



Issue: April 2015



† From the Bishop's Throne

PASCHAL MESSAGE “Let all then enter into the joy of our Lord.” Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

The Resurrection of our Lord 2000 years ago radically changed the way man understands life. It altered his viewpoint because the fear and power of death are overcome by the death and Resurrection of Christ. He is the first born of the dead for by His death He has trampled down death. This upsetting of the primordial order of life followed by death becomes the cause for an everlasting condition of joy created and granted by Christ the Lord.

Contemporary man seeks joy and blessedness; he wants to be happy and content. He strives to achieve that which he cannot attain by his own genius. Exactly at this juncture in life Christ comes forth from the tomb to invite us to enter His joy. What hope! What confidence! What promise! What a prize! To live and know the joy of Christ Risen from the dead!

May the blessings of Holy Pashka fill your lives and guide you to His joy forevermore. +Bishop Ilia

Mesazh për Pashkë

“Hyni pra të gjithë te gazi i Zotit.” Fjala Pashkale e Shën Joan Gojëartit

Ngjalla e Zotit tonë para 2000 vjetëve ndryshoi radikalisht mënyrën në të cilën njeriu kuptonte jetën. Trasformoi kënvështrimin e tij sepse frika dhe fuqia e vdekjes mposhten nga vdekja dhe ngjalla e Krishtit. Ai është i paralinduri i të vdekurve dhe me anën e vdekjes së Tij ai shkeli vdekjen. Kjo përmbysje e radhitjes se lashtë të jetës, pasuar nga vdekja, behet shkak për një konditë të përjetshme të gëzimit të krijuar dhe të dhuruar nga Zoti Krisht.

Njeriu bashkëkohor kërkon gëzim dhe lumturi; dëshiron të jetë te gëzuar dhe te kënaqur. Përpiqet të arrijë atë që nuk e kap dot me mençurinë e vet. Pikërisht në këtë çast të jetës Krishti del nga varri dhe na fton të hyjmë në gazin e Tij. O shpresë! O vetbindja! O premtim! O çmim! Të jetojmë dhe të njohim Krishtin i ngjallur prej së vdekurish.

Bekimët e Pashkës le të mbushin jetën tuaj dhe tju udhezojnë në gazin e Tij përgjithmonë. Krishti u ngjall!

Pastoral Thought for the Week

Anger

People today, and especially young people, are very angry. They live for material and bodily pleasures, ostentation and for mutual envy. They distort their nature and then, when they cannot satisfy their desires, they become disappointed, bewildered and despondent. They defuse their anger and disappointment in many and various ways: they are self-destructive; they get intoxicated and benumbed; they either become authoritarian or destructive, or they become anarchists, terrorists or murderers. St. John Climacus tells us that “anger” means to constantly preserve hatred within your self; to take revenge on the one that exasperated you. (8:5) The mothers of anger are vainglory, love of money, greed,

and sometimes lust. The father which gives birth to anger is conceit, while the daughters of anger are remembrance of wrongs, hatred, enmity, self-justification and hatred (8:31).

Since all of the above predominate, it is not strange that anger reigns within us today. This is one of the reasons why so many remain discontent with the Church and cannot take pleasure in the joy and peace which is given by the Holy Spirit. “If the Holy Spirit is called “peace of soul”, as He is said to be, and as He is in reality, and if anger is disturbance of heart, as it actually is and as it is said to be, then nothing more prevents His presence in us as anger” (8:14).

The way which we should deal with other’s anger and our own is by obtaining meekness: “for our soul to remain motionless and tranquil, remaining unaffected whether in evil report or in good report, in dishonor or in praise” (8:3). The beginning of “non-angriness” is to remain in silence, even though our soul and heart are in turmoil (8:4). St. John also recommends that we remember the anger Christ received which climaxed in Him being crucified.

