

THE ORTHODOX POST

March 2017

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

In lieu of a more traditional article this month, please peruse the following descriptions. As we enter into the season of Great Lent, it's good for us to try do more. We prepare to greet Great and Holy Pascha by fasting, prayer, by charity and service. We ask more of ourselves during this holy season of abstinence so that we can realign our priorities and thereby rediscover our need for God. Confirmed in this hope, we become participants in His love. As part of your Lenten discipline, plan to attend a service you have not before, plan to be present in prayer, and prepare to be changed, readied for joy.

Canon of St. Andrew

Where are we? As Christians, we say we stand in the midst of a great line of saints and prophets and of sinners: those whose lives have been inextricably altered by knowing God. The meditative hymns of this service help locate us in this legacy of faith by recounting those who came before and inviting us to join their ranks of people in progress, learning to be better and better.

Presanctified Liturgy

Each Wednesday of the fast is like an island of refreshment. We can be strengthened by receiving Christ Himself into our lives through Holy Communion. Though we are busy, though distracted, these sections of peace in the middle

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

Forgiveness Sunday was on February 25th, and I ask all of you to forgive me. Lent began on the following day, February 26th. This is a very special time in our church calendar. Every week during Lent, there are additional services. The Pre-sanctified Liturgy is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. This is a beautiful service that everyone should try to attend at least once. On Friday evening during Lent is the short Akathist vesper service. Take the opportunity to attend at least one of these services. You will not regret it!

If you have not yet made your pledge for 2017, please send in or bring in your pledge card. Your pledge will help the church and our community to continue to exist and do good work.

of the week help us know that God stands with us in everything.

The Akathist

The Virgin Mary, mother of Christ Himself, is given to us as a special friend; she is our mother too. Here, we ask that she console us, that she help us to know her son, that she stand as witness and companion to all the tragedies of our lives, so that we can learn to hope as she did and does.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Being family is more than just tracing family trees; it is choosing to live a shared life. Each Sunday evening of the fast is a family reunion. We get to meet our cousins and learn about them and enjoy being with them, sharing their hospitality. And we get to see that our family is large and interesting and diverse but shares that one necessary thing: love for God, the Father of us all.

This year, do a bit more. Try a little harder. Go someplace new. And get ready to welcome the joy of God into these holy forty days. Lent is coming to prepare the way for Paschal rejoicing. Don't get left behind.

The Valentines' Dance in February was a great success and over 120 people enjoyed the food and especially the dancing and singing!

The General Meeting is scheduled for April 2nd. It is at this meeting that we have the opportunity to express our concerns and interests about our church. We will be discussing plans for the 75th Anniversary of our St. Nicholas parish in 2018. Elections will also be held and if you wish to be on the Parish Council, please submit your name to Father Nathan or me. To be eligible, you need to have been a pledging member in good standing for one year. More information will be coming in another mailing. See you in Church!

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Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

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

March	05	- Memorial
	12	- Adelina Llupa
	19	- Open
	26	- Linda Foundos/Elizabeth Liolin
April	02	- Open

Our Soul Saturday service on Saturday, February 18th was beautiful. It really feels good to pause and set aside some special, reflective time to remember our loved ones no longer with us. A group of us enjoyed a lovely lunch and lively conversation after which Fr. Nathan and others made a trip to Mt. Tomori.

The Daughters also took care of the decorating for our annual Valentine's Dinner Dance. A committee worked very hard to arrange this evening for our enjoyment; and it certainly was enjoyable. It's always a great meal, great music and a lively crowd with some great dance moves!

Spring is around the corner and our Lenten season has begun as we move toward Paschca. We should make an earnest effort to prepare ourselves for this most holy time. We look forward to seeing you alongside of us.

Please contact Christina Liolin if you are able to make a meshe for services or would like to be included in our Coffee Hospitality Program.

Community News by Linda Foundos

- Aidan & Liam have a new baby sister!! Alexandra (Liolin) & Mike Kehoe are thrilled with their new addition, Anna Mary-Elena weighing 9 lbs. 1 oz. It was a pretty stressful day with blizzard conditions; but thank goodness grandparents, Christina & Jim Liolin were able to help out for a very happy ending! May God bless Anna and her entire family.
- Best wishes to Diana & Dhimiter Beno in their new home in Westbury, Long Island. We wish you good health and many happy memories in your new home. You already have quite a history after celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary!! Congratulations!
- On February 4th the latest addition to the Troja family, Emily Aneta, daughter of Alessandra & Erald Troja, was baptized with Roza Progrid and Hesiona Troja serving as Godmothers. At that same time, Alessandra Victoria Troja, Erald's wife, was christened as well with Alma Vesho as her Godmother. It was indeed a blessed day as they were welcomed into the faith. May God bless the entire family.
- Congratulations to Eli & Petrika Troja on their new home. They have relocated to Scarsdale, New York where they will be nearer to their son Erald & his family. It's another new chapter in their lives. All the best!

