



Issue: January 2017



† **Message from Father Kostandin**

Vellezer dhe Motra ne Krisht,

*Dua te perfitoj nga rasti te falenderoj te gjithë ata qe punojne me devotshmeri dhe perkushtim per Kishen tone; anetaret e keshillit te Kishes, Ladies Auxiliary, te gjitha ministrite e kishes si dhe te gjithë individet apo organizata te ndryshme qe perkushtojne kohe, donacione, talente dhe cdo mundesi tjeter per te ndihmuar Kishen tone. Jemi shume mirenjohes per punen dhe devotshmerine tuaj. Objektivi im per vitin e ri 2017 eshte te zgjerojme dhe te konsolidojme programet per femijet tane. Dhe kete une nuk mund ta bej vete. Prinder, gjysher, kumbare, te aferm te femijeve tane, te gjithë duhet te perkushtohemi per te inkurajuar dhe per te sjelle femijet tane ne Kise. Eshte dhurata me e cmuar qe ne mund tu japim femijeve tane, krijimi i themeleve te shendosha te fese dhe te traditave tona te cmuara qe do tu sherbeje si baze per te gjithë jeten e tyre. Ja Krishti lindi, lavderojeni!
Gezuar Vitin e Ri 2017
Me dashuri ne Zotin tone Jisu-At Kostandin Tuda*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works so hard in our parish; the members of the Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary, the various ministries

and those who help in any way they can. Your hard work and dedication to St. Nicholas is greatly appreciated. My goal for 2017 is to expand and to see our programs for our children grow. But it is not only up to me. The parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles all need to do their part in encouraging and bringing the children to church. The most important gift we can give our children is to teach them how to incorporate our religion and our Albanian traditions into their everyday life – a foundation that will last them a lifetime. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
May God grant you Health and Prosperity in the New Year!



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 will begin on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and 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.

1. You can call Fr. Kostandin direct on his cell phone, 312-730-3337.
2. 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.

3. 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 fillon 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.*
3. *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 infomacion me emrin, numrin tuaj te telefonit dhe dikush do tu kontaktoje per te konfirmuar ditën dhe kohen e bekimit te baneses.*



2017 Memberships

Please send in or drop off your 2017 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 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. The list is very long, and we certainly do not want to forget anyone. This year we had a number of kids who helped with every aspect of the holidays, which made it even more special and memorable. Let's keep this tradition going!

Very special thanks to Eva Babalis who generously donates all the ingredients for the bureks

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 gjithë ata qe kontribuan me sa kishin mundesi per ta bere kete nate te sukseshme... duke perfshire ketu lutjet, ushqimin, argetimin, kujtimet kuptimplotese si dhe shume miqesi dhe dashamiresi.

Falenderojme ne vecanti te gjitha grate qe paten mundesi te ndihmonin me berjen e byrekeve, pjekjen dhe servirjen gjate festimeve te Shen Kollit. Lista kete

vit ishte shume e gjate dhe do te ishte e pamundur te mos harronim pjesemarres dhe vullnetare qe ndihmuan me te gjitha aspektet e ketij sezoni festiv per kishen tone. Sivjet duhet te permendim qe kishim shume femije qe ndihmuan ne menyra te ndryshme dhe kjo e beri atmosferen festive te ketij viti edhe me kuptimplote dhe te paharrueshme. Le ta vazhdojme kete tradite dhe ne vitet dhe evenimentet e ardheshme.

Nje falenderim shume te vecante i japim Eva Babalis qe sic do vit tjeter me perzemersi dhuroi te gjitha shpezimet e byrekeve.

†Held on Sunday, December 11, our annual Shen Kolli Dinner Dance was a great success. The event sold out with the banquet hall filled to capacity.

We would like to express our gratitude to all who worked tirelessly planning this special event. Additionally, we are very thankful and appreciative for the donations from individuals and businesses who generously sponsored this event.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Gezuar Krishtlindet & Vitin e Ri!



† 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 and include your name and phone number please.

Korri i Kishes sone ka shume nevojë per anetare te rinj. Gjate 18 muajve te fundit na jane larguar 8 anetare per arsye 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 arsye kerkojme nga komuniteti qe ju lutemi te konsideroni te beheni anetare te korrit te Kishes se Shen Kollit. Nuk ka nevojë per aftesi ne gjuhen Shqipe, duhet vetem deshire dhe pasion per kenduar 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, ku te perfshini informacion me emrin tuaj dhe numer telefoni ku mund tju kontaktojne.





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

The Importance of Sunday School

“Let the children come to me, so not to hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” Mark 10: 14-15

Christian education is a permanent challenge to the work of the Church. Not only did our Lord continuously teach the word of God during His early mission, but the Church as well from the earliest times looked upon Christian education as one of its essential ministries.