“The beginning of healing anger is for the afflicted one to recognize the cause for his pain and anguish. Once the cause is found, then we who are afflicted must take the appropriate ointment from God’s care and from our spiritual doctors” (8:30). But here one must be very careful. “If you want, or rather intend, to take a splinter out of another person’s eye, then do not hack at it with a stick instead of a lancet for you will only drive it deeper. And this is a stick—rude speech and rough gestures. And this is a lancet—tempered instruction and patient reprimanding. ‘Reprove,’ says the Apostle, ‘rebuke, exhort’, (2 Tim.4:2) but he did not say ‘beat’. And if this is even required, do it rarely, and but not directly by you (i.e. use the agency of another)” (8:23).

Source: <http://www.pastoralhealth-ep.com>

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES annual Pan Orthodox Grand Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 30, at Café La Cave (owned by the Sutter Family) 2777 Mannheim Rd. Des Plains at 6:00 pm. Tickets \$125 per person, reservations by April 17. Proceeds benefit IOCC humanitarian relief work. Go to iocccorg/chicago.

Chicago Pan Orthodox Akathis Hymn

Tuesday, March 31, 7 pm NORTHSIDE-Holy I Protection Serbian Orthodox Monastery "New Gracanica" 35240 W. Grant Ave. Lake Villa, IL (Rt. 45 1 mile south of Rt. 132) SOUTHSIDE- St. Luke OCA Church 10700 S. Kean Ave. Palos Hills, IL. All Orthodox Faithful are invited to attend either service.

IOCC Annual Pan Orthodox Grand Banquet Thursday, April 30, 6 pm reception, 6 pm dinner, Cafe La Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plains, IL 60018. Tickets \$125. For reservations contact Janet Papajani.

Holistic Christian Woman Conference- will be held Saturday, April 18, at the Chicago Yacht Club, 400 East Monroe St. Chicago from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Registration by April 11, \$75 on line at www.theholisticchristianwoman.com. Orthodox professionals speak about nutrition and disease prevention.

Viziton Shën Kollin Kryepiskop Nikoni Të Dielën më 26 Prill Kryepiskop Nikoni i Kryepiskopatës Shqiptare të Bostonit do bashkë meshoj me Episkopin Ilia dhe klerikët të Dioqezes tonë. Eshtë hera e parë që Kryepiskopi Nikoni viziton Kishën e Shën Kollit dhe parashikohet një pjesëmarrje e madhe të besimtarëve në këtë Liturgji historike. Njëkohesisht do mbahet një drekë në sallën e Kishës për nder të Kryepiskopit dhe me rastin e festës të Shën Gjergjit.

Visit of Archbishop Nikon On Sunday, April 26, Archbishop Nikon of the Albanian Archdiocese of Boston will concelebrate the Divine Liturgy in St. Nicholas Church together with Bishop Ilia and clergy of our Diocese. This will mark the first time that he will be with our congregation and many faithful are expected to be in attendance, A Parish luncheon in honor of the Archbishop and to mark the Feast of St. George is being planned.

A Teaching: The enemy of our salvation knows that in this life there does not exist a greater salutary work than the brave lifting of the burdens that others lay on us, and that is why, he tries from hatred, to disturb us. But you however, must with all your strength struggle, so that when they badmouth you, to maintain the peace of your heart. And if you are disturbed do not show it, so in this way you might begin to uproot completely your passions.

Staretz Efstratios of Glinsk



The Rt. Rev. ILIA
Bishop of Philomelion
2015

16 Shkurt

Drejtuar: Zotnis Edi Rama
Kryeminister i Rep. të Shqipërisë
Blv. Dëshmorët e Kombit 1
Tirana, Albania

<http://www.keshilliministrave.al>

Në emër të besimtarëve Orthodhoks Shqiptar të Shteteve të Bashkuara të Amerikes dhe të Kanadas, si dhe personalisht të Episkopit të Dhioqezës Orthodhokse të Amerikes, ju drejtohem juve Zotni Kryeministër duke ju shprehur indinjatën tonë të thellë për veprimin e kryer në rrethimin e Katedrales Orthodhokse në Tiranë.

Ky veprim shkaktoj shqetësim të madh, sepse dëmton imazhin e Atdheut në Amerikë dhe kudo në

botë. Vetkuptohet që ky xhest i njëanshëm i Qeveris cënon parimet e lirisë së besimit dhe zbatimit të tij.

