

# THE ORTHODOX POST

December 2015

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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

Walking through the market in any of those few days preceding Thanksgiving is always an exercise in patience. Crowded with people, crowded, too, with promotions for food, for goods, for labor savers and money savers, the aisles and shelves are full to distraction. Because I am usually not home for the holiday but comfortably ensconced instead in the home of local friends, I am mostly spared the 'big shop', that one big trip that strains endurance and tests marital compatibility in the collection of all those things that assembled mean Thanksgiving. Once I've cooked and packed my sparing assigned side or two and a bottle of wine or two, I'm already ready to go, to arrive and enjoy a feast that has meant many days of preparation for someone else. I have it good, I know. Last Thursday, I was doing my best to explain this, both to describe why Thanksgiving is this unique American institution and, frankly, why it is worth the bother. My audience, full of questions, a few immigrants and expatriates. Some had had little experience of the United States, some none beyond the grim walls that contained us, the concrete walls of a high-rise tower next to the BQE that few driving by imagine houses three thousand people, three thousand inmates.

It's funny how we begin to understand or reconsider things when called upon to explain them—those routine revelations of

## President's Message

by Jim Liolin

### Update - November activity and Semi-Annual Meeting

A very special thank you from the Council to the Daughters of St. Nicholas for their **BEST EVER** Flea Market in November raising almost \$5500. It was the result of hard work, long hours and many members helping. Giving your support made it a success.

At the Semi-Annual Meeting in November there were several reports given including the new Sunday School program, Daughters of St. Nicholas, Church finances, especially the 2016 Budget and more.

- The 2016 Pledge campaign started this November and will finish by December 30<sup>th</sup>. This is one way we show our commitment to the church and community at large. **The pledges will be blessed on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the day we will celebrate St. Nicholas.**

- Once again we were blessed by our sister parish of St. John the Baptist of Boston. All our parishes in the Albanian

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parents and teachers. So though I'm now decades from civics classes or quizzes on American history, I had to summon some explanation for the potatoes with gravy, Cornish game hen turkey stand-in, and inevitable slice of pumpkin pie that would appear on dinner trays there a week hence. And because the black dress that robes me and cross chained around my neck compel me oftentimes to try to work in a moral here and there, I had to try to speak a little about the virtue of giving thanks and why this has been enshrined in national practice and consciousness and why, American or not, it might prove worthwhile to do the work of trying to be just a little more grateful

**Continued on Page 7**

Archdiocese were sent an additional gift of \$25,000. We thank the parish of St. John the Baptist for their generous gift. This was their way of helping the diocese after their Church burnt to the ground.

- Our Church has a new website that is more user friendly and will improve communication to the entire church community. Please check it out at [www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org).

- The Council felt it necessary to preserve the holy grounds at Mt. Tomori in Cypress Hills for those who have been continuous members of St. Nicholas. Therefore the non-member rate was increased to \$6500 effective immediately.

- The Food and Coat Drives are in full swing and will continue through December 30<sup>th</sup>. Please donate what you can.

Going forward please return your ICONS by Christmas day as we have the ICON presentation on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year.

# 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



December	06	St. Nicholas Luncheon
	13	Christina Liolin / Alexandra Liolin
	20	Pancake Breakfast
	27	Open
January	03	Donna Oswald / Viola Kallinikos
	10	Tina Peters / Rosalie Zacharias
	17	Adelina Llupa
	24	Open
	31	Christine Beno / Jana Foundos

## ICON RETURN

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

*We need them to prepare for  
the January 10th Icon Auction*



## ICON AUCTION

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> - After Liturgy

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

It is wonderful how much we can achieve by working as a team and how much of a difference we can make!! Our annual Flea Market & Bake Sale just brought us a profit of \$5,500!!! In addition to the financial help for our church, so many shoppers were very appreciative of the bargain items. Our Bake Table sold out! People just couldn't wait to buy some of Chef Tina Peters' & crew's most delicious lakror! Our regular shoppers were happy to see us again; they feel like family!

Our sincere thanks to all that worked so hard to shop, cook, price, set up, sell & clean up. Without your participation, this could not have taken place. Also, we cannot thank you enough for all your donations; and don't you feel better for cleaning "stuff" out of your home for such a good cause?

We look forward to having you join us for our annual St. Nicholas Luncheon on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Pageant followed by our Pancake Breakfast with Santa on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

We wish you and your families a very Blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year!! We must all pray for peace in the world!

