



ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

SHRINE OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

2701 NORTH NARRAGANSETT AVENUE • CHICAGO, IL 60639 • 773-889-4282
stnicholasalbanianchicago.org



Welcome to all worshipping here today with a special welcome to those who are visitors or newcomers.



November 2023

The miraculous Weeping Icon of the Blessed Virgin

Welcome to St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Chicago! Please join us on Sundays for Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Miresevini ne kishen Orthodokse te Shen Kollit ne Chicago! Ju lutemi beni te mundur pjesmarrjen tuaj cdo te Diele ne Liturgjine Hyjnore ne oren 10.00 a.m.

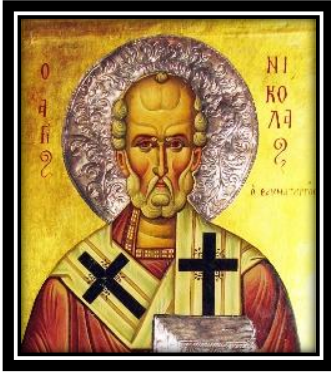
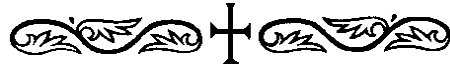
Our parish was founded in 1944 by Albanians from the southeastern part of the country, near the city of Korca. The current church building was built in 1961 and the beautiful interior is filled with wonderful icons,

including the miraculous Icon of the Blessed Virgin.



- GOD WILLING, FR. IGNATIOS WILL TRAVEL TO US ON JANUARY 11, 2024.

- FR. IGNATIOS INSTALLATION CEREMONY WILL BE ON MARCH 10, 2024, BY BISHOP THEOPHAN.



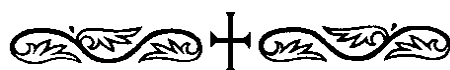
St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Schedule of Services / Programi i Sherbesave

January/ Janar 2024

In-Person and Live Streamed Services

(LS Denotes Service Live Streamed on Facebook)

01	Monday	Circumcision of Christ/ St. Basil the Great <i>Rrethprerja e Zotit / Shën Vasili i Madh</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
05	Friday	Eve of Holy Theophany/Agiasmos/Blessing of Water <i>Vigjilja e Epifanise / Ajazmë e Vogël</i>	Vesperal Liturgy – 9:30 am
06	Saturday	Holy Theophany / Agiasmos / Blessing of Water <i>Epifanise / Ajazmë e Madhe Ujit të Bekuar</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
07	Sunday	Sunday After Theophany / St. John the Baptist <i>Pas Epifanisë / Shën Joanit Pagëzorit</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
		Blessing of Vasilopita/Sweet Bread of St. Basil <i>Bekimi i Vasilopitës/Buka e ëmbël e Shën Vasilit</i>	Following Liturgy <i>Pas Liturgjisë</i>
14	Sunday	Leavetaking of the Theophany <i>Largimi i Teofanisë</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
18	Thursday	Sts. Athanasios & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria <i>Shënjtoret Athanasi e Kirilli, te Aleksandrise</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
21	Sunday	12th Sunday of Luke <i>12 Llukait</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
28	Sunday	15th Sunday of Luke <i>15 Llukait</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
30	Tuesday	The Three Hierarchs <i>Tre Hierarkët</i>	Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am





MEMBERSHIP



†2024 Memberships

Please send in or drop off your dues for 2024 and 2023 if you still have not done it; \$150 per individual over 21 years or old, \$250 for family membership covering both husband and wife plus children under 21 yrs of age. Please note "2024 dues" on your check.

If you are not yet a member but would like to join our parish, please speak to a member of the Parish Council for information. There is no initiation membership fee any more.

Member directory-If you need to update or correct your address or phone number for the next membership directory, please contact our church at **773-889-4282** or stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com. You can also contact Maria Barbachi if you want to give us your e-mail address to receive communication from our church. Also, if you are moving, please inform the church in regards to the forwarding address for future church communication.

Membership payment now can be done on our church website under donate button. The drop down list has "Membership" option you can use and make membership payments.

[St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church](#)

Ju lutemi sillni ose dergoni pagesen e anetaresise se Kishes per vitin 2024 dhe 2023 ne rast se nuk e keni bere akoma. Ajo eshte \$150 per personat mbi 21 vjet dhe \$250 per familjet qe mbulon burrin,

gruan si dhe femijet e tyre ne moshen nen 21 vjet.

