



Issue: February 2017



### † From the Bishop's Throne

**Christian Education** "With so much information surrounding us –even on topics of faith and religion – why is there so much religious illiteracy and ignorance?...What is needed is a community- a Church\_ of formation and transformation, where the Faith is embodied, practiced and reflected upon, thus leading the individual into increasingly greater "levels" of Christian life." Dr. Anton C. Vrame

**Edukimi i Krishtere** "Me kaq shume informacion rreth nesh –madje edhe për temat e besimit dhe te fesës- përse egziston kaq shumë analfabetizëm dhe padituri fetare? Ajo që nevojitet është komuniteti - Kisha- për formim dhe transformim, ku Besimi trpezohet, praktikohet dhe merret në konsideratë, duke udhëhequr njeriun në "nivele më të larta të jetës krishtërore." Dr. Anton C. Vrame

**Great and Holy Lent** "Pure or Clean Monday" February 27, marks the beginning of this special period in the ecclesiastical life of the Church and the spiritual life of the faithful. In the Church we hear and experience through the services teachings which instruct us how to come closer to Christ the Lord. The hymns and readings are selected so as to help us realize our destiny in this earthly life which will end

one day. The somber tone of the Lenten Period is a "bright-sadness" offering us the vision of joy which is Pashka. The faithful follow the lead of the Church in their spiritual life by reflecting on the sinful condition of their soul, realizing how unworthy we are, how we have not lived by the commandments given by our Savior. Through prayer, fasting, confession and works of charity we are able to redirect our lives in the way of the Lord. What we do or not do in our personal keeping of Lent impacts our soul and eternal salvation. We are admonished to observe the spiritual disciplines of Great Lent with mindful preparation for the glorious celebration of Holy Pashka.

**Kreshma e Madhe Hyjnore-** "E Hena e Paster" me 27 shkurt shenon fillimin e nje periudhe te vecante ne jeten kishtare dhe ate shpirtërore te besimtareve. Ne Kisha ne degjojme dhe perjetojme mesimet e Krishtit qe na meson te afrohem sa me shume me te. Hymnet dhe leximet zgjidhen ne menyre te vecante per te na ndihmuar te kuptojme qellimin tone ne kete jete tokesore qe nje dite do te perfundoje. Toni i ngarkuar i periudhes se Kreshmes eshte nje ofrim "I ndritshem dhe deshperues" per vizionin tone te gezueshem qe na jep Pashka. Besimtaret ndjekin udhezimet e Kishes in jeten e tyre shpirtërore duke reflektuar per mekatet e shpirtit te tyre, dhe kjo na ndihmon te kuptojme sa te pavlefshem jemi. Gjithashtu reflektojme ne faktin qe nuk kemi ndjekur udhezimet e Shpetimtarit tone. Nepermjet lutjeve, kreshmes, rrefimit, dhe ndihmes qe kemi dhene, ne i japim mundesi vetvetes te ridrejtojme jeten tone ne rrugen e Zotit. Cdo gje qe bejme apo nuk bejme ne jeten tone personale ne lidhje me mbajtjen e Kreshmes, ndikon ne shpetimin tone te brendshem shpirtëror. Jemi te gjithë te keshilluar dhe te inkurajuar te ndjekim te gjitha disiplinat shpirtërore te Kreshmes se Madhe me pergatitje kuptimplote per festimin e lavdishem te Pashkes Hyjnore.

**+Bishop Ilia**



†St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary

### PRE-LENTEN LUNCHEON

**Sunday, February 19, 2017**

In the church hall immediately following liturgy

Adult- \$20.00; Children 6-12 \$10.00;  
Children 5 and under-free

**Dessert Donations Appreciated**  
BUY YOUR TICKETS AT CHURCH  
FOLLOWING SUNDAY LITURGY OR  
CALL ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH  
**773.889.4282**

### Dreka e te Lidhurave te Pashkes

*Te diele, 19 Shkurt 2017*

*Ne hollin e kishes pas Liturgjise Hyjnore*  
*Te rriturit- \$20; femijet 6-12 \$ 10; femijet 5*  
*vjet e poshte - falas*

*Biletat mund ti blini ne hollin e kishes pas*  
*Liturgjise Hyjnore*

***Ju lutemi sillni embelsira po te keni mundesi***

### **Ladies Auxiliary Notices / Njoftime**

†Congratulations to the newly elected Ladies Auxiliary Committee, who were elected on December 2016. They officially took their oath and office this January. The elected members are: Elvis Borova – President; Mirela Pajcini- Vice President, Dea Lanzito-communication, Nicole Poni- recording secretary, and Ariana Guraziu- treasurer/acting secretary.

