

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN APRIL 13, 2014

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE FULL PASCHA SCHEDULE and announcements may be found attached to this Bulletin or as a separate sheet at the candles.

ARCHBISHOP NICOLAE'S PASCHA PASTORAL is available in both English and Romanian at the candles stand.

THE GREAT FRIDAY CHILDREN'S RETREAT will be held on **Friday, April 18 starting at 10:30 am**, and concluding with a celebration of Great Vespers at 2:00 pm. All children grades kindergarten through 8th are welcome to attend. Younger children are welcomed accompanied by a parent. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the candle stand. Please be sure to register your child to attend. Besides assisting with the children's lessons and activities, assistance is needed with lunch, snacks and other logistics. Teens are welcomed to attend to assist with classes and activities for the kids. For additional information and offers to assist, please **contact Valarie Stamoulis or Mary Anna Dymek**.

DONATIONS FOR MIDNIGHT PASCHAL MEAL are requested. Please see **Presvytera Maria** if you would like



THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

APOSTOLIC READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 12:1-18
EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE FEAST

to contribute and assist with preparing and serving the meal. Please join with your fellow parishioners to celebrate the Resurrection and break-the-fast together. **All are welcome!**

HELP WITH PREPARATIONS FOR PASCHA is needed. During the day on Holy Friday, and following Vesper Liturgy on Holy Saturday, assistance is needed with a number of tasks related to the end of Holy Week and Holy Pascha. If you are available, please speak with Deb Sedares or just come to church on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday and we will put you to work. **All are welcome!**

GREETERS ARE NEEDED to assist on Sundays with various activities including: greeting parishioners and visitors, activity at the candle stand, seating, and directing participants during the Liturgy. We would like to have a minimum of two greeters each Sunday. A "job description" is posted on the

Church Bulletin Board. Greeters are schedule to serve on a rotating basis, no more than once a month, except for special services such as during Holy Week. If you are interested in finding out more information, please see any member of the Parish Council. **All are welcomed. Thank You!**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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

**GREETERS:
ALL HANDS ON DECK**

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

**PALM SUNDAY DINNER
SET UP AND CLEAN UP
MANY HANDS NEEDED
SEE DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, April 13 Palm Sunday & Luncheon
Fri, April 18 Great Friday Children's Retreat
Sun, April 20 Great and Holy Pascha
Sat, May 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
Sat, May 31 Electronics Recycling 9am-2pm

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

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

bod Washburn Hospice Residence. For information on these positions and other openings, please visit: www.htnr.net.

Once again, U.S. News and World Report has listed Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as one of the BEST Nursing Homes in the country! Holy Trinity has also been awarded a 5 STAR rating by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services! Check out our website at www.htnr.net to learn more about Holy Trinity.

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.



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

TODAY, O LORD, OUR GOD, with the close of the lenten season, we stand at the threshold of the great week of the passion of your only Son, by celebrating the resurrection of Lazarus. In honor of this feast, we offer you the sweet fragrance of our incense sacrifice in praise of your Christ, whose mighty voice raised his friend from death. In return, deliver us from the stench of corruption and evil, and strengthen us to face our own death at the evening of our life. Teach us to live according to your will in the days that are left to us, and bring us to the resurrection, together with all your saints.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

REJOICE, ALWAYS!

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S ENTRY into the Holy City: Jerusalem. This is the culmination of Jesus' ministry here on this earth. He rides into Jerusalem, on a donkey, as king and prophet. He comes to deliver his final sermons in the Temple as he concretely shows us what his words mean by how he responds to those who hate him. Because we are well acquainted with the story of the Lord's Passion, Suffering, and Crucifixion, we need to try all the more to actively experience these events as did the persons who first witnessed them. In and through his response to the pain inflicted on him, the Lord is showing us the full meaning of the words he spoke to his disciples as well as to the throngs that followed him. His suffering to death is the tangible expression of his words. Word and action are united. The result is the Resurrection.

The Fathers chose today's reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:4-9) in order to prepare us for the events of Holy Week. We will see the Lord betrayed and denied by his friends. His own people will hand him over to the Roman occupying powers to be tortured and crucified as a traitor. His disciples will scatter and hide out of fear for their own lives. Every weakness and sadness of human nature is presented to us during the Lord's trial. As we once again experience this, we will need St. Paul's words of encouragement and hope.

