

THE ORTHODOX POST

November 2015

Volume XI, Issue 10



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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Soon, in the middle of this month of November, we will come again to one of the four seasons enshrined by our Orthodox Faith as a period of reflection, a time of working at stillness. These fasting seasons are days or weeks to lay our lives bare of extraneous things and to try to be simple in what we eat, in what we do, and how we spend our time. The forty days before Christmas are so appointed.

Sometimes called the St. Philip's Fast in honor of that great disciple, missionary, and martyr whose feast day is the last before this abstemious time, Advent or Nativity falls in the middle range of our expected and customary privations. Fish, wine, and oil are permitted routinely (check your calendar) in a manner unlike Great Lent or August's two weeks in honor of the Virgin. Mid-range, too, is the duration of this feast—shorter than those many weeks leading us to Pascha yet longer than the Dormition and usually also more expansive than the Apostles' Fast. There is a gentleness to our austerity now, somehow befitting the coming of the Christ child.

As in all of these great seasons offered to us by our Holy Church, the number of services available at our own St. Nicholas parish will be augmented. This gives us the chance to come and learn to reflect on the mystery of Christ's work. In these coming days, we will meditate on His coming to be with us, praying a paraklesis service each Friday evening of the Nativity Season at seven. Come.

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

PLEDGE MONTH HAS BEGUN

November is dedicated to our annual pledge drive—the time when you can help the church by making your financial commitment. Our budget for the new year is based on the generosity of the community. Please complete the yellow card included in the pledge letter and return it to the church by November 30th.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Because we had great cooperation with last year's coat drive we will again start collecting winter coats for those in need. Make sure that they are in reasonably good condition. Please bring the coats to church starting Sunday Nov.15 through December 13.

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Over the years, many people have remarked to me how different, how intimate and peaceful, the evening and non-Sunday services are at St. Nicholas—so many people that I have almost been compelled to be convinced that this is not simply a reflection of my own experiences, not just the wishes of my own soul, but something more. We'll be overcome by tinny carols about peace soon enough, grow deaf to their message of hope and calm the nearer we come to this holiday, become inundated with obligations and appointments and the negotiations of social expectations. Why not try to begin the work of acquiring peace? Commit one Friday evening to searching with the wise for that unexpected and unexplainable Child of promise and His salvation.

GENERAL MEETING

On November 22, we will hold our semi-annual meeting to review the past six months' activities and our 2016 Budget. Please attend. We need your input and for you to understand the parish operations. There is a new policy in place for the purchase of cemetery plots in Mt. Tomori. It is the time for you to ask questions and bring ideas. Hope to see you there.

CELEBRATION TIME

Two special times fall in this month: Thanksgiving and Albanian Flag Day. If you celebrate one or both enjoy a happy and safe time.

Please bring your suggestions or questions to the meeting.

Coffee List

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



November	01	Open
	08	Flea Market
	15	Memorial
	22	Eli Troja / Alma Vesho
	29	Open
December	06	St. Nicholas Luncheon
	13	Christina Liolin / Alexandra Liolin
	20	Pancake Breakfast
	27	Open
January	03	Donna Oswald / Viola Kallinikos

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

The Daughters have been hard at work pricing and preparing for our upcoming Flea Market/Bake Sale on Saturday & Sunday, November 7th & 8th. You still have a few days to bring over any items you are able to donate for our fundraiser & let Tina Peters know what delicious treat you can bake. Please email me at ggsutter@aol.com if you can help us the weekend of the sale.

The Daughters were deeply saddened by the falling asleep in the Lord of Gloria (Dalaku) Sawyer. We have missed her presence and involvement with us for some time. May her memory be eternal.

We would like to have a luncheon/brief meeting the last Sunday in November, the 29th. Watch for details.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! What a beautiful, meaningful holiday to recount your blessings.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

St. Nicholas Day Luncheon
Sunday, December 6th



**Come
&
Bring
The
Family**

Flea Market & Bake Sale

November 7th & November 8th

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



**"COME ONE
COME ALL"**

**HAVE FUN
&
SUPPORT
ST. NICHOLAS**



PLEDGE CARD

My total pledge for the year **2016** 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. Thank you!

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____
 Spouse: _____ Birthdate: _____
 Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number (): _____ Email Address: _____ Wedding Anniversary: _____

Other family members in household:

Name: _____	Birthdate: _____	Name: _____	Birthdate: _____
Name: _____	Birthdate: _____	Name: _____	Birthdate: _____
Name: _____	Birthdate: _____	Name: _____	Birthdate: _____

A Pledge Message

Hopefully your summer was a joyful one. We know it is now a busy time going back to school and work but we can't forget why we are able to enjoy those daily necessities. We can't overlook that God gives us our lives and everything attached to our lives. *Stewardship* is – to be caretakers of all that we have been given. We use our talents, time and treasure as the caretakers' tools. Pledging is the treasure part of our stewardship and enables us to give back a portion of what we have been given to help others.

Pledging is the financial commitment each of us makes to our Church to pay for all that we do. By giving from our own abundance, we sustain the work and mission of the church in ways that benefit us directly, benefit other members of our church and our community. We also reap the spiritual benefits of a life founded on generosity and giving, in gratitude for all that we have received.

Nothing is possible without that first commitment from each of you, and we urge you to think about all that St. Nicholas means in your life as you make your pledge.

