

THE ORTHODOX POST

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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432
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Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

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If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first

hour. And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and

to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away. (continues the next page)

Fjala Katekitike e Atit tonë ndër shenjtorët, Joan Gojartit

Cilido shpresëtar dhe hyjdashës le të gëzojë këtë panair të mire dhe të shkëlqer. Cilido shërbëtor mirënjohës le të hyjë te gazi i të Zotit. Ai që u nundua, duke kreshmuar, le të gëzojë tani dinarin. Ai që punoi që prej ores së pare, le të presë tani shpagimin e drejtë. Ai që erdhi pas së tretes le të kremtojë me gjithë zemër. Ai që mbërriti pas së gjashës le të mos dyshojë aspak, se nuk pëson asnjë dëm. Ai që u vonua deri në të nëntën, le të afrohet pa hezituar fare. Dhe ai që mbërriti vetëm në të njëmbëdhjetën, le të mos trembet nga vonesa. Se Zoti, duke qenë zemërdhembshur, pret të fundin, sikurse edhe të parin, çlodh atë të njëmbëdhjetin, si atë që punoi që prej së pares. Dhe të fundin e përdëllen dhe të parin e shëron; dhe atij i jep dhe këtij i fal; dhe punët i pret dhe mendimin e pëlqen; dhe veprën e nderon dhe qëllimin e lavdëron.

Hyni, pra të gjithë te gazi i Zotit tonë; dhe të parë dhe të dytë, gëzoni rrogën. Të pasur dhe të varfër, vallëzoni me njëri-tjetrin; të përkorshëm dhe të ngathët, nderoni ditën; sa kreshmuat dhe sa nuk kreshmuat, dëfreni sot. Tryeza është plot, hani që të gjithë. Viçi

është i shumtë, asnjë le të mos dalë i uritur. Të gjithë gëzoheni darkën e besës; të gjithë gëzoheni pasurinë e mirësisë. Asnjë le të mos qajë për faje, se ndjesa lindi nga varri. Asnjë le të mos ketë frikë nga vdekja, se na çliroi vdekja e Shpëtimtarit. E shuajti, kur përmbahej prej tij. E plaçkiti ferrin ai që zbriti në ferr. E hidhëroi, kur ngjëroi mishin e tij; dhe këtë duke parashikuar Isaia, thirri: Ferri u hidhërua, tha, kur të hasi poshtë.

U hidhërua, se u abolit. U hidhërua, se u përqesh. U hidhërua, se vdiq. U hidhërua, se u rrëzua. U hidhërua, se u burgos. Priti trup dhe gjeti Perëndi. Priti dhe, e hasi qiell. Mori atë që shikonte, dhe ra nga ajo që nuk shikonte. Ku është gjëmbi yt, o vdekje? Ku është mburrja jote, o ferr? U ngjall Krishti dhe ti hodhe poshtë. U ngjall Krishti dhe ranë demonët. U ngjall Krishti dhe gëzohen Engjëjt. U ngjall Krishti dhe jeta qytetërohet. U ngjall Krishti dhe asnjë i vdekur s'mbeti në varr.

Se Krishti, duke u ngjallur së vdekurish, u trengua kulloshtira e të fjeturve. E Atij është lavdia dhe fuqia në jetë të jetëve. Amin.

Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

(continues from previous page)

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it

was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

MAY NAME DAYS

May 4 - St. Monica

Monica Adhin

May 5 - St. Irene

Renee Jones, Ira Gjoka, Rea Nune

May 9 - St. Thomas

Tomi Beno, Thomaq Fundo, Thomas Fundo, Tommy Ligor, Thomas DiTullio, Thomas Mitre

- St. Christopher

Christopher Bode, Christopher Pulaha

May 13 - St. Glykeria

Gliqeri Mizaku

May 14 - St. Isidore

Isidoros Tsamblakos

May 21 - Sts. Constantine and Helen

Cleo Filis, Helen Panajoti, Helen Gradt, Lenore Apostolu, Eleni Coka, Koco Grazhdani, Lina Kondili, Helena Mertiri, Iliana Rehova, Leonora Vozhilla, Elona Zekthi, Eli Troja, Sonja Troja, Lina Kondili

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

Nëse nuk sheh emrin tënd, të lutem lajmëro priftin.

