

# ORTHODOX POST



September / 2022  
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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432  
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## Pastor's Message

Over this past decade, we at St. Nicholas have been privileged to take part in the education of a number of seminary interns. And while you have met them all on the Sundays of their attendance, it has been my job to try to offer each a brief taste of parish life, and this has meant explaining what happens between weekends. For while students may be enamored of the beauty of services, the icons and gestures and songs, or by the great history and teachings of our faith, and while I always find this enthusiasm invigorating, most of us who minister don't do so from the library or the pulpit primarily. Like any other institution that wishes to persist and endure into the future, it's what happens in between that counts most, so I have tried as I am able to make sure that our learners and future leaders see this and experience something more of Church than just the services or the classes or the coffee hour.

Meetings are not glamorous. In many cases, they are its opposite. Most of the time, they are a matter of taking time to make decisions and of sharing the work of becoming informed about how decisions should be made. Those who are willing gather for this, those trusted by neighbors and peers. And we talk, and we argue sometimes, and we move on from disagreement into action. Those who show up in these caretaker roles are as fallible as anyone else, myself most especially!, but those who show up to do this work of charting a future for our community are aided by all the others there with them. There is balance as we are able to talk together with trust, and if very little goes perfectly, the counterpart is generally true too: very little comes to utter disaster. Meetings of councils and committees, of panels and groups, take time, and this is part of what fills the weeks between Sundays; this is part of what it is my job to show and invite our students to see too, because God is there at Church on Monday night and Tuesdays, our basement hosts His grace just as much as the temple at Sunday.

This September, I am proud to say that we are hosting the annual meeting of our archdiocese. Since I started as the pastor in 2010, this is be our second round organizing this. I am proud, as I hope you are, for our brothers and sisters and fathers from throughout the Albanian Archdiocese to be here and see where and how we live. We've celebrated important milestones, and our Church reflects this. This month, there will be time for prayer and the joy of raising our voices together in this, but the truth is that we'll be here for meetings: not glamorous but o so necessary. Doubtless, there will be disagreements, and we are almost assured of some confusion, but beyond these frustrations and moments of critique, there's a future to be planned for together. And this is what we all aim to do. It's why we come together with trust. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>, I invite you, the people of St. Nicholas, to lend a hand. There are meals to prepare and gifts for our visiting family and friends. We'll celebrate a service with all the guest priests on that Saturday. More than anything, though, pray for us as we work for you and for this diocese we all so proudly call home. We'll be in the basement talking, arguing at times, but coming back together by choice. And then like any family, we'll walk on.



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**SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF THE MONTH - September / October:**

**THE Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross**

**Commemorated on September 14th. Edited Reading and Icon courtesy of the OCA**

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius in 312, who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer." Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body. In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found. Christians came in huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." (326 A.D.)

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church - she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."



### President's Message

This has been an exceptionally hot summer, and we all ready for the cooler weather!

Since the attendance has been weak during Covid at our Semi-annual meetings, I thought it was important to discuss the finances of St. Nicholas. Most people do not realize that in our budget we have about \$180,000/year of expenses. The major items include the priest's salary and benefits, regular maintenance and repairs of the property and the building, office help needed for bookkeeping and mailings, religious supplies and education and dues to the Archdiocese. Now that we know the expenses, the question then is where does the income come from to cover these expenses? Income sources are as follows:

Pledges	\$80,000
Fund raising	\$30,000
Candles and baskets	\$24,000
Special Services	\$ 6,000
Holiday offerings	\$ 8,000
General Donations	\$ 3,000
<u>Interest &amp; Dividends</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$161,000</b>

Therefore, we have a shortage of about \$19,000 each year. We have been very fortunate to have had some large donation during the last 5 years from individuals and the Beautification Project. Basically, this shortfall has 3 major possible income sources, pledges, fundraising and special donations.

We now have accurate information for the first 6 months of 2022 that shows there is a shortfall of about \$40,000. Fortunately we started with a strong cash position at the beginning of the year so we only had to take \$20,000 from our savings to pay our bills. This is partly a timing problem since the pledges are much stronger in the second half and the major fundraiser, the golf outing is also in the second half.

As things are returning to a more normal situation after Covid, we have to be realistic about our finances. Our goal for 2023 should be to increase our pledge income source to \$100,000 by increasing our pledges and increasing our membership. Also we should consider what additional fundraising we can do. Fortunately our stock portfolio did well last year so our savings are strong. However, this is what we save for major building expenses since the building is over 50 years old and other issues that may come up that we could not anticipate.

