



Issue: November 2015



† A Message from Father Kostandin

Mirenjohja eshte virtyt

U bene dy muaj qe nga ardhja ime ne komunitetin orthodoks te kishes se Shen Nikollit ne Chikago dhe e ndjej ne detyrimi te shkruaj dy rreshta per ju te dashur besintare te mi. Dua te them qe iu jam mirenjohes te gjitheve, pa permenduar emra te vecanta, per bujarine, mikpritjen dhe kujdesin e treguar ndaj meje dhe familjes time qe nga dita e pare e mberritjes tone ne kete komunitet. Dua te shpreh mirenjohjen e thelle dhe thjesht dua tu them te gjitheve FALEMINDERIT! Jemi ne prag te fillimit te kreshmeve te Krishtlindjes dhe dua tu them te gjitheve kreshme te mbara dhe te bekuara dhe bekimet e Zotit tone lusu Krisht te vine mbi ju te gjithe ne familjet tuaja. Le te jemi te gjithe bashke ne lutjen e kishes dhe ne falenderimin per dhuratat te miresise e te dashurise se Perendise Triadike.

Besintare te dashur te komunitetit te kishes se Shen Nikollese ju shpreh dhe nje here mirenjohjen time te thelle dhe ju ftoj te gjitheve ne mirenjohjen e perbashket ndaj Perendise

*Zoti ju bekoftte te gjitheve!
Me dashuri ne Zotin tone lusu Krisht,
†At Kostandini*

Gratitude is a Virtue

Two months have gone by since my arrival here in Chicago, and becoming part of Saint Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude, and share with you all, my beloved worshippers, that I greatly appreciate and I am thankful for the warm welcoming, as well as for the great care you took of my family and me from the moment we came. I cannot find words to express my gratitude; I will simply want to tell you all, THANK YOU!

As we are approaching Nativity fast period, I wish you all blessed and easy fasting. May all the blessings of our God and Jesus Christ be with you and your families! Let us all be together as we pray, and as we wholeheartedly accept all the gifts of blessings, love and care from our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As I am expressing my great appreciation and gratitude to the community of Saint Nicholas Church, I invite you all to be grateful and beholden to our God. May God bless you all!

With great love for our God

†Father Kostandin



FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS The Great Vespers for St. Nicholas will be celebrated on Sat. Dec. 5, at 7 pm. On Sun. Dec. 6, the Divine Liturgy is at 10:00 am. Join in this spiritual rejoicing honoring our feast day of St. Nicholas.

FESTA E SHËN KOLLIT Mbremësorja e Shën Kollit do të festohet të Shtune, me 5 Dhjetor, ne orën 7 P.M. dhe Liturgjia do te zhvillohet më 6 Dhjetor në orën 10:00 A.M. Merrni pjesë të gjithë në këtë gjëzim shpirtëror.

NATIVITY FAST PERIOD The Orthodox Christian practice of fasting is designed to be a spiritual discipline. By fasting from foods, that is not eating

certain foods such as animal products and of course eating less, we are willingly putting a limit on ourselves and our appetite. The result is that we become very conscience of our physical state which transfers to our spiritual condition. In other words our body helps to sharpen our spiritual senses. We are able to show self-control, first by being aware of what and how much we eat and then we are vigilant in our self-control as to what we think, say and do.

In anticipation of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Church ordains a 40 days fast period from November 15 to December 24. We use this time period to pray, to think about our existence, to make corrections in our behavior and to make our life Christ centered. Let us pray to God to grant us a worthy Advent, to help us make changes in ourselves and to prepare us to receive the Christ child in humility, praise and thanksgiving.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, **December 6, 2015**- our annual Shen Kolli Dinner Dance. This year the Shen Koli dinner dance will be at the Venuti's in Addison, IL. Please help support your church by attending this gala event.