President's Message

by Lou Foundos

This past week has been quite a busy week with daily services and culminating with Holy Friday and the Midnight Pascha liturgy. The celebration of the resurrection of Christ during Pascha is a miracle that we renew every year at this time. The greeting and response for the next 40 days after Pascha should be:

Christ is Risen! Indeed, he has Risen!

Krishti u ngjall! Vërtet u ngjall!

Needless to say, Covid did not allow us to have our normal celebration of Pascha week. However, for those that attended, I am sure it was still an inspiring observance and celebration. There is no doubt that we not only see light at the end of the tunnel, but now that vaccinations are approaching 60% of all adults, by July our lives will start getting back to normal and Church life will also get back to normal. As more and more people have been vaccinated, attendance has

been increasing at St. Nicholas. However, we are creatures of habit, and we must restart our habit of attending church services regularly. WE MISS YOU! We must get reacquainted once again and enjoy each other's fellowship.

We are immensely proud to have continued with Sunday School on a regular basis throughout the pandemic by zoom. A big thank you to Father and our teachers, and a special thank you to Selby, our intern last year, who has been producing and mailing the material each month to the all the students. As usual, the little curious minds always come up with interesting and fun questions.

Now that things are slowly returning to normal, Father is available for hospital and home visits. Please contact him directly to discuss schedules and any concerns you may have.

Community News

by Andrea Topore

We are delighted to see increasing numbers of parishioners attending services each week. We overhear them saying, "It feels good to be here," or "Sa mire bëmë që erdhëm." Parishioners were able to enter through the front door once again for Palm Sunday, after 13 months of using the side door for safety control. Paschal season was also a success due to a great teamwork. Thankful for the efforts of several people; to all the parishioners who attended the Paschal services in person and online via Facebook streaming link; to our most beautiful talented choir; to our altar servers; all the ushers, men and women, that assisted in making certain that all the CDC rules were followed.

On a sad note, many people were shocked with the unexpected falling asleep in the Lord of Albert Foundos. Paying respects to Al for the last time at the funeral home was, as his brother Lou Foundos said, "a celebration of Al's life." It was Al that had greeted and helped so many people that came from Albania in the 90's. Al's leaving brought us together again as a community. We will strive to continue his legacy, following his amazing, well-rounded example of a life well lived. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

On a beautiful note, in memory of Viola Kallinikos, our Church now has a new, beautiful epitaphi. Al had been hoping that we would have it in time for Easter this year. He would have been pleased that it arrived just days before Holy Week. Our decorating crew, Joanne Heisser, Britu Haile, Christina Liolin & Linda Foundos, did a wonderful job. Thank you to Izzy Tsamblakos who has for a number of years, picked up the flowers from the florist and brought them to Church on Thursday night ready for the work crew on Friday morning. On a happy note, Ermir and Ana Alla are making wedding plans. Baby Lucas Liolin will be baptized this May. Mother's Day will be celebrated with our coffee fellowship outdoors in the sunshine. We will kick off our summer with our annual Father's Day picnic; please watch for details.

Saying Goodbye and Saying Hello

After many decades of service, our epitafi was finally retired. This was one of the original pieces of church furnishings that accompanied our community as it moved from Manhattan and into Queens at the end of the 1960s. The dark brown stain of its finish, though scarred from the hundreds of straight pins that had held flowers in place each Holy Friday, still matched the bishop's throne and the cantor's stand. For the summer of our temple's refurbishment and beautification, the old epitafi even served as a makeshift altar in the makeshift space of our prayers downstairs. But it was time to say goodbye and to commission something new, something that could reflect the renewal we have all been working on.

Linda and Fr. Niko rode out to Maspeth some months ago to visit the church supply shop there and to pick out from pictures all those features we need and would most like in an epitafi. The order went in just in time, and the ship from Greece docked just weeks ago with our package intact and in tow. On Holy Friday in this year of returns and experiments, the Daughters of St. Nicholas took up a new challenge, and the new epitafi blossomed under their hands, ready for Friday prayers. But the story isn't over.