Ju lutem shenoni "2023 dues" ne cekun tuaj. Ne rast se ju nuk jeni anetar i kishes dhe deshironi te beheni, kontaktoni zyren e kishes apo nje nga anetaret e Keshillit te Kishes per informacionin e duhur. Ju lutem njoftoni Kishen ne rast se keni ndryshuar adresen e banimit apo numrin e telefonit per te bere korrigjimet e duhura ne listat e Kishes.

773-889-4282 or stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com.



NOTICE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL
NJOFTIM NGA KESHILLI I KISHES



Dear St. Nicholas Church Members,
On Sunday, November 26, 2023, we held a general assembly meeting and Parish council elections. Here are some of the highlights from that meeting:

- General State of the Church
- Treasurer's Report-

We reviewed our financials. Any member who was not in attendance and would like a copy of our financial report, please contact any Parish Council member.

- Membership

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors, Parish Council that were elected on November 26, 2023. They will officially take their oath and office in January. The elected members are: Nancy Kazarian -president, Etleva Teli- vice president, Dea Lanzito -secretary, Nicole Poni- treasurer, Ollga Tito, Rudina Shkembi, Luiza Peshtani, Jani Gjonaj, Kris Maranda, Leonard Pajcini, Vani Tako, and Kosta Shamata

We look forward to serving our community in 2024. On behalf of your Parish Council, we wish you and your family a Blessed Holiday Season.

On behalf of your Parish Council, we wish you and your family a Blessed Holiday Season.



Te diele me 26 Nentor 2023 u zhvillua mbledhja vjetore e anetareve te Kishes se Shen Kollit dhe zgjedhjet per keshillin e Kishes. Me poshte jane ceshtjet me te rendesishme qe u diskutuan:

- Gjendja e pergjithshme e*

Kishes

- Raporti i thesarit- u shqyrtua informcioni financiar i Kishes. Cdo anetar i kishes qe nuk ishte prezent ne mbledhje dhe do ta shohe kete raport, kontaktoni cilindo anetar te keshillit te Kishes.*
- Anetaresia- U analizua gjendja e anetaresise se kishes si dhe u diskutuan menytrat si mund ta rritim numrin e anetareve ne kise.*

I urojme suksesese anetareve te rink te Keshillit te Kishes qe u zgjodhen po ate dite. Ata jane Nancy Kazarian - president, Etleva Teli- vice president, Dea Lanzito - secretary, Nicole Poni- treasurer, Ollga Tito, Rudina Shkembji, Luiza Peshtani, Jani Gjonaj, Kris Maranda, Leonard Pajcini, Vani Tako, and Kosta Shamata.

Keshilli i Kishes se Shen Kollit do te vazhdoje te punoje me devotshmeri dhe perkushtim per progresin e Kishes dhe komunitetit tone. Ne emer te Keshillit te Kishes ju uojme te gjithëve Festa te bekuara dhe te gezuara.





Ladies Auxiliary



Ladies of St. Nicholas Albanian Church, we are looking to increase enrollment in the St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary. We are comprised of women of diverse ages and backgrounds working together to reach out not only to the parish membership, but to the community through fundraising, charitable donations and volunteerism. We are looking for ideas to make this event bigger and better. Won't you come join us? We meet the first Sunday of each month in the church hall.

Gratë dhe vajzat e Kishës Shqipëtare të Shën Kollit, qellimi jonë është të rritim numrin e pjesëmarrësve në St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliaries. Ky grup përbëhet nga gra dhe vajza të të gjitha moshave dhe të gjitha profesioneve që punojnë së bashku jo vetëm për tu lidhur më shumë me anëtarët e kësaj kishe por edhe me tërë komunitetin nëpërmjet evenimenteve për ngritjen e fondeve, nëpërmjet kontributeve dhe ndihmës që i ofrojmë komunitetit. Kërkojmë më shumë ide të reja për ta zgjeruar dhe për ta forcuar këtë grup. Jeni të gjitha të mirëpritura të dielën e parë të çdo muaji!



