

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nikodhim

This year, we are beginning the new year in a special way. This year, since that first Sunday of the month also happens to be the feast of Theophany, I will be asking our children and young people to help out as we bless new holy water for the new year. This is the very water that I will carry with me as I go all around blessing homes. It is the very same holy water that you will be invited to receive and to take with you into your house, your business, your car or school. With this water in this coming year, we will bless the graves of our friends and parish family; I'll bless the bodies at the close of funerals rites. We'll bless the wedding rings of young couples preparing to become new families. New icons that will reside soon in homes and those icons still on their way to beautify our temple, coming in from Bulgaria and Belarus and right here in New York, all will get their sprinkle. Servers' robes and vestments, dentists' offices, even pets will share in the damp of this blessing. And we will drink and anoint with it in all that next year brings, reviving with each drop the memory of these prayers and the connections that we make with each other and with that God that we pray together to.

The holy water isn't magic; it won't grant our wishes or make things disappear that we must deal with. Rather, it is our prayers - our aspirations and communication - somehow made visible, tangible, and even consumable as we sip and sprinkle our way through the perils of this very

President's Message

by Jim Liolin

A Commitment for Growth

The parish is a living entity that has a meaningful impact on our lives but only if we participate in all that is available. The parish has to grow or it will eventually disappear. We have seen positive and vibrant signs in the community of renewal with new pledging members bringing their families. We have experienced an expansion in the Sunday School attendance and to that end we need to nourish the growth by being present at services and putting our words into action by involving ourselves in ministries. The children are the present and future of this parish and we owe them the right message of the Church. This year the Council and Father Nikodhim are committed to finding a Sunday School

real world.
Every time
and place
where these

droplets go though, we declare the reality of our commitment to each other and to our God as beings in relationship. Because water is ubiquitous to where life is, we bless it as an elemental thing, and we claim communion with each other as an essential aspect of what it means for us to live. Because it nourishes and quenches, water performs a natural function that is holy, and we take part in this trickling path, committing ourselves to return to our natural function, too, of nourishing and sustaining and aiding all of creation.

On Sunday, January 6, the feast of the Lord's baptism, we will plunge the Cross into the water and the world will be baptized, plunged back to be what it is, what it was always intended to be, a place where God has chosen to be near, alive to those who are listening, to those choosing to love through all the chaos that is this life. Come and drink deeply. Come carry away with you these bottles of hope. Refills are free, so spill and spend generously this year with this water, with this emblem of God's own care and ours. Our world is thirsty for this.

Administrator who will embrace this mission of growth.

The annual St. Nicholas sponsored *Warm Coat Drive* is continuing in January, along with the Food Drive supporting the local *food pantry*. These are positive programs that allow us to help where we can.

Come to Church January 6 for Epiphany and the traditional Icon Auction.

Pledge cards are always accepted.

***The Council wishes all a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Gezuar Vitin e ri!***

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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 30 Open

January 6 Icon Auction Brunch
 13 Memorial--Kirka
 20 Memorial--Larry Jance
 27 Adelina Llupa

February 3 Eli Troja/Alma Vesho
 10 Irma Mile/Xhuljana Baltadori
 17 Open
 24 Donna Oswald/Viola Kallinikos

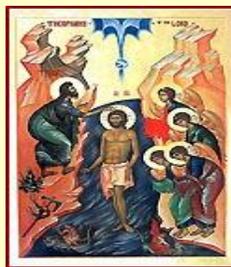
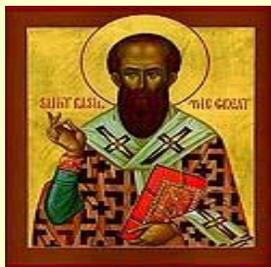


HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas holiday remembering the birth of Christ as you spent time with loved ones. It can also be a lonely time remembering all those no longer with us. Actually, in a way it's a good thing that you could feel that way because that means you must have had a very special relationship with that person which is a true blessing in life. It's good for us to appreciate each other while we are here. It is too easy to take people and circumstances for granted. May God bless us with all good things in this coming year.

In the beginning, the Daughters of St. Nicholas was an organization that the women in the St. Nicholas community joined with an annual membership dues. They were quite active in the support of our church, working side by side with the Parish Council. Over the decades, as with everything else, circumstances & the people changed. The Daughters evolved to accommodate the changing times.

For some years now, it is no longer the membership organization that it once was. Presently, ALL WOMEN in our St. Nicholas community are Daughters of St. Nicholas. It is not a "club." For our parish to thrive, we need the input of many. Our parish can be whatever we make it to be. Our small, close-knit community is a true blessing for many reasons if you make it a sincere part of your life. As "they" say, "you get out of it what you put into it." Our Parish Council counts on us women to work side by side with them for the benefit of the entire community. This is YOUR church, make sure you're a part of it. If you sincerely add this dimension to your life, you'll be glad you did! It is especially vital for our children in today's world.

