



### ***# From the Bishop's Throne***

**Pastoral Outreach** His Grace Bishop Ilia is prepared to visit the faithful who are in hospital, nursing care facility or homebound and to administer Holy Communion. He is available to make home visits to meet parishioners and help build community. Contact him at the priest's office 773-889-6799 or by cell at 775-848-6369.

**Vizit Baritor** Hiresi Ilia eshtë i gatshëm të vizitojë besimtarët që ndodhen në spital, në azil apo në shtëpi të sëmurë. Ai do të sjelle Kungatën e Shenjtë me vehte. Gjithashtu ai eshtë i predispozuar të kryejë vizitat në shtëpi të enoritëve me qellim të forcojë komunitetin. Kontaktoni Episkopin në telefonin e zyres 773-889-6799 ose në cellularin 775-848-6369.

**CHANTERS NEEDED** Anyone interested in serving St. Nicholas Church as a chanter is asked to contact Bishop Ilia at 773-889-6799 or 775-848-6369.

**KËRKOHEN PSALLTË** Kisha Shën Kolli ka nevojë për Psalltë që të këndojnë gjatë shërbimeve kishëtare. Të interesuarit le të kontaktojnë Episkop Ilia 773-889-6799 apo 775-848-6369.

**2015 ORTHODOX MISSION TEAMS** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center has announced the program for 2015 Mission Teams including 3 to Albania. For more information see the poster in the Narthex or go to [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org).

**SISTER VASSA-** This Orthodox nun hosts a popular video podcast on Facebook and You Tube. She will speak at a retreat at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 893 N.

Church St. Elmhurst on Sat. Jan. 3, 2015 starting at 10:30 am until 1:30 pm. Reservations required. Contact Theresa at [tkekatos@hotmail.com](mailto:tkekatos@hotmail.com) or phone 630-834-7010.

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Sister will speak on the subject of Holy Theophany. Everyone is welcome. ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS The College Retreat at Antiochian Village is scheduled for Feb. 27 to Mar. 1, 2015 for information email [chris@antiochianvillage.org](mailto:chris@antiochianvillage.org) or call 724-238-9565 ext 505.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** The following Tuesday evenings at 7 pm Bishop Ilia will conduct an open discussion on the topic "The History of the Orthodox Church" Jan. 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10 and 17. This program is offered to students and adults.

**REGARDING ABORTION** A documentary on abortion entitled "40" will be shown at St. Celestine Roman Catholic Parish at 3020 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Ct. Elmwood Park on Mon. Jan. 12 at 7 pm. The public is invited.

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES** Parishioners are requested to return empty Holy Water bottles to be reused at the services on Jan. 5 and 6. Your cooperation is appreciated because the church pays \$0.46 for each new bottle.

**SHISHET PËR AJAZMË** Kërkohet që besimtaret të rikthejnë në Kishë shishet të vogla të Ajazmës që të ripërdoren më 5 dhe 6 Janar. Një shishe e re i koston kishës \$0.46. Ju lutemi kini kujdes.

**KALENDARËT** Më 6 Janar Kalendaret kishëtare në gjuhën Shqipe do te shiten për \$12.

**EPIFANIA** festohen më 5 dhe 6 Janar. Besimtaret kreshmojnë më 5 Janar, dhe pinë Ajazmën me 6 Janar. Ajazma e vogël (me 5 Janar) përdoret për bekim shtëpirash dhe ruhet në shtëpi së bashku me konismat. Ajazma e madhe (me 6 Janar) pihet në Kishë dhe qendron në Kishë për përdorim shejtërimi.

**HOLY WATER** The Minor blessing of water is done on Jan. 5, a day observed by keeping a strict fast. This Holy Water is used for blessing and a small bottle is kept at home at the icon shelf. The Major blessing of water (Jan. 6) is drunk after keeping the fast of Jan. 5. The Holy Water of the Major blessing is kept in Church and used for sanctification. Services on both days will begin in St. Nicholas Church at 10:30 am.

**+Episkop Ilia**



### **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](mailto:olga1214@sbcglobal.net).



### **St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary**

December celebrations were great! Our St. Nicholas dinner was delicious and very enjoyable. We thank all those that worked so hard to make it such a success....from the special prayers, to the meal, to the entertainment, to the memories and lots of friendship. Special thanks to all the ladies who were able to help with making the bureks on December 4, and baking and serving them. They were: Kay Gianos, Valentina Atnikolla, Vasilika Damo, Nina Iskali, Ana Iskali, Vasilika Kamenica, Anila Kamenica, Anjeza Kamenica, June Milailofski, Kasiani Pajcini, Mirela Pajcini, Nina Papadami, Diane Pero, Mimoza Shamata, Mimoza Shkira, Meri Starovas, Helen Shomos, Olga Titos, Berta Trajani, Aferdita Xeka, Katerina Xeka, Valentina Xhemo, and Connie Zika.

