

THE ORTHODOX POST

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

We want to be good. We really do, I believe. Thinking back over the many different people I have known: some harsh, others gentle, some whom I would not want to meet again and others with whom every interaction is a pleasure, recalling all or as many as I am able, I cannot find a one of them who gave voice to a desire to be evil, to do bad. And I have known some rough and violent, broken and destructive individuals. Yet without variation, they—and we—want and hope to be good. What, then, gets in the way, since all of us are wishing for a better world?

Often there are the simple mix ups, confusions of an elementary sort that cloud our choices. At other times, though, there are more sincere mistakes. In this life, choices must be made, and rare are those decisions that do not somehow, in doing good to some, do harm to others. Yet we must act and live, and we do, trying, despite our oversights, to do good, trying to be good. And this is the saddest part, that we harm blindly, that we hurt so unintentionally. I began to learn this lesson as a child. I am still beginning at this, and it still surprises me when I often perceive that my idea of good is by no

President's Message

By Jim Liolin

At the last meeting of the Council in early July there were some recommendations presented and passed on administrative matters of the Church. These were a result of the recommendations made by the financial committee – a temporary committee set up to review the finances of the church.

Approved Recommendations:

- The office of Comptroller was reinstated after many years of inactivity. This is the fifth officer position on the Council. Bill Peters was elected Comptroller.

Responsibilities are:

- A. Chair the Investment Committee (see below)
- B. Work with Treasurer and President on Annual Budget
- C. Oversee Power Church Administrative Module updates/implementation
- D. Assist Treasurer to implement Power Church Modules
- E. Authorized to sign checks
- F. Assume other duties requested by the President

- Investment Committee is reinstated also after several years. The Committee's function is to regularly monitor the Church's investment portfolio. They will report to the Council and suggest recommendations as necessary to make certain the finances remain stable. This Investment Committee will consist of the Comptroller and two non-council members, Nick Filis and Phil Foundos. The President

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means universal, but I remember my first apprehension of this, that first inkling of notice.

It was summer, and my parents had gone away for a week or so on a business trip, my dad's obligatory meetings expanded by a day or two into one of those very rare opportunities for him and my mother to be alone together. Though I was probably old enough to be left under my own care, eleven or twelve, there was little faith that I would not wreak

Continued on Page 7

and Treasurer will be ad hoc members.

- Building Loan recommendation by the financial committee, after investigating other loan options, is that we should remain with the current loan. Switching to a new loan will not be an advantage. The loan will continue to be paid by donations, special fund raising events (CAR Raffle, Golf Outing, etc.), and portfolio money. This loan will be paid off by May, 2015.

- The Council approved the rebuilding of the website to make it more user-friendly.

The Council is working on plans for September as we have a heavy month of activities. Our Sunday School is planning for another year so bring your children—they are our inspiration. Do your best to give them the opportunity to know their faith.

The Archdiocese Assembly is being hosted by our Church, September 26-28. Please make an effort to attend as an observer at the Friday meeting or the dinner, or the Liturgy on Saturday morning of that weekend. More information will follow.

Plans are ongoing for the CAR RAFFLE and GOLF outing, both very important. We need everyone to participate by encouraging others to support these fund raising events. Any questions on how you can help, ask Tomi Beno on the Raffle and Phil Foundos on the Golf outing.

Enjoy your summer and be safe.

KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Gusht, 2013

Misteri i Trinitetit të Shenjtë

Ne besojmë në një Zot, i cili ekziston në tre qënje: Ati, Biri dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Ky fakt është në themel të besimit Orthodoks. Kur jemi të vegjël, e pranojmë këtë fakt me besim. Megjithatë, kur rritemi, koncepti “3 në 1” na duket konfuz dhe i pakuptueshëm.

Shën Sirili, Aposulli i famshëm sllav, u përpoq t’a spjegonte konceptin e Trinitetit të Shenjtë, në këtë mënyrë: “E shihni djellin në qiell dhe se si nga ai, merret drita dhe pastaj, nga kjo, ngrohësia fillon? Zoti At është si djelli, pa fillim apo mbarim. Nga Ai eksizton Zoti i Biri, si drita nga djelli. Ashtu sic merret ngrohësia bashkë me dritën nga djelli, ashtu lind dhe Shpirti i Shenjtë. Secili nga ata ka ndryshim. Nuk ka tre diej në qiell, por vetëm një. E njëjta ndodh me Trinitetin e Shenjtë: ka tre natyra në Zotin, por Zoti është një dhe i pandarë.

