, Fathers Day, at Manorhaven Park, Port Washington, NY. See you there.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Maj, 2015

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga "Zbulesa" e kapitullit të parë "Burimet e Doktrinës së Krishterë" nga vëllimi i parë "Doktrina" i Tomas Hopko.

...Titulli i parë që iu dha Jezusit nga populli, është titulli **RABAI**, që do të thotë **MËSUËS**. Pasuesit e Tij u quajtën dishepuj, që do të thotë **NXËNËS**.

Pikësëpari, Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si **Mësuesi i dërguar nga Perëndia**. Ai u mëson atyre vullnetin e Perëndisë dhe e bën Perëndinë të njohur tek ata.

Ardhja e Jezusit si mësues është një aspektet i të qënurit të tij Krisht, Mesia. Fjala **KRISHT** është përkthimi në greqisht i fjalës hebraike **MESIA**, që do të thotë **I Lyeri i Perëndisë**. Ishte parathënë, se kur të vijë Mesia, njerzit "**do të mësoheshin nga Perëndia**"(Isaia 54:13; John 6:45).

Jezusi erdhi tek njerzit si mësuesi hyjnor. Ai thotë në shumë raste, që fjalët e tij janë të Perëndisë. Ai foli si "një që ka autoritet", jo si mësuesit e zakondshëm hebrej. Ai akuzon ata që nuk pranojnë mësimin e tij, sikur nuk pranojnë Perëndinë vetë.

..Ai që beson tek une, nuk me beson mua, por atë që më dërgoi mua. Edhe ai që më sheh, sheh atë që më dërgoi. Kam ardhur si drita për botën... sepse nuk fola prej vetes, por Ati që më dërgoi më dha porosi çfarë të them. Ajo që them është ajo që Ati më ka udhëzuar.(Xhon 12:44-50)

Jezusi i mësoi njerzit, jo vetëm me fjalët e Tij, por me veprat e Tij; dhe për më tepër me vetë personin e Tij. Ai thotë, se Ai është e Vërteta dhe Drita. Ai e tregon veten e Tij, jo vetëm që flet para Perëndisë, por që ai vetë është **FJALA e QJALLË e PERËNDISË** në mish njerëzor, **LOGOS (fjala)** që është i përjetshëm dhe i pakrijuar, por që u bë njeri si Jezusi i Nazaretit për ta bërë Perëndinë të njohur në botë.

Në fillim ishte Fjala (LOGOS) dhe Fjala ishte me Perëndinë, edhe Fjala ishte Perëndia. Ajo ishte që në fillim me Perëndinë. Të gjitha u bënë me anë të saj, edhe pa Atë, nuk u bë asgjë që është bërë. Në Atë ishte jete dhe jeta ishte drita e njerzve. Edhe drita ndrit në errësi, edhe errësira nuk e kuptoi. Ishte drita e vërtetë, që ndrit çdo njeri kur vjen në botë. Ishte në botë dhe bota u bë nga Ai, por bota nuk e njohu. Edhe fjala u bë mish dhe ndenji ndër ne (dhe pamë lavdinë e Tij, lavdi porsit të vetëmlinduri nga Ati), plot me hir

Continued on Page 5

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

Krishti U Ngall! Christ is risen! Our annual Paschal Pancake Breakfast went well, although we missed our Master Chef, Tina Peters who has been wintering in Florida. A huge thank you goes to Christina Liolin & Damian Peters who stepped up to the plate to serve up the pancakes this year. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped everything run so smoothly.

This year, Eli Troja was our leader in decorating the epitaphi on Good Friday morning. A wonderful group participated in this labor of love that turned out beautiful! May God bless all of the volunteers. We definitely have some artistic talent in our community!

On Sunday, May 3rd at 12:30, the Daughters will have a luncheon at the Greek Family Kitchen, just minutes from church. Please see Joanne Heiser or Linda Foundos to make your reservation.

There are a number of our young people graduating this year. Please contact me with the information so we may share in the celebration with you! We are proud of our youth.

