

THE ORTHODOX POST

June 2018
Volume XIV, Issue 6



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

by Fr. Nikodhim

In my parents' home sits a small wooden rocking chair. It's child-sized, unadorned, with its fine grain of wood finished in a dark red-brown stain that shines still beneath the scuffs of decades of use. I don't remember when it was not a part of the full complement of living room furniture, always there even now when I make it home to visit. I remember sitting there myself, though I've probably outgrown its proportions by some three decades and a half. But it holds some irresistible pull for every kid I've seen, as though magnetized to them. Nieces and nephews, cousins who were small enough still to fit, children of friends, and just about every little one who comes in through the doors, they've all sat there. There's something about finding some thing that's just the right size that makes it appealing, that makes its invitation implicit and distinct.

A couple weeks ago, I was on the phone from a quiet room in the suburban Chicago retreat center where I found myself that day. I'd snuck away for a few minutes to make some pressing phone calls. Our bishop's visit was imminent along with all those dignitaries and community members I'd hoped would grace us for the start of our 75th anniversary. But I was on the phone with a furniture warehouse and pleading. Two children's benches were to wend their way to New York, but I needed them sooner than the standard delivery date supplied. I knew I wanted them in place by last Saturday, wanted them—whether any kids showed up or not—to sit in Church as our guests came in. I wanted them to make their own subtle invitation, stake their own subtle claim to space: that our children at St. Nicholas are placed centrally, that their feistiness and joys and cries are not a back-room/cry-room phenomenon but that they are integral, and that we welcome them here in the heart of the Church's worship and mysteries. The chairs arrived in time, and if one weekend's use is any indication, there will be some wear and tear because it seems our smallest members do love them.

President's Message

by James Liolin

On May 19th the Blessing of the Temple's new look took place, celebrated with Archbishop Nikon and several clergy. Actually all priests who were there, all served in our parish. Two were long-term pastors, Father Dennis Rhodes and Father David Fox. We had the Imam from Staten Island and several guests from Vatra, and the Consulate of Kosova, civic leader Mark Gjoni, City Councilman. It was a joyous day and the rain did not dampen the event. This was a day dedicated to the start of the 75th anniversary celebration and to all the people, both past

and present, who so generously gave of themselves so this day became possible.

I've been instructed to buy a couple more same benches to cut down the fights that my flare up in competition over their use. I'll quite happily oblige.

I've written and spoken about hospitality before, but I'd like to isolate just one aspect of this: welcome. Real hospitality begins with invitation; it begins with assurance to a prospective guest that his or her presence is valued. We welcome as we prepare space for those who are not us, as we make ready, sometimes with real sacrifices, to prioritize other's needs, wants, and comforts above our own. At Church, we can talk of mission and outreach endlessly and we do; it's easy to say that we've tried to invite. In Church though, I have to ask whether we are ready. Ready to feel displaced, ready to feel uncomfortable in our own home, ready really to welcome. When we look to the pews and see who isn't there—and I don't just mean who isn't attending that Sunday—we have to ask why. Where are the poor, the displaced, the neglected? Where are the naked and hungry and outcast, who occupied Christ's time and take their place in His arms if His words are true? Have we prepared a chair for them, one that speaks its own subtle welcome of recognition, one that is set apart and not for us, one that may seem unnecessary or even inconvenient? There's an emptiness that stifles, preaches absence in what's untenanted, but there's another emptiness that lives giving.

Our faith instructs us to invite and welcome everyone. We believe in an end that brings us all together—strangers and kin. Our Church, our faith, our hope we want others to come to love and live in with us. And since that's so, it is time to prepare, to make ready a spot for everybody, to make this Church preach welcome. The temple is beautiful; let us make room.

The new parish Council took the oath blessed by the Archbishop. The new officers are: President-Jim Liolin, Vice President- Mark Papalexis, Treasurer - Lou Foundos, Secretary- John Jance, Comptroller- Bill Peters. Zhani Joanidhi, Damian Peters, Alexandra Kehoe, Blendi Korovesi are members.