Kisha Orthodokse na mëson se të tre “natyrat” e Zotit, kanë të njëjtën rëndësi shenjtore. Vetëm se Zoti At nuk vjen nga askush tjetër. Zoti Bir vjen nga Zoti At dhe Fryma e Shenjte vjen nga Ati. Të Tre natyrat e Zotit qëndrojnë të lidhura me dashuri me njëra tjetrën dhe përbëjnë një Qënje. Akoma jeni konfuz? Ndoshta fjalët e Agustinut të Bekuar, Atit të madh të kishës së perëndimit, do të na ndihmojnë: “Do ta kuptoni Trinitetin në se do përdorni dashurinë. Është e vërtetë se mund t’a kthjellojmë misterin e Trinitetit po të përdorim zemrën në vend të mendjes.

Continued on Page 4

DAUGHTERS’ CORNER

by Linda Foundos

We hope you are all enjoying your summer and managing the intense heat. Somehow the summer seems to slip away with a little BBQ, a little beach, visiting with friends, a little get-away & some outdoor activities. It’s important to make some beautiful memories and enjoy your family & friends.

On Sunday, August 25th, we will have a Daughters’ meeting to make our plans for our role in our church hosting the Albanian Archdiocese meeting September 27th weekend. And a month later, we will have our annual Flea Market. The date is not quite yet firm. There is much more coming up after that too. Please try to join us for this meeting.

Wisdom:

Don’t mix bad words with your bad mood.

You’ll have many opportunities to change your mood, but you’ll never get the opportunity to replace the words you spoke.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM FR. NATHAN “Paraclesis Services”

Take just a moment and have a look at the schedule for the month of August. You’ll find this on the back page of the Post. Did you look?

Now, you may be wondering to yourself: why so many services this month? The answer is that, in addition to the regular weekly offerings of Saturday evening and Sunday morning, in addition to the special remembrances of feasts and saints, there are a number of what are called “Paraclesis” services. These are short (30–40 minutes) times for us to gather and sing praises and prayers to the Mother of God.

Though this series of hymns and intercessions may be offered at any time and is especially offered at times of need and worry, traditionally, this service is performed each of the fourteen days of the Dormition Fast (August 1–14). By custom, this is a special opportunity for us to offer particular prayers for those who are still living. As Fr. Nathan requests names of the departed before Memorial Saturdays, so now you are invited to submit lists of names of those who are still living for remembrance in each of the Paraclesis services. Remember, though, that simply putting pen to paper or, in more modern fashion, finger to keyboard is not really ideal. Make an effort to be present for at least one of these services. In praying for your loved ones, you will not go away unblessed.

St. Nicholas Golf Outing



COME AND PLAY – MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH !!!! *16th ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING*

Remember last year's Golf Outing? For those of you who participated last year and had a great time, and also those of you who did not and missed a great outing, we would be pleased to have you join us on Monday, October 7, 2013 when we will be holding our 16th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course. This is an exceptional golf course with challenging holes and beautiful views.

We start with registration in the morning and tee-off at noon striking that little magic white ball hoping it goes where we wish, but frequently in another direction. As we move along in good company, we have hamburgers at the pit stop and continue wishing to hit the Hole-in-One and win \$10,000. After a beautiful round of golf, we proceed to the 19th Hole at the Woodlands Restaurant in the Clubhouse; followed by a great dinner, prizes/awards and the grand raffle. The results of all this is a great day and evening and a great fundraiser for our Church.

Support us in making this event a success!!! Help us when we reach out for your participation and/or signing up your friends and relatives to join us at this year's event. The cost to golf, lunch and dinner is \$650.00 for a foursome or \$175.00 per person. We also want to encourage you to solicit sponsors for hole sponsorships for \$250.00, and/or prize/merchandise sponsorships for \$100-\$300 for the raffle, which helps raise funds for our church programs.

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us. Registration/sponsorship forms are available in the office or from any committee member. Please make an effort to help and respond early so we can plan to accommodate everyone.

Should you have any questions or want help, do not hesitate to contact any one of the people listed below, or call 516-520-5227 and ask for Lou or Al Foundos.

The Golf Committee: Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen

2013 – 2014 Parish Council

On Sunday, June 2nd after Liturgy, the members of the new Parish Council were administered the oath of office by Fr. Nathan in front of the Parishioners. A “Congratulations and Welcome” goes to the new members elected at the April General Meeting – Tina Korra, Mark Papalexis and Damian Peters. Also, a “Sincere Thank You” for all their work in serving our Church goes to retiring members – Beti Beno and Kenny Gjika.