**Mothers' Day
Breakfast
Sunday, May 10th
Come and Celebrate!!**





Blessing of Graves – May 30th

Saturday, May 30, beginning at eleven in the morning, Fr. Nathan will be on hand at the Mt. Tomori section of Cypress Hills Cemetery to offer prayers and bless graves. That day is one of the many days set apart by the Church for particular remembrance of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. We do this on the eve of Pentecost, that feast that falls on the next day, because Pentecost is the day we sometimes call the birthday of the Church. It was on that feast that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of the Lord, empowering

them and equipping them to be sent out as faithful missionaries throughout the whole world. Thus it is particularly appropriate that we remember all the members of the Church, living and departed, as we recall the grace and comfort the Holy Spirit brings to our lives. If your loved ones were laid to rest in a different place, please speak to Fr. Nathan; he is always happy to accompany you in offering these prayers and remembering the faithful of our community.



Daughters' Congratulate Bill Nasi

Bill Nasi was surprised last month by a gift from the Daughters of St. Nicholas--two new stoles to wear as he serves.

Last December, Archbishop Nikon ordained Bill as a subdeacon and honored him for his many years of faithful service to St. Nicholas Church. Subdeacons traditionally serve the needs of bishops and are invested with authority to work with the priest in overseeing the organization and beauty of the Church's services.

The Daughters wished to congratulate him on this milestone, but sometimes ordering these special things takes some time. They are confident, though, that it was worth the wait.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PICNIC FATHERS' DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 21st

SAVE THE DATE!!!
MAKE PLANS TO COME TO THIS FUN EVENT



Pascha Season Celebrations

Many Church Services and Celebrations highlighted the activities of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha!!!

GOOD FRIDAY – DECORATING THE EPITAPHI



PASCHA



Coffee List

May	03	Barbara Papalexis / Barbara Filis
	10	Mother's Day
	17	Open
	24	Memorial
	31	Silvana Kutali / Tina Korra
June	07	Christina Liolin / Alexandra Liolin
	14	Fjona Fundo / Suzana Fundo
	21	Picnic
	28	Rehova Family

Dear Ladies,

Here is the schedule for coffee for the next 2 months. If your name is listed, please be sure to put it on your calendar. If you need to change the date, please advise Christina Liolin or Adelina Llupa.

It is very important to remember that on the day you are scheduled for coffee, **please arrive at church by 10 a.m.** so that preparations can be made. What to bring:

1. Cake for 50-60 people
2. Cookies for the children
3. 1 gallon of milk



KENDI SHQIP – Continued from Page 2

e me të vërtetë. Edhe të gjithë ne morëm prej të mbushurit të atij, edhe hiri mbi hir. Sepse ligji u dha me anë të Moisiut, por hiri dhe e verteta me anë të Jezu Krishtit. Asnjë kurrë s'e ka parë Perëndinë, vec i Vetëmlinduri Bir, që është në gji të Atit. Ai na e tregoi.

...Në këtë mënyrë, të krishterët i shikonin disa filozofë grekë të antikitetit si të ndriçuar nga Perëndia, për t'i shërbyer çështjes së të Vërtetës dhe për t'i udhëhequr njerzit drejt plotësisë së jetës në Perëndinë, meqënëse Fjala dhe Dituria e Perëndisë është zbuluar tek tërë njerzit dhe gjendet në tërë ata, të cilët në pastertinë e mendjes dhe zemrës së tyre kanë qënë frymëzuar nga Drita Hyjnore, e cila ndriçon çdo njeri që vjen në botë. Kjo Dritë Hyjnore është Fjala e Perëndisë, Jezuesi i Nazaretit si njeri, përsosja dhe përmushja e vetëzbulësës së Perëndisë në botë.

Duhet theksuar gjithashtu se zbulesa hyjnore në Dhjatën e Vjetër, në Kishën e Dhjatës së Re, në jetët e shenjtoreve, në diturinë e etërve, në bukurinë e krijimit ...dhe me e plotë dhe më e përsosur në Jezu Krishtin, Birin e Perëndisë, është zbulesa e Vetë Perëndisë. Perëndia ka folur. Perëndia ka vepruar. Perëndia e ka shfaqur Vetveten dhe vazhdon ta shfaqë në jetën e popullit të Tij.

