

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JANUARY 19, 2014

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

HOUSE BLESSINGS ARE ON-GOING. We've organized things a little differently this year. Members of the Parish Council are accompanying Fr. Nick on the visits. If you haven't been notified when we'll be at your home, please please contact Fr. Nick at: 508-335-7378 or by e-mail at: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org.

PITA BAKING RESUMES this Thursday, January 23rd at 9:00 am. Everyone's help is welcome. **Questions? Please see Chris Toda.** No experience necessary!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, February 2nd following the Divine Liturgy.

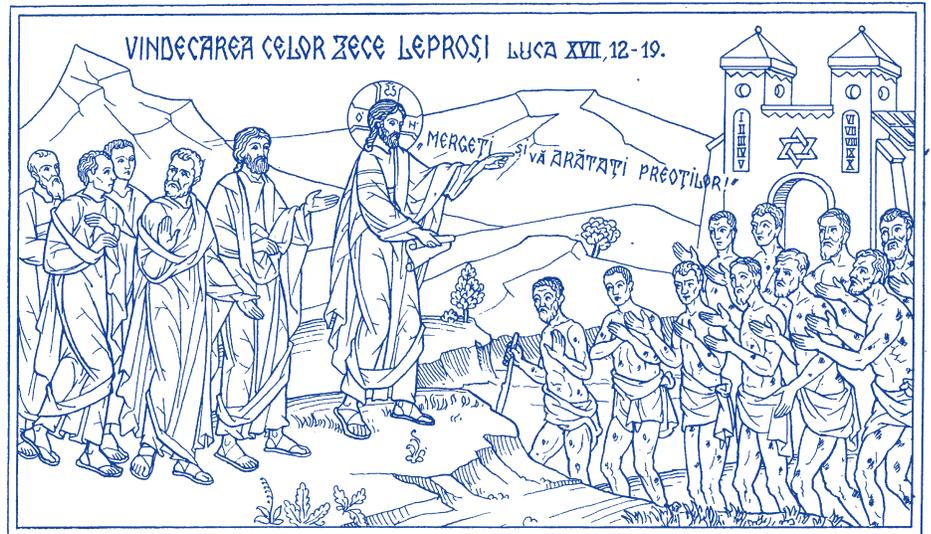
COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you would like to sponsor one.

MEMORIALS ARE HELD TODAY for the servants of God, **Nicholas and Androniki Demake, Gregory and Victoria Chachi, and members of the Nace Family.** May their memory be eternal! *May our loving Lord rest them with the saints!*

GREETERS TEAM 1:
V. GERALD BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:
MARIA KALPIDOU, TATIANA
KARADIMITRIOU, ELIAS CHRISTO,
DIMITRI CHRISTO



THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: COLOSSIANS 3:4-11 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 17:12-19

(JESUS HEALS THE 10 LEPERS)

TONE 5 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the Demake and Chachi families, and Iliana Nace, in memory of their loved ones.

BURN THE MORTGAGE CAMPAIGN

THE "BURN THE MORTGAGE CAMPAIGN" launched at our St. Nicholas Feast Day luncheon is underway. Our goal is to pay off our entire church building debt over the next three years! As we announced at the luncheon we already have over \$100,000 in pledges committed towards this goal! You may pick up a copy of the pamphlet which we distributed at the Feast Day Luncheon that explains this campaign at the candle stand. We have a number of people who have volunteered to work along side the other members of the Parish Council and Father Nick to assure the success

of our efforts. This campaign committee members include: Gerry Belba, Jackie Cavanaugh, Tom Fitzpatrick, Margarite Landry, Bogdan Nedelescu, Tim Rucho, George Soter and Evans Tsoules. As we enter the New Year each of us will be asked to consider how we might participate in this campaign. Please take some time to prayerfully consider the work that is before us as a parish and how you might like to participate in it along with your fellow parishioners. May God Bless you and your loved ones with health, happiness and every good thing through the coming year!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thurs, Jan 23 Pita Baking, 9 am
- Sat, Feb 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, Feb 2 Annual General Assembly
- Sun, Feb 16 Founders' Day Luncheon
- Sat, Feb 22 Saturday of the Souls, Liturgy 10am
- Mon, March 3 Great Lent begins
- Sun, April 13 Palm Sunday
- Sun, April 20 Great and Holy Pascha

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

COMMUNITY NEWS

MICHAEL CLEM is running in this year's Boston Marathon as part of the Spaulding Race for Rehab Team. He's set a personal goal of raising \$5,000 toward the total goal of \$500,000 of the Spaulding team. He's asking for supporting donation. You can read more in a letter he wrote, along with ways to donate. Printed copies are also available at the candles.

