

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MARCH 16, 2014

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

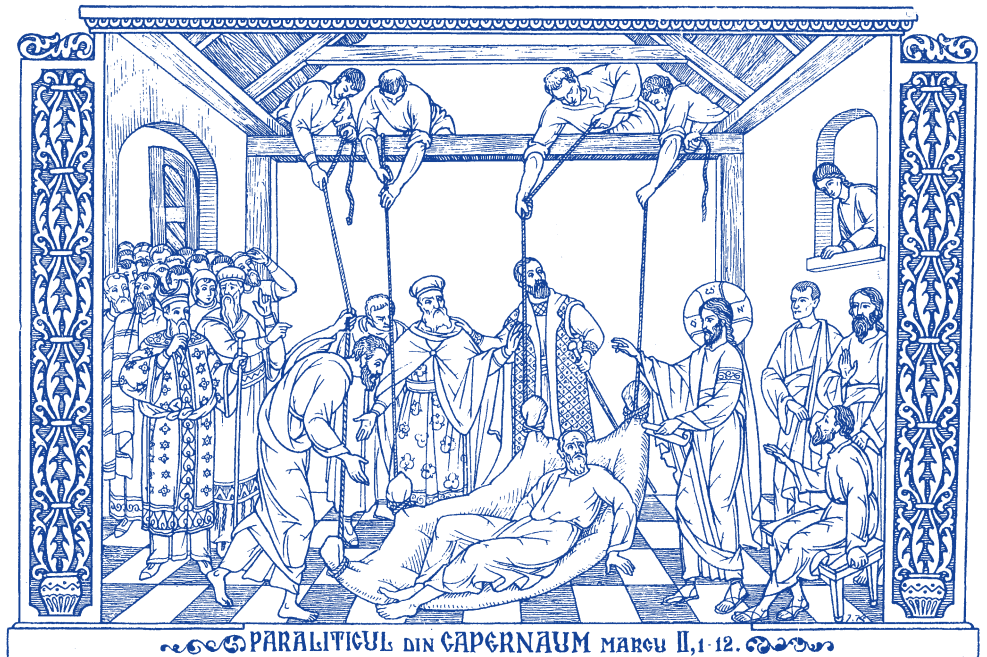
THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held **TODAY, Sunday, March 16th** following the Divine Liturgy.

THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY Wednesday, March 19th will be at St. George Cathedral. Liturgy and begins at 6:00 pm. Persons wishing to receive Holy Communion must prepare themselves in the usual manner, including total fasting from at least noon.

BAKING ORDERS FOR EASTER need to be in by **Sunday, April 6th**. If you have family or friends who would like pitas, pastry, or pastry platters for the holiday, please make sure we get the orders in time! **Any questions, please contact Chris Toda.**

PITA BAKING, weather permitting, **this Thursday, March 20th** at 9:00 am. Everyone's help is welcome. Questions? Please see Chris Toda. No experience necessary!

THE VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS is next Sunday, March 23rd, the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent. **Donations** are needed to cover the cost of the flowers that adorn the Holy



SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 1:10-2:1-3 ☩ GOSPEL: MARK 2:1-12

(THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC IN CAPERNAUM)

TONE 5 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 5

Cross. If you would like to contribute towards that, please see **Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE a memorial for the servant of God **Gary Michael Soter**, the son of George and Carol Soter.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Remus and Carolina Ionete** in Carolina's father **Ion Gubavu. May his memory be eternal!**

Beatitude and how this Professor of World Religions at the University of Athens became a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, one of the most prominent voices in Orthodoxy today, and the greatest contemporary Orthodox missionary who carries the message of Good News to all the corners of the world!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, March 16 Annual General Assembly
- Wed, March 19 PreSanctified Liturgy, St. George 6 pm
- Thurs, March 20 Pita Baking, 9 am
- Wed, March 26 PreSanctified Lit, St. Mary's 6 pm
- Sat, March 29 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sat, April 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, April 13 Palm Sunday & Luncheon
- Sun, April 20 Great and Holy Pascha

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES & TOM FITZPATRICK

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:
MARGARITE LANDRY, CHRISTINE
MASTERJOHN & KATINA COCAVESSIS

COMMUNITY NEWS

A LECTURE ON ARCHBISHOP ANASTASIOS OF ALBANIA, sponsored by the Hellenic Arts Society, will be held on **Sunday, March 16th** at 4:00 pm, at **St. Spyridon Cathedral Hall**. Fr. Luke Veronis will speak on His

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

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD JESUS: As the darkness of night surrounds us, we turn to you, who are the un fading light. It is easy for us to offer you our evening hymns and canticles, O Christ, but we find it difficult to offer you ourselves and all we hold dear, for the darkness of sin prevents us from seeing that we need to surrender all we are and have. Let your light show us the way to this, Lord, that in all things we may please you.

