

THE ORTHODOX POST

March 2022
Volume XVIII, Issue 2



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

I am boiling wheat today, steam rising in the kitchen while beads of condensation form in the windows of my apartment. Once soft and drained and dried from their pool of brine, I'll mix these kernels with sugar and fruit and with the nuts I have toasted while waiting for the wheat to cook. Tomorrow is e Shtune e Shpirtrave, Saturday of Souls, a day given to us to remember. I'll be at Church early in the morning to wade through the long lists of names, some from our parish records, others from those sheets of paper people have been passing to me all this last month. With those who have gathered to pray, we will offer the bread and the wine, share in the Body and Blood. And at the close of the Liturgy, the wheat I have boiled will be blessed as we read through all those names again, and then we will eat, savoring the sweetness, the raisins, the bristle of nuts, and the wheat tasting of earth.

Cooking the grurë, the koliva, is a special task. Like the mesha, the prosphora, it is something we do at home but then bring to Church, an ancient offering of sustenance. And like the mesha, we offer the simple fruit and food of our labor with prayer and memory, bringing from home our hopes and handiwork to share with our community. The steam from our kitchens and the smoke from the censer

minge despite any distance as we participate in this prayer.

With the grurë, we remember the dead. Nourished by memory and

sweetened by the still persistent love of those who have passed before us, this is an ancient practice and one likely even older than our Christian faith. To care for the dead, to share with the dead, to encircle oneself with friends at the time of grief, these are fundamental human impulses and have been even before the advent of recorded history. Yet with Christ, we find each grain of wheat more than just a solace in our times of loss; each is promise. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit." So He says in the Gospel of John just after the events we remember on Palm Sunday, predicting His own death and the pattern of resurrection we believe in.

When we boil the wheat and sweeten it, mix the nuts and fruits and spices, our hands pray deftly. As both cooks and Christians, we bear witness to the Resurrection and, by faith, feed ourselves and others on that most necessary food of hope.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>Pastor's and President's Messages</i> | 1 |
| <i>Icon Sunday</i> | 2 |
| <i>The Season of Lent</i> | 3 |
| <i>Community News</i> | 4 |
| <i>March Name Days</i> | 5 |
| <i>Merchant Ads</i> | 6-7 |
| <i>Church Services Schedule</i> | 8 |

President's Message March 2022

In November we thought we were through the worst with the Covid-19 pandemic and we made masks optional thinking we would shortly be getting back to some normalcy. The last few months have even been more challenging due to the increased cases due to the Omicron variant. We then had to follow the New York State mandate to wear masks once again. However, as contagious as the Omicron virus was, infections peaked quickly, and now we are more than 95% below the peak. In fact all mask mandates in New York have been eliminated except for schools, so masks are now optional once again. Also, Sunday school classes will be in person once again starting March! It looks like we are entering the endemic stage and we will all have to learn to live with another type of flu. **Therefore I would encourage everyone to put attending services back on your calendar. Looking forward to seeing more of you at Sunday Liturgy and coffee hour that follows!**

We have just about completed our annual pledge drive. I would like to thank all that have made a formal pledge in 2022 for your timeliness and increased support. Please reach out to your family and friends about becoming members of the church. Ask them to make St. Nicholas their spiritual home. A special thank you to Adriana Topore for doing much of the necessary follow up to make this a success.

The January Icon Presentation was cancelled, but it has been rescheduled it for March 27th. Come one, come all and let's see how successful we can make this major fundraiser that we have missed for the last 2 years. Please also put April 3rd on your calendar which will be the date of our Annual General Meeting. More information will follow.

Icon presentation 2022



We are all looking forward to our annual Icon Presentation and Auction on the Sunday March 27, 2022. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel this Auction from January to March. Things have improved dramatically compared to last year but we all have to make sure we get vaccinated and still exercise some caution.