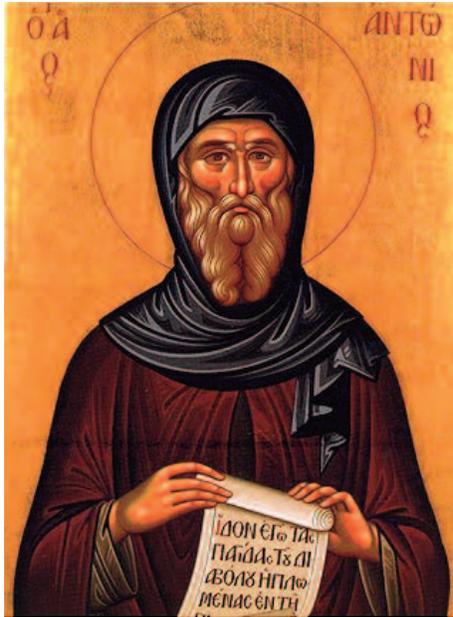
HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR SOUGHT: Please contact Dolores Schermer at dschermer@radiusexecutivesolutions.com

HOLY TRINITY HOSPICE ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR SOUGHT: Please contact Francis McGrath at fmcgrath@htnr.net.

ALSO, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT HOLY TRINITY are always posted on the website. Current positions include: Several CNA, LPN and RN positions available. For information on these positions and other openings, please visit: www.htnr.net.



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

GOD, OUR GOD: By your merciful goodness, your grace shapes your image in us so that we reflect your divine glory in spite of all that we do to soil it. In spite of the abyss that separates our reality from yours, we seek to be united with you in this world as in the next. Give us the spiritual tools to do our share of the work in reflecting you, that our way of life will be attractive to others and lead them to turn to you with greater lasting interest and desire.

For you are a God of beauty, goodness, and truth, and for this we praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

NAMEDAYS

January 6

The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Francis Polymeros
Jordan Sparages

January 7

The Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist

John Banks-Binici
Joanna Boukalis
Rev. Fr. John Daly
Nita Dumitriu
Sean Fahey
Ian Mayer
Jonathan Paul Maynard
John Rucho
John David Thoren

January 12

St. Tatiana the Martyr of Rome

Tatiana Sofia Karadimitriou

January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Anthony Theodore Christo
Scott Anthony Maynard
Anthony Rucho
Tony Nicholas Trakadas

January 18

St. Athanasios Patriarch of Alexandria

Thanas Lolo
Arthur Peterson

January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy

Rev. Fr. Timothy Lowe
Timothy Rucho

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos
Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters

LISTEN TO THE WEEKLY NATIONAL ORTHODOX RADIO BROADCAST "COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT"

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL

WITH the close of the holiday celebrations that began with the feast of the Lord's birth and ended with his baptism in the Jordan — his Epiphany, we return to the regular cycle of Scripture readings. In the weeks before Christmas the readings were taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians. This Sunday we resume reading from that Letter. The selection is: Chapter 3, verses 4-11.

To refresh your memory, Colossae was a community composed largely of Gentile converts, but also with a substantial Jewish component. Some of them were falling under the influence of gnostic teachers — what today we might call “new age” thinkers. There was a lot of syncretistic thinking and behavior, a kind of mix-and-match approach to the spiritual life. Paul wanted to address what he saw as the dangers of these tendencies straight on.

This Letter has two distinct parts. Paul starts out by addressing questions of faith. There were real doctrinal problems in the Colossian community, and he wanted to get them back on the right track. The verses we read today are the opening thoughts to the second part: how Christians should live. In order to make his point about the new life that Christ offers us, he draws on imagery and language from the Baptismal rite. He bridges his discussion of doctrine and faith to his thoughts on Christian living by reminding the Colossians of their baptism. Very probably, much of what St. Paul wrote to them was part of their catechetical instruction when they were preparing for baptism.

I should say one more thing. Often when the portions of St. Paul's letters are read during the Liturgy, people can be left perplexed, wondering what it meant. St. Paul's Letters were meant to be read as a whole, and even studied. It may be hard to appreciate the fact that they are usually very pastoral and even emotional, when we only hear them in

small snippets, dare I say, sound bites. This week's reading is a good example of this. He uses the images of death in the waters of Baptism and the new life in Christ which we have been given. But the selected reading only gives us the first part. We have to wait until next week to get the second. So if you don't understand the whole context, the opening verses can be a little jarring. Listen to what he says:

“Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth.” (v. 3:5-8)

If you have attended a baptism recently, you probably recognize many of these phrases from the first part of the service, the exorcisms. When we hear these words read again, it reminds us of the “old man” we left behind when we embraced Christ. Think about that moment in the baptismal service where, after having renounced Satan and joined Christ, the person who is to be baptized is led by the priest toward the font. Now listen to the next verses from today's reading:

“[Y]ou have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.” (v. 9-10) These verses echo what he wrote to the Galatians: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (v. 3:27) We sing these words at every baptism and at every Divine Liturgy that was traditionally a day for baptisms, like Pascha, Theophany and Christmas. It is a regular reminder of our baptismal commit-

ment and vow.