We are grateful for all the support in this past year with help in managing so many needs and planning events. So many people take care of things behind the scenes that go unnoticed. You are all very much appreciated!



ICON AUCTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th - AFTER LITURGY
(Please bring in your ICONS As Soon As Possible!!!)

SAVE THE DATE!!!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2019

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

Buffet Dinner & Drinks D.J. Dancing

St. Nicholas Albanian Church Fellowship Hall

Donation: \$70 adults \$35 children 12 & under



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
- personal hygiene products (soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)

2019 PLEDGE PROGRAM - RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD

PLEDGE CARD

My total pledge for the year 2019 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: _____ Birthday: _____
 Spouse: _____ Birthday: _____
 Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: () _____ Email Address(es) _____ Wedding Anniversary: _____

Other family members in household:

Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____
Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____
Name: _____	Birthday: _____	Name: _____	Birthday: _____

The 2019 Annual Pledge Program to finance basic Church operations and services to the community began in November. 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 our lives. Then, make the best possible Pledge that we can and return the Pledge Card to the Church. Typically, yearly Pledges range from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. The average Pledge is \$700.

Please make a special effort to submit a Pledge. If you need a Pledge Card, use the one above or talk to Fr. Nikodhim or Jim Liolin.



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

JANUARY SAINT DAYS

1 - St. Basil The Great

Keni Gjika, Bill Nasi, Vasil Baltadori, Vasilika Dajko, Vasian Gjoka, Visjanos Papalilo, Vasil Pecani, Betty Kelapire

3 - St. Genevieve

Jenny Peters, Jennifer Slane

7 - St. John the Baptist

John Jance, Johnny Tsamblakos, Zhani Joanidhi, Joanne Heiser, Jonida Dervishi, Jana Foundos, Jani Kolovani, Jani Panajoti, Jean Preftes, Johnny Shkurti, Yona Stefani, Jonathan Topore

12 - St. Tatiana The Martyr

Tatiana Prela

14 - St. Nina Equal of the Apostles

Zanina Sherko

If you don't see your name please contact Fr. Nikodhim.

Nese nuk sheh emrin tend, te lutem lajmero priftin.

17 - St. Anthony The Great

Andon Dede, Antoneta Mertiri

18 - St. Athanasius The Great

Nasi Pavllo

20 - St. Euthymius The Great

Roza Proгри

25 - St. Gregory the Theologian

Gregory DiTullio, Gregory Papalexis

House Blessings Begin



Avoid the rush!

**Speak to Fr. Nikodhim now about coming to bless your home.
Appointments may be made for any time after January 6th**

Church: 718-380-5684, Cell: 208-818-3372

Christmas Pageant, Pancake Breakfast & Santa's Visit

On Sunday, December 23rd, Parishioners attending Liturgy were treated to a wonderful performance of the Christmas Pageant by the Sunday School children directed and encouraged by their teachers.

Afterwards all enjoyed a Pancake or Bagel breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Then Santa visited! There was much excitement and fun for both children and adults! Below are photos showing the festivities. Thanks to everyone who made this great day possible – Teachers, the Daughters of St. Nicholas and Santa!!!



Pancake Breakfast and Santa's Visit



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

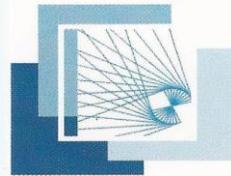
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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Major Church Activities and Events

January, Tue. 1 - Liturgy, 10am: St. Basil
 January, Fri. 4 - Royal Hours, 11am
 January, Sat. 5 - Great Vespers, 5pm: Theophany
 January, Sun. 6 - Liturgy, 10am: Theophany
 - Blessing of Holy Water

House Blessings Begin

January, Sat. 12 - Vespers, 5pm
 January, Sun. 13 - Liturgy, 10am
 January, Sat. 19 - Vespers, 5pm
 January, Sun. 20 - Liturgy, 10am
 January, Sat. 26 - Vespers, 5pm
 January, Sun. 27 - Liturgy, 10am

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

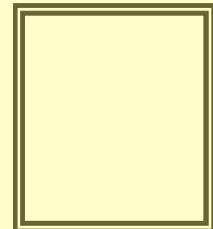
JAN 06 Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE
JAN 13 Jim OSWALD / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS
JAN 20 Andrea KUTALI / John JANCE
JAN 27 Robert KORRA / Lou FOUNDOS
FEB 03 Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

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