

THE ORTHODOX POST

June 2020

Volume XVI, Issue 6



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
Web site: www.stnicholasalbanian.org E-mail: fr.niko@stnicholasalbanian.org Tel: (718) 380-5684

Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nikodhim

This last Sunday I was privileged to serve the Holy Liturgy and to hear, after nearly two months, the sounds of prayer resound again in St. Nicholas Church. Although I have been still at Church frequently, attending to those necessities of letters and phone calls and the routine business the parish requires, and although I have recorded my Holy Week and weekly short services there for a while, I—like you—have been trying to stay home now, trying to be faithful in adhering to what our city, state, and nation



have asked of us. Saturday night and Sunday last, I had a little bit of the jitters, wondering whether prayers so familiar after all these years would come back to me easily and wondering whether I might need to be worried of losing my place in the service, forgetting the rites, the words, the gestures. And on Sunday at prayer, I did find here and there that things seemed unfamiliar, half-forgotten. But my lips kept moving even when my mind went blank, and I found it best to follow my body, which somehow remembers prayer and the activity of prayer despite my doubts.

It has been more than half my life since I absented myself from Sunday worship for this long, eighteen years old and on my own for a first time. It lasted perhaps a semester. Then I returned, and I kept returning through school and grad school and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Pastor's Message</i>	1
<i>June Saint and Name Days</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>Stewardship Pledge</i>	4 - 5
<i>Merchant Ads</i>	6 - 7
<i>Sunday Schedule</i>	8

seminary and,
afterward, work.
And I returned
despite doubt

and anger, despite chaos and fractiousness, despite politics of church and people that leaves precious little room for Christ at times, and despite my own internal self-created chaos, ill will, and discontent. Because return is the very nature of relationship, and what we love or, perhaps more tellingly, what loves us, we return to.

It will be slow going for St. Nicholas Church to resume its round of services, but we will all have an opportunity for return. Right now and in the immediate future, the Church remains publicly closed to all but a skeleton crew: those few who will raise their voices on behalf of us all in offering the necessary hymns and responses for a Liturgy to take place. The Liturgy, I remind you, even in its very etymology means the People's Work. It requires us all, but different things from each. For most right now, your portion of this work will be to wait, prayerfully, faithfully, and with hope. As soon as the bishop approves and as soon as our state and city say we are ready, our parish will grow gradually open, moving carefully from victory to victory as more and more are permitted to attend. I know you join me in praying that this is soon. For now, during this continued season of a different type of fasting, trust yourself to remember. Trust your lips and body to be able to recall, when the time is right, all those things you treasure but now for a while must do without. Trust in the grace of return, how it gives us what we cherish—the familiar, the desired—yet gives us also something being made new.

JUNE SAINTS AND NAME DAYS



St. Jovan (John) Vladimir - May 22/June 4

June 4 is marked as an important feast day in the Diocese of Elbasan. By ancient custom, it is a day of pilgrimage and celebration not only for the local Albanian community but even internationally. On this

day, the memory of St. Jovan (John) Vladimir is commemorated. Although the feast day of the saint is known more broadly on May 22, the Elbasan region has a special blessing to offer these festivities according to an older custom, keeping to the Julian calendar, which is thirteen days behind, for this day alone. Traditionally, pilgrims come from neighboring Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro to honor the saint on this date in Albania.

St. Jovan Vladimir was a Serbian prince, a man of peace in an age of chaos.

He was murdered by relatives who wished to undermine his political power and popularity. Since the Fourteenth Century, the saint's relics have rested at the monastery in Elbasan. To Slavic peoples, the saint is known as a martyr who gave his life for peace and justice. For the Albanians, he is known more as a holy healer. Those who were sick would journey to the monastery in Elbasan to pray before his relics, and each year on the feast day pieces of cotton that were placed inside the coffin of the saint were distributed so they could be carried home as tokens of health and help, a custom that continues even now.

The relics of the saint were preserved in secret even during Communism, and the beautiful silver reliquary resides even now at the national historical museum in Tirana. These days, the saint is still beloved by people of many nations, ethnicities, tongues, and faiths. He remains a friend for all who are in need and a witness to that God Whose love for others he shares.

7 - Holy Pentecost

14 - St. Niphon of Lukova

22 - St. Alban

Alban Zekthi

29 - Sts. Peter and Paul

Venerable Niphon of Mount Athos



President's Message

by Lou Foundos

This has been a challenging period for all of us. We have been sheltering in place for over 2 months now. Hopefully this will end soon, but meantime people are getting restless. With the warmer weather here, people just want to spend time outdoors which is fine if done with appropriate distancing. Of course, this has also affected all church services including St. Nicholas. We were able to finally live stream our Sunday services beginning May 17th. We will continue the live streaming throughout this shutdown. I encourage all to participate by using the link that Father is sending out in weekly emails to all the parishioners. Father will be advising us when limited attendance is possible. I am afraid the church will not be fully open for at least 45-60 days. Of course, as things change, Father will be advising us.