The Officers and Council members for the 2013–2014 Parish Council are as follows:

Council Officers

President: Jim Liolin
 Vice President: Tomi Beno
 Treasurer: Lou Foundos
 Comptroller: Bill Peters
 Secretary: John Jance
 Pastor: Fr. Nathan Preston

Council Members

Joanne Heiser
 Tina Korra
 Ardian Mile
 Mark Papalexis
 Damian Peters
 Isidoros Tsamblakos

KENDI SHQIP – continued from Page 2

“Skenderbeu” nga Henri Uodsuoth Longfellou Perkthyer nga “FAN NOLI”

...Nga kështjella shpejt ka rënë
 Flamuri me gjysmë-hënë
 Edhe populli shikon
 Që në vënt të tij valon
 Flamur’i Skenderit n’erë
 Shkab’ e Zezë me dy krerë
 Dhe një thirrje lart u ngrit
 Se çdo zemër e çdo shpirt
 U mërzit nga Turku i lik,
 Që e beri atë Krujë
 Zi, murtajë dhe rrëmujë.
 Ay zë me gas me bujë
 Q’oshëtin nga brek në brek
 Është: “Rrofsh, o Skënderbeg!”

Ja kështu Skënderi trim
 Mori Krujën me rrëmbim;
 Edhe lajma u përhap
 Si nje flagë, si një zjarr
 Që fryn era në behar
 Dhe qytetet afër lark,
 Thotë Isa Ben Miri
 Në Qitap të tij fakiri
 “Binin m’atë lehtësi
 Që zë burri veshn’ e tij.”

ORTHODOX NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Orthodox Natural Church Development Committee has held three focus groups thru July. We would like to thank Jim and Donna Oswald, Iliia and Agathia Luka and Robert and Tina Korra for opening their homes for the focus groups and making us feel very welcome. Their hospitality was outstanding and the discussions were lively and very informative for the committee as well as the participants. Many ideas were brought forth and after all the focus groups are completed, we will review them and, hopefully, put some of them into action.

The summer is a difficult time for everyone to get together because of vacations, family events, etc. We will be resuming most of the focus groups in September. There is a focus group planned for the Ridgewood area. The date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed. The teen focus group will also be held during the summer and a date will be confirmed shortly.

The other focus groups planned for the fall are as follows:

- ❖ Young Adults (ages 20–35)
- ❖ Phil and Jana Foundos
- ❖ Bronx
- ❖ St. Nicholas

This is a great opportunity for all of us to have our voices heard as we work collectively to bring St. Nicholas to the next level.

Together we can make a difference!!!

If you have any questions please feel free to speak with:

Fr. Nathan, Tomi Beno, Chris Liolin, Joanne Heiser, Mark Papalexis & Nick Filis

ZHVILLIMI NATURAL I KISHES ORTHODOKSE

Komiteti i Zhvillimit Natural te Kishes Orthodokse ka mbajtur tre mbledhje per tre grupe te ndryshme gjate stines se pranverës. Ne emer te ketij Komiteti, dhe nepermjet ketij njoftimi do donim të falënderojme Zt. Xhimi dhe Donna Oswald, Zt. Iliia dhe Agathia Luka dhe Zt. Robert dhe Tina Korra për hapjen e shtëpive e tyre ku u mbajten keto mbledhje dhe që bën pjestaret e ketij Komiteti të ndjehem shumë të mirëpritur. Mikpritja e tyre ishte e jashtëzakonshme dhe diskutimet ishin te gjalla dhe shumë informative për Komitetin si dhe per pjesëmarrësit e mbledhjeve. Shumë ide te frutshme u paraqiten. Pasi të gjitha mbledhjet e grupeve e tjera do përfundojne, keto ide do te shqyrtohen dhe Komiteti shpreson, qe disa prej ketyre ideve te vihen ne veprim te menjehershëm.

Stina e larmishme e veres është e mbushur me plot aktivitete familjare dhe pushime. Per kete arsye, ne do ti rifillojme mbledhjet qe kane ngelur ne Shtator. Nderkohe, nje mbledhje qe eshte planifikuar për zonën Ridgewood sapo te konfirmohet, ne do tju njoftojme per ditën dhe vendin e saj. Mbledhja e grupit per pjesmaresit e moshave 12 deri 20 vjec do të mbahet gjatë verës dhe data do të konfirmohet së shpejti.