## **St. Nicholas Day**

### **Luncheon**

**SUNDAY, DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>**

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CELEBRATION**

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

**Sunday**  
**December 20<sup>TH</sup>**



**Wishing You All**

**A Blessed**

**Christmas  
Season!!!!**

**Schedule of Christmas Services**

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. - Royal Hours

5:00 p.m. - Vespers

7:30 p.m. - Compline

8:00 p.m. - Liturgy

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. - Prayers, Nativity of The Lord

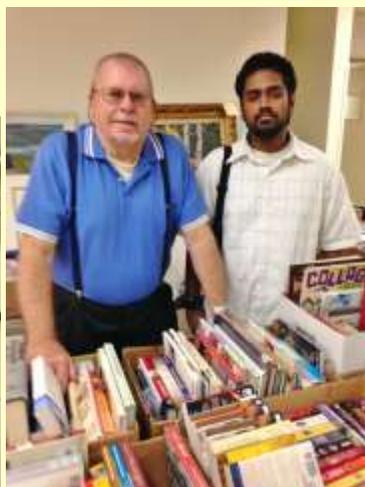


## Flea Market & Bake Sale – A Great Success!!!

On Saturday and Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<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



## Baptism an Important part of our Lives

St. Nicholas Church is very proud to introduce the three newest members of our holy faith, who were Baptized this past October. They are Nyla Athena Peters, Sofia Dervishi and Theodore Thomas Ladd.

We welcome them into our community and this life we share with Christ and with each other. Through Baptism, they have entered into a high calling, becoming servants of God and learning to serve His world. Through Baptism, they have begun to know that special place in all of creation that their Creator has chosen for them, here with us.

Though they are small and though they have much still to learn about living the Christian life, they are in the right place. Our job is to see that they grow here, mature here, and discover here with us what life with God means. Please keep them and their families and their godparents in your prayers; help them in this journey of growth towards God.

### Nyla Athena Peters

*Parents:*

Jenny & Damian Peters

*Godparents:*

Alexis Heuser-Peters

Melissa Suyat

Will Peters

*Big Sister:* Gabrielle



### Sofia Dervishi

*Parents:*

Hektor & Jonida Dervishi

*Godfather:*

Naun Zoga

*Big Sister:* Ariana



### Theodore Thomas Ladd

*Parents:*

Alison & Marc Ladd

*Godparents:*

Laura & Gregg DiTullio

*Big Sister:* Alexandra



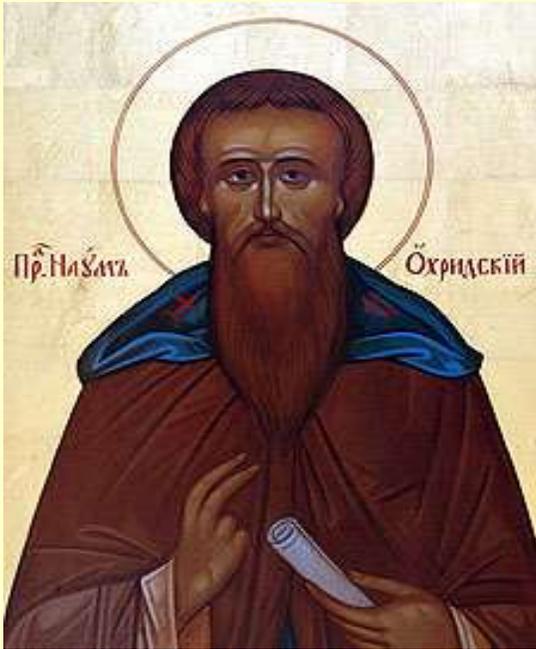
## COMMUNITY NEWS by Linda Foundos

- It seems we have a celebrity among us.....Jonathan Topore!! Jonathan is on his second year of his second tour with his band, Rivers of Nihil. Jonathan is a guitar player and song writer for the band. His month-long tour across America has been a great success! The Rivers of Nihil has been signed by Metal Blades Records!! His parents, Adriana & Andrea are so proud of him as are all of us. Congratulations to Jon; and we wish him safe return home.
- Debbie and John Leff-Kelapire are celebrating their third anniversary of marriage on November 10th. Also, congratulations and best wishes go to Debbie and John's mother/mother-in law, Rosalie who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Debbie and John threw a surprise party for Rosalie with 50 of her closest friends who managed to keep it a secret so Rosalie's surprise was genuine. A memorable evening was had by all  
On the get well side, Debbie Leff-Kelapire had her right hip replaced two months ago and is recovering well. Thank goodness for Physical Therapists to help get her through this challenging time. John Leff-Kelapire is the son of Betty & the late George Kelapire.
- Congratulations to Christina Foundos who is in Italy for her semester abroad. What a wonderful experience it has been to visit numerous European cities. She is very excited with the good news that she has been accepted in a Student Teaching Program for the fall semester of 2016 in New York City. A well-deserved opportunity for Christina!! They will be very lucky to have her; the students will love her and thrive. Jana & Phil Foundos are very proud of her and her accomplishments as are we all.
- Andrew & Gema Naum are the proud parents of a second baby girl, Virginia. Her big sister Victoria is delighted to have a playmate. They make their home in Indiana. Congratulations to them and to grandparents, Helen & Peter Panajoti. May God bless the entire family. We wish little Virginia a very long, healthy and happy life!
- Our deepest sympathy to the Klimuszko/Kelapire families on the passing of Dorothy Klimuszko on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy is survived by her sons Bill, Richard and Paul, his wife Laura, 2 grandchildren, Caylee & Gannon; brother Norman Kelapire and his wife Helen; and sister-in-law Betty Kelapire. She will be greatly missed! May her memory be eternal.
- Gloria (Dalaku) Sawyer, a lifelong member of St. Nicholas Church, fell asleep in the Lord on October 18<sup>th</sup>. As a pillar of our parish choir for many years, her voice led us into worship of God Sunday after Sunday. Though her health did not permit her to be regularly at these services of late, her care for this community and hopes for its continual betterment remained undimmed. May her memory be eternal. It perjetshim kujtimi!