†Please come and participate in our Annual Lenten Quilt-a-Thon benefiting local pediatric hospitals and shelters. Our wonderful volunteers create colorful juvenile blankets which are distributed to local pediatric hospitals and children in shelters or foster care. Our quilts are tied with love and joy! If you cannot make it please consider adopting a quilt for \$15 or having your business sponsor the event for only \$50. Any donations are gladly accepted. Please look for the event flyers at church, and let us know if you would like to participate.

† *Special thank you note from Olga Titos*  
I want to thank everyone for my Birthday Party on December 18, in the church hall. Thank you to everyone that contributed food, desserts and the birthday cake. Thank you, Ilir for bringing the music and to Randy for singing a song for me. It was such a nice way to start the holiday season. I want to express a special Thank You to the people that planned the party for me. You made me feel so special. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year! -Olga

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

ST. NICHOLAS ALBANIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
**PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017**

Watch for more details as the event approaches.

*Do te kete me shume informacion per kete eveniment ne te ardhmen.*



### **2017 Memberships**

*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 Shqipëtare Orthodoxe 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 2017 dues; dues for current members are \$125 per one person, \$200 for husband and wife. Please note “2017 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.



### **Notice/ Njoftim**

### **†SAVE THE DATE!**

St. Nichols Albanian Orthodox  
**Church Members**  
**Sunday, March 21, 2017**  
General Assembly

***Te diele me 21 Mars 2017***  
***Do te zhvillohet mbledhja e***  
***Asamblese se Pergjithshme te Kishes***

Watch for more details as the event approaches.

*Do te kete me shume informacion per kete eveniment ne te ardhmen.*



## 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).



## Services

†Fr. Kostandin had to get a new cell phone number as the problems he was having with the old one were unable to be resolved. You can reach him at his new number: 312-730-3337.

*At Kostandini ka numer te ri telefoni. Ju mund ta kontaktoni ate numrin e ri 312-730-3337.*

†It's that time of year again to have your house blessed by Fr. Kostandin. House blessings began on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and will end on Sunday, February 26, 2017 (Forgiveness Sunday). Father will only do three blessings per day with one scheduled in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. There are several ways to schedule your appointment.

You can call Fr. Kostandin direct on his cell phone, 312-730-3337.

You can reply to the email you received from church on December 23, with your contact information, date and time you would like to schedule the house blessing. We will send a confirmation email or let you know if we need to reschedule.

Or you can call the church office at 773-889-4282 on Wednesday and Saturday between 10 and 4. If the machine picks up leave your name and number and someone will return your call to schedule an appointment.

†Pas dates 7 Janar 2017 filloi periudha e bekimit te shtepive dhe perfundon te diele me 26 shkurt 2017 (e diela e ndjesave). At Kostandini do te beje tre bekime ne dite, nje ne mengjes ,nje ne mesdite dhe nje ne darke. Ju mund te kerkoni bekim te shtepise tuaj ne menytrat e meposhtme:

1. Ju mund te kontaktoni At Kostandinin ne numrin e tij te celularit 312-730-3337.
2. You mund ti pergjegjeni e-mail qe morret nga kisha me 23 dhjetor, duke dhene informacion per emrin tuaj, si dhe kohen (daten dhe oren) qe deshironi per bekimin e baneses. Pasi te marrim kete informacion, do tu dergojme nje e-mail konfirmimi ose per tu njoftuar ju ne rast se duhet te gjeni dite apo kohe tjeter.

Ju mund te kontaktoni zyren e kishes ne numrin 773-889-4282 te merkure ose te shtune nga ora 10 A.M. deri me 4P.M. Ne rast se nuk ju pergjigjet njeri, ju mund te lini mesazh me informacion me emrin, numrin tuaj te telefonit dhe dikush do tu kontaktoje per te konfirmuar ditën dhe kohen e bekimit te baneses.



## † St. Nicholas Choir

The choir is in dire need of new members. Over the last 18 months we have lost 8 members for various reasons and 5 of our members spend the winter elsewhere. That leaves approximately 12 choir members that are available to sing year round. We are appealing to our parishioners to please consider becoming a member of the St. Nicholas choir. Albanian language skills are not necessary, just a desire to sing our beautiful hymns. For more information you can see Maria Barbachi or Kay Giannos after Liturgy on Sundays or send an email to [stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com) and include your name and phone number please.