The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank all the sponsors, donors and members of our community who supported us for the celebrations of our Patron Saint Nicholas and made the Shen Kolli Dinner Dance a beautiful event to be remembered. All the ladies worked together with one heart and much dedication and self-sacrifice. Everyone who attended the Dinner Dance enjoyed the food, the music, the wonderfully decorated room and above all the company of each other. It was a blessing to witness such outpouring of love and joy! We thank our loving Lord for guiding us and blessing our efforts!



A big, heartfelt thank you for all the hard-working ladies of our church! Thank you for organizing all the events related to the celebration of our patron saint St. Nicholas. Everything went beautifully. The byreks and desserts were delicious. Everyone loved them! The hall was beautifully

decorated and the Christmas tree looks dazzling. It is a privilege to witness year after year how the ladies come together and work as one body, to see the immense effort and dedication they put into preparing the byreks, and caring for every small detail so everything looks, smells and tastes perfect! And above all to see how they welcome everyone with a smile and warmth. Thank you and God bless you all and your beautiful families through the prayers of our St.

Nicholas! We would love to recognize each and every lady by name for perpetuating this beautiful tradition of our church.

The ladies who volunteered in various tasks are: (in alphabetical order): Maria Barbachi, Haxhie Berberi, Helen Byers, Eda Cako, Vasilika Damo, Marieta Fisniku, Kay Giannos, Ana Iskali, Anyla Kamenica, Helena Kamenica, Julia Kamenica, Maria Kamenica, Vasilika Kamenica, Valentina

Kowalew, Jhulheta Kresto, Dea Lanzito, Lida Lasku, Blerta Palo, Janet Papajani, Ana Qeleshi, Keti Qeleshi, Mira Qeleshi, Albana Romacka, Urani Shamata, Rudina Shkemberi, Evgjani Shkira, Elona Shkira, Venera Tako, Eva Teli, Olga Titos, Violeta Vasil, Connie Zika, Liri Zyka.



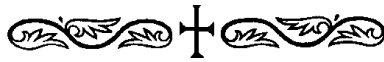


Shoqeria e Grave e kishes se Shen Kollit deshiron te falenderoje te gjithë sponsoret, dhuruesit dhe anetaret e komunitetit tone qe mbeshteten festimet per festen e Shen Kollit dhe mundesuan qe Darka e Vallezesimit te mbetet nje kujtim i pashlyeshem. Te gjitha zonjat

punuan se bashku me nje zemer dhe me devotshmeri e shpirt sacrifice. Te gjithë pjesemarresit ne darken e vallezesimit u kenaqen me ushqimin, muziken, hollin e dekoruar mrekullisht dhe mbi te gjitha me shoqerine e njeri-tjetrit. Ishte nje bekim I vecante te perjetoje kaq shume dashuri dhe gezim mes komunitetit. Lavderojme Zotin tone te meshirshem qe n'a udhëhoqi dhe bekoj perpjekjet tona!

Nje falenderim I vecante per te gjitha zonjat e dedikuara te komunitetit tone qe ne daten 4 Dhjetor, u mblodhen se bashku ne hollin e kishes dhe pergatiten byreket e mrekullueshem qe u sherbyen gjate festimeve te Shen Kollit. Emrat e zonjave qe u ofruan per te vazhduar kete tradite te bukur jane: (ne radhe alfabetike): Maria Barbachí, Haxhie Berberi, Helen Byers, Eda Cako, Vasilika Damo, Marieta Fisniku, Kay Giannos, Ana Iskali, Anyla Kamenica, Helena Kamenica, Julia Kamenica, Maria Kamenica, Vasilika Kamenica, Valentina Kowalew, Jhulheta Kresto, Dea Lanzito, Lida Lasku, Blerta Palo, Janet Papajani, Ana Qeleshí, Ketí Qeleshí, Mira Qeleshí, Albana Romacka, Urani Shamata, Rudina Shkembí, Evgjeni Shkíra, Elona Shkíra, Venera Tako, Eva Teli, Olga Titos, Violeta Vasil, Connie Zika, Liri Zyka.





INSTALLATION CEREMONY



We are honored to announce that on Saturday, October 14, 2023 the Installation Ceremony of His Grace Bishop Theophan of Philomelion was held at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church. This ceremony is a liturgical rite by which a ruling bishop is installed in his cathedral. This is when he officially began to oversee his diocese. Archbishop Elidophoros presided with other members of the clergy in attendance. Having this ceremony take place at St. Nicholas was a great honor for our church. A luncheon reception followed in our hall. Bishop Theophan was born in 1966 in Tirana, Albania. He graduated from the College Economic School in 1985 and served two years in the Albanian Army.