The icon "auction" at St. Nicholas Church is part of a uniquely Albanian annual custom. Under the Ottoman oppression, the faithful of southern Albania had often to ransom their holy items and places from the ruling powers, paying taxes and fines to reclaim what they loved. Over time and as the government changed, these payments became part of a beloved local tradition around the feast of the Lord's Baptism. Where once these tolls were paid simply to keep the Church open and properly outfitted, now the auction was an opportunity to express pride—particularly by claiming or outbidding competitors of one's patron or family saints. So the Church reformatted its former means of subjugation and this day became one of communal joy in support of the Church. Please enjoy...and maybe see if you can outbid your neighbor! Attached is the icon listing. You will probably notice we have streamlined it and have limited it to less than 40 icons for bidding. Of course, if the icon you wish is not listed for bidding, you can make a donation for another specific icon and if we have it, we are happy to give it to you for the year. If you cannot join us, please consider making a donation for a specific Icon

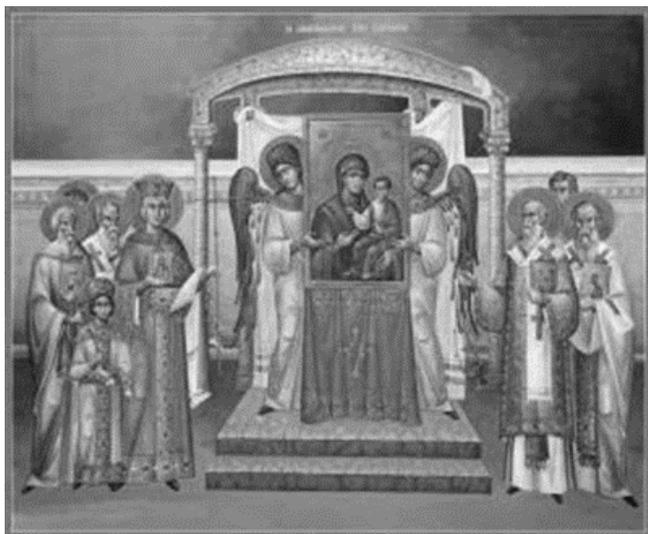
This year we are bringing back one of our old traditions. After the auction, we will be having a Lakror luncheon to all free of charge! This is one of our major fund raisers so help us make it one of the most successful and enjoy the fellowship of a spaghetti dinner following!

We wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Fan Noli Memorial: Sunday, March 13

Each year during March, we remember the founder of the Albanian Orthodox Church, Imzot Kryepishkop Theofan. On the Sunday following the date of his death, we keep the custom of celebrating a memorial service for this man who was our archpastor and leader in a time of great need. Please come and join these prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance for this patriot, pastor, artist, and guide, who kindled the fire that still burns brightly for all.



Sunday of Orthodoxy: Children's Procession

Sunday, March 13, we commemorate the triumph of Orthodoxy. After years of conflict and persecution, icons were returned to our holy places—our Churches, monasteries, shrines, and homes. We mark this day by a special procession. All are invited to come and take part.

We ask that parents, godparents, and grandparents bring our younger members to celebrate this day.

Please ensure that your children are not left out; have them here by 10:30am so they can join the procession.

The Season of Great Lent

As we enter into the season of Great Lent, it's good for us to try to do more. We prepare to greet Great and Holy Pascha by fasting, prayer, by charity and service. We ask more of ourselves during this holy season of abstinence so that we can realign our priorities and thereby rediscover our need for God. Confirmed in this hope, we become participants in His love. As part of your Lenten discipline, plan to attend a service you have not before, plan to be present in prayer, and prepare to be changed, readied for joy.

Canon of St. Andrew: 1st Monday and Tuesday of Lent at 7pm

Where are we? As Christians, we say we stand in the midst of a great line of saints and prophets and of sinners: those whose lives have been inextricably altered by knowing God. The meditative hymns of this service help locate us in this legacy of faith by recounting those who came before and inviting us to join their ranks of people in progress, learning to be better and better.