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

DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

General donations in any amount to defray the cost of decorations for the Paschal Feast are most appreciated. Some specific needs are:

Flowers for Palm Sunday Icon	\$50.00
Palms	\$100.00
Flowers for Bridegroom Icon	\$50.00
Holy Thursday Gospel Candles	\$60.00
Wreaths for Cross (Great Friday)	\$50.00
(Resurrection)	\$100.00
Resurrection Icon	\$50.00
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday	\$100.00
1 Gallon of Olive Oil	\$25.00
½ lb Incense	\$40.00
Priest's Paschal Candle	\$50.00
Rose Oil for Epitaphion	\$25.00
<hr/>	
Flowers for Epitaphion	\$500.00
Decorations for Pascha	\$350.00

Please see Fr. Nick or Lillian Chachi to make a donation

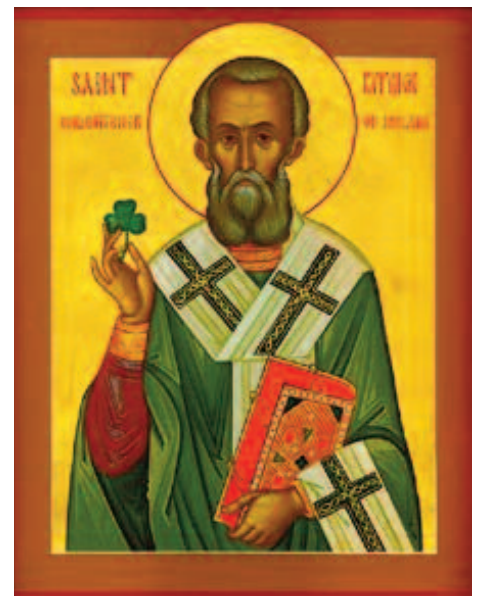
ICONS OF THE SEASON will be the topic of a Lenten Retreat sponsored by **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**, 256 Hamilton St, Worcester, MA. The presenter will be Rt. Rev Mark Melone, an expert in Byzantine iconography. Saturday, March 22 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. For more information call 508-752-4174 or email: olphworc@att.net.

tions available. Also, LPN and CNA positions available at the Ichabod Washburn Hospice Residence. For information on these positions and other openings, please visit: www.htnr.net.

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.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT HOLY TRINITY are always posted on the website. Current positions include: Several CNA, LPN and RN posi-



CAN WE NEGLECT SO GREAT A SALVATION?

DURING LENT THE APOSTOLIC READINGS are taken largely from the Letter to the Hebrews. The overarching theme of Hebrews is that Jesus, God's Son, has become the High Priest of the New Covenant at the heavenly altar. God's new sanctuary is not on earth, but above. The Old Law is superseded by the New. The ritual of animal sacrifices has given way to the spiritual sacrifice, through the Self-Sacrifice of Jesus. By reading and studying this Letter we are given deeper insights into the way in which God had been leading humanity, and especially His chosen people, to understand the new relationship with Him to which we all are called.

Today's reading begins at Hebrews 1:10 and ends at 2:3. The theme in the first chapter is to remind the reader who this Jesus is. He is not an angel or other created being; he is the "Son, whom [God] appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." (v. 2) It seems that the community to which this Letter is addressed were back-sliding in their faith in Jesus. Most scholars think this was a community of Jewish converts. Some even think the audience might have been a community of priests of the Old Covenant. The writer of this Letter wants to remind them that this Jesus "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power," (v. 3) that is to say: he is God.

I need to say a word about the authorship of Hebrews. Even from the first Christian centuries people who studied the Bible noticed differences in style and vocabulary between Letters we know St. Paul wrote and the Letter to the Hebrews. Various reasons were offered. St. Clement believed that he had written it in Hebrew and then had St. Luke translate it into Greek. Origen believed that the thinking was St. Paul's, but the hand probably belonged

to one of his disciples. This does not diminish the authority of the Letter — God forbid! Rather, it simply highlights the distinct challenges that the Letter to the Hebrews presents for us modern readers. The other Letters of St. Paul are primarily pastoral, even while being replete with deep theology and profound spirituality. Hebrews has this same level of theology and spirituality while taking up the question of Old Testament worship and how it changed with the self-sacrifice of the Son of God. For our purposes here, we will assume that St. Paul is the author.