These celebrations are a testimony of the great values, virtues and strength of our great community. In the meantime we also remember our duties and responsibilities.

*Festimet e Dhjetorit ishin shume entuziaste! Darka e Shen Kollit ishte e mrekullueshme. Falenderojme te gjithe ata qe kontribuan me sa kishin mundesi per ta bere kete nate te suksesshme... duke perfshire ketu lutjet, ushqimin,*

argetimin, kujtimet kuptimplotese si dhe shume miqesi dhe dashamiresi.

Falenderojme ne vecanti te gjitha grata qe paten mundesi te ndihmonin me berjen e byrekeve, pjekjen dhe servirjen gjate festimeve te Shen Kollit. Ato ishin: Kay Ganos, Valentina Atnikolla, Vasilika Damo, Nina Iskali, Ana Iskali, Vasilika Kamenica, Anila Kamenica, Anjeza Kamenica, June Milailofski, Kasiani Pajcini, Mirela Pajcini, Nina Papadami, Diane Pero, Mimoza Shamata, Mimoza Shkira, Meri Starovas, Helen Shomos, Olga Titos, Berta Trajani, Aferdita Xeka, Katerina Xeka, Valentina Xhemo, and Connie Zika.

**Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!**  
**Gezuar Krishendjet & Vitin e Ri!**

### **New Confidential Online Survey**

The Ladies Auxiliary is asking you to give your feedback and evaluate your experience at the annual Shen Kolli Dinner Dance held on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Please go to [stnicholasalbanianchicago.org](http://stnicholasalbanianchicago.org) and fill out the evaluation form. The link is located at the bottom of the home page. It will only take about 5 minutes to complete. Your opinion and suggestions are needed and welcome. You will have until midnight, January 31 to complete the survey. If you prefer not to take the survey via this link, hard copies of the survey, in both English and Albanian, will be available at the church candle stand. Please return the completed hard copy survey to the church by the deadline date. The responses from this survey will be used to plan future St. Nicholas church functions and events. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Ladies Auxiliary kerkon qe ju te jepni mendimin tuaj per mbremjen qe u zhvillua me rastin e Shen Kollit me 7 dhjetor. Ju lutemi vizitonit website [stnicholasalbanianchicago.org](http://stnicholasalbanianchicago.org), dhe plotesonit pyetesorin per kete eveniment. Linkun perkates do ta gjeni ne pjesen e poshtme te faqes kryesore. Do tu marre jo me shume se 5 minuta. Mendimet dhe sygjerimet tuaja jane shume te vlefshme per te ardhmen. Pyetesorin mund ta mbushni brenda dates 31 janar, deri ne mesnate. Po te preferoni ta mbushni pyetesorin ne leter, mund ta beni kete ne Shqip apo dhe ne Anglisht, formularet mund t'i kerkoni ne kishe. Ju falenderojme perseri per mendimet dhe sygjerimet tuaja

per te permiresuar evenimentet e ardhshme te kishes sone.

### **Christmas Toy Drive**

A huge thank you to those who donated much needed toys for deserving boys and girls! Your donations supplemented any toys received by the US Marines' Toys For Tots Initiative. The toys were distributed on Wednesday, December 17 to some very happy kids. For some this was the only gift they received this Christmas. This was our first Ladies Auxiliary sponsored parish-wide toy drive. We hope to make this a yearly event to benefit neighborhood children served by the Irving Park Community Food Pantry with whom we have partnered with this year on various drives. We hope to continue this charitable giving partnership with them well into the future.



### **t 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 korri. 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 shpirterore 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 Ilia, June ose cdo anetar te keshillit te kishes. Gjithashtu mund ta kontaktoni Marian ne adresen e e-mail: [mariapaulet@aol.com](mailto:mariapaulet@aol.com).

### **Choir Christmas Program**

On Sunday, December 21, 2014 our St. Nicholas choir, assisted by the Sunday School children, performed a

beautiful Christmas Program which was enjoyed by all who were in attendance. The children, dressed as angels and shepherds, joined the choir upstairs in the loft to sing Christmas carols then made their way to the front of the church where they lead the congregation in singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Plans are already under way for a bigger production next Christmas. Watch for future announcements in our monthly bulletin and our website regarding this program.