Mbledjet planifikuara për stinen e vjeshtës janë si më poshtë vijojnë:

- ❖ Mbledhja per grupin e moshes 20 deri 30 vjec
- ❖ Mbledhja ke shtepia e Philip dhe Jana Foundos
- ❖ Mbledhja ne Bronx
- ❖ Mbledhja ke Kisha

Kjo është një mundësi e madhe për ne, të gjithë pjestaret e Kishes, qe te shprehim mendimet dhe opinionet tona dhe njekohesisht te punojmë së bashku për të sjellë Kishen e Shën Nikollës ne një nivelin me te lartë.

Së bashku mund tja arrimë qëllimit!!!

Nëse keni ndonjë pyetje, ju lutem mos ngurroni për të folur me:

Fr. Nathan, Tomi Beno, Chris Liolin, Joanne Heiser, Mark Papalexis dhe Nick Filis

Community News by Linda Foundos

- Zana & Thomaq Fundo and Lena & Fotaq Kondili thoroughly enjoyed the 4th of July holiday upstate at Lake Placid & Lake George area. The beauty of nature was breathtaking. They had a great time.
- Matt Foundos & Daniel Oswald dedicated a week of their summer to Project Mexico. It is a church sponsored effort, St. Innocence, to spend time at an all-boy orphanage. They had morning & evening prayers, enjoyed sports and built homes. The goal for Project Mexico is to build 25 homes this summer. It is a very rewarding experience; and their efforts are very much appreciated. It is a great feeling to make such a difference in someone's life.
- Jenny, Damian & Gabrielle enjoyed their beach getaway to Ocean City, Maryland to escape the intense weather. Gabrielle is a true Peters, loving the beach! It doesn't get more relaxing than that!
- Irma, Ardian & Angela Mile took a time out to soak in the sun, jump the waves and enjoy some pinacoladas at Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. What a pleasant & refreshing time out!
- Happy Birthday to sweet baby Gabrielle Peters who celebrated her 1st birthday with a great party at a restaurant in Hoboken, New Jersey. Jenny & Damian, the proud parents, were delighted to have Nana Tina & Grandpa Bill, Godfather Bill Peters and Godmother Cindy Suyat (Jenny's sister from California) as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins attend. We wish Gabrielle many, many more happy & healthy years. May God bless Gabrielle and her family.

*I hope that all the travelers will share some of their experiences with us when they return.
We love to hear what everyone is doing.*

- Have news you'd like to share? Please contact Linda Foundos at ggsutter@aol.com or 516-671-8071.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 1

some disaster in this short absence of supervision. In short, my parents wanted to come back home to a house still standing and their children all also still standing and whole, and I could be trusted with none of this, so some family friends stayed with us for a while. He was a Baptist minister, born and bred in the South, a missionary of this faith, I believe, to North Idaho. Though I am confident that the area did not then, nor probably ever has lacked Baptists, Southern Baptists were, I gather, in short supply. He was a jolly man, despite his denomination's dour reputation.

One afternoon, as I accompanied him in running errands, we stopped into a gas station. I waited in the car after we refueled as he went in to pay and was surprised when he brought back a treat—pistachios and a Doctor Pepper, if I recall correctly. Feeling very mature, I began to insist that I should repay him for this snack. He declined; I insisted. He declined, but I continued to press. This, after all, was how every restaurant meal shared between my parents and other adults concluded: always the pleasant yet slightly awkward fight to take the check and pay the bill, to be the host and not the hosted. Such debates were, I thought, a mark of the maturity to which I aspired, so I persisted in attempting to pay. Still refusing, he started the car, and told me a story from his early days as a minister when he had been young, when he had been poor. Stopping to refuel his car then, he was taken aback when an old woman had paid for his gas. He, too, had argued that this should not be so and had begun, like me, to be insistent. Yet this was soon cut short. "Don't rob me of an opportunity to be God's blessing to you," replied this stranger. How could a man of God contest against such words? With thanks and humility, he accepted this gift and drove away. I, though not the quickest child, also understood the point of the story and left off my attempts at maturity and repayment. The rest of our drive home was spent with me trying to learn how to spit pistachio shells out the window and not into my lap, a skill I have not yet entirely mastered.

"None is good but God alone." These are Christ's words from the Gospel of Mark and of Luke to one who came to Him. They are intended not as a discouragement, that we should not seek after good, but as an invitation, a radical revision of what it means to be good. Our choices, when they are based on our principles, cannot help but be flawed, for we are flawed and broken people every one of us. But we can be and know good by drawing near to God, and we can share this by making decisions that have as their aim to permit others also to draw near to God, to be God's blessing to them and to receive freely others as His blessing to us.



THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE MOTHER OF GOD AND THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY, THE THEOTOKOS –

Commemorated on Aug 15th

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. At the time of Her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against Her. They wanted to make attempts on Her life; but God preserved Her from enemies. Day and night She spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here She offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder Her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.

In one visit to Golgotha, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Her and announced Her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave Her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending Her. She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of Her impending Repose.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed also that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to Her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven, closing Her prayer with the word "Amen." The Mother of God took it that the voice meant the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples and the holy Bodiless Powers. The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says St John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. St John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand. Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted Her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard Her prayer and fulfilled Her heart's desire, and She began speaking about Her imminent end. The Holy Spirit had gathered them all together so that they might be granted the blessing of the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and more fittingly to see to the burial of the Mother of the Lord. She called each of them to Herself by name, She blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each She wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN AUGUST



Procession of
the Holy Cross
Aug 01



Transfiguration
of The Lord
Aug 06



Glorification of St.
Herman of Alaska
Aug 09



Sts. Florus and
Lavras
Aug 18



St. Kosmas
Aitolos
Aug 24



Beheading of
St. John
Aug 29

Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

Please look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.

Tell the Merchant that you are from St, Nicholas Church and saw their Ad in the Church's Monthly Newsletter!!!

For New Ads Please Contact – Tomi Beno at (917) 952-9252

Orthodox Natural Church Development

Be a part of the ONCD process
Together we can make a difference





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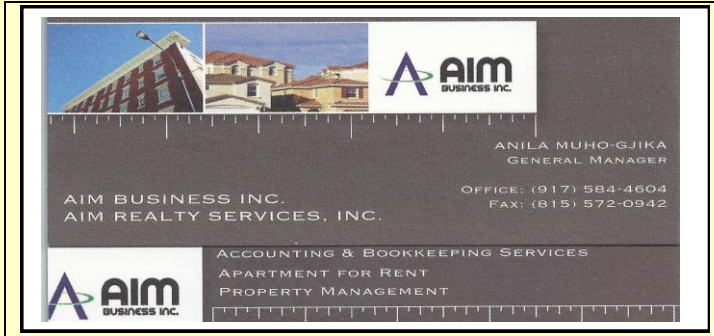
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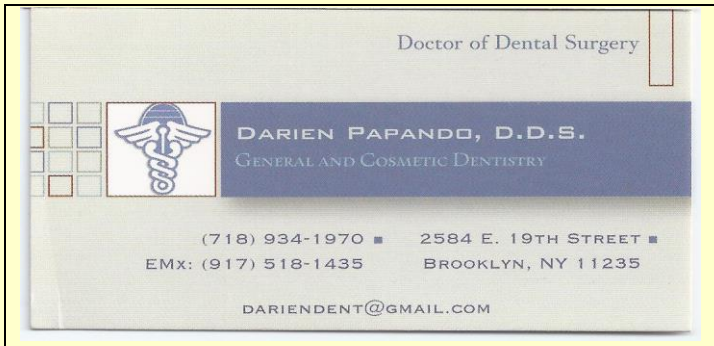
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Major Church Activities and Events

Thurs, Aug 01: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Procession of The Holy Cross

Friday, Aug 02: Paraclesis, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 04: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Mon, Aug 05: Vespers, 6:00 p.m.; Transfiguration

Tues, Aug 06: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; Transfiguration

Wed, Aug 07: Paraclesis, 6:00 p.m.;
Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Aug 09: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; St. Herman
Paraclesis, 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Aug 10: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 11: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Mon, Aug 12: Paraclesis, 7:00 p.m.

Wed, Aug 14: Vespers Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.;
Dormition

Thurs, Aug 15: Prayers, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.;
Dormition

Sat, Aug 17: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 18: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Sat, Aug 24: Prayers, noon; St. Kosmos Aitolos
Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 25: Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Thurs, Aug 29: Prayers, 10:00 a.m.; Beheading of
St. John

Sat, Aug 31: Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

Ushers' Schedule for Sunday Services Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe

Aug 04: Roland LLUPA / Edi SERA

Aug 11: Ilia LUKA / Bill PETERS

Aug 18: Stefan BALTADORI / Izzy TSAMBLAKOS

Aug 25: Nasi PAVLLO / Ardian MILE

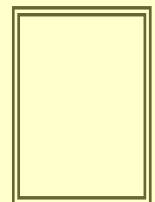
Sept 01: Petrika TROJA / Tomi BENO

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