In 1991, he graduated from the Academy of Economic Sciences in Tirana and proceeded to serve the Albanian government as an Economics Inspector in the Department of State Controls from 1991-1992.

From February through July 1992, he studied Orthodox Theology in Durres with the first group of students under the tutelage of then Father Ilia Katre. Between 1992 and 1998, he participated in numerous local and international conferences, sometimes representing the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese (OCA) or the Church of Romania.

In September of 1993, at the invitation of Patriarch Theoctist of Romania, he departed to study at the Orthodox Theological Institute of Bucharest under the tutelage of Archbishop Calinic of Arges. He was ordained a Deacon on January 1, 1995 and tonsured a monastic five days, later the Feast of the Theophany. He took the name Theophan.

In May of 1995, he was ordained a priest and elevated to the rank of archimandrite. In September, he graduated from the theological school and began two years of service as a missionary priest in Bucharest. From 1995-1999, he pursued a doctoral degree in theology at the University of Bucharest. At the beginning of 1995, he was also appointed abbot of the Aninoasa Monastery in Curtea de Arges.

In 1995, the Church of Romania released him to the Romanian Episcopate (OCA), where he served as rector of St. Thomas the Apostle parish in St. Louis, until August 2021. He was then assigned to Boston, where he was rector of St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral. In June 2023, he was incardinated



in the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Following his meeting in Constantinople with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Father Theophan was proposed by His Holiness to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the election as new Bishop of Philomelion, succeeding Metropolitan Ilia who reposed in the Lord on October 6, 2022.



On July 25, 2023, Archimandrite Theophan was consecrated as the bishop for the Albanian Diocese of America. Archbishop Elidophoros presided at the service held at St. George Patriarchal Cathedral in Constantinople.

Bishop Theophan is fluent in Albanian, Romanian, English, Greek, Italian, and Macedo Romanian (Aromanian). He holds Albanian, Romanian and American citizenship.



LIFE OF THE MONTH'S SAINTS AND MAIN EVENT



January 17

Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of

dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God.

" Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Saviour. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul." So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years. Source: www.goarch.org

FESTAT KRYESORE TË MUAJIT

Paraqitja e Zotit në Tempull (Ipapandia)

Dyzet ditë mbasi u lind, Ai u paraqit para Perëndisë në Tempullin e Jerusalemit, sikurse e kërkonte Ligji i Moisiut. Në atë kohë, edhe nëna e tij Maria bëri ritualin e pastrimit dhe ofroi flijimet, sikurse I kërkonte Ligji. Prandaj, dyzet ditë mbas Krishtlindjes Kisha kremton, më 2 Shkurt, Paraqitjen e Zotit në Tempull (Ipapandinë).

Pritja e Krishtit nga plaku Simeon dhe profetsha Ana (Lluka 2:22–36) është ngjarja kryesore e festës së Paraqitjes së Krishtit në Tempull. I ishte “zbuluar Simeonit me anë të Shpirtit të



vdekjen përpara se të shikonte Zotin Krisht”(Lluka 2:26) dhe, i frymëzuar prej të njëjtit Shpirt, ai erdhi në Tempull, ku përhasi Mesian e porsalindur, e mori në krahët e tij dhe tha fjalët, që tani thuhet çdo ditë në Shërbesën Orthodhokse

të Mbrëmjes: Tani përlëshoje shërbëtorin tënd, o Zot, me paqe, simbas fjalës sate, se sytë e mi panë shpëtimin tënd, të cilin Ti e përgatite faqe gjithë popujve, dritë për ndriçimin e kombeve dhe për lavdi të popullit tënd Izrael(Lluka 2:29–32).

