

# THE ORTHODOX POST

November 2017

Volume XIII, Issue 10



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432  
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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Hieromonk Nikodhim

#grateful

A week more and a week more and we will be soon in the holiday season—Thanksgiving already on the horizon, Christmas peeking out from next month's calendar page. Amidst all those things we need to do, travel, purchase, label, prepare, we know that somehow in this busyness we are yet expected to find some meaning and a purpose beyond commerce to these days spent together. There is generosity to be expended and the attempt to make other people happy by what we do. Then there's the so-called "spiritual" dimension to this season. We'll hear much of gratitude in the coming days, perhaps see it more often in posts and images splayed on social media updates. And then, we'll feel guilty. We'll feel somehow let down in another obligation, a failure to live up and rise to an emotional tenor we're supposed to find in these holidays. Still, gratitude—thanksgiving—eludes us sometimes we think and count ourselves faulty for this.

Giving thanks is a hallmark of most every faith. We might even call it a primitive urge of the human condition this need or desire to express blessings received against a backdrop of frailty. From earliest times and from caves and mud huts to grand cathedrals and temples of splendor, we, people of this earth, have needed to pause, to see how precarious our existence is, and to find meaning in blessings counted accrued. Even our own prayers chanted or mumbled in Church or at home expect to give us room for this and words. But I am tired of trying to be grateful or, more specifically, I'm tired of trying to make myself feel grateful. Like most states of emotion or disposition, this, too, becomes soon exhaustion. And the constant reminders of how I—we—need simply be more thankful do not help. Gratitude envy is on the rise with every post and every carefully manicured, tinged, and tinted photo bearing that platitude as its hashtag: "grateful".

## President's Message

by James Liolin

We were fortunate that the weather held out once again for the 20th Annual Golf outing of St. Nicholas. All who played golf and those who attended the dinner enjoyed the day. We thank the Foundos family for organizing the event for the 20th consecutive year.

As we move into November, Thanksgiving is on top of our minds. There are several ways we can participate in giving.

First— A letter is being sent to those who may have misplaced their Beautification Donation Card request. We truly would like all members and friends to be a part of this special event. Those who have seen the impressive changes all agree it was the right thing to do. Come on in and see. Second— You will receive your PLEDGE appeal letter for 2018. This enables us to budget the finances in the coming new year.

It seems to me that the giving of thanks must be more than cultivating feelings.

Our Christian virtues

are not emotions, are not subject to the fickleness of how we feel. Virtues of love and faith and hope and charity are, frankly, commitments, and they are commitments to engage in work; they demand some industriousness of us relying little or not at all on our passing thoughts or the flickers of our emotional states which we can't mostly control. Gratitude, most especially, expects of us more than cheery or chirpy outlook; it expects more than that we fancy we are thankful, more than that we try to prove this in expression. Thanksgiving demands our poverty. We can't, after all, really believe it is gratitude we are relishing when we think we have got what we ought or what we've earned. Thanksgiving is in living the knowledge of knowing that we don't get what we should, haven't got what we ought. It's not in having enough but in honing the awareness of our need. Particularly as Christians, we must be wary and alive to reject any sort of cheap thanks giving. Our God comes to those in need not those most cheerfully sentimental.

We pray in this holiday season as at all times to the all-powerful God Who still decided to descend to stand, not above us and looking down, but at our side, as our guide, as our trusted confidante and punched up, kicked down, nailed up, taken down, buried and revived still all-powerful God. It's a friendship no one deserves from anyone, a faithfulness we can only begin to understand in this small sliver of an eternity shared here. And we don't deserve it and can't earn it. But we need it; we find gratitude within it.

Third— It is important to attend and participate in the semi-annual General Meeting on November 19. Your presence and expressing your thoughts in the meeting are necessary for all of us to understand the changing environment of the community and what that means for the Church. Fourth— Our parish will continue the Food and Coat Drive that provides comfort to those in need in the local area. When you see the signs in the hall please offer what you can. These programs will begin on Sunday November 12. These activities and attendance at Liturgy prepare us to understand the meaning of Christmas.

Looking ahead to St. Nicholas Day luncheon, it will be Sunday December 10th. Note that Christmas day falls on Monday this year. There will be a vigil service Sunday evening, Dec 24th and Christmas Day Liturgy Monday Dec 25th. **See you in Church.**

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# Coffee List

Dear Ladies,

Below 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 Adriana Topore.

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:

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

**November** 05 Silvana Kutali / Tina Korra  
12 Memorial  
19 Open  
26 Memorial

**December** 03 Eli Troja / Alma Vesho  
10 St. Nicholas Luncheon  
17 Open  
24 Pageant/Pancake Breakfast  
31 Open

## Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

Our heartfelt congratulations to our Father Nathan who was recently tonsured a monk by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon and given the new name of Father Nikodhim. We are very proud of our Father Nathan who was so honored with this distinction.