Shpresojmë që Qeverija do ta rishikoj vendimin e saj për ta kthyer Katedralen tonë Orthodhokse në Tiranë në normalitetin e parë.

Me konsideratat tona të sinqerta

+ Episkop Ilia



St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary

SAVE THE DATE- Sunday April 26

ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

St. George Luncheon honoring Archbishop Nikon

SUNDAY, April 26, 2015

Hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary
Immediately following Liturgy in the church hall

Food - Dancing – Fun

Adult - \$10 Children under 12-\$ 5

Dessert Donations Appreciated

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 ritim 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 kesaj kisha 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 cdo muaji!



2015 Memberships

Please send in or drop off your 2015 dues by March 31; dues for current members are \$125 per one person, \$200 for husband and wife. Please note "2015 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 let Olga Titos know. We are also collecting email addresses; please send yours to Olga at olga1214@sbcglobal.net.



† St. Nicholas Choir

Kay Giannos and Maria Barbachi, the choir co-directors, invite you to join our church choir. Singing experience or Albanian language skills are not required. What is required is that you enjoy singing for pleasure and would like to enhance the worship

experience for yourself as well as for the entire congregation. Alto and bass voices are needed. Please come up to the choir loft and give us a try. Everyone is welcome.

Kay Giannos and Maria Barbachi, co-directors te korrit, ju ftojne te merrni pjese ne kete korr. Anetaret mund te jene te te gjitha moshave, burra (kerkojme zerra burrash ne vecanti), dhe gra. Nuk ka nevoje te dini gjuhen shqipe. Eshte me te vertete nje eksperience shpirtore dhe e virtytshme. Per me shume informacion kontaktoni Maria Barbachi cdo kohe pas Liturgjise Hyjnore te dielave. Ne rast se nuk e njihni, ju mund te pyesni Bishop Illia, June ose cdo anetar te keshillit te kishes. Gjithashtu mund ta kontaktoni Marian ne adresen e e-mail: mariapaulet@aol.com.



† Sunday School /Albanian School news Lajme nga Shkolla e se Dieles dhe nga Shkolla Shqip

Students of our Sunday School have already started their Easter Fundraising project. Again this year they are decorating Easter candles that will be sold at the candle stand of our church during Easter week. Anybody who wants to participate or donate please let Sunday school teachers know. *Studentet e Shkolles te se Dieles kane filluar projektin e tyre te Pashkes me qellim per te ngritur fonde per kishen tone. Ata perseri kete vit po zbukurojne qirinj per Pashken. Keta qirinj do te shiten ne kisha gjate javes se Pashkes. Ne rast se deshironi te ndihmoni apo te kontriboni per kete projekt, ju lutemi kontaktoni mesueset e shkolles te se Dieles.*

A message from teachers and parent of Albanian School and Arberia Group

The members of Rozafa Mothers, and parents of Shkolla Shqipe and Grupi Arberia students would like

to thank all of you who celebrated Teachers and International Women's Day with us at the Diplomat West on March 7th. As always, the profits will all be donated to Shkolla Shqipe and Grupi Arberia. This money will be used for projects and materials which are necessary for the children to learn and to grow. What started out as a small group of women celebrating this holiday in a private home has now grown to over 125 women of all ages celebrating in a banquet hall. As a result, the children have gained more support, and we are enjoying the socializing. Thank you for your support and joining in the fun! Already we are looking forward to next year!