Në këtë kohë, Simeoni parashikoi gjithashtu, që Jisui do të jetë një “shenjë kundërshtimesh” dhe që ai do të shkaktojë “rënien dhe ngritjen e shumë vetëve në Izrael”. Ai, gjithashtu parashikoi vuajtje te Marisë për shkak të birit të saj (Lluka22: 34–35). Ana, gjithashtu ishte e pranishme dhe duke falënderuar Perëndinë “ajo u fliste për këtë fëmijë të gjithë atyre, që prisnin shpërblimin në Jerusalem”(Lluka 2:38). Në shërbesën e festës së Përhasjes së Zotit, theksohet fakti që Krishti, Biri dhe Fjala e Perëndisë, me anë të të cilit u krijua bota, tani po mbahet si fëmijë në duart e Simeonit; i njëjti Bir i Perëndisë, Dhënësi i Ligjit, tani ai vetë po përmbush Ligjin, i mbajtur në krahë si një foshnje. Kremtimi i Përhasjes së Zotit, nga Kisha, nuk

është thjesht një përkujtim historik. Të frymëzuar nga i njëjti Shpirt i Shenjtë, si Simeoni dhe të udhëhequr po nga i njëjti Shpirt në Kishën e Mesias, anëtarët e Kishës mund të pretendojnë “përhasjen” e tyre me Zotin dhe, gjithashtu mund të dëshmojnë, se edhe ata mund “të përlëshohen me paqe”, meqenëse sytë e tyre panë shpëtimin e Perëndisë në personin e Krishtit.

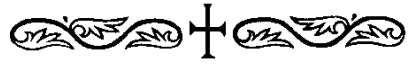
Gëzohu, o hirplote, Hyjli-ndëse Virgjëreshë, se prej teje ka lindur Dielli i Drejtësisë, Krishti Perëndia ynë, që ndrit në errësirë. Gëzohu dhe ti, o plak i drejtë, që prite në krahët e tu Shpërblenjës in e shpirtrave tanë, i cili na dhuroi Ngjalljen të gjithëve. (Përlëshorja)

Me lindjen Tënde, Ti Shenjtërove gjirin e Virgjëreshës dhe bekove duart e Siemonit, O Krisht Perëndia ynë. Tani Ti erdhe dhe na shpëtove me anë të dashurisë. Falu paqe të gjithë të krishterëve orthodhoksë, o i vetmi Njeridashës. (Shkurtorja)

Burimi:

<http://orthodoxalbania.org>





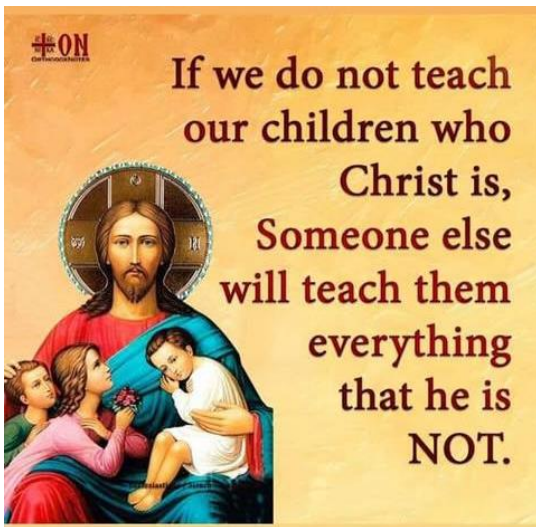
ALBANIAN SCHOOL & GRUPI ARBERI







The Importance of Religious Education



Attendance at the Divine Liturgy during summer

We all love summer and carefully plan our family vacations. This is a nice tradition. But what is not so nice, is the “tradition” of taking a vacation from church attendance. While it may happen to anyone to be absent one Sunday from church for major reasons, there is no reason to “abandon” church for the

whole summer, giving more priority to leisure activities. We have to think deeply as parents on what kind of example we’re giving our children. We have to examine carefully where our priorities stand. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

If someone would tell us that he is going to nourish his body only half of the year (when outside is cold and he has nothing else to do) and when the weather is nice he is just going to starve himself because he is going on a vacation, we would think: This person is foolish! We act as foolishly as this person if we do not take proper care and nourish our soul year around through daily prayer, Bible reading and active participation in church’s life and especially in the Divine Liturgy. This is vital for the health of our soul, like food is for our bodies. By participating in the Mysteries of the church, especially Holy Eucharist (Communion) we are granted by God’s mercy and love to taste the Lord to the fullest and be united with His Body and Blood unto Eternal Life. Take a vacation from work and find rest in God!





NOTICES



www.delcan

New Kitchen Windows!

