

THE ORTHODOX

September 2021

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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

Happy New Year! (Yes, really)

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Just two things in this world are unavoidable: death and taxes, as that old adage assures us. Today, we will be looking at the latter. In our Eastern Christian tradition, September marks the start of the year, and each September first is celebrated as the beginning of a new year. This is the continuation of ancient Roman custom that was brought to prominence in the Byzantine period. Remember that the Byzantine Empire and its rulers were Caesars and Romans, the capital city of that multilingual international state having been relocated from Rome to New Rome/Constantinople (now Istanbul) by St. Constantine himself. And September 1st was tax day, the April 15th of its age. Perhaps if they drank to ring in the year it was more to steady their nerves against the money missing from their accounts than it was to celebrate. In any case, September as the start of the annual fiscal cycle, was their January, and though empires grow, crest, and disappear, our Church still retains the start of September as a new beginning. Even now, in many or most books of our hymns or saints or feast days, you won't find January near the beginning but sandwiched somewhere near the middle of those volumes that start with September.

O Creator of the universe, Thou didst appoint times by Thy power; bless the crown of this year with Thy goodness, O Lord. Preserve in safety Thy rulers and cities: and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us!

This is one of the hymns for the Church's New Year. We note in it at least two vital details. First, God blesses what He has created. Second, He is the creator or, as this hymn so beautifully expresses it, the appointer of time. So the seasons yield to Him. So the earth tips on its axis as it courses about the sun. So we have an obligation to celebrate, to mark time itself as holy since it, too, bears the imprint of its creator's hand just as we ourselves do.

We are accustomed to having parties and to honoring great moments of transition: of births and birthdays, of graduations and promotions, even of deaths and remembrance. In the churchly calendar, we are instructed to honor even the passage of time itself, to be attentive to the year and its months and each of their constitutive days as holy. In this Year of the Lord 2021, after a harrowing, painful, divisive, and alienating previous year, we must consider this obligation all the more pressing and needful. Here at St. Nicholas in our little corner of Queens, we will welcome this year, celebrating together on Sunday, the 19th of September, a new beginning slightly delayed. Come for the party. Stay for the prayer. Live within this joy as we gather to bless now these days and all their tomorrows.

Save the
Date!



September
19



**KICKOFF
THE
CHURCH
YEAR**

Where: St. Nicholas Church
Time: 12pm - 3pm

**Come join our community for an afternoon
of fun! Reconnect with friends and family
while enjoying great food and fun
activities for the kids!**

President's Message

by Lou Foundos

It surely has been a hot and rainy summer, and it is slowly coming to an end! We will miss all the barbeques, beach days and spending time with friends and family. With the kids getting back to school and people slowly return to their offices, life will be getting back into some regular rhythm. Fr. Nikodhim took a deserved vacation to visit his family in Idaho. It has been a while since he has seen his parents, siblings, nephews and nieces and I am sure they enjoyed seeing him also.

Officially, September is also the start of the Church Year. Therefore, it is time for all of us to get back on schedule and start attending Sunday services. We have enjoyed our summer and now it is

time to renew our spiritual life. Church school will also be starting in person in September. We will have a special kickoff for the children which I am sure you will be hearing more about. As parents, we set the foundation for our children that they will carry throughout life. We must include teaching them about their faith, and as parents, share in that responsibility as well. Education is one of those basic responsibilities of parents, and religious education should be part of that effort.

I am looking forward to seeing more of you for services and enjoying some fellowship after the liturgy during our coffee hour.

Community photos from various liturgies from August and from Transfiguration





SEPTEMBER NAME DAYS**1 - 40 Martyrs**

Tina Peters, Nyla Peters, Tina Slane, Penny Kastaris, Thea Pavllo, Amanda Alla

4 - St. Rosalia

Rosalie Zacharias

5 - Sts. Zachariah and Elizabeth

Beti Beno, Elisabeta Fundo, Betty Kelapire, Elizabeth Liolin, Daniella Beno, Irma Mile, Claudia Spiro

8 - St. Despoina

Despina Psirakis

9 - Joachim and Anna

Diana Beno, Albana Ndreu, Anna Kehoe, Anika Koroveshi, Anda Halilaj

11 - St. Violeta

Violeta Filipi

14 - Holy Cross

Stavraq Rehova, Steven Foundos

18 - St. Ariadne

Ariana Dervishi, Adriana Topore

19 - St. Igor

Igor Bakalli

17 - St. Sophia

Sophia Troja, Sofia Dervishi, Sofia Jones, Diane Jance-Jones, Sophia Sadiku

23 - St. Iris

Iris Mile

If you do not see your name, please contact Fr. Nikodhim.
Nëse nuk sheh emrin tënd, të lutem lajmëro priftin.

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

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saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!**

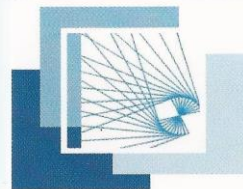
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Fri & Sat 6AM-3AM

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CHURCH SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

Sat. 4 - Vespers, 5pm
Sun. 5 - Liturgy, 10am
Tue. 7 - Vespers, 7pm: Nativity of the Theotokos
Wed. 8 - Liturgy, 10am: Nativity of the Theotokos
Sat. 11 - Vespers, 5pm
Sun. 12 - Liturgy, 10am
Mon. 13 - Vespers, 7pm: Holy Cross
Tue. 14 - Liturgy, 10am: Holy Cross
Sat. 18 - Vespers, 5pm
Sun. 19 - Liturgy, 10am
Thur. 23 - Sat. 25- Archdiocesan Assembly, Worcester
Sat. 25—Vespers is cancelled.
Sun. 26 - Liturgy, 10am

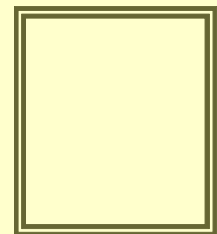
We're on the Web, Facebook and Instagram as St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church NY; stnicholas_alb_oca or

Visit us at:

www.stnicholasalbanian.org

St. Nicholas Church is fully open. Reservations and masks are not required; however, we encourage everyone to continue to observe those precautions they think best. With a mask or without a mask, we will be glad to see you! And if you are not feeling well, take care of yourself and stay at home.

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