*Ruajeni kete date: **6 Dhjetor 2015**, e diele-Darka Vjetore e Shen Kollit.*

Sunday, **December 13, 2015** – Annual General Assembly and Saint Nicholas Parish Council elections

*Te diele me **13 Dhjetor 2015** do te zhvillohet mbjedhja vjetore e Asamblese se Pergjithshme te Kishes si dhe zgjedhjet per Keshillin e Kishes se Shen Kollit.*

Watch for more details as the events approach.
Do te kete me shume informacion per keto evenimente ne te ardhmen.





† 2015 Membership

Nxisim tē gjithë bashkëbesimtarët e Kishës Shqipetare Orthodoxe to Shen Kollit tē rinojnjë anëtarësimin e tyre në kishë për vitin e tanishëm. Mirëpresim gjithashtu tē gjithë besimtarët e rinj që nuk kanë qenë më parë anëtarë, tē anëtarësohen në Kishën e Shen Kollit. Së bashku ne do tē do tē japim ndihmën tonë në ngritjen e një komuniteti tē fortë dhe besimtar.

We encourage all parishioners of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church to renew their membership for the current year. And we welcome all new parishioners to become members of the church. Together we will help to build a strong and faithful community.

Please send in or drop off your 2015 dues; 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 anymore.



† St. Nicholas Choir

New members are always welcome. We are in dire need of altos and bases which will help enrich and bring out the fullness of our tone. If you are interested in joining the choir but not sure you want to make a commitment, please talk to Kay Giannos or Maria Barbachi to arrange a trial period. After the trial period is over you can make a decision as to whether you would like to continue on as a choir member. Please consider joining the choir. You will find it to be a spiritually rewarding experience.



† Ladies Auxiliaries News†

SAVE THE DATE!

†December 4 – Friday

- The ladies of our parish will once again be making bureks for Esperinon which begins 9:00 am in the Church hall. Call Kay Giannos for more information if needed.

Gratë dhe vajzat e kishës sonë do tē bëjnë përsëri byrekët per Esperin. Jeni tē ftuara te vini dhe te merrni pjesë në përgatitjen e byrekëve që fillon më 9:00 A.M. në hollin e Kishës. Kontaktoni Kay Giannos ne rast se keni nevoje per me shume informacion

†December 5 – Saturday

- We need volunteers for the baking and slicing of the bureks. Following evening vespers, we will be serving the bureks along with coffee and pastries.

Kemi nevojë për ndihmë për pjekjen dhe prerjen e byrekëve. Po atë mbremje ne do tē shërbejmë byrekët së bashku me kafenë dhe ëmbëlsirat.

†December 6 – Sunday

- Vespers begin at 10:00 a.m. and we will be needing volunteers to serve the bureks and pastries following vespers

Vespers fillon më 10:30 A.M.dhe ne do te kemi nevojë për njerëz që tē servirin byrek dhe ëmbëlsira pas meshës.

†December 6. – Sunday

- Our annual Shen Koli Dinner Dance. Dinner, dancing to live music

Mremja Vjetore e Shën Kollit! Darkë, vallëzim, muzikë live.

Watch for more details as the events approach.

Do te kete me shume informacion per keto evenimente ne te ardhmen.

† Ladies, join us the first Sunday of the Month for our meetings following Liturgy in the church hall. The dues are \$10.00 for the entire year.

Bejuni anetare e Ladies Auxiliaries dhe ju ftojme te vini ne mbledhjet tonë te dielen e pare te cdo muaji ne hollin e kishes, pas Liturgjise Hyjnore. Anetaresia koston \$10.00 ne vit.

† Part of the function of the Ladies Auxiliary is to promote fellowship within our community by sponsoring various activities throughout the year. These activities bring our community together socially and to raise needed money to keep our church operational. The other part is to provide aid, assistance and support to those in need whereby part of the funds raised from these yearly functions go toward charitable giving.

The current charitable giving projects the Ladies Auxiliary just completed were the collection of school supplies to help neighborhood children. The members of the Ladies Auxiliary and other members each generously donated school supplies for this purpose. The supplies were taken to the Irving Park Food Pantry for distribution to children in need. We also participated in the 2015 Foster Children Christmas Gift drive, a program we have been a part of for the last three years. 10 foster kids received bags with items they wished for, generously donated by members of our church and our community. The coat drive was as successful as the other projects, this year we were able to collect 18 coats that were distributed by Irving Park Food Pantry to kids in need.