The greatest gift, the most precious inheritance that we have to give to our children is our Orthodox Faith. Jesus makes it clear that He wants children to come to know Him, and the He considers it a grave offence for an adult to hinder this process or lead a child astray: “whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matt 18:6

The Central aim of Christian education in our Church is to evoke and nurture faith in Jesus Christ according to the Gospel. We use a whole range of Orthodox educational material-books, filmstrips, visuals, Bible Studies, lives of saints, contemporary discussion of Christian values, as an effective way to communicate the love and spirit of Christ. As an essential and abiding ministry in the Church, it is never finished. When we bring our children regularly to Sunday School we provide them with a gift of knowledge that has lifelong value and significance.

The validity of Christian education is demonstrated by the truth that a well informed Christian is a spiritually committed Christian within the greater body of the Church. The commission of Christian education

comes from the Lord Himself: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Matt 28: 19-20
 So bring your children to Sunday School. Your personal example and involvement in the religious education of your children are extremely important. The priest and teachers cannot do the job alone. Here is how you can help develop the spiritual life and moral upbringing of your children:

- ❖ Register your child to our Sunday Church School Program.
- ❖ Bring them to Church on time.
- ❖ Stay and worship at the Divine Liturgy in the Church.
- ❖ Be positive about Church.
- ❖ Discuss with them what they learned each Sunday.
- ❖ Teach them to bring their weekly stewardship offering.
- ❖ Give your personal example of Christian living.
- ❖ Emphasize regular repentance and Holy Communion.
- ❖ Put Church before every other activity on Sunday
- ❖ Avoid criticism of others.
- ❖ Let your love for Our Lord Jesus Christ radiate.

Source: <http://www.stathanasiosnj.org>

†**Reminders - Albanian School**

- There will be no classes on January 1st.
- The last class of First Semester is January 22nd.
- The first class of Second Semester is January 29th.
- Registration of Second Semester will open on January 8th.

- **Grupi Arberia**

Registration of Second Semester will open on January 8th. This coming semester there will be weekly dancing lessons instead of every other week. Please plan accordingly.



† **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 flijimet, sikurse I kërkonte Ligji. Prandaj, dyzet ditë mbas Krishtlindjes Kisha kremton, më 2 Shkurt, Paraqitjen e Zotit në Tempull (Ipapandinë). Pritja e Krishtit nga plaku Simeon dhe profeteshja 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 frymëzuar 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 “shenj 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 (Lluka22: 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 njëjti Bir i Perëndisë, Dhënësi i Ligjit, tani ai vetë po përmbush Ligjin, i mbajtur në krahë si një foshnje.

Kremtimi i Përhasjes së Zotit, nga Kisha, nuk është thjesht një përkujtim historik. Të frymëzuar nga i njëjti Shpirt i Shenjtë, si Simeoni dhe të udhëhequr po nga i njëjti 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 hirplote, Hyjli-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 Shpërblenjës in e shpirtrave tanë, i cili na dhuroi Ngjalljen të gjithëve. (Përlëshorja)

Me lindjen Tënde, Ti Shenjtërove gjirin e Virgjëreshës dhe bekoje duart e Siemonit, O Krisht Perëndia ynë. Tani Ti erdhe dhe na shpëtove me anë të dashurisë. Falu paqe të gjithë të krishterëve orthodhoksë, o i vetmi Njeridashës. (Shkurtorja)

Burimi: <http://orthodoxalbania.org>



† Prayer list / Lista e lutje

Please remember these people in your prayers:

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

Fr. Philip, Gregory, Lillian, Richard, Perry, Olga, Eva, Kay, Diane, 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 Programi i Sherbesave January / Janar 2017

01	Sun	Circumcision of Christ/ St. Basil the Great <i>Rrethprerja e Zotit, Shën Vasili</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
05	Thu	Eve of Epiphany <i>Vigjilja e Epifanise Ajazmë e Vogël</i>	Vesper Service 7:00 pm
06	Fri.	Holy Epiphany/Blessing of Waters <i>Ajazmë e Madhe Ujit të Bekuar</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
07	Sat.	Synaxis of John the Forerunner <i>Mbledhja e Shën Joanit Pagëzorit</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
08	Sun	Sunday After Epiphany <i>Pas Epifanisë</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
15	Sun	12th Sunday of Luke † 12 LLUKAIT	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
17	Tue	St. Anthony the Great <i>Shën Andoni</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
18	Wed	Sts. Athanasios & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria <i>Shën Athanasi</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
22	Sun.	15th Sunday of Luke / Martyr Anastasius of Persia † 15 LLUKAIT	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
29	Sun.	Sunday of the Canaanite <i>E diela e Kananejtëve</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
26	Mon	The Three Hierarchs <i>Tre Hierarkët- Vasili, Grigori dhe Joani</i>	Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