Nëse duam të dëgjojmë zërin e Perëndisë dhe të shohim veprat e vetëzbulësës së Perëndisë në botë, në duhet të pastrojmë mendjet dhe zemrat tona nga çdo gjë që është e keqe dhe e rremë. Ne duhet të përpiqemi të duam të vërtetën, të duam njeri tjetrin dhe të duam gjithshka në krijimin e mirë të Perëndisë. Sipas Besimit Orthodox, pastrimi prej mekatit dhe gënjeshtres është rruga për të njohur Perëndinë. Nëse ne e hapim vetveten ndaj Hirit Hyjnor dhe e pastrojmë vetveten prej çdo gjëje të ligë, atëherë është e sigurt që ne do të jemi të aftë ta kuptojmë drejt Shkrimin dhe të arrijmë një kungim të gjallë me Perëndinë e Gjallë dhe të Vërtetë, që e ka zbuluar Vetveten dhe vazhdon ta zbulojë tek ata që e duan Atë...

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – Continued from Page 1

Hypocrisy is often thought an ugly word. It's a charge no one welcomes to an argument. Saying without doing, affirming without completing, expecting without giving, this is what that one word means, that one charge. And, in truth, it is no pleasant thing for any one of us to ponder the possibility that we might be a fraud, living too close to that ugly word, too perilously close to having or leading lives of lies. But hypocrisy is an impossible charge to lay upon someone in motion. When children playact at being adults, we don't call them hypocrites; we call them aspirants, these little ones still learning to be. When each of us has just obtained a new job, we may not quite know how to do everything this new position demands or yet how to perform every task, yet we still carry the title of our occupation. Again, this does not make us hypocrites for being called what we are not quite yet. Hypocrisy comes when we become too comfortable with our goals, when we espouse them but do not struggle with them to rise. Hypocrisy is in being settled and being unwilling or unable to move. It is the student who thinks he or she is already a scholar and so will not open a book; the musician who will not practice; the cook who only watches food programs on television but will not turn on the stove; the professing sinner who mouths prayers but will not meet God in the salvation of change.

Where we go from here, from light and celebration and enforced joy, depends on us. The Church leads, but we must follow into change and not to hypocrisy. It is not simply because we are unwilling to leave behind Pascha's festivities that we continue for a long time now to chant the great troparion of the feast. It is because we are supposed to be being changed. We are supposed to be trying to live up to a world made different, our story made different, by God with us. For it is a terrible and fearful thing to fail to acknowledge that we live under the scrutiny of even a loving God, that we live—liking it or not—with Christ here and now and always. We have still much work to do to own the words that we profess and proclaim, to claim these words of aspiration and challenge:

This is the day of Resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call "Brothers" even those that hate us, and forgive all by the Resurrection, and so let us cry: Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!



SECOND FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS - Commemorated on May 9th

In the eleventh century the Byzantine Empire was going through some terrible times. The Turks put an end to its influence in Asia Minor, they destroyed cities and villages, they murdered the inhabitants, and they accompanied their cruel outrage with the desecration of churches, holy relics, icons and books. The Mussulmen also attempted to destroy the relics of St Nicholas, deeply venerated by the whole Christian world. In the year 792 the caliph sent Khumeid at the head of a fleet to pillage the island of Rhodes. Having lain waste this island, Khumeid set off to Myra in Lycia with the intent to rob the tomb of St Nicholas. But instead he robbed another tomb standing alongside the crypt of the saint. Just as they succeeded in committing this sacrilege, a terrible storm lifted upon the sea and almost all the ships were shattered into pieces. The desecration of holy things shocked not only Eastern, but also Western Christians. Christians in Italy were particularly apprehensive for the relics of St Nicholas, and among them were many Greeks. The inhabitants of the city of Bari, located on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, decided to save the relics of St Nicholas. In the year 1087 merchants from Bari and Venice went to Antioch to trade. Both