In spite of a summerlike, beautiful weekend and fewer customers, our annual Flea Market/Bake Sale made our usual profit of \$4,500!! When the doors first open, there is a stampede to check out all our items. It is almost unmanageable! All hands are on deck to handle the crowds; then it eases up. Each year we have our local regulars who delight in their purchases. One customer bought numerous bags of clothing which she told me she is sending to her people in the Philippines. Another customer bought 16 pairs of shoes which he told me he is sending to Dominican Republic. Our donated items benefit St. Nicholas with some financial help and so many others as well in other ways.

My sincere gratitude to all those that helped make this all possible! It has been a pleasure working side by side with all of you. I love your smiling faces & willingness to do whatever is needed, even when I have gotten a bit stressed! It is a major community effort. It certainly is a worthwhile event for many reasons, and I hope "someone" will step up as I step down after nearly 30 years.

Please contact Christina Liolin if you would like to participate in our Coffee Fellowship program. Also, if you are able to make a meshe for our services, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let Christina know that as well. This is YOUR church community. Please BE PART OF IT. You'll be glad you did! It's wonderful to see the addition of all the new young families and little ones joining our St. Nicholas family.

## General Parish Meeting – Come and Get Involved!!!

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> After Liturgy**



**Participate in Important Church Business**

- Sunday School & Religious Education
- Beautification Project
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Dance
- Events & Programs
- Financial Review & Fundraising Plans
- Archdiocese & OCA News

## BRING YOUR CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL



Christmas is soon to be here, but amidst all our preparations let us remember those who will be struggling just to keep warm this winter. Bring your lightly used adult and children's winter coats to Church this year. We will collect these, bundle them, and deliver them to our local police precinct, firehouse, or public library. Afterward, these will be distributed to the needy throughout the city.

Make someone's winter a little warmer; make someone's Christmas a little bit brighter.

**Please bring your Clean and Usable Coats to St. Nicholas through Christmas Day**



As we enter into this season of giving thanks for God's blessings, it is good and right that we remember those who have less. To care for them is a holy task, given by Christ to His people. Through the coming month, we will be collecting donations to go to an area food bank. A list of most needed items follows below. Please be generous in doing good, for in serving those in need, we serve our God.

**The NYC Food Bank suggests donations of these things:**

- bottled water
- peanut butter
- shelf-stable milk
- proteins (canned tuna, chicken, salmon, sardines, ham, sausages, etc.)
- cereal and granola/breakfast bars
- juice boxes, dried fruit and crackers
- personal hygiene products (soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- diapers

## St. Nicholas Beautification Project

The construction work beautifying the Temple of St. Nicholas Church has made great progress over the Summer months. The work associated with Phase 1 of the Beautification Project is almost complete!!! Photos reflecting the work completed to date are shown below.

**Your Pledges and Donations are still needed!!! Project and Fundraising materials including a green pledge/donation card have been mailed to Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas. Please review this information and make a Pledge/Donation by turning-in your green card, If you need a copy of this material, please contact Fr. Nathan, Jim Liolin , Lou Foundos or the Church Office.**

To date, Pledges amounting to \$70,000 have been submitted. The cost for Phase 1 is \$150,000. There is still a great need for more donations. Everyone is urged to seriously consider the importance of St. Nicholas Church in their lives and then make a generous Pledge to support this Beautification of our Temple.

**Your support is very much appreciated!!!**



## ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING - A SUCCESS!!!

On Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, another successful Golf Outing was held. It was our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing. Golfers and other guests had a very good time, both on the course and at the reception. Good food, prizes and camaraderie made it enjoyable for all. This event is a major fundraiser and very important to the parish community. A special "Thank You" goes to many, especially Albert Foundos, Donna Oswald and Chris Beno.



## FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE – A SUCCESS!!!

**October 21<sup>st</sup> & October 22<sup>nd</sup>**



**THANK YOU!!!!**



**The Flea Market and Bake Sale was a Success!!!!**

**Once again, The Daughters of St. Nicholas did a GREAT JOB!!!!**

A sincere "Thank You" goes to Coordinators - Linda Foundos, Christina Liolin and Tina Peters.

Also a sincere "Thank You" goes to all the volunteers who worked at this event and those who attended to financially support this important fundraising event.

## 2018 PLEDGE PROGRAM BEGINS

This Annual Pledge Program to finance basic Church operations and services to the community will begin in November. Letters will be mailed to Parishioners asking them to make a financial Pledge to be paid off in 2018.

Since this is a major way to support St. Nicholas Church activities, all Parishioners are asked to think about how important the Church is in their lives. Then, make the best possible Pledge that they can and return their Pledge Card to Church.

**RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!**

**Community News**

by Linda Foundos

- Our heartfelt congratulations to Father Nathan as he is tonsured a monk by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon! May God bless Father Nathan, now Father Nikodhim.
- Our sincere sympathy to Jim Oswald and his family on the falling asleep in the Lord of his mother, Ellen Oswald. Ellen was a very sweet, pleasant, loving woman who leaves behind her 3 children, 8 grandchildren & extended family. She will be greatly missed. May her memory be eternal.
- Our sincere sympathy to Jana Foundos and her family on the falling sleep in the Lord of her father, Nicholas Adams. Nick is survived by his wife, Marion, 3 children, 6 grandchildren & extended family. Nick was a lively, friendly, humorous, interesting man who was proud to serve his country. He was loved by all & certainly will be missed. May his memory be eternal.
- Something very huge & exciting has happened for an Albanian woman, a friend of St. Nicholas, who fell asleep in the Lord in July of 2016. **Lillian (Lily) Gavin**, mother of Kenny Kerim, recently had a street named after her in Sunnyside, Queens!! Kenny & his older brother, Ray, were two of the star players on the Albanian American National Organization's basketball team for many years. Their sisters, aunts & cousins were always on hand to cheer them on and support the AANO. Their niece, Samantha, was even elected AANO Queen one year! Their entire family has been involved with the Albanian community. Anyway, Lily Gavin, was the owner of Dazie's Restaurant in Sunnyside for decades. She, with her family working by her side pleased all their customers with genuine hospitality and delicious food. Lily was a community leader, serving as past President & Chair of the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce and one of the first women to be installed into the Sunnyside Kiwanis Club. She was a founding Director of the LaGuardia Community College Foundation. She supported the Senior Center, Drum Corps, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Queens Council of Tourism and much more!!! It is amazing how much good one person can accomplish in their lifetime. Lily did so from her heart, without the expectation of any accolades! She was truly a remarkable person loved by all. May her memory be eternal, and may God bless the entire Kerim family.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

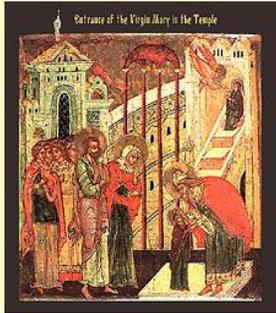
**ST. NICHOLAS DAY LUNCH**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>,  
AFTER LITURGY**

**PLAN ON BEING THERE!!!!**



## NOVEMBER FEAST SAINT AND NAME DAYS



November 21<sup>st</sup> - The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple  
The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.



1- Wonderworker and Unmercenary Sts. Cosmas and Damian  
Damian Peters

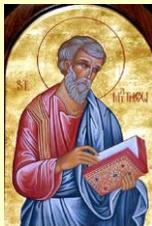


8 - St. Michael and Archangels  
Rafaela Prifti, Michael Kehoe, Michael Kelapire, Michelle Kildunne,  
Mikel Rembeci



11 - The Holy Martyr Victor  
Victoria Mertiri, Victor Tahiri

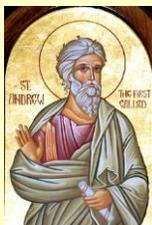
- The Holy Martyr Vincent  
Vincent Soriano



16 - The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew  
Matthew Foundos



24 - The Great Martyr Catherine  
Keti Kirka, Katherine Preftes



30 - The Holy Apostle Andrew  
Andrew Foundos, Andrea Topore, Andrea Kutali

## ***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**

Cosmetic and Family Dentistry

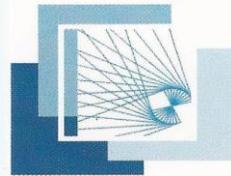
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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## **Major Church Activities and Events**

### **November:**

Wed. 1 - Health Prayers, 7pm: Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Sat. 4 - Vespers is cancelled.

Sun. 5 - Liturgy, 10am

Sat. 11 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 12 - Liturgy, 10am

\*\*\*Start of Nativity Fast\*\*\*

Fri. 17 - Paraklesis, 7pm

Sat. 18 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 19 - Liturgy, 10am

Mon. 20 - Vesperal Liturgy, 7pm: Entry of the Theotokos

Tue. 21 - Prayers, 10am: Entry of the Theotokos

Thur. 23 - Thanksgiving Prayers, 10am

Fri. 24 - Paraklesis, 7pm

Sat. 25 - Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 26 - Liturgy, 10am

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> - ST. NICHOLAS DAY LUNCH**

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

**NOV 05     Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE**

**NOV 12     Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS**

**NOV 19     Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA**

**NOV 26     Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS**

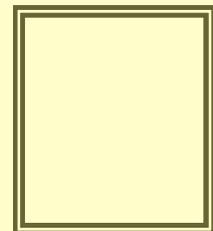
**DEC 03     Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy  
TSAMBLAKOS**

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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