### Golf Outing

Our Annual Golf Outing will be coming up October 3, 2022. The flyer with all the information is on another page. This is our **MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR**. We can only make a true success of golf if we all work together. In order to make it a social success, which brings people back, we need golfers. Therefore reach out to friends and family and try to get them to sign up for a foursome or individual golfers. In order to make it a financial success, we would like to see if you or your company can sponsor one of the following:

Cocktail Party	\$300
After Outing Dinner	Open for donations
Barbeque Luncheon on the course	\$300
Golf prizes	\$1000
Hole sponsorships	\$250

The major portion of the profit are the hole sponsorships which are \$250 each. We place a placard with the name of the sponsors at the various holes and publish a list which we distribute at the dinner. This is the time to reach out to friends, family and businesses you work with or support in the neighborhood. **THIS IS CRITICAL TO THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS!** Remember, the answer to the question you never ask is always NO! So therefore, reach out to any possible sponsors sooner rather than later!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS!**



**Schedule**

Registration 11:00 AM  
Shotgun Start 12 Noon **Sharp**

Call 516.520.5258  
or  
E-mail [doswald@cigar oasis.com](mailto:doswald@cigar oasis.com)  
for questions

Participating Levels  
Individual Golfer \$225  
Awards Dinner Included  
Golfer Foursome \$800  
Awards Dinner Included

**Sponsor Opportunity**

Hole Sponsorship \_\_\_\_ @ \$250  
Prize Sponsor \$100 - \$300

**Donation**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax-Deductible Contribution



**St. Nicholas Albanian  
Orthodox Church's  
Albert Foundos  
Memorial Golf Classic**

Monday, October 3, 2022

**HISTORY**

For the past 25 years, the golf outing has been a significant source of income for the church as well as an opportunity to bring the church community together with both Albanian and non-Albanian friends. Al Foundos was a driving force and organizer of the golf outing 25 years ago. His family now continues that tradition. As many of you know, Al passed away in 2021 and the St. Nicholas community has decided to rename the golf outing in his honor. St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church is a part of the Albanian Archdiocese within the Orthodox Church in America. Established in 1942 in Manhattan, NY, the church relocated in 1970 to its current location in Jamaica Estates, Queens. The parish community which encompasses the metropolitan New York City area is multi-ethnic in nature, e.g. primarily Albanian, Greek, Russian and Eritrean. Its services are performed in English.



**St. Nicholas 25th Annual  
Albert Foundos  
Memorial Golf Classic**



Monday, Oct 3, 2022

**Town of Oyster Bay  
Golf Course**

1 S Woods Road  
Woodbury, NY  
516.877.5960



**PRIZES**

**AWARDS**

**RAFFLE**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**HOLE-IN-ONE  
CONTEST**

**LUNCH INCLUDED**

5:00 PM AT THE  
19TH HOLE

**DINNER IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING GOLF**

**THE MANSION AT  
OYSTER BAY  
RESTAURANT**



St. Nicholas Albanian  
Orthodox Church

**Golf Committee**

Phil Foundos 631.972.5695  
Tomi Beno 917.952.9252

**Members**

Blendi Koroveshi 516.417.3217  
Lou Foundos 516.637.8971  
Jim Liolin 914.670.0596

Send Registration / Sponsorship to:

**St. Nicholas Albanian  
Orthodox Church**  
181-14 Midland Parkway  
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432

Or email: [secretary@stnicholasalbanian.org](mailto:secretary@stnicholasalbanian.org)



**Golfers**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person or Sponsor Name



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorships**

Hole Sponsorship.....\$250  
Prizes / Merchandise.....\$100-\$300

Please Respond by **September 21, 2022**

Make all checks payable to:

**St. Nicholas Church**

Donations are Tax Deductible



## Community News

Summer 2022 has been a very busy one for our St. Nicholas Church parish, and that's good news! People ask all the time, "How was church today?" And, most Sundays in the summer, the attendance has been good.

A lot of families have traveled abroad and around America. Lou and Linda Foundos's family enjoyed a wonderful trip to Albania and Spain. Together with their children and grandchildren they made so many beautiful memories. The Koroveshi family went on a 7000-mile trip across America." Their heads are filled with beauty, nature and adventure," Sheena said. We are looking forward to them telling us all about their wonderful experience.