Presanctified Liturgy: Wednesdays each week at 7pm

Each Wednesday of the fast is like an island of refreshment. We can be strengthened by receiving Christ Himself into our lives through Holy Communion. Though we are busy, though distracted, these sections of peace in the middle of the week help us know that God stands with us in everything.

The Akathist: Fridays each week at 7pm

The Virgin Mary, mother of Christ Himself, is given to us as a special friend; she is our mother too. Here, we ask that she console us, that she help us to know her son, that she stand as witness and companion to all the tragedies of our lives, so that we can learn to hope as she did and does.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers: Sunday evenings

Being family is more than just tracing family trees; it is choosing to live a shared life. Each Sunday evening of the fast is a family reunion. We get to meet our cousins and learn about them and enjoy being with them, sharing their hospitality. And we get to see that our family is large and interesting and diverse but shares that one necessary thing: love for God, the Father of us all.

This Lenten season, do a bit more. Try a little harder. Go someplace new. And get ready to welcome the joy of God into these holy forty days. Lent is coming to prepare the way for Paschal rejoicing. Don't get left behind.

Community News

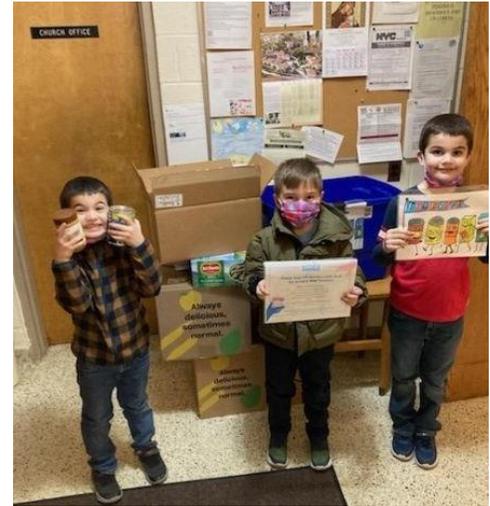
Last month we saw the change coming: a turning point in everybody's life with a bit of covid relief and psychologically moving forward. The good community news is testament to that. We love sharing with you.



Everyone is so happy that coffee fellowship is back, being sponsored each Sunday by a different volunteer family. We are planning two months at a time, now scheduling May and June. Please contact the office if you would like to sponsor a coffee fellowship one of the Sundays during those months. Our sincere thanks to all the families that have sponsored our coffee fellowship.

Our church has remained open for all sacraments, weddings, baptisms, etc. Last month baby boy Patrick Troja was baptized. We wish him a long life. Congratulations

to parents Erald and Alessandra Troja, as well as grandparents Eli and Petrika Troja.



The Tili family baptized their baby too. May God bless James Nicholas Tili the and the entire Tili family.

A lovely baby shower was held for Iris (Mile) Spiro in anticipation of their baby's arrival. Congratulations to Iris and Andi Spiro. Claudia Spiro will welcome her baby brother soon. Grandparents Irma & Ardian Mile can hardly wait!

We have welcomed some more good news recently. Nicholas Brehl has officially completed his Master's Degree in Political Science at St. John's University. What a wonderful accomplishment! We wish him all the best in the future.

I have an inspirational story to share with you: our Elisabeth Brehl is working on window painting. She did her first painting for Valentine's Day. We are so proud of our talented, busy, young artist!

The youngest members of our church were very busy last month. Thank you Anthony Aleko, Emmanuel and Christos Diacasavvas for helping with our Food Drive. A big shout out to Jenn and Luke Brehl for taking care of our Food Drive and helping the new generation to become active citizens. Thank you to all donors thus far. Your hundreds of pounds of food are greatly appreciated. It certainly makes some lives better. Our food drive is still ongoing.