Our next project is initiated by Irving Park Food Pantry as well. We are collecting new toys that will be distributed to kids in need. Toy donations will be accepted at the St. Nicholas church hall through

Sunday, December 6. Place new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages newborn to 12 years old in the decorated drop box. Please avoid donating toys of violence (guns, etc.). The pantry is also in need of stocking stuffers for children of all ages along with new or gently used books. Financial donations are accepted and will be used to purchase needed items. Checks should be made out to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry with "toy donation" in the memo. Toys will be distributed at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 16 benefitting neighborhood children in need. They expect to serve over 400 children this year. For some it will be the only gift they receive. Thank you in advance for your generous donations. May God Bless You!

Nje nga detyrat e Ladies Auxiliary eshte konsolidimi i maredhenieve me komunitetin duke sponzorizuar aktivitete te ndryshme gjate viti. Keto aktivitete forcojne mardheniet me komunitetin tone dhe gjithashtu ndihmojne kishen tone me fonde te nevojitura per mbarevajtjen e saj. Keto aktivitete kane per qellim asistencen dhe suportin per ata qe kane nevoje. Projekti i fundit i Ladies Auxiliary ishte mbledhja e pajisjeve shkollore per te ndihmuar femijet e komunitetit perreth kishes sone. Anetaret e Ladies Auxiliary dhuruan pajisje shkollore per kete qellim. Keto pajisje u derguan ne Irving Park Food Pantry per tu shperndare femijeve qe kishin nevoje. Ata ishin shume mirenjohes kur morren dhuratat nga kasha jone. Ne gjithashtu morrem pjesa ne projektin 2015 Foster Children Christmas Gift drive, program ne te cilin ne kemi marre pjesa tre vitet e fundit. Ky program ndihmon femije ne kujdesin "foster", duke ju perm bushur deshira per gjera esenciale qe ju nevojiten, ne shumicen e rasteve rroba. 10 femije morren canta me gjera te cilat ata i kishin kerkuar qe u dhuruan nga anetare te kishes dhe te komunitetit

tone. Po kaq i sukseshem ishte dhe projekti per grumbullimin e palltove te dimrit per femijet dhe familjet ne novoje, program i organizuar gjithashtu nga Irving Park Food Pantry. Kete vit ne mblo dhem 18 pallto dhe xhaketa qe do tu jepen femijeve ne komunitet, familjet e te cilave nuk kane mundesi financiare.

Projekti i ardhshem per te ndihmuar komunitetitn eshte Christmas Toy Drive, "Be an Angel". Do te mbledhim lodra per Krishtlindjet qe do tu jepen femijeve ne nevoje nepermjet Irving Park Food Pantry. Pranojme lodra per femije ne hollin e Kishes se Shen Kollit deri te Diele, me 6 dhjetor. Vendosini lodrat e reja dhe te pa mbeshtjella per femije te moshes te posa lindur-12 vjet tek kutia e zbuluar ne hollin e kishes. Ju lutemi eviton lodra violence (revole, etj). Kemi gjithashtu nevoje per gjera per te mbushur "corapen" e Krishtlindjes per te gjitha moshat. Pranojme gjithashtu donacione financiare te cilat do te perdoren per te blere gjera qe nevojiten per kete qellim. Ceqet duhet te shkruhen per Park Community Food Pantry dhe ne "memo" shenoni "toy donation". Lodrat do te ndahen tek femijet qe kane nevoje nepermjet Irving Park Community Food Pantry, te merkure me 16 dhjetor. Mendohet qe kete vit te kete reth 400 femije qe do te kene nevoje dhe do te kene mundesi te marrin dicca per Krishtlindje. Per disa kjo do te jete e vjetmja dhurate per Krishtlindje. Ju falanderojme perzemersisht per bujarine tuaj. Zoti ju bekoftë!