Our heartfelt sympathy to

- Iliia Luka on the falling asleep in the Lord of his mother, **Saliko Luka** on Feb 21st. Saliko was a mother, grandmother & great-grandmother. May her memory be eternal.
- Helen Panajoti on the passing of her husband, **Peter Panajoti**. The Panajoti's have been dedicated, lifetime members of our St. Nicholas community. They have both contributed so much in so many ways over the decades. Peter has been greatly missed over the past few years being homebound. He is now at peace, at rest.
- The family of **Charlie Pochari** as he has fallen asleep in the Lord after bravely dealing with dialysis for many years. He leaves behind his daughter Nancy Liber and many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as his dear sister Ellen Gradt. We will miss Charlie and his sunny disposition. Charlie, as Peter, was a lifelong member and had been active in our community. May his memory be eternal.
- Valentina Dhima on the passing of her husband, **Dhimiter Dhima**. Dhimiter had two children, Elena and George and will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends. I perjetshem kujtimi!

General Parish Meeting - Save the Date

Sunday, April 2nd, after Liturgy



Come and Get Involved

Participate in Important Church Business

- Sunday School & Religious Education
- Events & Programs
- Fundraising Plans & Financial Review
- Archdiocese & OCA News
- Parish Council Elections

2017 Pledge Program - Last Call to Submit Your Pledge!!!

PLEDGE CARD
 My total pledge for the year 2017 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.
 Please print clearly. Thank you!

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

Other family members to household
 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Name: _____ Birthdate: _____
 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

St. Nicholas Needs Your Financial Support!!!

The formal Pledge Program Campaign for 2017 is coming to an end. Letters and Pledge Cards have been mailed to members of our Community.

A REMINDER letter has been mailed to those who have not yet submitted their 2017 Pledge. During the Pledge Program Campaign the Church asks “You”, the Parishioner, to tell it how much you will commit to donate to St. Nicholas during next year, 2017.

To serve the Parish Community and operate the Church, it costs more than \$150,000 each year. Typical yearly Pledges range from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. In 2016, the average pledge per family was \$700.

Together, through this 2017 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 year’s Pledge amount” or if you did not Pledge for 2016, “Submit the best Pledge you can for 2017”. Let’s increase our financial support of St. Nicholas!!!

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE IN MARCH!!!!

Valentines' Party and Dance

On Saturday, February 11th, parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas Church gathered in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Valentines' Day. More than 120 people participated in this Party and Dance! They enjoyed the food, music, camaraderie and especially the dancing and singing! This event was a great success!!!!



MARCH NAME DAYS



March 17th - St. Patrick the Bishop of Armagh and Enlightener of Ireland

Petrika Troja
Nicholas Patrick Brehl



March 17th – St. Alexis the Man of God

Aleko Bode



March 18th – St. Edward the Martyr

Edi Sera
Eduart Shkurti



March 25th – Annunciation (Evangelismos)

Vangjel Family



March 26th – The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Gabrielle Peters



March 27th – St. Robert

Robert Korra

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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Fri & Sat 6AM-3AM
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

MARCH:

Wed. 1 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 3 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 4 - Health Prayers, 5pm
 Sun. 5 - Liturgy, 10am
 Children's icon procession, 10:15am
 Pan - Orthodox Vespers, 4pm: St. Nicholas Antiochian
 Wed. 8 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 10 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 11 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 12 - Liturgy, 10am
 Pan - Orthodox Vespers, 5pm: location tbd
 Wed. 15 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 17 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 18 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 19 - Liturgy, 10am
 Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm: St. Nicholas Whitestone
 Wed. 22 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 24 - Great Vespers, 7pm: Annunciation
 Sat. 25 - Liturgy, 10am: Annunciation
 Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 26 - Liturgy, 10am
 Pan - Orthodox Vespers, 5pm: location tbd
 Wed. 29 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Thur. 30 - Canon of St. Andrew, 7pm
 Fri. 31 - Akathist, 7pm

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

MAR 05 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

MAR 12 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS

MAR 19 Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

MAR 26 Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

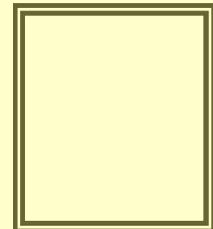
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