In the first chapter St. Paul cites a number of Old Testament texts that were generally assumed to refer to the Messiah. The way he uses these verses have the form of hymns and poems that were written to describe the enthronement of kings in the ancient Near East, especially when these kings declared themselves to also be gods. St. Paul is telling the Hebrews that Jesus is not just a man, nor is he an angel. All created things, human or angelic, are mutable and changeable. The Son is not. So when he speaks of the Son as sitting down "at the right hand of the Majesty on high," (v. 3) he is emphasizing that Jesus has "become as much superior to the angels as the name [i.e. God's Son] he has obtained is more excellent than theirs." (v. 4)

The verses that begin today's reading (v. 10-12) St. Paul are taken from Psalm 102: "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." The Psalmist directs these words to God. St. Paul uses them to describe Jesus, the eternal Son of God.

To emphasize this, he reminds us of the words of Psalm 110: "But to

which of the angels has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?" (v. 13)

The angels are the servants of the Son. "Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?" (v. 14) Notice, they are sent not only to serve the Son, but they are also "sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation." This means us. God has sent us prophets and angels. Now he sends us His Son.

"Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him." (v. 2:1-3)

Brothers and sisters, this is our central challenge: to pay attention! How many times do we hear in the Liturgy, "Let us be attentive!?" This is just a polite way of saying: "Pay Attention!" St. Paul reminds us of punishments meted out to those who ignored the angels. Implicit is the consequences that await us if we ignore the Son of God who lived among us.

"Can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" God is not rescuing us from famine and fire, sword and invasion. He is saving us from death. He is offering us eternal life.

God spoke to us directly — in and through His Son. We know this because those who saw him and lived with him told us; they testified to it not only in word, but also with their very lives. Throughout the centuries the truth of his word and their testimony has enlivened countless believers. May God give us the strength of will to pay attention, and not to neglect our salvation.

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.

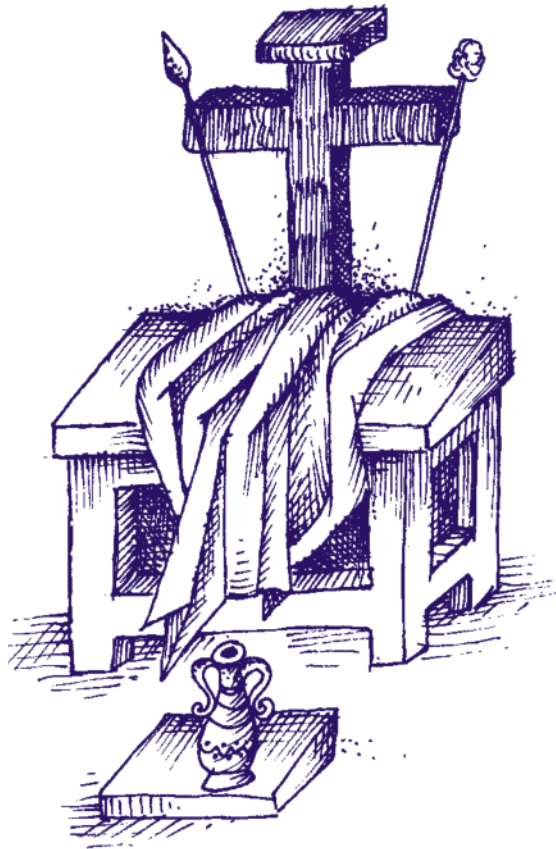
Please speak with Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares to learn more about these opportunities to serve or to be directed to the appropriate contact person.

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES 2014

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
St. Nicholas Church

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
St. Spyridon Cathedral

Wednesday, March 19, 2014
St. George Cathedral



Wednesday, March 26, 2014
St. Mary's Assumption

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
St. Spyridon Cathedral

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
St. George Cathedral

Each Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will begin at 6:00 p.m. The faithful should prepare themselves for Holy Communion in the usual way: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and regular confession. There will be a modest 'pot-luck' lenten meal offered after the Liturgy. People are encouraged to bring something to share with others.