There are icons available; ask Fr. Nikodhim what you can sponsor. Don't forget the picnic on Sunday June 17. See you at Church.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Pastor & President's Messages</i>	1
<i>Daughters Corner, Coffee List & Golf Outing</i>	2
<i>Church Picnic</i>	3
<i>75th Anniversary Celebration</i>	4-6
<i>Anniversary Journal & Banquet</i>	7-8
<i>Saint and Name Days</i>	9
<i>Merchant Ads</i>	10-11
<i>Major Events & Ushers' Sunday Schedule</i>	12

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

May 27 Diana Beno/Beti Tsamblakos

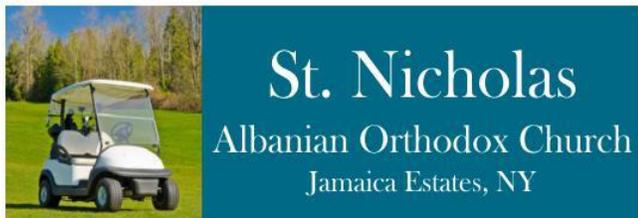
June 3 Helen Panajoti

10 Open

17 Picnic

24 Adriana Topore/Jonida Dervishi

DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST COFFEE WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH UNLESS THERE IS A MEMORIAL OR OTHER SPECIAL REQUEST



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course

Woodbury, NY

Monday, October 1st, 2018



Daughters' Corner

by Linda Foundos

Thank you to all the gentlemen in our community that helped make our Mothers' Day reception so special. It's a very sweet event each year, which we look forward to and appreciate.

Our Beautification Reception went perfectly. It began with a beautiful service co-celebrated by our Archbishop Nikon, Fr. Nathan and 5 other clergy with several dignitaries in attendance. The buffet reception following was quite nice and enjoyed by all who lingered and mingled.

We wish all the fathers, grand-fathers, uncles and male fatherly figures in our lives a very **HAPPY FATHERS' DAY!**

It's extremely important that we communicate to each other how valued they are in our lives. It's amazing to think of the tremendous weight of parenting! It's a beautiful thing, but it might be a good idea to periodically evaluate the job we are doing. The years fly by, and then you look back, see where you are now, and wonder how you did!! Hopefully, you will be filled with pride. Each individual is unique, and no one is perfect. So, all we can do is do our best with God's help, and show our children our love, guide them and be emotionally supportive.

Look forward to seeing you all at our annual Fathers' Day Picnic on June 17th.

**BRING YOUR CHILD
TO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church



Sunday, June 17th - Join Us!!!

Manorhaven Beach Park

Port Washington, NY

11:00 a.m. til dark

Games for all Ages!!

Volleyball Basketball Handball Softball Tennis Soccer

Donation: \$5 per person or \$15 per family

Directions from NYC:

Long Island Expressway to Seasingtown Road, Exit #36. (becomes Port Washington Blvd, 101 N)

Drive 2.4 miles to Main Street (Post Office on corner) and turn left.

Drive 1 mile to Shore Rd and turn right.

Drive 0.8 miles and turn left on Manorhaven Blvd.

Drive 0.8 miles to Manorhaven Park and turn left.

***** Special Note: Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Church at 10:00 a.m.**



Fun

Fellowship

Food

Please clean-up your area before you leave the park!!

75th Anniversary Celebration



On Saturday, May 19, St. Nicholas was proud to host and receive numerous guests and friends both old and new. Inaugurating the celebration of this 75th anniversary year and the coming to a close of our temple beautification project, these festivities brought out local neighborhood and parish folks as well as civic and religious leaders. In his words to the assembled body, Archbishop Nikon reminded all there present that renewal begins not with hammers and nails or paint and tiles but by living out the commitment we have to each other, that we, the people, are the Church. Fr. Nikodhim recounted the history of the parish and its roots planted deeply in service and in remembrance. He was happy also to include that this notable anniversary of the parish will be celebrated not only with parties and blessings but also with charitable work. In particular, he will be taking ten thousand dollars to Albania this fall as an offering for the renewal or construction of a Church there. Jim Liolin, the parish council chair, thanked all those who had come together for good and to share in tomorrow's promise. The close of the service brought a shower of holy water to the interior of the temple and all those gathered therein, blessing all for many, many more years of service.

In addition to His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese, clergy from local parishes also served and chanted: Fr. Basil Summer of Long Island, a longtime and faithful friend, Fr. Dennis Rhodes of St. George Albanian in Connecticut and pastor emeritus, Fr. Nicholas Garklavs of St. Nicholas in Whitestone, Fr. David Fox of Holy Trinity in Randolph, NJ and also pastor emeritus, and Subdeacon Michael Arida, the bishop's right-hand man. With a full complement of altar boys and the choir rich with voices, the service marked gloriously the new beginning it announced.

Imam Tahir Kukaj of the Albania Islamic Cultural Center of Staten Island, despite the busyness of this first week of Ramadan, made his way up to Queens and embraced Fr. Nikodhim at the close of the service, offering his congratulations for this milestone in the life of the community. Dom Peter Popaj of Our Lady of Shkodra Roman Catholic Church greeted the community from afar, sending his best wishes as well.

