

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JANUARY 26, 2014

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

HOUSE BLESSINGS ARE ON-GOING. We've gotten a little delayed this week because of the weather. The schedule has had to be changed to accommodate the situation, but you will be notified when we'll be at your home. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Nick at: 508-335-7378 or by e-mail at: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org.

PITA BAKING this Thursday, January 30th at 9:00 am. Everyone's help is welcome. **Questions? Please see Chris Toda.** No experience necessary!

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, February 1st, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Nicole Peterson or Lisa Mielnicki.**

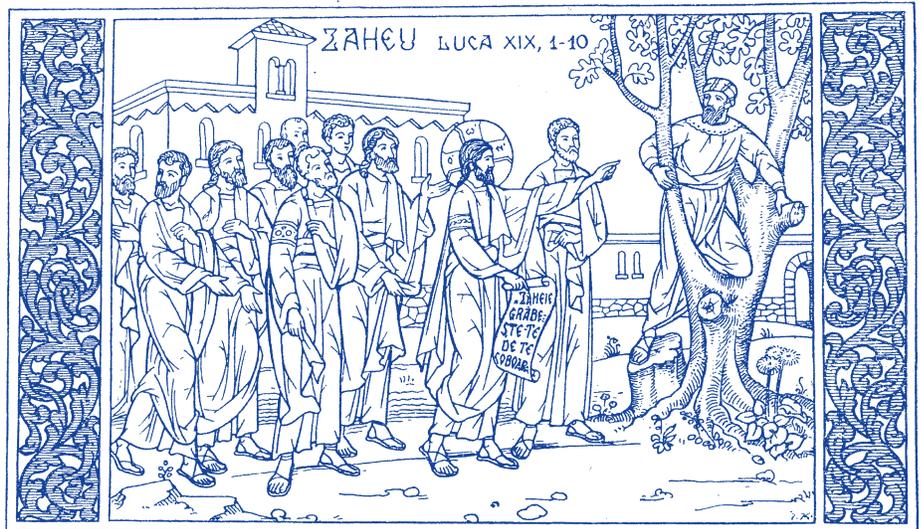
THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, February 2nd following the Divine Liturgy.

THE FOUNDERS' DAY LUNCHEON,

**GREETERS TEAM 2:
GEORGE DEMAKE &
MARGARITE LANDRY**

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:
PRIZIO FAMILY**



THE THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10

(SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS)

TONE 6 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 9

to commemorate the anniversary of our first Divine Liturgy here on Gold Street in Shrewsbury, Sunday, February 16, 2014, sponsored by Lisa Mielnicki in loving memory of her parents, **Nicholas and Androniki Demake.** Adults \$20.00; Children \$5. Thanks to the generosity of Lisa, our luncheon sponsor, all proceeds of the Luncheon will benefit St. Nicholas Church. **Reservations may be made** at the candle stand or by speaking with Eleanor Sedares during coffee hour.

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

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Mansecu family**, in memory **Liana's grandparents: Maria and Constantin.** May their memory be eternal!

COMMUNITY NEWS

IOCC's HUMANITARIAN REFUGEES living in Jordan will be featured **this Sunday, January 26th, on the PBS show, Religion and Ethics** Newsweekly. The PBS news crew shadowed the IOCC staff for two days earlier this month as they visited Syrian refugees living in urban settlements around the capital city of Amman, and in the remote Za'atari Camp, home to nearly 100,000 Syrian people who fled the bloodshed from their country's civil war. Dimitrije Djukic, IOCC Country Representative for Jordan, spoke to PBS about IOCC's presence in the region.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thurs, Jan 30 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

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850

E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

To see his interview and the report, click on the link to find out broadcast times our area: www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING. Please contact Susan Benoit at sbenoit@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,

THE WORLD, LORD, is full of foolishness, and we certainly have wasted our share of precious time in producing and entertaining such nonsense. Let us gain some wisdom to think and act on this as we should, for we regret the opportunities we have lost throughout our lives. Inspire us with insight to recognize the recreation that we need and the foolishness that we need to avoid. And as we improve our lives, let us never be so thoughtless or ignorant as to offend others who do not happen to see the need for self-improvement.