Anetaret e Rozafa Mothers si edhe prinder te tjere te femijeve te shkolles shqipe dhe grupi Arberia deshirojne te falenderojne te gjithe pjesemarresit ne festimet e dites se mesuesve dhe ditën internacionale te grave me 7 dhe 8 Mars, e organizuar ne Diplomat West me 7 mars. Si dhe me pare, fondet e ngritura ne kete eveniment do ti perkushtohen shkolles shqipe dhe grupit Arberia. Keto fonde do te perdoren per projekte dhe materiale te nevojshme per keto programe dhe ju japin femijeve me shume nundesit te permiresojne njohurine dhe aftesine e tyre qe ata perfitojne ne keto programe. Ky eveniment filloi si nje festim i thjeshte shoqeror ne ambientet e shtepive, dhe tani eshte rritur ne nje grup me me shume se 125 pjesemarrese te te gjitha moshave qe festojne ne banquet hall. Si rezultat i ketij organizimi te kendshem shoqeror femijet kane perfitur akoma dhe me shume perkrahje. Falenderojme te gjithe pjesemarresit per perkrahjen tuaj si dhe per kenaqesine qe na dhate me prezencen tuaj. Kete tradite do ta vazhdojme edhe ne te ardhmen dhe shpresojme qe vitin tjeter te kemi akoma me shume pjesemarres.





† Prayer list / Lista e lutjes

Please remember these people in your prayers:

Ju lutemi mos harroni të perفشini edhe këta njerëz në lutjet tuaja:

Fr. Philip, Gregory, Lillian, Richard, Perry, Olga, Eva, Kay, Diane, Annie, Ellen, Debra, Helen, John, Tina, Nick, the men and women serving in the military, and those who have no one to pray for them. If you need to request a prayer for yourself or your beloved ones, please contact Mirela Pajcini @ 630-792-1235



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

WEBSITE- Did you know that our church has its own website? <http://stnicholasalbanianchicago.org/> - English

<http://alb.stnicholasalbanianchicago.org/home.htm> - Albanian

Many people are visiting our website. You will find information about the history of our faith, church and our community. You can access the calendar, the Church bulletin, the schedule for all the events organized by the Ladies Auxiliary, Sunday School, Albanian School, and more. Let us know if you have any suggestions to make it better.



NECROLOGY

Theodora Dorothy Wallace of Chicago, reposed in the Lord on March 13. Her funeral was conducted from St. Nicholas Church on March 17. She is survived by three daughters, two sisters and their families. May her memory be eternal.



Schedule of Services

April/Prill 2015

HOLY WEEK AND PASHKA SERVICES SHËRBESAT E JAVËS SË MADHE DHE PASHKËS

	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Evenimenti</i>
April 4 Sat.	Saturday of Righteous Lazarus Devine Liurgy	10 A.M.	<i>Shën Llazari Liturgjia Hynore</i>
April 5 Sun.	Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy-Blessing of Palms	10:30 A.M.	<i>E Diela e Dafinave Liturgjia Hynore</i>
April 8 Wed.	Holy Wednesday- Holy Unction	7:00 P.M.	<i>Efqelia</i>
April 9 Thur.	Vesperal Divine Liturgy Holy Communion* 12 Gospel Readings	8:00 A.M.	<i>Liturgjia Hynore Kungata*</i>
		7:00 P.M.	<i>12 Ungjijtë</i>
April 10 Fri.	Great Hours	8:00 A.M.	<i>Orët e Mëdha</i>
	Renoval from Cross	1:00 P.M.	<i>Zbritja nga Kryqi</i>
	Praises	7:00 P.M.	<i>Epitafia</i>
April 11 Sat.	Vesperal Divine Liturgy	8:00 A.M.	<i>Liturgjia Hynore</i>
	Holy Communion*	10:00 A.M.	<i>Kungata*</i>
	Pannychis	11:00 P.M.	<i>E Tërënates</i>
April 12 Sun	Resurrection Service	12:00 A.M.	<i>Ngjallja</i>
	Divine Liturgy	12:30 A.M.	<i>Liturgjia Hynore</i>
	Vespers	10:30 A.M.	<i>Mbrëmësorja</i>
April 19 Sun.	St. Thomas Sunday Divine Liturgy	10:30 A.M.	<i>Shën Thomai Liturgjia</i>
April 23 Mon.	St. George Divine Liturgy	10:30 A.M.	<i>Shën Gjergji Liturgjia</i>
April 26 Sun.	Myrrhbearing Women Concebration Hierarchal Divine Liturgy	10:30 A.M.	<i>E Miroprurëseve Meshë</i>
			<i>Peshkopale</i>
Archbishop Nikon and Bishop Ilia			

