

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nikodhim

This month, as we celebrate St. Nicholas, our patron and namesake, it is good to remember the works of this great saint. For more than a millennium and a half, faithful people across the world have sought his favor and friendship, turning to him in times of worry and joy, hope and need. Because he is so popular, the stories of his life and work are diverse, varied according to the desires and aspirations of those who found and find solace in petitions offered to him.

In the eastern churches, St. Nicholas is often remembered as one of those first great hierarchs who gathered to assume the work of clarifying our theology. Stern in that role and a strong defender of the truth he championed, this third century bishop attended to the needs of the churches he oversaw in the region that is now in southern coastal Turkey. When called to an assembly of bishops who were struggling to identify the role of Christ for the Church, he spoke firmly, going so far as to strike his opponent on the cheek. For this, he was defrocked and lowered into scandal. But his boldness was validated as his peers began to study more and pray, and it was confirmed as they, in their dreams, saw Bishop Nicholas raised back to his prior status, the robes of his episcopal office being put on him by the Virgin Mary herself. In some icons of St. Nicholas, you may still see him flanked by Christ, Whom he loved and defended, and by the Theotokos, who carries the bishop's mantle to him again in her open arms. Over time, St. Nicholas became a patron not just for theologians but for travelers and sailors and people in every dangerous situation.

In the western churches, the image of St. Nicholas is often more rosy or personable. Here, he is known for his patronage to the poor. Famously, he loved to give gold in secret and by night to

those impoverished families which could not afford to care for their children's needs. Perhaps the most loved of these stories is how he rescued from dire

poverty three girls by supplying the money necessary for their good marriages. Without this, so the story goes and such were the mandates of the time, these young women would have been condemned to subject lives exploited by the wants of those around them. In other episodes, the saint frees prisoners and empties jails of their captives; he even stands in front of an executioner's sword, preventing him from the job at hand and the exercise of the blade. St. Nicholas became, in many places east and west, a kindly figure and a favorite of children.

As we, the people of this same saint, honor and remember him always but at this time especially, we would do well to think of how this man united in himself and his work both theological precept and practice. A theologian and staunch defender of faith and truth, he knew that simple proclamation of this was insufficient. Even the making right of paper or profession inadequate to be called Christianity. His faith was one of action; his virtue one of engaged participation. At this time of year, as we fete the saint, let us begin to meditate and to act upon those principles he still teaches us: generosity, participation, and a deep, sacred care for others. This is St. Nicholas' great example, this is the Christianity he is here to lead us into and hold us close in. May he always protect those who follow him!

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President's Message

by Jim Liolin

*December activity and
Semi-Annual Meeting*

At this year's Semi-Annual Meeting in November there were several reports given including:

- Status of the Beautification of the Temple Phase I and 2 — It is coming to a close but there are still a few open items in both areas but overall the campaign was a tremendous success. The Jubilee Celebration of the 75th Anniversary was indeed a social and financial success. Reports were sent to the membership prior meeting. If you have questions please contact me any Council member.
- The 2019 Budget — \$170,600 was reviewed and passed by the membership. It was noted that increases in areas of maintenance/repair, diocese expense, office support resulted in the need for additional funds. A motion was passed to allocate up to \$20K for much needed repair and cleaning of all the Stain Glass windows.

- The Annual Pledge Campaign — started and our goal this year is \$75,000. This is one way we can show our commitment to the church and the work that needs to be done. The pledges will be blessed on December 10th, the day we will celebrate St. Nicholas.
- Mt. Tomori Cemetery — A review of the cemetery showed the need to increase the price of the plots. To keep in line with the market price it was presented that pledge members price would increase to \$4500 and Non-pledger price to \$7000. This is expected to take place on March 1, 2019.

Going forward please return your ICONS by Christmas day as we have the ICON presentation on January 6, 2019.

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas Season & Happy New Year. Please read your letter from the church as it has the schedule of services. 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

December 2 Silvana Kutali/Tina Korra
 9 St Nicholas Luncheon
 16 Sheena Koroveshi/Ana Soares
 23 Pancake Breakfast/Pageant
 30 Memorial

January 6 Open
 13 Eli Troja/Alma Vesho
 20 Irma Mile/Xhuljana Baltadori
 27 Adelina Llupa



Well, perhaps you're tired of Thanksgiving leftovers by now, but weren't they just so delicious!! It's a beautiful, meaningful celebration to share with family and friends. The month of November ends with another wonderful celebration, Albanian Independence Day!!

Thank you for all your donations of food and toiletries to be made available to the needy. Reaching out to help those less fortunate is a kind gesture that doesn't take too much on our part and yet goes a long way and is very much appreciated.

And now, we move on to December events. We will enjoy a luncheon in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 9th to celebrate St. Nicholas Day following services. We would love to see you there. Two weeks later on Sunday, December 23rd, our Church School will put on their annual Christmas Pageant for us. We have several more little ones now, so there should be plenty of angels! This program will be followed by a Christmas carol sing-a-long and our annual Pancake Breakfast with a visit from Santa. It's always great fun and a great opportunity for photos sitting on Santa's lap.

