

SAINT MARY'S ASSUMPTION ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

UNDER THE OMOPHORION OF HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON, BISHOP OF BOSTON, NEW ENGLAND AND THE ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Father Dennis L. Nagi, Pastor... 508 755-0955 Church Office 508 756-1690
Church E-Mail: info@stmarysalbanianchurch.org**

Welcome to Saint Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church. Check out St. Mary's web page @ stmarysalbanianchurch.org

**Tone 8, Saint of the Day: Conception of John the Baptist
Epistle: Galatians 4: 22-27, Gospel: Luke 1: 5-25**

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Today, there will be a Two Year Memorial Service for +Georgiana Nickolas. May Her Blessed Memory Be Eternal. Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored in her Memory.

CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES THIS COMING WEEK:

- Tuesday, September 25, Choir Practice will begin at 7:30 PM.
- Wednesday, September 26, Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity. The service begins at 9:30am.
- If you would like to arrange a Memorial Service, please call Father Dennis first. At the time you call, please provide Fr. Dennis with the names of those deceased family members you wish to commemorate. For ordering grure call Gloria Simo at 508 791-0177. To sponsor a Coffee Hour call Connie Veshio at 508 798-2720.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Annual Assembly of the Albanian Orthodox Church in America will be held in Worcester from Thursday, September 27 thru September 29. Friday's session begins at 10:00 AM in our church hall and ends at 3:30 PM. All are invited to attend as observers. If you wish to attend the banquet on Friday evening at 6:30 PM, the cost is \$25.00. Saturday morning at 8:30 AM there will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a Memorial Service at Hope Cemetery for Kistaq Dishnitza. For dinner reservations call either Vi Laska at 508 754-4242 or Carol Laska at 508 798-4701.

- **SAVE THE DATE!** On the evening of November 3, 2007, Saint Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church is sponsoring a gala dinner and entertainment to celebrate our 25 years at our present church location. More information will be provided in the near future.

- This past Saturday evening, an appreciation dinner/celebration was held in the church hall for all those who volunteered their time effort and financial support to make our Albanian Festival such a huge success. A good time was had by all in attendance. Certificates of appreciation were handed out to those who headed up various activities during the festival. It was a true pleasure to see our youth dancers dancing with such enthusiasm during the celebration.

- As you all know we have a new choir director. We continue to look for volunteers to join our choir. The most important activity that occurs at St. Mary's is the Divine Liturgy which we celebrate each Sunday. The choir plays a very important role in the Divine Liturgy through singing the responses and singing various hymns during the service. Become a part of the choir and share in the joy of participation.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, September 23, we commemorate the Conception of John The Baptist. Also known as the 'Forerunner of Christ' John's conception, birth, life and death were all extraordinary. He was born to an elderly priest Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth, a relative of the Virgin Mary. They were very old when John was conceived and many viewed it as a miracle. Actually, while Zacharias was censuring the altar at the temple, he was visited by the angel Gabriel who told him Elizabeth would conceive a child and he should be named John. Zacharias did not believe the angel and was immediately struck dumb and did not speak until his son was born. In adulthood, John would prepare the people for the coming of Christ by baptizing them in the water of regeneration. . He also had the great distinction of baptizing Christ Himself.