

THE ORTHODOX POST

March 2018
Volume XIV, Issue 3



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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nikodhim

It is Lent, and if you have been to Church lately, you will have heard about the increase of prayer and fasting that this season brings. Doubtless you will have also heard about confession, how this is an opportunity to be freed and purified and not, as the popular perception may be, simply to be saddled with more guilt. What you may not have heard so much about is charity - and, no, I'm not talking about the pledge program at St. Nicholas Church, worthy and necessary topic though that most certainly is.

I'm hoping to write to you today about charity not in the abstract. I could talk about our obligations as faithful people to be stewards of what has come to us or about calling nothing our own, as the scriptures and our long tradition adjures. I could remind us of our baptismal vows that make us mere and temporary custodians of the earth and all it contains, or I could quote the famous pith of St. Basil that the safest bank for wealth is found in the stomachs of the needy. All these things I could elaborate in detail. But I won't.

I had a conversation with some of our young people recently, our college age kids who meet once a month to talk about the faith among themselves. I asked them to help me help our community grow more aware of the problems that they see. I asked whether they would be willing to take up

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

Forgiveness Sunday was on February 18th, and I ask all of you to forgive me. Lent began on the following day, February 19th. This is a very special time in our church calendar. Every Wednesday during Lent, there is the Presanctified Liturgy at 7 p.m. This is a beautiful service that everyone should try to attend. On Friday evenings during Lent is the short Akathist prayer service. Take the opportunity to attend at least one of these services. It will add to your lenten fast experience.

If you have not yet made your pledge for 2018, please send in or bring in your pledge card to church. Your pledge will help the church and our community to continue to do good works in the community and beyond.

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this responsibility for us, and generous, idealistic, bold, and with fresh open eyes,

they said they are. We plan to start small. For six months we will have an open collection to be used for the charity our young people choose. They will introduce this cause to us; they will send in the check. Six months later, another cause, another little bit of help and good we've been part of, another check sent. And so it goes.

The simple truth is that these regular and (most likely relatively) small disbursements won't change the world dramatically. They will help, certainly, and offer certain help to those that will use it well. What these funds will do for our young people and, so we hope, for us all is to keep us updated on a world in need and remind us that we share in this need simply by being here in this world. The solution for those ills that seem so often 'out there' or apart from us is to make them a home, to find that ours is always a shared existence and that when my brother or sister bleeds or hungers or weeps, so do I, so do we all. A timely message for this Lent, when the path to Pascha still seems long but is made brighter, enriched by knowing that we're not going alone.

The Valentine's Dance in February was a success and everyone enjoyed dancing, singing and simply the time together.

The General Meeting is scheduled for April. It is at this meeting that we have the opportunity to express our concerns and interests about our church. We will discuss plans for the 75th Anniversary celebration during 2018. Elections will also be held. Please submit your name to Father Nikodhim or me if you want to be on the Council. To be eligible, you need to be a pledging member in good standing for one year.

See you in Church!

Coffee List

Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

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

February 25 Koroveshi Family

March 4 Jance Memorial
11 Open
18 Christine Beno / Jana Foundos
25 Open

April 1 Pancake Breakfast
8 Pascha
15 Nasi Pavllo/Marcela Guma
22 Open
29 Diana Beno/Beti Tsamblakos

Well, I hope you've all had the flu shot this year, although I'm not so sure how much it helps!! It seems more difficult to stay well. Today, with the numerous media sources, there is a constant bombardment of news . . . with the school shooting in Florida, an earthquake in Mexico, the Olympics, our President with "fake news," flu season and all the political issues under consideration at home and abroad. Our own community has had baptisms, funeral services, memorial services, a wonderful Valentine's dance and many travelling.

Forgiveness Sunday is the prelude to our Paschal Lenten period. It should not be taken lightly. It's a chance to begin anew. It's a good time to step back and take it down a few notches. It's the perfect time to reflect on how we can work toward making improvements in ourselves, our behavior, our lives and strengthen our relationship with our Lord. If you take the positive route, you can make a long list of blessings in your life in spite of so much negativity in the news. Every household has some challenging issues to deal with. Perhaps one day, there will be clarity to all that we wonder about. In the meantime, we must keep the faith, do our best and enjoy this precious life.