Representatives of Vatra, the Pan-Albanian Federation of America of which Fan Noli was a founding member, were seated in the front row for the service. Chairman Dritan Mishto and board members Marjan Cubi and Zef Balaj paused for photos with the archbishop before joining the community for refreshment downstairs, and journalist Ela Prifti of Gazeta Dielli documented the day's events. Her Excellency, Mrs. Teuta Sahatqija, Consulate of the Republic of Kosova, sent personal greetings for the day but was held up at another appointment and in the inclement weather; a diplomatic attache attended in her stead. Finally, NYC assemblyman Mark Gjonaj rushed through the rainy weather to stop in during his busy day's itinerary to offer his sincere congratulations.

To all who have or will help celebrate this joyous and festal year, we say: Many years! Për shumë vjet!



75th Anniversary Celebration - continued



75th Anniversary Celebration - continued



Mothers' Day Celebration

Mothers' Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 13th at St. Nicholas. The Liturgy provided Special Blessings and was followed by delicious Breakfast served by the men in the Fellowship Hall. Ladies had a wonderful time!!!



Commemorative 75th Anniversary Journal

This Journal will tell the story of St. Nicholas Church and its Community. Also, it offers Parishioners and Friends of St. Nicholas the opportunity to be a permanent part of this celebration by documenting their involvement by buying Journal Commemorative Pages in honor of themselves or in memory of loved ones.



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

75th Anniversary Commemorative Journal Ad Form

___ Gold Page \$500 ___ Platinum Page \$1,000

___ Full Page \$300 ___ Half Page \$200

*Corporate ads and personal ads, such as congratulations on special events,
In memory of loved ones or other family commemorations*

*We prefer that you e-mail your Ad to peterslwp@verizon.net and please indicate in **subject line:** St. Nicholas Journal Ad.

*Send your **payment, Ad form** and **Ad if not emailed** (or indicate Ad emailed) to church address.

Please make check payable and mail to:

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

**181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432**

◆ Submit Ad by August 1, 2018 ◆

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No: () _____ -- _____ E-Mail Address: _____

My Ad to read as follows if not emailed: *(may attach copy or business card if desired)*

For information please contact Damian Peters (732-266-2090) or Bill Peters (516 509-7695)

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

***St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
75th Anniversary
Diamond Celebration Banquet***

Saturday, October 20, 2018

7:00 p.m. till 12:00 a.m.

***Dinner & Dancing
Music by Frederik Ndoci & His Band***

***Terrace on the Park
Flushing, Queens***



Don't Miss The Fun!!!

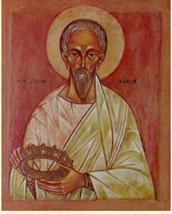
Admission: \$150 adults \$75 children 12 & under

FOR TICKETS or INFORMATION CALL

***AGATHIA LUKA (917 568-2106), LINDA FOUNDOS (516 671-8071)
MARK PAPALEXIS (516 236-8036) & ZHANI JOANIDHI (917 412-0344)***

***RESERVE TABLE NOW - TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR
Please make check payable to: St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church.
Mail to: 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York 11432***

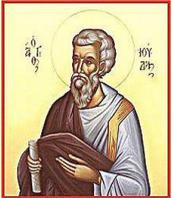
JUNE NAME DAYS



1- Justin the Martyr



14 - St. Niphon of Lukova

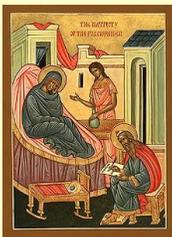


19 - St. Jude – Brother of the Lord



22 - St. Alban – The Protomartyr

Alban Zekthi, Albana Kutali



24 - Birth of St. John the Baptist



29 - Sts. Peter and Paul – The Holy Glorious and All Praised Leaders of the Apostles

If we missed your name, please let us know
Nëse kemi harruar emrin tuaj, ju lutem na tregoni

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

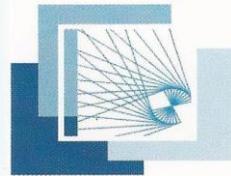
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Major Church Activities and Events

JUNE:

- Sat. 2 - Health Prayers, 5pm
- Sun. 3 - Liturgy, 10am: All Saints
- Fri. 8 - Akathist to the Holy Spirit, 7pm
- Sat. 9 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 10 - Liturgy, 10am
- Fri. 15 - Akathist to the Holy Spirit, 7pm
- Sun. 16 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 17 - Liturgy, 10am
- Sat. 23 - Vespers is cancelled.
- Sun. 24 - Liturgy, 10am
- Sat. 30 - Vespers, 5pm

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

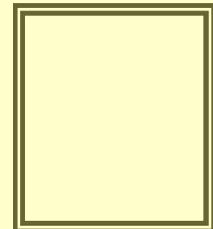
- JUNE 03 Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE**
- JUNE 10 Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO**
- JUNE 17 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE**
- JUNE 24 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS**
- JULY 01 Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
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