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

Sunday School starts at 10:30. Please consider having your child or grandchild join us and learn more about God's Word. Albanian School starts at 12 noon.

Mark your calendars:

January 11th - Registrations open for Second Semester for Shkolla Shqipe and Grupi Arberia. Emails will be sent out to parents with the registration packages separately for Shkolla Shqipe and Grupi Arberia.

January 18th - the last classes of First Semester for Shkolla Shqipe and Grupi Arberia

January 25th - the first class of Second Semester for Shkolla Shqipe

February 1st - the first class of Second Semester for Grupi Arberia

Shkolla e së dielës fillon më 10:30. Kondiseroni të regjistroni fëmijen, nipin apo mbesën tuaj në këtë shkollë për të mësuar më shumë përfjalën e Zotit. Shkolla shqip fillon më 12 p.m.

Shenoni kalendaret tuaj:

11 Janar- Fillon regjistrimi per simestrin e dyte te shkolles Shqipe dhe per Grupin Arberia. Prinderve do tu dergohet e-mail me paketat e regjistrimit te vecanta per shkollen Shqipe dhe per grupin Arberia.

18 Janar- Dita e fundit e simestrit te pare per shkollen Shqipe dhe per grupin Arberia

25 Janar- Dita e pare e simestrit te dyte te shkolles Shqipe  
1 Shkurt- Dita e pare e simestrit te dyte per grupin Arberia



## † Main Feast Days of the Month- 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 flujimet, sikurse I kërkonte Ligji. Prandaj, dypet ditë mbas Krishtlindjes Kisha kremon, më 2 Shkurt, Paraqitjen e Zotit në Tempull (Ipapandinë). Pritja e Krishtit nga plaku Simeon dhe profetesha 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 Shenjtë, se nuk do ta shikonte vdekjen përpara se të shikonte Zotin Krisht”(Lluka 2:26) dhe, i frysmezuar prej të njëjtit Shpirt, ai erdhi në Tempull, ku përhasi Mesian e porsalindur, e mori në krahët e tij dhe tha fjalët, që tani thuhen 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 (Lluka 22: 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).

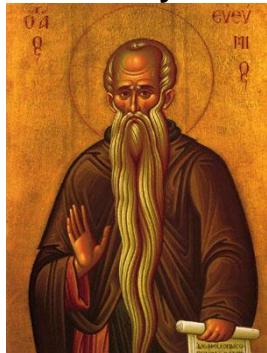
Në shërbesën e festës së Përhasjes së Zotit, theksohet fakti që Krishti, Biri dhe Fjala e Perëndisë, me anë të të cilit u krijua bota, tani po mbahet si fëmijë në duart e Simeonit; i njëjtë Bir i Perëndisë, Dhënësi i Ligjit, tani ai vetë po përm bush Ligjin, i mbajtur në krahë si një foshnje. Kremlimi i Përhasjes së Zotit, nga Kisha, nuk është thjesht një përkujtim historik. Të frymëzuar nga i njëjtë Shpirt i Shenjtë, si Simeoni dhe të udhëhequr po nga i njëjtë 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 hirplate, Hylli-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 Shpërbljenjësin 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 shpëtovë me anë të dashurisë. Falu paqe të gjithë të krishterëve orthodhoksë, o i vetmi Njeridashës. (Shkurtorja)

Burimi: <http://orthodoxalbania.org>

### Righteous Euthymius the Great January 20



This Saint, who was from Melitene in Armenia, was the son of pious parents named Paul and Dionysia. He was born about 377. Since his mother had been barren, he was named Euthymius—which means “good cheer” or “joy”—for this is what his parents experienced at his birth. He studied

under Eutroius, the Bishop of Melitene, by whom he was ordained and entrusted with the care of the monasteries of Melitene. Then, after he had come to Palestine about the year 406, he became the leader of a multitude of monks. Through him, a great tribe of Arabs was turned to piety, when he healed the ailing son of their leader Aspebetos. Aspebetos was baptized with all his people; he took the Christian name of Peter, and was later consecrated Bishop for his tribe, being called “Bishop of the Tents.” Saint Euthymius also fought against the Nestorians, Eutychians, and Manichaeans. When Eudocia, the widow of Saint Theodosius the Younger, had made her dwelling in Palestine, and had fallen into the heresy of the Monophysites which was championed in Palestine by a certain Theodosius, she sent envoys to Saint Symeon the Stylite in Syria (see Sept. 1), asking him his opinion of Eutyches and the Council of Chalcedon which had condemned him; Saint Symeon, praising the holiness and Orthodoxy of Saint Euthymius near whom she dwelt, sent her to him to be delivered from her error (the holy Empress Eudocia is commemorated Aug. 13). He became the divine oracle of the Church, or rather, “the vessel of divine utterance,” as a certain historian writes. He was the instructor and elder of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified. Having lived for ninety-six years, he reposed in 473, on January 20.

