



Issue: October 2015



†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

Kisha është Trupi i Krishtit

“...kudo që dy a tre janë bashkuar në emrin tim, unë jam në mes të tyre...” (Mateu 18:20)

*“...Udhëtari në Rrugën drejt Perëndisë është në radhë të parë anëtar i Kishës. Udhëtimi ndërmerret në shoqëri me të tjerët dhe jo në izolim.” (Episkop Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*)*

“Asnjë nuk shpëtohet i vetëm. Ai që shpëtohet, shpëtohet në Kishë, si një anëtar i saj dhe i bashkuar me të gjithë anëtarët e tjerë të saj.” (Alexei Khomiakov)

“Injoranca dhe mëkati janë karakteristika të individëve të izoluar. këto defekte mposhten vetëm në unitetin e Kishës. Njeriu e gjen veten e tij të vërtetë vetëm në Kishë; jo në pafuqinë që sjell izolimi shpirtëror, por në forcën e kungimit me vëllezërit e tij dhe me Shpëtimtarin e tij.” (At Alexander Yelchaninov)

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

Church is the body of Christ

“...For were two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

“First, it is presupposed that the traveler on the Way is a *member of the Church*. The journey is undertaken in fellowship with others, not in isolation. (Bishop Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*)

“No one is saved alone. He who is saved is saved in *the Church*, as a member of her and in union with all her other members.” (Alexei Khomiakov)

“Ignorance and sin are characteristic of isolated individuals. Only in the unity of *the Church* do we find these defects overcome. Man finds his true self in *the Church* alone; not in the helplessness of spiritual isolation but in the strength of his communion with his brothers and his *Saviour*.” (Fr. Alexander Yelchaninov)

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.

Anetaret e rinj jane gjithmone te mirepritur ne korrin tone. Kemi shume nevoje per alto dhe per bas, gje qe ndihmon me plotesimin e tonit. Ne rast se jeni te interesuar te beheni anetare te korrit, por nuk dini ne rast se e beni dot apo jo ose dhe ne rast se nuk doni ta beni ate cdo te diele, ju lutemi bisedoni me Kay Giannos dhe Maria Barbachi per ta provuar ne fillim. Pasi ta provoni ju mund te vendosni ne rast se deshironi te beheni anetar i korrit apo jo. Ju lutemi konsideroni te beheni pjese e ketij korri. Do te shikoni qe eshte nje eksperience shpirtore shume e pasur.



† Ladies Auxiliaries News †

† 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 tona te dielen e pare te cdo muaji ne hollin e kishes, pas Liturgjise Hyjnore. Anetaresia koston \$10.00 ne vit.



†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.

Gratë dhe vajzat e kishës sonë do të bëjnë përsëri byrekët per Esperin. Jeni të ftuara te vini dhe te merrni pjesë në përgatitjen e byrekëve që fillon më 9:00 A.M. në hollin e Kishës.

†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 të shërbejmë byrekët së bashku me kafënë 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 të 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.



† 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. Albanian School started on September 13. "Grupi Arberia" dancing classes also started on September 14.

Konsideroni te regjistroni femijen, nipin apo mbesen tuaj ne kete program per te mesuar me shume per Fjalën e Zotit. Shkolla Shqipe filloi dhe Grupi Arberia filluan klasat me 13 shtator.

A group of performers from our Grupi Arberia, current and past students, are performing at the International Dance Day that is taking place on October 11 at Northern Eastern Illinois University. This is becoming a great tradition of our community representing Albanian culture in an International event. We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to all our students, parents, and Grupi Arberia teachers who are contributing time and effort to keep this tradition going.

Nje grup studentesh, ish- pjesemarres te Grupit Arberia si dhe studente qe marrin pjese ne kete program kete vit, do te perfaqesojne komunitetin tone si dhe traditat dhe kulturen Shqiptare ne Diten Internacionale te Valles qe organizohet ne Northern Eastern Illinois University me 11 Tetor. Jemi mirenjohes per te gjithë femijet, prinderit e tyre si dhe per instruktoret e Grupit Arberia qe me devotshmerine e tyre po mbajne gjalle nje tradite shume kuptimplotë per komunitetin tone.



Life of the Month's Saints and Main Events



Shën Joan Kukuzeli
(1 tetor)

Lindi në Durrës, rreth 1270, sipas të dhënave më të fundit. Nënshkruhet dhe Papadhopoulos, pra do të ketë qenë djalë prifti (papa = prift). Nëna e tij shpresëtare e dërgoi në shkollë në Konsta-ndinopojë, ku u tregua “mjeshtër”, mësonjës i muzikës dhe drejtues i korit të pallatit mbretëror.

Meqë perandori, i cili e donte shumë, do ta martonte me një vajzë arkondi, ikën fshehurazi në Lavra, duke bërë në mënyrë inteligjente çobanin. Një herë, kur kulloste dhinë në një vend të shkretëtë, filloi të psalte. Por një murg që rrinte në shpellë pa u parë, u magjeps nga melodia, doli dhe pa kafshët që nuk kullotnin, por shijonin të magjepsura! Ky ishte oshënari i kërkuar kudo! Mbreti u përlot sapo e mori vesh nga igumeni, i cili shkoi dhe iu lut që të mos e shqetësonte murgun, kështu që nuk e ngacmoi.

Më vonë u ushtrua në një qeli (manastir i vogël) që ndërtoi jashtë Lavrës, vetëm të dielave dhe për festa vinte brenda.

