

THE ORTHODOX POST

January 2016

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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

There is little else to forgiveness than return; to come back to is the essence of all apology and reconciliation. Because we offend each other, because we hurt each other sometimes even willfully, because we are all too perfectly human and imperfectly human, there will not come a time when we find ourselves free of the need to forgive. Though the nature of the relationship makes little difference—we can and are be wounded by all—most often we are wounded often by those we hope keep close. So forgiveness and the acceptance of forgiveness are much of the nature of every relationship and almost all of its work.

When we say we know or believe that we ought to forgive, often we bow heads somberly nodding in homage of this high calling yet without actually forgiving. Somewhere that echo resounds inside us, that twinge, pointing out that we should really try, try to do better, try to forgive. Internally or with our very lips and tongues we may say those words that misguided hope or kindergarten teachers have taught us are magic: I forgive you. Yet these words are the easy part; the struggle mostly persists inside. Because we have been hurt or harmed, because we perhaps were wronged, perhaps wronged badly, understanding the real perversity of evil by its cut and our blood, forgiveness does not end with words. Relationships are not fixed by words. Choices alone can allow us to decide whether or not we continue in friendship, in love, in community. We make the choice to return. Or we don't.

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

Ensure the Future

The Christmas holiday season has come and gone but our work in the Church still continues. There's always a need for your assistance in ministries--whether it's altar service, teaching, usher service, singing or volunteering for charitable programs. These services, whichever you choose to do, strengthen our faith, community and parish.

In November we held the semi-annual meeting where we reviewed the previous six months' activities. Most notable was the approval by the parish of the 2016 budget that you all received prior to the meeting. Other reports were presented on the Sunday School, Fund raising, and a discussion on reaching out to

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The nature of evil is like an avalanche, a stone set rolling that gathers and gathers; the nature of evil is that its termination and extermination require the commitment of many; the nature of evil is that it can begin so softly flung from one hand but consumes and devours until the many hands and bodies have decided that that is enough and enough is lost and it is time for this thing to end. The nature of evil is to make us think we don't have choices when we do. We make the choice to return, to dust off, make peace, open up again and rebuild. Or we don't. There is little else to forgiveness than return; to come back to is the essence of all apology, its reconciliation our work of salvation.

improve attendance....a challenge for the coming year. The BEST EVER Flea Market by the Daughters of St. Nicholas this year resulted in a \$4500 donation to St. Nicholas Church. So it's true, "*practice does make perfect*".

We continued the NY Cares Coat Drive this year to help those less fortunate. This year expanding on this effort we added a Food Pantry drive. Parishioners and friends have been most generous with these programs.

Father Nathan and the Council want to thank everyone who continue to offer their Time, Talent and Treasure to St. Nicholas. You ensure the future!

Don't forget Icon Presentation Day is January 10th.

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



January	03	Open
	10	Donna Foundos / Viola Kallinikos
	17	Adelina Llupa
	24	Open
	31	Christine Beno / Jana Foundos
February	07	Barbara Papalexis / Barbara Filis
	14	Open
	21	Rehova Family
	28	Linda Foundos / Elizabeth Liolin

DAUGHTERS' CORNER

By Linda Foundos

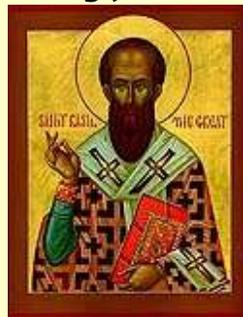
Our heartfelt appreciation to all those that helped to make our annual Pancake Breakfast so enjoyable following our Christmas Pageant Production! The children were so happy and excited to participate; and the parents so proud and delighted to watch their "star." We are very pleased to continue this annual Christmas tradition. It goes so smoothly when people pitch in to help.

We hope you all enjoyed the Blessed Christmas season and welcomed in the New Year with great hope for good health and happiness and peace in the world. So far, winter has been kind to us. Now we will see what else is in store for us?

There will be a Daughters meeting in January for a year end wrap-up and **elections**. It is healthy for an organization to have some turnover in its leadership. Don't be afraid to step up. It is greatly rewarding; and we will be right by your side! We would also like to have a luncheon at a restaurant near church. You will receive an email with the dates. Try to make an effort to be more active. Your Community will be as alive as you make it! Even if you haven't been a regular, we welcome you!

ICON AUCTION

Sunday, January 10th - After Liturgy



ICON Return

Bring in Your ICONS from Last Years ICON AUCTION As Soon As Possible!!!

We Need Them to Prepare for the January 10th ICON AUCTION

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 6th, Parishioners gathered to celebrate St. Nicholas Day and honor our Church's Patron Saint. In addition to the Sunday Liturgy with special prayers for St. Nicholas Day, Fr. Nathan blessed the Parishioner Pledge Cards collected so far for the 2016 Annual Pledge Program. It is important for each Parishioner to hand-in a Pledge Card to support the Church. This submitting of a financial Pledge for next year is very important to enable the Church to continue serving the Community. Finally, more than one hundred Parishioners enjoyed the Luncheon held in the Fellowship hall. Everyone had a wonderful day!!!