*Korri i Kishes sone ka shume nevoje per anetare te rinj. Gjate 18 muajve te fundit na jane larguar 8*

*anetare per aresye te ndryshme dhe 5 anetare te korrit i kalojne muajt e dimrit ne vende te tjera. Si rrjedhoje ne kemi vetem 12 anetare korri te rregullt qe marrin pjese gjate gjithë vitit. Per kete aresye kerkojme nga komuniteti qe ju lutemi te konsideroni te beheni anetare te korrit te Kishes se Shen Kollit. Nuk ka nevoje per aftesi ne gjuhen Shqipe, duhet vetem deshire dhe pasion per kendar hymnet e bukura te kishes. Per me shume infomacion kontaktoni Maria Barbachi dhe Kay Gianos ose te dielave pas Liturgjise Hyjnore ose duke iu derguar mesazh e-mail ne adresen [stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaschurch2701@gmail.com), ku te perfshini informacion me emrin tuaj dhe numer telefoni ku mund tju kontaktoje.*



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

Did you know that you can register your children for the Religious Education program at any time during the year? The religious education program has been developed with the purpose of teaching the basics of our Orthodox Christian Faith to the children and also to make the time spent in the class a continuous experience of faith and of the loving presence of God. The program that we offer is appropriate for children of age between 3 years (Preschool) up to 14 years (8<sup>th</sup> grade). The children will enjoy activities that will keep them engaged and interested like learning and singing hymns of the Church, storytelling time from lives of the saints, coloring, building and puzzle projects, and so much more! Please come and join us and learn about our orthodox faith. It is never too late to receive a blessing!

*Ne rast se nuk e dini, ju mund te regjistroni femijet tuaj per programin e edukimit fetar ne cdo kohe te vitit. Programi i edukimit fetar ka per qellim mesimin e njohurive baze te fese Krishtere Orthodokse. Femijet*

*gjithashtu nepermjet aktiviteteteve te ndryshme ne klase krijojne nje experience te pasur te besimit dhe te pranise se dashurise se Zotit. Programi eshte i pershtatshem per femijet e moshave nga 3 vjet (mosha parashkollore) deri ne 14 vjet (klasa e tete). Femijet perfshihen ne aktivitetete te larmishme qe i mbajne ata te interesuar dhe te motivuar duke mesuar te kendojne hymnet e Kishes, historite per jeten e shenjtoreve, si dhe shume aktivitetete te ndryshme te pershtatshme per te gjitha moshat. Ju ftojme te vini ne cdo kohe te na vizitoni dhe te mesoni bashke me ne per fene orthodokse. Nuk eshte asnje here vone per te marre nje bekim!*

**†Reminders - Albanian School**

- The last class of First Semester was January 22nd.
- The first class of Second Semester is January 29th.

**- Grupi Arberia**

Registration of Second Semester opened on January 8th. This coming semester there will be weekly dancing lessons instead of every other week. Please look for more information if you need any, and plan accordingly.



**† 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, Annie, Debra, Helen, John, Tina, Linda, Will, Peter, Mary, Rick, Sam, Nick, Cathy, Anastasia, Kathy, Vincenzina, Niki, Vasiliki, Dita, 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†**  
**February/ Shkurt 2017**

02	Thur	<b>Presentation of Our Lord</b> <i>Paraqitja e Krishtit në Tempull</i> <i>(Ipapandia)</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
05	Sun.	<b>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee</b> <i>E doganierit dhe Fariseut; Fillon Triodhi</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
12	Sun.	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b> <i>E Plangprishesit</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
18	Sat.	<b>Saturday of Souls</b> <i>E shtuna e shpirtrave</i>	Service 10:00 am
19	Sun.	<b>Judgement Sunday / Meatfare Sunday</b> <i>Te Lidhurait e Mishit (gykimi i fundit)</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
25	Sat.	<b>St. Tarasius Archbishop of Constantinople</b> <i>Shen Tarasius, Archbishop i Kostandinopojes</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
26	Sun.	<b>Forgiveness Sunday / Cheese fare Sunday</b> <i>Te Lidhurit e Djathit (Falja Kreshmimi)</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
27	Mon	<b>Pure Monday Great Lent</b> <i>Fillon Kreshma</i>	