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE - continued from Page 1

I assume that most people assume that giving thanks is simply that—an etiquette-bound affirmation and the raising of one's voice to note what one might miss if it were not there. But thanksgiving in the religious sense is far beyond social convention and far exceeds a simple "Thank you" here and there scattered as a matter of good manners or in order not to shame our mothers. Gratitude is a perspective; it is a way of being in the world and interpreting the world's myriad experiences and trials. We humans are adaptable creatures readily able to assimilate and make almost anywhere our habitat. Yet with this extraordinary capacity comes expectation, the lists we carry with us, lists of what we want, and it is not hard to find many places, people, environments, and situations lacking. Driven by our needs and need to adapt and struggle to be at home, discontent arises with the fissure between what is and what is wanted. We become people of absence convinced we dwell in a famine of disparities. Our outlook and gazing into our lives and world note only what is not there, but we must be more than our lacks.

Thanksgiving is to acknowledge what is. It is to make the choice or, more realistically, to work at making those choices of choosing to see beyond our own desires and disappointments. Our world and all it contains simply are, what is lacked is endurance or commitment to find good all this that is, to follow our Creator as He paused in the beginning at the close of each new day confirming and insisting that what had been achieved was good. Assuredly, He was not ignorant of all that would occur here, of the tragedies to which this world would too often play host, but still He named it good and invoked the blessing of existence to it. Living in this God-crafted world, we endeavor not to do otherwise. We exercise thanksgiving by living here and now and not in the fantasies of our wants or desires. Oddly, surprisingly, miraculously, we will find that here and now is usually enough. Thanksgiving ample to the task of living for those ready to set aside their lists and live simply with what is.



## ST. NAHUM OF OCHRID, EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES -

**Commemorated on December 23rd**

(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

Saint Nahum was a disciple of Sts Cyril and Methodius, one of their coworkers known as the Five Followers.

St Nahum was a man of great learning, and he spoke several languages. After a visit to Rome, he settled on the shores of Lake

Ochrid. There he built a monastery at the time when St Clement of Ochrid was serving as a bishop.

Many monks gathered around St Nahum, who was known as a great wonderworker and a man of prayer. He also labored to translate the Holy Scriptures from Greek into Slavonic.

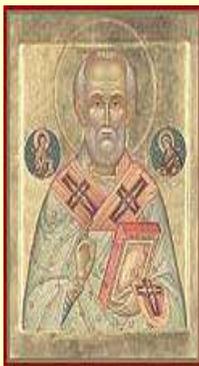
St Nahum fell asleep in the Lord in 910, and his holy relics continue to work miracles of healing for those who venerate them in faith.

## MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER



St Barbara

Dec 04



St. Nicholas

Dec 06



Conception of  
The Theotokos

Dec 09



St Spyridon  
the Wonderworker

Dec 12



Prophet Daniel

Dec 17



The Nativity of  
our Lord

Dec 25



St Stephen

Dec 27

## 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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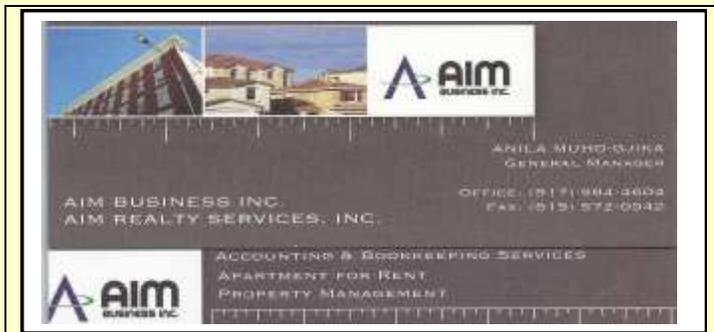
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**Major Church Activities and Events**

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

December 05, 12, 19 and 26

Paraklesis every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

December 04, 11 and 18

- Sun, Dec 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Nicholas Day Luncheon – Fellowship Hall
- Mon, Dec 07: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Dec 09: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Conception of the Theotokos
- Sun, Dec 13: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 20: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; \Pancake Breakfast
- Wed, Dec 23: Prayers, 11:00 a.m.; St. Nahum
- Thurs, Dec 24: Royal Hours, 10:00 a.m.  
Vespers, 5:00 p.m.  
Compline, 7:30 p.m.  
Liturgy, 8:00 p.m.; Nativity of the Lord
- Fri, Dec 25: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Nativity of the Lord
- Fri, Jan 01: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Basil

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

**Dec 06: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE**

**Dec 13: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO**

**Dec 20: Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE**

**Dec 27: Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS**

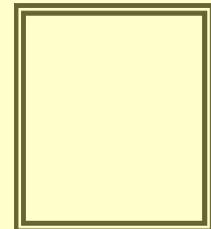
**Jan 04: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA**

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