Baptism an Important part of our Lives

St. Nicholas Church is very proud to introduce the newest member of our holy faith, who was Baptized on November 29th. Let's welcome Andrew Rehova!!!

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

Though Andrew is small and though he has much still to learn about living the Christian life, he is in the right place. Our job is to see that he grows here, matures here, and discovers here with us what life with God means. Please keep him and his family and his godparents in your prayers. Help them in this journey of growth towards God.

Andrew Rehova

Parents:

Jonel & Florinda Rehova

Godparents:

Eduart & Marcela Shkurti



Christmas Pageant, Pancake Breakfast & a Visit from Santa

On Sunday, December 20th, Parishioners once again enjoyed the performance of the Christmas Pageant by the Sunday School children. Children from nursery school age to teenagers all performed very well. Credit and Thanks go to the Sunday School Teachers and Parents for a job well done.

Afterwards, in our Fellowship Hall, our traditional Pancake Breakfast sponsored by The Daughters' of St. Nicholas treated Parishioners to a hearty breakfast. A "Thank You" goes out to all those who worked to make it a success.

Finally, all the children, both young and old, were thrilled by a visit from Santa. Gifts and photos were enjoyed by the Children and Adults.



Pancake Breakfast & a Visit from Santa – continued



Save the Date!!

Valentine's Day Dance
Saturday, February 13, 2016



Pledge Program for 2016

Many Parishioners have turned in their Pledge for 2016!!! To them, "THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!"

However, there are still a large number of Parishioners that still have to turn in their Pledge Card. They must indicate how much money they will donate to St. Nicholas Church during 2016. This will help pay for the costs that enable St. Nicholas to operate and serve our Community.

Most pledges are in the \$500 to \$3000 range. In addition to financially supporting the Church, Pledgers receive discounts for some church activities as well as when they buy cemetery plots.

We ask you to consider making a generous Pledge!!! Pledge Cards can be put in the Sunday Collection Basket or mailed to the Office.

**Please turn in your completed Pledge Card
as soon as possible!!!**

COMMUNITY NEWS by Linda Foundos

- Dr. Jennifer (Slane) & Jack Wollocko have a new baby girl to celebrate, Charlotte Emily!!! What a wonderful blessing that makes these Christmas holidays even more beautiful. Charlotte was born on November 23rd, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to the proud parents, the grand-parents, Tina & Dave Jarrett and the great-grandmother, Viola Kallinikos. May God bless the entire family. We wish Charlotte a very long, healthy and happy life.
- Wedding bells will be ringing in the near future for Orges/George Llupa and Arielle Schraeter. Along with their engagement comes lots of excitement and anticipation of a new chapter in their lives. Our heartfelt congratulations to the happy couple and to George's parents, Adelina & Roland Llupa. We wish both families all the best!!
- We send our wishes for a speedy recovery back to good health to all those that have been dealing with maladies. To all those not able to make the trip to church, we miss you!! Your absence is noticed. Let's pray for all good things in 2016!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST -

Commemorated on January 7th

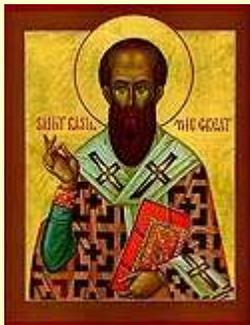
(Reading and Icon courtesy of OCA Website)

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

St John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. St John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John was related to the Lord on His mother's side, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. St John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, St John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, St John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. The Transfer of the Right Hand of the holy Forerunner from Antioch to Constantinople (956) and the Miracle of Saint John the Forerunner against the Hagarenes (Moslems) at Chios: The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch. When the Moslems seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JANUARY



St Basil the Great

Jan 01



St. Genevieve

Of Paris

Jan 03



Feast of the

Theophany

Jan 06



St. Anthony

the Great

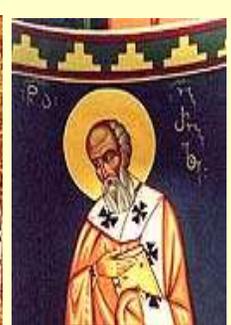
Jan 17



St. Athanasius

of Alexandria

Jan 18



St. Gregory

the Theologian

Jan 25

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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Together we can make a difference



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Major Church Activities and Events

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

January 02, 09, 16, 23 and 30

- Fri, Jan 01: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; St. Basil
 Sun, Jan 03: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Tues, Jan 05: Royal Hours, 10:00 a.m.;
 Vespers Liturgy and Blessing of
 Water, 7:00 p.m.
 Wed, Jan 06: Akathist, 10:00 a.m.; Theophany
 Blessing of Ocean, 1:00 p.m.
 Thurs, Jan 07: Akathist, 10:00 a.m.; St. John
 Sun, Jan 10: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.;
 Icon Presentation after Liturgy
 Tues, Jan 12: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 Sun, Jan 17: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, Jan 24: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
 Sun, Jan 31: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

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

Jan 03: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

Jan 10: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

Jan 17: Stefan BALTADORI/Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

Jan 24: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

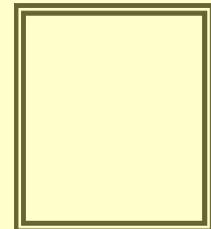
Jan 31: Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO

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