Në një agripni të madhe të Akathistit psalti i parë zë engjëllor dhe “i hirshëm” dremiti pak, kështu që iu dha dhuratë nga e Tërëshenjtanjë monedhë, të cilën kur u zgjua e mbante vërtet në duart e tij! Por ia ktheu. Domethënë e vari në ikonën e saj, që është e famshme deri më sot. E Tërëshenjta vetë shëroi

këmbën e tij të kalbur nga të qëndruarit drejt në psaltir. Paranjohu fundin e tij. Koka nderohet në manastirin e tij. Sistemoi dhe riformoi melodi më të vjetra të tij, kompozoi tërësi veprash origjinale të famshme, kryesisht “kalofoni të ngadalta mësimesh”, në mënyrën tradicionale. Pothuajse të gjitha u përkthyen në shkrimin muzikor të përdorimit. Gjithashtu kompozoi metoda të psaluri dhe himne. (Nga libri “Nga thesari i shenjtoreve”)

Burimi: <http://orthodoxalbania.org>



October 14

**The Holy Fathers of
the Seventh
Ecumenical
Council**

The Seventh Ecumenical Council took place in Nicea in 787 AD, and is also known as the Second Council of Nicea. The last of the seven Ecumenical Councils dealt with the icons.

The Controversy -Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not end with the sixth Council in AD 681, but continued through the eighth and ninth centuries. This time, the controversy focused on icons—pictures of Christ, the Theotokos, the saints, and holy events—and lasted for 120 years, starting in AD 726. Icons were kept and venerated in both churches and private homes. The two groups in the controversy were:

Iconoclasts, also called "icon-smashers," they were suspicious of any art depicting God or humans; they demanded the destruction of icons because they saw icons as idolatry. Iconodules, also called "venerators of icons," they defended the place of icons in the Church.

The controversy, however, was more than a struggle over different views of Christian art. Deeper issues were involved, and it is these the Council addressed:

The character of Christ's human nature

The Christian attitude toward matter

The true meaning of Christian redemption and the salvation of the entire material universe

The controversy falls into two periods:

1. From AD 726 when Leo III began his attack on icons

until AD 780 when Empress Irene ended the attacks

2. Again from AD 815 through AD 843 when Empress

Theodora stamped out the attacks permanently

The iconoclasts had support from both inside and outside

the Church. Outside the Church, there may have been

influence from Jewish and Muslim ideas, and it is important

to note that just prior to the iconoclast outbreak Muslim

Caliph Yezid ordered the removal of all icons with his

territory. Inside the Church there had always existed a

"puritan" outlook which saw all images as latent idolatry.

Largely through the work of St. John of Damascus (AD

759-826), who, ironically, was housed in Muslim-controlled

lands and therefore outside the reach of the Empire, the

iconodules' position won out. He addressed the charges of

the iconoclasts thus:

“Concerning the charge of idolatry: Icons are not idols but

symbols, therefore when an Orthodox venerates an icon,

he is not guilty of idolatry. He is not worshipping the

symbol, but merely venerating it. Such veneration is not

directed toward wood, or paint or stone, but towards the

person depicted. Therefore relative honor is shown to

material objects, but worship is due to God alone.

We do not make obeisance to the nature of wood, but we

revere and do obeisance to Him who was crucified on the

Cross... When the two beams of the Cross are joined

together I adore the figure because of Christ who was

crucified on the Cross, but if the beams are separated, I

throw them away and burn them.” — St. John of

Damascus

The Decision of the Council

Concerning the teaching of icons

Venerating icons, having them in churches and homes, is

what the Church teaches. They are "open books to remind

us of God." Those who lack the time or learning to study

theology need only to enter a church to see the mysteries of the Christian religion unfolded before them.

Concerning the doctrinal significance of icons:- Icons are necessary and essential because they protect the full and proper doctrine of the Incarnation. While God cannot be represented in His eternal nature ("...no man has seen God", John 1:18), He can be depicted simply because He "became human and took flesh." Of Him who took a material body, material images can be made. In so taking a material body, God proved that matter can be redeemed. He deified matter, making it spirit-bearing, and so if flesh can be a medium for the Spirit, so can wood or paint, although in a different fashion.

"I do not worship matter, but the Creator of matter, who for my sake became material and deigned to dwell in matter, who through matter effected my salvation..." —St. John of Damascus

The seventh and last Ecumenical Council upheld the iconodules' position in AD 787. They proclaimed: *Icons... are to be kept in churches and honored with the same relative veneration as is shown to other material symbols, such as the 'precious and life-giving Cross' and the Book of the Gospels.* The 'doctrine of icons' is tied to the Orthodox teaching that all of God's creation is to be redeemed and glorified, both spiritual and material. **Commemoration** The **Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council** are commemorated in October, on the Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

Source: www.goarch.org



† 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 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



SCHEDULE of SERVICES **October 2015 / Tetor 2015**

Divine Liturgy / Liturgjia Hynore 10:00 am

Sun. Oct. 4 2nd Reading in Luke 6:31-36
St. Charitina

Il Llukait Shën Haritina

Sun. Oct.11 Holy Fathers of the 7th
Ecumenical Council
Etërit e Sinodhit 7 Ekumenik

Sun. Oct. 18 Evangelist Luke
Ungjillori Shën Llukai

Mon. Oct. 19 Prophet Joel
Profeti Joel

Sun. Oct. 25 6th in Luke
Martyrs Marcian & Martyrius
E 6a e Llukajt Martiret Marcian & Martyrius

Mon. Oct. 26 Great Martyr Demetrios
Dëshmor i madh Dhimitër