Since the church is now over 50 years old, in addition to the regular maintenance, some major work is necessary. Due to heavy winds, about 10 of the roof shingles had blown off the roof. In order to avoid any leaks or further damage, the 10 shingles were replaced with new ones. It is clear that the roof is showing its age since it is over 25 years old. There are 2 sections to the roof, the flat areas and

the peaked area. We are looking at replacing the roof in 2 steps. First, do the flat sections of the roof next year, and then possibly having to do the peaked area in 2022. The sidewalk on the side of the church was totally broken in many areas. After reviewing with several contractors, it was clear that the whole area needed replacement in addition to a section of the curb. Now that the weather was better, the work has been completed. We also had several other areas that needed concrete work. The front steps were loose and needed remounting, and the handicap ramp needed replacing. This was also a good time to address the flooding problem we have had. After analyzing water flows during storms, It was decided to install a 4 inch barrier next to the side door and install Belgian block on the side of the church near the parking lot to redirect the flow of water.

Hopefully we will be back on regularly before the summer is over. Until then, remember that we have regular and extraordinary expenses that must be paid. Therefore, please continue to send in your pledges and donations in this difficult time for all.

Congratulations!

We received news of the birth of Julian Kai Llupa on May 13th, the son of proud parents, George and Arielle Llupa, and grandchild of our old church members, Roland and Adelina Llupa. Wishing them all every blessing as they welcome a new member of the family.

Stewardship PLEDGE 2020

The names below are the current Stewards of St. Nicholas who committed to the 2020 Stewardship Pledge. These Stewards are the solid base of church members who continue their support year after year in good times and especially during difficult times. Father Nikodhim, the Council and the Church as a whole are fortunate that there are such dedicated households.

If you are not on the list and wish to make a Pledge please contact the church secretary, Adriana Topore 718-380-5684

Thank you,
Jim Liolin
Stewardship Pledge Coordinator

Marion Adams	Phillip & Johanna Foundos
Ermenita & Arben Aleko	Steven Foundos
Ana Andrade/Ermir Alla	Alfred & Elisabeta Fundo
Sarah Anderson/Mark Chenoweth	Christian & Ariona Fundo
Lenore Apostolu	Iilir & Dr. Fjona Fundo
Juliana Baltadori	Thomaq & Dr. Suzana Fundo
Dr. Dhimiter & Diana Beno	Spiro & Mira Gjika
Thoma & Christine Beno	Arben & Ira Gjoka
Alfredo & Aida Bode	Ellen Gradt
Richard & Jennifer Brehl	Kostandin & Mimoza Grazhdani
Eklea Cakuli/Gjergji Shuku	Dhimitraq & Marsela Guma
Roland & Anila Celo	Britu Haile
Linda Deonas	Gezim Halilaj
Hektor & Jonida Dervishi	Zanina Haxhiaj
Alice & Savvas Diacosavvas	Joanne & Douglas Heiser
Laura & Greg DiTullio	John Jance
Redi & Anja Ekonomi	Gjergji & Eriola Jano
Altin & Blerta Filipi	Zhani & Ornela Joanidhi
Nicholas & Barbara Filis	Panajo Joco
Albert Foundos	Stephen & Diane Jones
Lauren Foundos	Adrian & Dea Jorgji
Louis & Linda Foundos	Richard Kasuli

Stewardship PLEDGE 2020 (Continues)

Betty Kelapire	Alexandra & Michael Kehoe
Chris & Keti Kirka	Alma Vesho
Fotaq & Lina Kondili	Damian & Jenny Peters
Blendi & Sheena Koroveshi	Romana Petro
Robert & Tina Korra	Christe & Jean Preftes
Alison & Marc Ladd	Fr. Nikodhim Preston
Elizabeth Liolin	Dhiogien & Dhimitrulla Prifti
James & Christina Liolin	Panagiotis & Despina Psirakis
Roland & Adelina Llupa	Martha Pucca
Ilia & Agathia Luka	Pandi & Efigjeni Qeramixhi
Themistokli & Antoneta Mertiri	Ornela Rehova
Mitro & Vitori Mertiri	Stavraq & Kostanca Rehova
Frank & Evelyn Meta	Thoma & Iliana Rehova
Ermira & Bujar Mezini	Edi & Oneda Sera
Ardian & Irma Mile	Kozara Sheti
Artjan & Sirena Mitrollari	Thomas & Odeta Skendi
Tom & Connie Mone	Eduart & Marsela Shkurti
William Nasi	Tina Slane
Leonard & Albana Ndreu	Jimmy & Eleni Solomos
Jim & Donna Oswald	Altin & Elda Stroka
Jani & Liri Panajoti	Andrea & Adriana Topore
Helen Panajoti	Dr. Petrika & Eli Troja
Kristaq & Beatrika Panariti	Isidoros Tsamblakos/Beti Beno
Gregory Papalexis	Pieri & Marjeta Vakefli
Mark & Barbara Papalexis	Kristaq & Mimoza Vangjel
Helidon & Odeta Papalilo	Louis Vasile
Dhimitraq & Donika Papando	Kozeta & Patrick Vasili
Nasi Pavllo	Nikollaq & Leonora Vozhilla
Vasil & Suzana Pecani	Jennifer & Jacek Wollocko
Lenora Peter	Rosalie Zacharias