To serve the Parish Community and operate the Church, it costs about \$150,000 each year. Currently, only one-half of this cost is raised by the Pledge. Today, St. Nicholas has about 100 families supporting the Church through the Pledge Program. There are another hundred families who attend Church periodically, but who did not Pledge in 2015. Typical yearly Pledges range from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. The average pledge per family is \$700.

Together, through this 2016 Pledge Program, we must try to raise more money to support St. Nicholas. Each of us is asked to do the best we can – that is "Increase last years' Pledge amount" or if you did not Pledge for 2015, "Submit the best Pledge you can for 2016". Let's all help to increase our financial support of St. Nicholas!!!

**REMEMBER... November will begin our Pledge Drive to support our 2016 expenses.
 Please fill in your 2016 Pledge Card with the best possible Pledge you can make
 and return it back to Church.**

General Parish Meeting

Sunday, November 22nd, after Liturgy



Come to the Meeting!!!!

Participate in Important Church Business

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

St. Nicholas Church Golf Outing a Success!!!

Once again great weather and a distinguished group of golfers and diners made our 18th Annual Golf Outing a great success!!! The call to get on the golf carts came at noon and shortly thereafter; the carts started rolling out and golfing began.

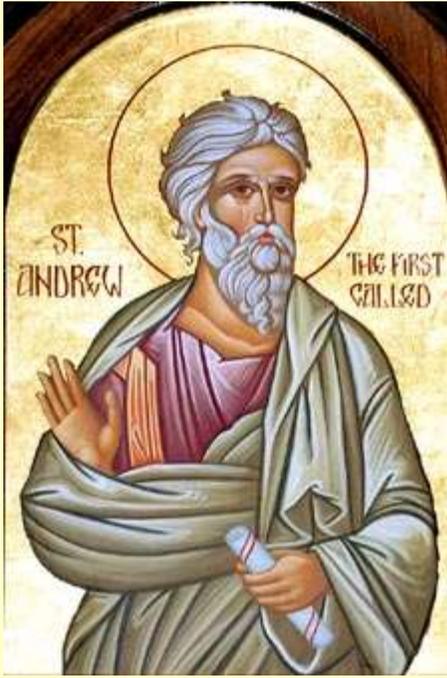
After golf, the players returned to the beautiful clubhouse and Woodlands Restaurant. After drinks and dinner, winners were announced and the grand raffle prizes were distributed.

Thanks goes to all those who participated in this event, especially those who worked at the outing to make it a huge success, as well as those who worked so hard to bring in the sponsorships and prize donations. It was a job well done by the Team!!!



St. Nicholas Church Golf Outing – continued





ST. ANDREW, THE HOLY AND ALL-RAISED FIRST-CALLED - Commemorated on November 30th

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ. The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian, declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God. After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands. He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross.

Having prayed, he went up even further and reached a settlement of the Slavs. From here the apostle went towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church. On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. They pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom. The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith. Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo St Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross. St Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN NOVEMBER



**Sts Cosmas and
Damian**
Nov 01



**Archangel Michael
of Spain**
Nov 08



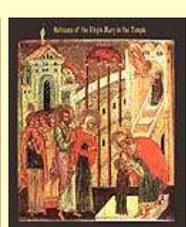
St Nectarius
Nov 09



Martyr Vincent
Nov 11



St Philip
Nov 14



**The Entry of
The Theotokos**
Nov 21



**St Catherine
of Alexandria**
Nov 24

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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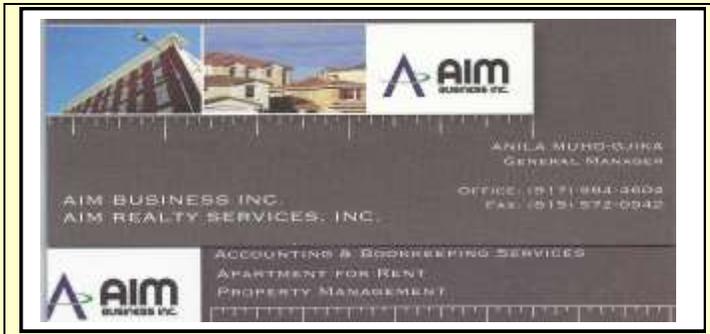
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Major Church Activities and Events

Vespers Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.
November 14, 21 and 28 (except 07)

- Sun, Nov 01: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
Sts. Cosmas and Damian
- Mon, Nov 02: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, Nov 07: Health Prayers, 4:00 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 08: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Michael
- Mon, Nov 09: Prayers, 5:00 p.m.; St. Nektarios
- BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST**
- Sun, Nov 15: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Fri, Nov 20: Vespers, 7:00 p.m.; Meeting of the Lord
- Sat, Nov 21: Liturgy, 10:00; Meeting of the Theotokos
- Sun, Nov 22: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, Nov 23: Prayers, 5:00 p.m.;
Sts. Alexander and Catherine
- Thurs, Nov 26: Thanksgiving Prayers, 10:00 a.m.
- Fri, Nov 27: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 29: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Flag Day Prayers
- Sun, Dec 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Nicholas Lunch

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

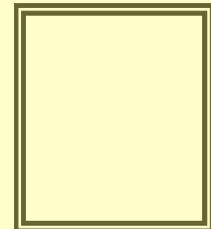
- Nov 01: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
- Nov 08: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
- Nov 15: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA
- Nov 22: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS
- Nov 29: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
- Dec 06: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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