Adelina and Roland Llupa celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Florida. We wish them the best and so many more years to come. Ermenita Aleko is back after a hip surgery. Her recovery is going very well, and we are very happy to witness it. Ermenita and her family had an incredible vacation in Mexico. Summer's not over yet, and our families and friends are still enjoying it.

Here at church, Father Niko has been busy with services, baptisms, and memorials.

Congratulations to parents Antoneta and Sandri Lamo. Their daughter Luisa was baptized at our church on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Armando Fezaj was baptized on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes. Parents Ina and Gerti Kallanxhi baptized their son, Stefan Kallanxhi on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the Kallanxhi family. Baby Jacqueline Reed DiTullio was baptized on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the DiTullio family and proud grandpa Mark Papalexis.

Memorials bring us together to remember our loved ones that have fallen asleep. Mid July we had a memorial service for our beloved Viola Kallinikos. May her memory be eternal! A memorial was held for dear Elizabeth Jones who we lost three years ago. She is forever in our hearts. At the end of August we commemorated Archbishop Nikon. On July 18<sup>th</sup> Beatrika Panariti, beloved wife of Kristaq Panariti, fell asleep in the Lord. She was a dedicated member of our church whose favorite time at church was Mother's Day Sunday. She loved coming to church, and always enjoyed coffee hour getting together with friends and families. Beatrika is deeply missed. A memorial service was held in her memory on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Nicholas Brehl being assigned as a history teacher in a charter school. We are very proud of him. He will make a wonderful teacher. The students will be lucky to have him.

Father Niko is holding in-person classes twice each month to read and discuss some of the earliest Christian writers and thinkers. The first class was held on August 24<sup>th</sup>. We will inform you of the date for the next class. Our church would like to thank all the families that have donated food for New York's Hungry. Please help us fill the box for this ongoing drive by continuing to donate food. Thank you Jennifer Brehl and Sunday school children for helping the City Harvest Program.

Our parishioners really appreciate the enjoyable coffee hour following Sunday services. Thank you so much to all the families that have sponsored. We are in need of sponsors for the upcoming months. All Sundays in September are open! Respond to the call in page 6!



Community News—Continued

Koroveshi's family  
7000-miles trip



Giving Back to the Church

Dear brothers and sisters! Our church is a home to all of us and at times we're blessed to host seminarians who come and provide their services when we need them. At the moment, two seminarians, Ananias and Juxhin need our help. In order for them to make parish visits and other church related meetings/ events, they need of a car. We are looking for **two cars** to be donated or offered at a low, to next to nothing price. We will provide a letter acknowledging the value of the donated car.

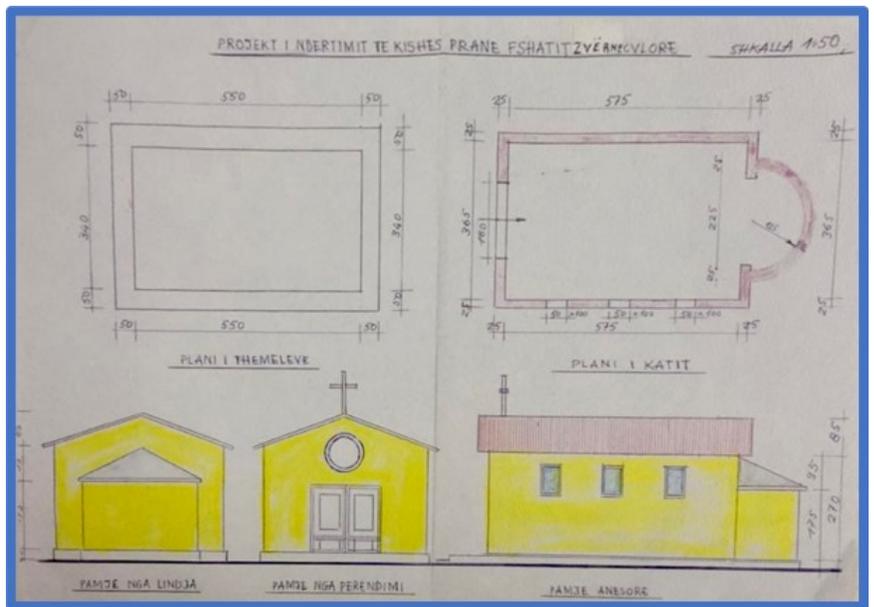
Ananias is now in Worcester, in an Archdiocese internship program and will be working on projects under the guidance of Fr. Mark Doku. Juxhin (Eugene) is still at seminary in NY. He and Livia need the car to attend church and visit members in the tristate area and other church communities out-of -state.