For you indeed our God, a God of tenderness and mercy, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

NAMEDAYS

January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy

Rev. Fr. Timothy Lowe

Timothy Rucho

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

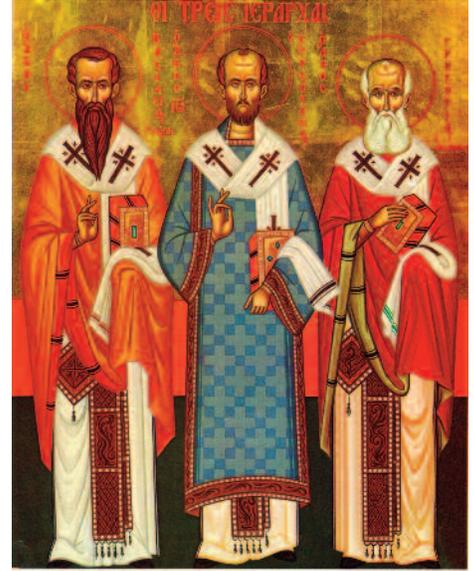
Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos

Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters



**FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS
JANUARY 30TH**

THIS COMMON FEAST of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred Basil, while others preferred Gregory, and yet others preferred John Chrysostom, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor, they revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty.

LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH

THE liturgical cycle is now directing us toward preparation for Great Lent and Pascha. This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of the repentance of Zacchæus the tax collector. The Epistle reading is from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, 4:9-15. St. Paul's Pastoral Letters — First and Second Timothy, and Titus — were addressed personally to the leader of a local church. He offered them advice on how to deal with organizational and pastoral matters within their communities. When writing to Timothy, he especially spoke of the qualifications for holding leadership positions within the Church; how the local bishop or presbyter, and deacons should comport themselves for the well-being of the community. These letters are often cited during ordinations.

Even though the advice is directed primarily toward those with spiritual responsibilities in the community, much of the advice still can be helpful to each of us. The reading begins with this affirmation: "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." (v. 9-10) St. Paul is speaking especially of the difficulties of ministry. Keep in mind all of the sufferings that Paul and the other Apostles endured: imprisonment, floggings, exile, shipwreck. Many met a terrible death. They were abused even by members of their own communities. It is out of this experience that St. Paul tells Timothy to maintain his focus. "We toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God." The impulse to preach the Gospel is not grounded in human ambition and pride. It is based on the hope and faith we have in God, and the desire to share this hope with others.

God is "Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." This is a beautiful expression of a proper Chris-

tian attitude to evangelism. It embodies both God's desire that "everyone be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), and the particular comfort those have who answer God's call, having faith and trust in Him.

St. Paul tells Timothy: "Command and teach these things." (v. 11) St. John Chrysostom offers an helpful explanation of why St. Paul says both "command and teach." He observes that depending on the circumstance a person in authority, such as a bishop or presbyter, or a parent or teacher, might have to 'command,' that is, to be unequivocal or directive. In other cases teaching is required. If you do one when you should do the other, you'll look silly. For example, when there is a clear moral imperative — 'don't take that, it doesn't belong to you' — teaching is not the appropriate stance. An authoritative voice is required. In other circumstances, when the issue is a matter of subtle choices, or where a person is inexperienced or ill-informed, shouting a command would not only be inappropriate, but probably offensive and hurtful. Gentle words of instruction are what is called for in this situation.

St. Paul is giving this advice to Timothy because he was relatively young for the responsibility that had been laid on him. Timothy was about thirty five when St. Paul was writing to him. He had been with St. Paul since he was around seventeen. They had a long relationship. So, he tells him, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (v. 12) He isn't saying that Timothy is not capable, 'up to the job.' Just that he should recognize that some people might be uncomfortable because of his relative youth. A little later on, in Chapter 5, he offers specific advice on how to relate to persons older and younger than he, both men and women. In this particular verse he focuses on the central as-

pect: Timothy's own behavior. He tells Timothy that he needs to be the example. This is good advice for every bishop and presbyter. It is also good advice for each one of us. If we presume to teach or lead, we need first and foremost to show how it is done through our own life: our words, but especially our deeds, actions and thoughts.

"Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching." (v. 13) The early Christian communities were organized much like the Jewish synagogues out of which they grew; as part of their service, in addition to the eucharist, there were readings of scripture, preaching (that is an explanation of the scripture), and teaching (namely the practical application). We do much the same today.

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you." (v. 14) In St. Paul's time ordination was by an Apostle, but the council of presbyters (elders/priests) consented by laying their hands on the candidate, along with the Apostle. By "prophetic utterance" St. Paul is referring to those spiritually gifted persons who pointed out the unique and charismatic qualities of Timothy himself. Paul doesn't want Timothy to forget the gifts God has given him.

"Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress." (v. 15) One of the ways that we can see God at work in the world is in the progress each of us makes in the spiritual life. When we practice what we have been taught and devote ourselves to the life in Christ, not only do we ourselves benefit, but we also encourage others. They see the change in us and grow in hope.

This is St. Paul's advice to Timothy. It is his advice to us as well.

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.