We wish you and your family a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a blessed HAPPY NEW YEAR! We have much to be thankful for. We welcome you to come and share the end of your year with us at our special events. The fellowship is quite rewarding.

COME & JOIN US!!!!

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY
LUNCH**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH,
AFTER LITURGY**

Adults \$30 Children Free



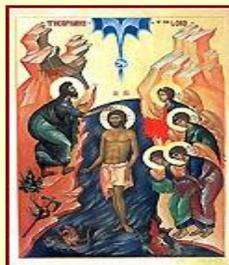
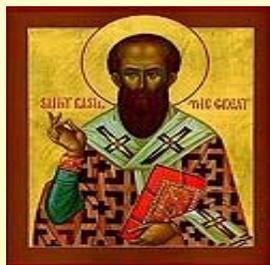
Christmas Pageant
Santa's Visit

Sunday, December 23rd
Holiday Breakfast



ICON AUCTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th - AFTER LITURGY



ICON RETURN

Please return your Icons from last year's Icon Auction by Christmas!!!
We need them to prepare for the January 6th Icon Auction



BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the 2018-2019 school year, Sunday School classes will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. There will also be a children's sermon on the 1st Sunday of each month. This year we are proud to have 3 classes:

Nursery Class (Age 2-4 – Parents accompany children) During Liturgy

Class 1 (Ages 5-6) - During Liturgy **Class 2** (Ages 7-10) – Held after Communion



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 Church 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 & crackers
- dried fruit
- diapers
- personal hygiene products (soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)

DECEMBER SAINT DAYS**4 - St. Barbara**

Barbara Filis, Barbara Papalexis, Barbara Duggan

5 - St. Diogenes

Dhiogjen Prifti

- St. Sava

Emil Bakalli, Savvas Diacosavvas

6 - St. Nicholas

Nicholas Foundos, Nicholas Brehl, Nikolin Petro, Nikollaq Vozhilla, Nikole Cerriku, Nick Filis

12 - St. Spyridon (Piro)

Spiro Gjika, Piro Rehova

16 - St. Iphigenia

Efigjeni Qeramixhi

17 - Prophet Daniel

Daniel Oswald, Daniella Beno, Daniel Zekthi

21 - Juliana

Khuljeta Muho, Jenny Peters

-Themistokli

Themi Mertiri, Themistokli Dajko

22 - St. Anastasia

Anastasia Terova

23 - St. Naum

Naum Prifti

24 - St. Eugenia**25 - Christmas (Manoli, Kristi)**

Kristaq Panariti, Manoli Diacosavvas, Chrissien Gjika, Chris Gjoka, Chris Kirka, Kris Kutali, Christe Preftes, Christian Preftes, Christianna Sera, Christine Beno, Kristi Gjergji

26 - St. Joseph the Betrothed

Joseph DiTullio, Joe Catron

27 - St. Stephen

Stefan Baltadori, Steven Foundos, Stephen Kildunne, Steven Meta, Stefan Prela

31 - St. Melania

Melina Filipi

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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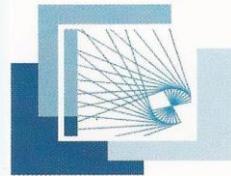
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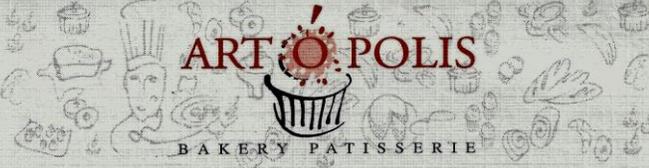
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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

Sat. December 1 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. December 2 - Liturgy, 10am
 Thur. December 6 - Liturgy, 9am: St. Nicholas
 Sat. December 8 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. December 9 - Liturgy, 10am
 Fri. December 14 - Nativity Paraklesis, 7pm
 Sat. December 15 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. December 16 - Liturgy, 10am
 Fri. December 21 - Nativity Paraklesis
 Sat. December 22 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. December 23 - Liturgy, 10am: Pageant & Pancakes
 Mon. December 24 - Royal Hours, 10am
 - Christmas Vigil, 7pm
 - Holy Liturgy, 8pm

 Tue. December 25 - Christmas Prayers, 10am
 Sat. December 29 - Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. December 30 - Liturgy, 10am
 Tue. January 1 - Liturgy, 10am: St. Basil

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

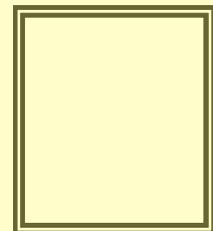
DEC 02 Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
 DEC 09 Jim OSWALD / Tomi BENO
 DEC 16 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
 DEC 23 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
 DEC 30 Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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