Covid restrictions did not stop our parishioners contributing, pledging and keeping up with Sunday services at church. Thank you to all families that have pledged for 2022. Your responses have been incredible, and we were able to complete most of the list in record time. We would love to see our list of members grow longer. Membership is always a work in progress.

Part of our faith is to remember those that are no longer with us in this world. With honor and respect we remember and have Frederik Stefani, and Ellen Gradt in our prayers. May their memory be eternal.

MARCH NAME DAYS

9—40 Holy Martyrs

12—St. Theodore
Theodore Ladd

14—St. Matilda
Matilda Tili

17—St. Patrick
Petrika Troja, Patrick Troja, Nicholas Patrick Brehl
—St. Alexis
Aleko Bode, Alex Oswald

18—St. Edward

Edi Sera, Eduart Shkurti

23—St. Nikon

25—Annunciation (Evangelismos)
Evangeline Ladd, Vangjel Family

26—Archangel Gabriel
Gabrielle Peters

27—St. Matrona
—St. Robert
Robert Korra

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

Offering our Prayers and Support for the People of Ukraine

Please consider making a generous donation to help those suffering from violence and aggression.

[Support refugee relief with the Orthodox Church of Poland](#)

[Give to the International Orthodox Christian Charities fund for Ukraine](#)

[Donate directly to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in America](#)

COFFEE LIST FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL

MARCH 6 ANILA STEFANI
MARCH 13 MARSELA SHKURTI
MARCH 20 ALICE DIACOSAVVAS
MARCH 27 ICON AUCTION/LAKROR
APRIL 3 BRITU HAILE
APRIL 10 JEN BREHL/ADRIANA TOPORE
APRIL 17 PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 24 HOLY PASCHA

WE NEED SPONSORS FOR THE MONTHS OF
MAY AND JUNE

MAY 1 MEMORIAL-In memory of A. Foundos

MAY 8 MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 15 OPEN

MAY 22 OPEN

MAY 29 OPEN

JUNE 5, 12, 19, AND 26 OPEN

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL THE
SPONSORS!

CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SPONSOR: 718 380- 5684

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

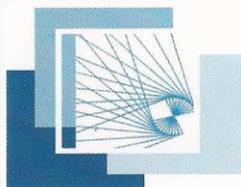
Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

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

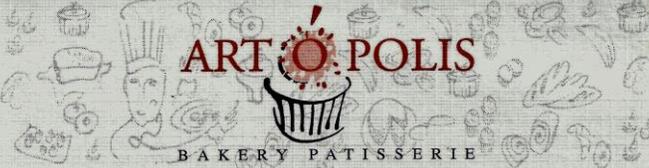
DARIENDENT@GMAIL.COM

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



Smile

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;
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED Fri & Sat 6AM-3AM

**CHURCH SCHEDULE
FOR March 2022**

Sat. 5—Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 6—Liturgy, 10am: Forgiveness Sunday
 —Rite of Forgiveness
 Mon. 7—Canon of St. Andrew, 7pm
 Tue. 8—Canon of St. Andrew, 7pm
 Wed. 9—Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 11—Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 12—Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 13—Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of Orthodoxy
 —Fan Noli Memorial
 Wed. 16—Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Fri. 18—Akathist, 7pm
 Sat. 19—Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 20—Liturgy, 10am: Palamas Sunday
 Wed. 23—Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm
 Thur. 24—Vespers, 7pm: Annunciation
 Fri. 25—Liturgy, 7pm: Annunciation
 Sat. 26—Vespers, 5pm
 Sun. 27—Liturgy, 10am: Sunday of the Cross
 Wed. 30—Presanctified Liturgy, 7pm

*We're on the Web, Facebook and Instagram
as St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church*

NY; stnicholas_alb_oqa or

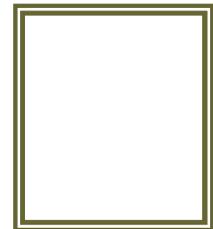
Visit us at:

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, New York 11432**



Customer Name
 Street Address
 City, State Zip Code