To expedite this project we need the following for insurance purposes: vin #, milage, year, make and model.

We're counting in your generosity and commitment to help those who work for the Lord. Let us be the answer to their prayers!



Dafina Davidhi, a member of St. Nicholas Church, is helping to collect funds for a new chapel (pariklisi/vakëf) that will beautify the village of Zvërnec. This shrine will be dedicated to the feast of Palms, the Sunday before Holy Pashka, and is a work of love and hope from the nearby clergy and faithful. This small space of worship will come at a modest price when converted into US dollars but is still an ambitious goal for the local community. As such, any and all donations from here will go a long way. If you'd like to make even a small offering toward this construction, please reach out to the parish office (718-380-5684), and we will get you in touch with Dafina.



## Përkujtimore për Kryepeshkopin Nikon Liolin

Më 1 Shtator, përkujtojmë fjetjen në Zoti të Fortlumturisë së tij Nikonit, Kryepeshkop i Bostonit, Nju England, dhe Kryepeshkopatës Shqiptare, në Amerikë Kryepeshkop Nikoni e vendosi veten si një bari i shkëlqyer ndaj klerikëve dhe familjeve të tyre. Ai ishte një bari i dashur ndaj Dioqezës Shqiptare dhe Dioqezës së Nju Englandit.

At Nikoni luajti një rol të rëndësishëm në marrdhëniet e brendshme dhe të jashtme të Kishës Ortodokse Shqiptare në Amerikë nëpërmjet kontakteve të afërt e vëllazërorë me kishën e Shqipërisë dhe Fortlumturinë e tij, Kryepeshkopin Anastas të Tiranës. Në 2012 ai përfaqësoi Kishën Ortodokse në Amerikë në përvjetorin e 20të të rithemelimit të autoqefalisë së Kishës Ortodokse Shqiptare, dhe në 2014-en, mori pjesë në shenjtërimin e Katedrales Ringjallja e Shenjtë në Tiranë, Shqipëri.



### I Përjetshëm Kujtimi!

#### Fellowship Hall

##### COFFEE LIST FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

September	4	OPEN
September	11	OPEN
September	18	OPEN
September	25	OPEN



Please be advised that any family can have the pleasure of sponsoring the coffee at any Sunday OPEN  
Contact the office at 718 380 5684

Or

email Adriana Topore at [adrianatopore60@gmail.com](mailto:adrianatopore60@gmail.com) or Christina Liolin at [cliolin@comcast.com](mailto:cliolin@comcast.com).

Thank you so much to all the families for your support.

In addition, many people have inquired about parties at church. **Yes, our Fellowship Hall is available for party rental.** Plan your party with family and friends, and let us know if you would like to rent the Fellowship Hall.



### September 2022—Church Schedule

Sat. 3—Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 4—Liturgy, 10am

Wed. 7—Vespers, 7pm:

Nativity of the Theotokos

Thur. 8—Liturgy, 10am:

Nativity of the Theotokos

Sat. 10—Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 11—Liturgy, 10am

Tue. 13—Vespers and Liturgy, 7pm:

Holy Cross

Sat. 17—Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 18—Liturgy, 10am:

Church School Kickoff Party

Sat. 24—Liturgy, 10am: Archdiocesan Assembly

—Vespers, 5pm

Sun. 25—Liturgy, 10am

### September 2022—Name Days

1—40 Martyrs

Tina Peters, Nyla Peters, Tina Slane, Penny Kastaris, Thea Pavlo, 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 Korovesi, 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

*Is your name missing from this list? If so, please call the parish office (718-380-5684) and let us know.*

**Prayers and Support for the People of Ukraine**



Donate now to help those in crisis: those in need in Ukraine. International Orthodox Christian Charities is there, lending a helping hand. Make your donation [here](https://www.ioccc.org) or go to: [ioccc.org](https://www.ioccc.org)

**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

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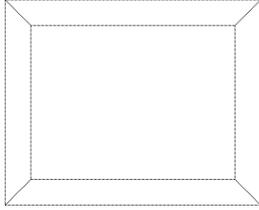
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*stnicholas\_alb\_oca* or visit us at:  
[www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org)

**St. Nicholas Church is fully open! Come and pray and have a cup of coffee with friends.**  
*If you're not feeling well, though, stay at home. We'll be here, ready for you when you're healthy.*



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



Customer Name  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip Code