The Daughters of St. Nicholas are in need of some new energy. Please plan to get involved and bring your fresh ideas to me. I welcome your input.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE
SUCCESFUL VALENTINE'S PARTY.**



SAVE THE DATES
ST. NICHOLAS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



Archbishop Nikon Visit – Saturday, May 19, 2018

**Begins the 75th Anniversary Celebrations by Blessing
the Work of the Church including the recent
Beautification of the Temple**

**75th Anniversary Diamond Celebration Banquet –
Saturday, October 20, 2018**

***Terrace on the Park, Flushing Queens
Dinner & Dancing, 7pm to Midnight***

The Season of Great Lent

As we enter into the season of Great Lent, it's good for us to try to 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 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.

Use the schedule on page 8, to help plan your Lenten activities for March!!

2018 PLEDGE PROGRAM

The 2018 Pledge Program is still underway!!!

Your financial help is needed to pay for the services St. Nicholas Church provides to our Parish Community.

Make the best Pledge that you can!!!

Please make your Pledge by filling out the pledge card and either mail it or bring it to Church.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT - PHASE 2

Phase 2 of our Church Beautification Project is well underway!!!

It provides for new ICONS, both large and small.

There are still ICONS available, even though donations for many ICONS have already been made.

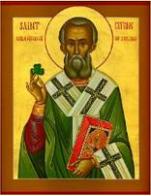
To donate for your favorite ICON or in memory of a loved one, please contact Fr. Nikodhim at Church or by phone (208 818-3372)

**BE PART OF THIS
IMPORTANT CHURCH ACTIVITY!!!!**

MARCH NAME DAYS



9 - 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste - St. Pericles
Albert Foundos



17 - St. Patrick the Bishop
Petrika Troja
Nicholas Patrick Brehl



- St. Alexis the Venerable
Aleko Bode, Alex Oswald



18 - St. Edward the Martyr
Edi Sera, Eduart Shkurti



23 - St. Nikon
Archbishop Nikon



25 - Annunciation (Evangelismos)
Vangjeli Family



26 - Archangel Gabriel
Gabrielle Peters



27 - 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

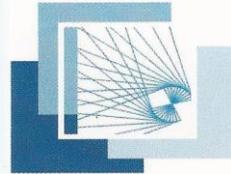
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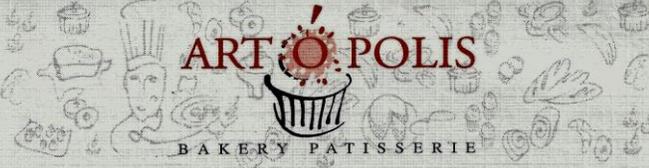
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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

March:

- Fri. 2 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 3 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 4 - Liturgy, 10am: Palamas Sunday
 - Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm @ St. Mary Magdalen, Mnhtn
 Wed. 7 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 9 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 10 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 11 - Liturgy, 10am: Cross Sunday
 - Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm @ St. Nino Mission, Bklyn
 Wed. 14 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 16 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 17 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 18 - Liturgy, 10am: Ladder Sunday
 - Fan Noli Memorial
 - Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm @ Holy Trinity, Bklyn
 Wed. 21 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Thur. 22 - Canon of St. Andrew, 9am
 Fri. 23 - Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 24 - Liturgy, 10am: Mary of Egypt/Annunciation
 - Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 5pm @ Transfiguration Cath, Bklyn
 Wed. 28 - Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 30 - Great Vespers, 7pm: Raising of Lazarus
 Sat. 31 - Liturgy, 10am: Raising of Lazarus
 - Vespers, 5pm

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

MAR 04 Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO

MAR 11 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE

MAR 18 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS

MAR 25 Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

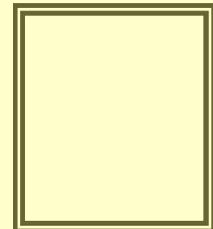
APR 01 Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

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