Our old epitafi will be on its way soon to a new home. [St. Olympia Church](#), a new mission far, far upstate and almost in Canada, will be very happy to receive this. The faithful people there have just moved into their first Church home, and they are busy making it into their own. That epitafi that we prayed over (and crawled under) for years will serve them now, beautify their temple now, and hold Christ's shroud for their Holy Week services for years to come. Maybe we can make plans to visit it.

Our new epitafi, donated in loving memory of Viola Kallinikos, lifelong Daughter of St. Nicholas, from her brothers, arrived just in time. Now the scent of flowers is in the temple, and something new has come. Three days after Albert's funeral, Viola's brother, something new is blooming at St. Nicholas.





ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432 • Tel: 718-380-5684
 Father Nikodhim, Priest • Tel: 208-818-3372
www.stnicholasalbanian.org

May 3, 2021

Dear Friends of St. Nicholas,

With the arrival of the vaccines and large percentages of adults having been vaccinated, hopefully we will soon be able to meet and greet each other once again.

As I indicated in the letter last month, I would like to invite you to not only be friends, but to take the next step and become members of the St. Nicholas Community. As we all know, St. Nicholas is not the typical “neighborhood” Church. We share our Orthodox faith and with many, our Albanian heritage as well. Due to distances, we understand that participating weekly can be very difficult. However, we welcome you whenever you are able to come even monthly or on special feast days. We would like you to make St. Nicholas your spiritual home and enjoy the fellowship when you can.

Faith is very strong in America, and we all have the privilege of practicing our faith without fear of any reprisals. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to reconnect with your faith, celebrate your Albanian heritage and share it with your children.

If you choose, you can make your Stewardship *Pledge* online. Click [this link](#) and submit your completed form, or visit stnicholasalbanian.org where you’ll find the same option at the top of our homepage.

We would be happy to discuss this further by phone or in person. You may call the Church office and leave a message, and we will get back to you. The good news is that our outdoor coffee fellowship following Liturgy has returned! If this works better for you, let us know and we can chat over coffee.

Christ is risen! Indeed, he is risen! Krishti u ngjall! Vertet u ngjall!

Yours in Christ,

Lou Foundos-President

Fr. Nikodhim-Pastor

Pledge Committee

Jim Liolin
 Petrika Troja
 Roland LLupa
 Damian Peters
 Adriana Topore

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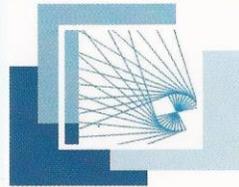
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For new ads please contact Lou Foundos

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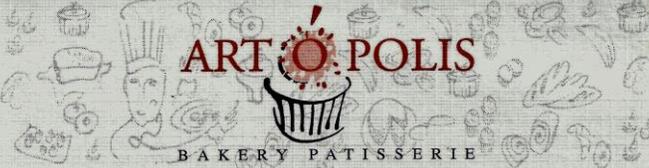
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CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR MAY

- Sat. 1 - Liturgy, 10am: Harrowing of Hades
- Great and Holy Pascha, 11:30pm
- Sun. 2 - Paschal Vespers, noon
- Fri. 7 - Liturgy, 10am: Life-giving Spring/Burimi
Jetëdhënës
- Sat. 8 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 9 - Liturgy, 10am: St. Thomas Sunday
- Sat. 15 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 16 - Liturgy, 10am: Holy Myrrhbearing Women
- Sat. 22 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 23 - Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of the Paralytic
- Wed. 26 - Prayers, 11am: Midfeast of Pentecost/Rusicat
- Sat. 29 - Vespers, 5pm
- Sun. 30 - Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of the Samaritan
Woman

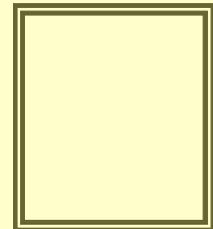
Planning to attend Church this Sunday? Please call.



At St. Nicholas we are committed to the safety of all who worship here. Right now, this means a few additional responsibilities. Please help keep everyone healthy by reading and following those directions posted in the parish entryway. Please help us make sure that everyone who wants to come to Church can; you can do this by phoning the parish office (718-380-5684) and leaving a message by the Friday before you wish to attend or by sending an email to secretary@stnicholasalbanian.org

We can't wait to see you soon!

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
181-14 Midland Parkway
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