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

Please consider having your child or grandchild join us and learn more about God's Word.

Konsideroni te regjistroni femijen, nipi apo mbesen tuaj ne kete program per te mesuar me shume per Fjalen e Zotit.



Pastoral Visitations- His Grace Father Kostandin 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 774-417-4714.

Vizite Baritor- Hiresia e Tij, At Kostandini eshtë i gatshëm të vizitojë besimtarët që ndodhen të sëmurë në spital, në azil apo në shtëpië e tyre. Ai do të sjelle Kungatën e Shenjtë me vehte. Gjithashtu ai eshtë i predispozuar të kryejë vizitat në shtëpi të enoritëve me qellim që të forcojë akoma më shumë komunitetin tonë. Kontaktoni Episkopin në telefonin e zyres 773-889-6799 ose në celularin 774-417-4714.



† Prayer list / Lista e lutjes

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, Debra, Helen, John, Tina, Linda, Will, 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



† CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with Wine.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 (OT)

Stewardship and contribution in the Church involves giving the first fruits of our time, our work, our talents, and our resources to the glory of God. This is not only our duty as Orthodox Christians, but gives us opportunity to thank God for the blessings He has given to us all. It gives us joy and fulfillment. Give to God what is right - not what is left. God looks at the heart, not the hand - the giver, not the gift. Many thanks to all the members and everyone who donates to Saint Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

† KONTRIBUTI NË KISHË

“Ndero Zotin me pasurinë tënde dhe me prodhimet e para të çdo të ardhure që ke; atëherë hambarët e tu të grurit do të jenë plot e përplot dhe vozat e tua do të gufojnë me verë.” Fjalët e Urta 3:9-10- Dhurimi dhe kontributi në Kishë është dhënia e fryteve të para të kohës sonë, punës tonë, aftësive tona, dhe burimeve tona për Lavdi të Perëndisë. Kjo nuk është vetëm detyra jonë si besimtarë të Krishterë Orthodhoksë, por na jep mundësinë të falenderojmë Perëndinë për bekimin që na ka dhënë të gjithë gjithëve ne. Kjo na jep gjëzimin dhe përbushjen shpirtërore

Jepini Perëndisë atë qe është e drejtë – jo atë qe mbetet. Zoti shikon zemrën dhe jo dorën – dhuruesin dhe jo dhuratën. Falenderojmëtë gjithë anëtarët dhe dhuruesit e Kishës së Shën Kollit.



Schedule of Services

November 2015/Nentor 2015

Divine Liturgy / Liturgjia Hynore 10:00 am

Sun. Nov. 1 5th Reading in Luke 16:19-31 Martyr

Akindynos

V e Llukait Dëshmor Akindini

Sun. Nov. 8 Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and

Gabriel - Church is open/kisha hapur

Mbledhja e Kryeengjejt Mihail e Gavril

7th Reading in Luke 8:41-56

VII e Llukait

Mon. Nov. 9 Saint Nectarios/Shën Nektari

Wed. Nov. 11 Veterans Day- a remembrance of

those who have fallen defending the US
Dita e Veteranave

Sat. Nov. 14 Apostle Philip/ Apostull Filipi

Sun. Nov. 15 Nativity Fast Begins

Fillon Kreshma e Krishtlindjes

Evangelist Matthew 9:9-13

Ungjillor Mateu

Sat. Nov 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the

Temple/ Hyrja në Tempull e Hylindëses

Sun. Nov. 22 9th Reading in Luke 12:16-21 St.

Amphilochios

IX e Llukait Shën Amfiloku

Wed. Nov. 25 St. Katherine/ Shën Ekaterina

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Ka Liturgji

Thurs. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day

Dita e Falenderimit

Sat. Nov. 28 Albanian Flag Day Dita e Flamurit

Sun. Nov. 29 Apostle Andrew Jn. 1:36-52

Apostull Andrea

Doxology for Albanian Independence Day

Doksologji për Ditën e Pavarësisë