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

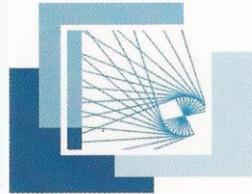
Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

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 Lou Foundos

EKLEA CAKULI, DDS

174 Jericho Turnpike
Floral Park, New York, 11001
www.nyedentalpc.com
(516) 354-8917



BRUNI ELECTRIC INC.

FRANK META
PRESIDENT/OWNER

23-95 31st Street Suite#2
Astoria, New York 11105

O:718-729-0700
C:917-662-1433
brunielectric@yahoo.com
www.brunielectric.com

SABITA J. BALLOO, EA

Income Tax Services

117-10 Jamaica Avenue Tel: 718-846-6525
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 Fax: 718-846-0663

sabitaballoo@aol.com

zenoncatering.com



zenontaverna@aol.com



ROSINI CONSTRUCTION CORP.

21-85, 34 AVENUE, #D-12
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. 11106

ROBERT KORRA
PRESIDENT

PHONE: 646 331 5693
FAX: 646 435 9001
E-MAIL: rosiniconstruction@gmail.com

CENTURY ILLUMINATION INC.



ELECTRIC WIRING

SERVICE /REPAIR/ FULLY INSURED
ALTIN STROKA

CELL:6463697594
FAX:7187267485
EMAIL: ALTINSTROKA@YAHOO.COM

DARIEN PAPANDO

D.D.S.

GENERAL AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

2584 E. 19TH STREET 29-17 ASTORIA BLVD
BROOKLYN, NY 11235 ASTORIA, NY 11102
718-934-1970 718-728-5759

DARIENDENT@GMAIL.COM

Regency Hotel - Korca



Tel:
355.82.243867/8/9

www.regencyalbania.com

hregencyko@hotmail.com

ARTOPOLIS

BAKERY PATISSERIE

REGINA KATOPODIS

AGORA PLAZA
23-18 31st Street • Astoria, New York 11105
Tel. 1.718.728.8484 • Fax: 1.718.728.0066

E-Mail: customerservice@artopolis.net • Website: www.artopolis.net



Elona Zekthi, D.D.S.

72-35 112th Street PR 8
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 263-4660

www.elonazekthidds.com

GKL MECHANICAL CORP



Plumbing & Heating

Free Estimates • Insured
Residential & Commercial
24 Hr Emergency Service

Leonidas Goros

Firmë ligjore për
Aksidente, Divorce, Real Estate & Emigracion

Marku,
Beno &
Tsamblakos, LLP



The Oldest Albanian Law Firm Serving the community for over 18 years with caring, compassionate and experienced lawyers who fight for their clients.



This space is reserved for advertisement. Please contact Lou Foundos for further information.

PRO SPORTS PERFORMANCE PHYSICAL THERAPY

WILLIAM PETERS, DPT, ATC

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
ATHLETIC TRAINER

1399 FRANKLIN AVE, SUITE 102 • GARDEN CITY, NY 11530
TEL: (516) 427-5577 • FAX: (516) 427-5578

WPETERS@PSP-PHYSICALTHERAPY.COM

OMEGA Diner • Restaurant



1809 Lakeville Rd., (Off Hillside Ave.) New Hyde Park, NY 11040
516-354-4666 FAX: 516-354-8279

Sun-Thurs 6AM-1AM;
Fri & Sat 6AM-3AM

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**Christ is in our midst!
Krishti midis nesh!**

**He is and ever shall be!
Ai është dhe do të jete!**

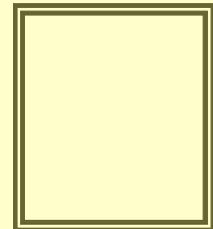
**Follow us on the internet
at our Webpage,
Facebook and Instagram
page for Sunday
Prayers@ 10am and
more.**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



Customer Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code