these and others also proposed to take up the relics of St Nicholas and transport them to Italy on the return trip. In this plan the men of Bari commissioned the Venetians to land them at Myra. At first two men were sent in, who in returning reported that in the city all was quiet. In the church where the glorified relics rested, they encountered only four monks. Immediately forty-seven men, having armed themselves, set out for the church of St Nicholas. The guards, suspecting nothing, showed them the raised platform, beneath which the tomb of the saint was concealed, and where they anointed foreigners with myrrh from the relics of the saint. At this time the monks told them about an appearance of St Nicholas that evening to a certain Elder. In this vision St Nicholas ordered the careful preservation of his relics. This account encouraged the barons, they saw an avowal for them in this vision and, as it were, a decree from the saint. In order to facilitate their activity, they revealed their intent to the monks and offered them money, 300 gold coins. The guards refused the money and wanted to warn the inhabitants about the misfortune threatening them. But the newcomers bound them and put their own guards at the doorway.

They took apart the church platform above the tomb with the relics. In this effort the youth Matthew was excessive in his zeal, wanting to find the relics of St Nicholas as quickly as possible. In his impatience he broke the cover and the barons saw that the sarcophagus was filled with fragrant holy myrrh. The compatriots of the barons, the priests Luppus and Drogus, offered a litany, after which the break made by Matthew began to flow with myrrh from the saint's sarcophagus. This occurred on April 20, 1087. Seeing the absence of a container chest, the priest Drogus wrapped the relics in the cloth, and in the company of the barons he carried them to the ship. The monks, having been set free, alerted the city with the sad news about the abduction of the relics of the Wonderworker Nicholas by foreigners. A crowd of people gathered at the shore, but it was too late.

On May 8 the ships arrived in Bari, and soon the joyous news made the rounds of all the city. On the following day, May 9, 1087, they solemnly transported the relics of St Nicholas into the church of St Stephen, not far from the sea. The solemn bearing of the relics was accompanied by numerous healings of the sick, which inspired still greater reverence for God's saint. A year afterwards, a church was built in the name of St Nicholas and consecrated by Pope Urban II.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN MAY



**St. Irene of
Thessalonica**
May 05



**Mid-Feast
of Pentecost**
May 06



**St. John the
Theologian**
May 08



**The Ascension of
our Lord**
May 21



**St. Constantine
and St. Helen**
May 21



Holy Pentecost
May 31

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!!!

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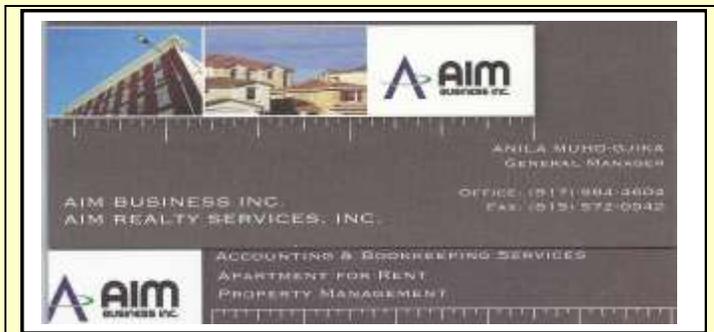
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Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers every Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.

May 02, 09, 16, 23 and 30

Sun, May 03: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Daughters of St. Nicholas Luncheon after Liturgy

Sat, May 09: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.; 2nd St. Nicholas Feast; Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

Sun, May 10: Liturgy, 10 a.m.; Mothers' Day Brunch follows Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall

Sun, May 17: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Wed, May 20: Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.; Ascension of the Lord

Thurs, May 21: Prayers, 11 am; Ascension of the Lord/ Sts Constantine & Helen

Sun, May 24: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Church School's end of term

Sat, May 30: Blessing of Graves at Mt. Tomori, 11:00 a.m.

Sun, May 31: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Pentecost

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

May 03: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

May 10: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

May 17: Stefan BALTAFDORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

May 24: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

May 31: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO

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