In order to emphasize this change we undergo in Christ — the “new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (v. 10) — he speaks of the disappearance of social barriers in the Christian community, such that, “there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!” (v. 11). He says something similar in Galatians: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (3:28)

Because so many people who called and call themselves Christians have behaved in discriminatory and even horrific ways toward other human being “different” from them, it can be easy to forget that Christianity and the Church has been the greatest liberating force in human history. One doesn't need to look very hard to see how over the millennia people who were poor and marginalized were able to rise out of their situations in societies that were frozen by social position and class through the Church. As Christians we need to remember St. Paul's words and help to make our parish communities examples of the new humanity that we find in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christian faith is regularly criticized as a regressive force in our modern world. All religious faith is often characterized as a source of division and even war. It is true that faith is a powerful motivating force, and sometimes people act badly, thinking it is what God wants. But we know that Christ came to restore humanity, not to destroy it. We know that we are called to renew and reshape ourselves according to the image of him who created us. Let us act on it. Each of us needs to listen to God's call and let it enter our hearts.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

Stewardship in Action!

As you think about your stewardship offering for 2014, please consider making a commitment to help in one of the many ministry and parish administration opportunities here at St. Nick's. A few to consider are listed below:

Outreach Ministry: Caring and compassionate people are needed to spend time and assist some elderly or shut-ins in our community. Needs vary from person to person, but in general we seek individuals willing to make a once-per-week commitment to visit with members of our Parish family and provide support as needed (help with chores, take shopping, bring a hot lunch, run an errand, or just visit and socialize). Consistency and dependability are important qualities in this role.

Data Entry: An individual is needed to offer 2-4 hours per week at the Church doing basic data entry at the direction of the Priest / Treasurer. Knowledge of basic accounting and Microsoft Office programs is helpful, especially how databases work, and diligence and precision are needed qualities.

Parish Mailing Coordinator: A liaison is needed to learn the rules and procedures of non-profit bulk mail through the USPS, to train volunteers to assist, at the direction of the Priest / Parish Council to compile items to be included, and to schedule mailings.

Mustard Seed: Volunteers are needed to coordinate this ministry of our Church to respond to our Lord's command to "feed the hungry." The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker house providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Our Parish is committed to providing and serving that meal on a Friday evening six times per year. In particular, one person is needed to plan the menu and coordinate volunteers for cooking of the meal. Another person is needed to organize the delivery of the food to the Mustard Seed and to organize volunteers to serve the meal, and return pans/clean-up back at the Church.

Religious Education for Children: There are many opportunities if you are interested in teaching or assisting with Church School and/or working with the Youth of our parish on activities and programs geared to them.

Teen / Young Adult Programming: A particular need in our parish is one or two adult leaders or coordinators for teen / young adult programs and activities. The focus tasks would be outreach to teens, organize and schedule meetings, and assist and guide the group towards self-directed initiatives and programs.

"50-Something" Coordinator: A volunteer or two is needed to plan daytime activities for retirees solely for the purpose of fellowship and enjoyment. Responding to interests of participants, this person would plan and organize excursions, day trips, social gatherings or other types of activities as desired.

Marketing / Public Relations: A volunteer is needed to learn about and access free media opportunities to promote Parish events and fundraisers. Areas to research and explore include free public service announcements provided to non-profits by radio stations, newspapers, online community listings, local cable television, etc.

Coffee Hour Clean-Up Crews: We schedule 4-5 groups of people to take responsibility for cleanup following regular coffee hour on Sundays. We need more volunteers to add to existing groups. Rotating responsibilities mean that you'll be on-duty only once a month.

St. Nick's Kitchen: Throughout much of the year, baking occurs on Thursday mornings with prep work preceding on Wednesday evenings. Annually, sales of baked goods is our most successful fundraiser, and we are in dire need of some new volunteers to learn the skills and techniques, as well as to assist with general kitchen tasks.

Orthodox Food Center: Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed each week.

Greeters: We would like to schedule 4 - 5 groups of people (2 to 3) to take responsibility for greeting members and visitors to the church each Sunday during Liturgy and assisting with the candles, ushering and related duties. Rotating responsibilities mean that you'll be on duty only once a month.

Please speak with Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares to learn more about these opportunities to serve or to be directed to the appropriate contact person.