A heartfelt shoutout to Christopher Glass and Aluminum and Abe Asllani for our new kitchen window! We are incredibly grateful for our community members who continually support us in every way. The old window was long overdue for a replacement and the new one adds a touch of brightness to our church kitchen.

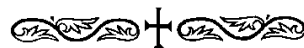
Thank you, Christopher Glass and Aluminum, and Abe Asllani, for your generosity and dedication to our church. We are blessed to have you with us!

BRICK PROGRAM



Donations for our Commemorative Brick Program are still being taken. Bricks can be made to honor a memory, mark a special occasion or to show support. A 4 inch by 8 inch brick with up to 3 lines of engraving can be ordered for a donation of \$250.00. Forms can be found at the candle stand or you may also request a form be

sent to you via email or US mail. To ensure the wording and spelling are printed correctly on the brick, a form must accompany payment.



[YOU MAY NOW PAY YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES ONLINE](#)

Click on the DONATE button halfway down the home page on our website and follow the directions. You may also mail a check to the church or stop by the church office in person **AFTER** Liturgy.

DID YOU KNOW?

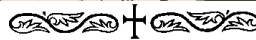
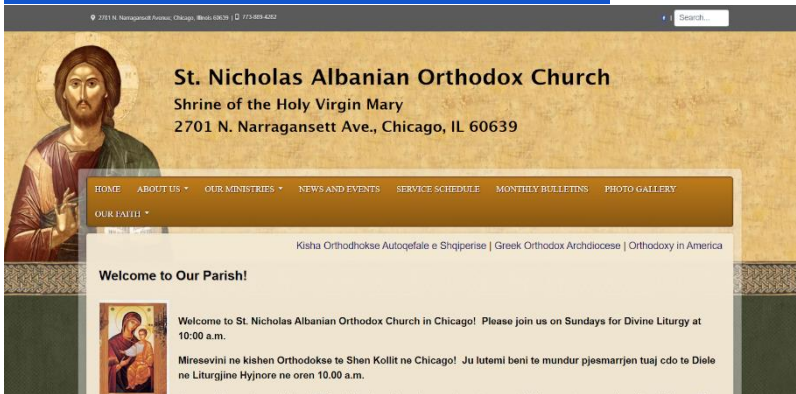
You may now donate to St. Nicholas Church by visiting our website: stnicholasalbanianchicago.org. The DONATE button can be found on the home page. A list of options will give you the ability to donate towards various funds, saints, and other causes. Check it out today!



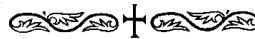
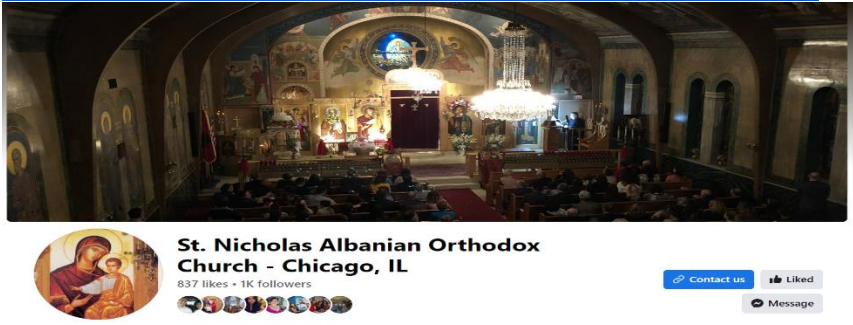


LINKS

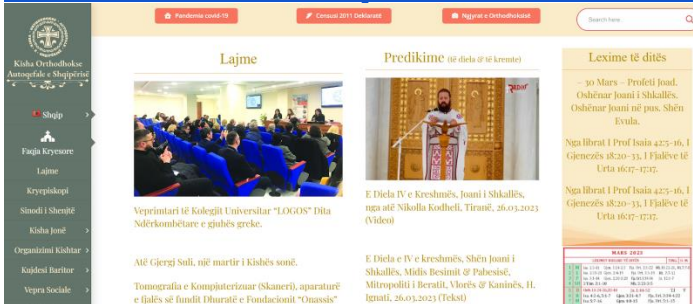
St. Nicholas Albanian Church



St. Nicholas Albanian Church Facebook



Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania Website



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website