Apolytikion of Euthymius the Great in the Fourth Tone  
Be glad, O barren one, that hast not given birth; be of good cheer, thou that hast not travailed; for a man of desires hath multiplied thy children of the Spirit, having planted them in piety and reared them in continence to the perfection of the virtues. By his prayers, O Christ our God, make our life peaceful.

Kontakion of Euthymius the Great in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Creation found delight and joy in thine august nativity and the good cheer of thy numberless miracles on thy divine memorial. Now bestow thereof richly on our souls and wash clean the stains of our every sin, Euthymius most righteous, that we may chant: Alleluia!

Source: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



### ***† Prayer list / Lista e lutje***

Please remember these people in your prayers:

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

Fr. Philip, Gregory, Lillian, Richard, Perry, Olga, Eva, Kay, Diane, Annie, Ellen, Debra, Helen, John, Tina 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

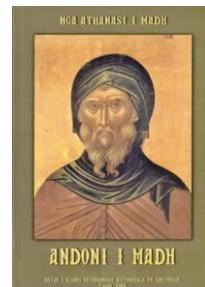
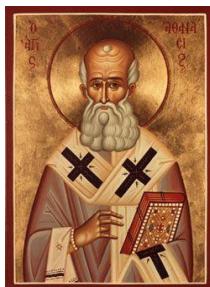
### ***† Notices/Njoftime***

#### **St. Nicholas Church Bookstore** - Visit the St.

Nicholas Church bookstore in the hall near the coffee area. We have many books in Albanian and English. There are icons, books, magnets, books for adults and children. We now have Bibles in the Albanian language.

This time we are also offering new DVD's in both languages as well as more books about saints-in Albanian, religious faced note cards, and small icons.

*Libraria e Kishës së Shën Kollit- Viziton librarinë e Kishës së Shën Kollit në hollin e kishës pranë qendrës së kafesë. Kemi libra ne të dyja gjuhët, Shqip dhe Anglisht. Gjithashtu aty do të gjeni ikona, libra, dhe asortimente të tjera për të ritur dhe përfëmije. Tani ne kemi edhe Biblën në gjuhën Shqipe. Vizitojeni këtë librari dhe do të gjeni mjaft asortimente që mund ti përdorni si dhurata për njerëzit e familjes dhe të afërmit tuaj.*



### ***† SCHEDULE of SERVICES†***

January 2015/ Janar 2015

**Divine Liturgy Liturgjia Hynore 10:30 am**

**Thu. Jan. 1,** Circumsicion of Jesus, St. Basil  
Rrethprerja e Zotit, Shën Vasili  
Liturgy 10:30

**Sun. Jan. 4,** Before Epiphany Liturgy 10:30 am  
Para Epifanisë

**Mon. Jan. 5,** Forefeast, Minor blessing of Water  
Liturgy 10:30 am (Day of Fasting)  
Vigjilja e Epifanise Ajazmë e Vogël

**Tue. Jan. 6,** Epiphany Major blessing of Water  
Liturgy 10:30  
Ajazmë e Madhe Ujtit të Bekuar

**Wed. Jan 7,** Synaxis of St. John the Baptist  
No Liturgy  
Mbledhja e Shën Joanit Pagëzorit

**Sun. Jan. 11,** After Epiphany Liturgy 10:30 am  
Pas Epifanisë

**Sat. Jan 17,** St. Anthony Liturgy 10:30 am  
Shën Andoni

**Sun. Jan. 18,** St. Athanasios Liturgy 10:30 am  
Shën Athanasi

**Tue. Jan. 20,** St. Euthymios No Liturgy  
Shën Efthimi

**Sun. Jan. 25,** St. Gregory the Theologian  
Liturgy 10:30 am  
Shën Grigori Theologu

**Fri. Jan. 30,** Three Hierarchs Liturgy 10:30 am  
Tre Hierarkët- Vasili, Grigori dhe Joani