St. Paul closes his letter to the Philippians with these words: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (v. 4:4-6)

We know all too well of the cares and difficulties of this present existence, nonetheless, Paul urges us to 'rejoice.' He repeats it twice because I am

sure that it was as difficult for the Philippians, as for us, to easily accept that we should be joyful given the day to day realities of life. St. John Chrysostom says that the joy St. Paul is speaking of is born from the grief surrounding us. It is the joy of Mary and Martha when the Lord raises their brother Lazaros. It is the joy the myrrh-bearing women experience when they realize the Lord was risen from the dead. He says it twice because we so often forget the Lord's power to change our sorrow into hope.

St. Paul said that we should let our "gentleness be known to everyone." The word translated as "gentleness" has a nuance of meanings. The original also has the sense of being fairminded, equitable, and proper. When we are grounded in the Lord's joy and hope, we can communicate this to those around us by our even-keeledness. People should see us Christians as a different people, not affected by the passing cares of this life.

St. Paul tells us that the Lord is near. This phrase echoes the Christian prayer: "Marana-tha": Lord Come! He will come, but we should also remember the Lord is not far from us here and now. He is always as close as our prayer to Him. In preparing for the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem, it is quite clear the Fathers intended that we understand this proximity in very real terms. The Lord is near us! Never doubt it.

Then St. Paul tells us, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Our lives are filled with so much anxiety. Anxiety never accomplishes anything; we can't change things by worrying. But, we can change our attitude by thankful prayer. When we are thankful our perspective changes. When we focus on the good things that God gives us, our hearts open. When we become grateful even for the trials life presents, then we are

transfigured. A posture of thanksgiving changes us and the world around us. This is the meaning of the Eucharist.

St. Paul promises that "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." 'Surpasses' is an accurate translation of the original Greek, but another older translation says simply: 'passes understanding.' In English we can hear a play on words; God's peace truly surpasses rational understanding, but also, with God's peace, we can pass that understanding to others.

Philippi was a large Greek city, and the Philippian Christians would have been fluent in Greek philosophy. St. Paul builds on what they already know and trust, while giving it a deeper meaning. He recounts a list of virtues with which they would be thoroughly familiar: "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (v. 8)

There are voices today that would like to draw a hard line between faith and science, and between secular and revealed knowledge. St. Paul's answer is to, "Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." (v. 9) St. Paul embraced the good wherever he found it. He saw God's wisdom in many places. He offers the Philippians himself as a model. He tells them that in following all these good things they will find God's peace.

With these encouraging words of St. Paul we gird ourselves to be worthy of the Lord's Passion. As we stand alongside the women and men who first witness the Lord's saving example, let us pray for God's peace that passes understanding.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

NAMEDAYS

April 5

The Holy Martyr Victor

Victor Ioan Nedelescu
Victoria Wilder

April 11

St. Calinic of Cernica

Călin Galeriu

April 13

***The Entrance of our Lord into
Jerusalem***

Elodie Lauren Killick
Florence Rucho
Flora Soter
Florica Tonna

April 21

***The Holy Martyr Alexandra the
Queen***

Alexandra Dymek
Alexis George
Alexandra Mentis
Sandra Nedelescu
Casie Soter
Alexandra Valoras

April 23

***The Holy Great-martyr George the
Wonderworker***

George Belba
George M. Bourisk
George Demake
Gjergji Disho
Gheorghe O. Galica
George Grniet
George Krassopoulos
George Soter
George Symock
George Tonna
George James Trakadas

April 25

***The Holy Apostle and Evangelist
Mark***

Rev. Fr. Mark Doku
Mark Soter
Mark Stamoulis

The Life-giving Fountain

Zoica Nedelcu
Zoitza Tsongalis

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

Flowers for Epitaphion	\$500.00
Decorations for Pascha	\$350.00

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

PALM SUNDAY DINNER

Please join us for our annual **PALM SUNDAY DINNER** following the Divine Liturgy **THIS Sunday, April 13, 2014**. A traditional baked fish dinner will be served and homemade baked macaroni and cheese for children. **Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.** Thanks to the generosity of **Mike and Casie Soter, and the Apostola/Mossaides** families, all proceeds from the dinner will benefit St. Nicholas Church.

WE ALSO NEED HELP with serving the dinner and clean up following. If you can help with serving the meal, please come to the kitchen following Holy Communion and see Deb Sedares.