

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN APRIL 27, 2014

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, May 3rd, 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.**

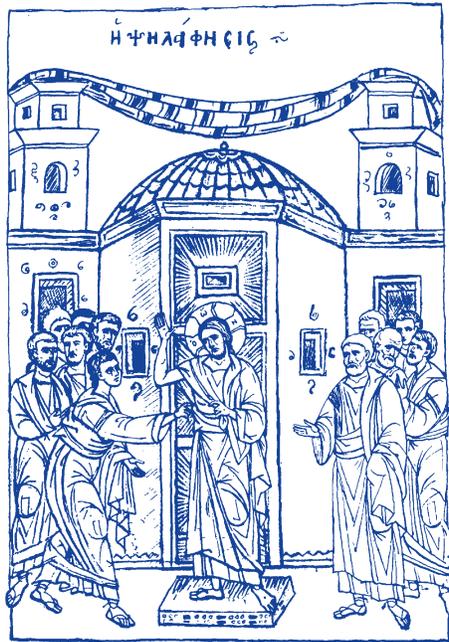
**THE PARISH COUNCIL** will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, May 5th at 6:30 pm.** Parish Council Members, please let Deb Sedares know if you are unable to attend.

**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 informa-

**GREETERS TEAM 3:  
EVANS TSOULES AND  
TOM FITZPATRICK**

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**

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



**ANTIPASCHA:  
ST. THOMAS SUNDAY**  
EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12-20  
GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

**TONE 1 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 1**

tion, please see any member of the Parish Council. **All are welcomed. Thank You!**

**MEMORIAL DAY** is Monday, May 26th. Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. The common Memorial Service will be at noon at the Altar in Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-845-0088.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored in memory of **Thomas Sedares** by his family.



## A NOTE OF THANKS ...

We want to thank the members of our Parish who helped especially through this Paschal season: those who planned and prepared the wonderful food from the first Lenten meal, to the Palm Sunday Luncheon through the Paschal Agape Meal; the ushers, the altar servers; those who set-up and cleaned the facility; the baking crew, who produced pitas and pastries that brightened the holiday tables throughout the region; the religious education instructors and those who coordinated the Great Friday children's retreat; our chanters: Tim Rucho and George Demake. There are so many who always help and contribute in ways small and large. Take a moment next time you see an act of kindness and service and personally thank the individual.

*Christ is Risen!*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, May 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm  
Mon, May 5 Parish Council, 6:30 pm  
Tues, May 20 Holy Trinity Gen Assembly, 7 pm  
Mon, May 26 Memorial Day, Hope Cemetery, noon  
Thurs, May 29 The Lord's Ascension  
Sat, May 31 Electronics Recycling 9am-2pm  
Sun, June 1 Godparents & Grandparents Sunday  
Parish Cookout  
June 6-8 Grecian Festival  
Sat, June 7 Saturday of Souls, Lit 10 am  
Sun, June 8 Pentecost  
Fri, June 20 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*

## “LOOKING AHEAD”

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & “WELCOME SUMMER” PARISH COOKOUT:

The last day of classes for Sunday School will be Sunday, May 18. We will end the Sunday School year officially on Sunday, June 1 with our annual “Godparents and Grandparents Sunday”. That Sunday, the youth of our parish will be greeters and assist with the service. Children (and adults) are encouraged to **invite their godparent or grandparent to join them at Divine Liturgy, after which a special prayer will be offered to affirm those relationships.** In addition, we will recognize our parish graduates (high school, college and post graduates) and conclude with a Parish Cookout on the grounds! Picnic blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged! A back yard feast of hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages, with sides and all the fixings, will be served. Adults: \$15, Children: \$5. Thanks to the generosity of the Sedares Family who is sponsoring the Cookout, all proceeds from the day will benefit St. Nicholas Church. *All are welcome!*

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**THE HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY** will be held on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity. Each parish of the Council is allowed up to 10 delegates. If you would like to represent our parish please speak with either Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares.

**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 Ichabod Washburn Hospice Residence. For information on these positions and other openings, please visit: [www.htnr.net](http://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](http://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,

**O** AUTHOR OF EVERY MARVEL, O you who raised your anointed one from death to sit at your right, where he enjoys new life: Look favorably on us, gathered before you on this day resplendent with the beauty of the paschal mysteries, and receive the hymns and prayers we offered you in celebration of the resurrection of your only Son. By the blood and water that gushed forth from his side, renew us and strengthen our faith in him as he strengthened the faith of Thomas, that we may be worthy of the reward promised to all who believe without seeing.

By the grace and mercy and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## NAMEDAYS

### 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. Bourrisk  
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

### April 27

#### *The Holy Apostle Thomas*

Thomas Chachi  
Thomas Fitzpatrick  
Robert T. Sedares  
Thomas R. Sedares  
Thomas Spataro

### April 30

#### *The Holy Apostle James, brother of John the Evangelist*

James Collins

## TOUCH MY SIDE AND BELIEVE

**I**T HAS NEVER BEEN EASY to believe in Christ's rising from the dead—not in 33ad and not today. This Sunday we remember our Lord's second appearance to his disciples. Just as he had done on the evening of that first day, the day he rose, the Lord comes to his disciples again one week after his resurrection—"eight days later," as the Evangelist John says. The disciples are gathered once again in the upper room, only this time the Apostle Thomas was also there. He hadn't been with them when the Lord first appeared, but was there now.

Thomas' encounter with the risen Lord is one of the most important events in the history of the Church. That experience was not simply a personal encounter meant just for himself. It is intended for us as well. In a very real sense *we* are Thomas. His incredulity at the possibility that the Lord could have come back from the dead is ours as well. The only difference is that Thomas was there, in that room, and could stretch out his hands and touch the Lord. He did this for us.

Don't think that Thomas was weak or waffling; he was a courageous man. When the Lord said that he was still going to Jerusalem in spite of the fact that the authorities were trying to kill him, Thomas was the one who told the other disciples "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). What we see in Thomas' "doubt" was that he was a pragmatic person who was not about to believe some seemingly fantastic story. This is what makes his confession all the more powerful and believable (cf John 20:28).

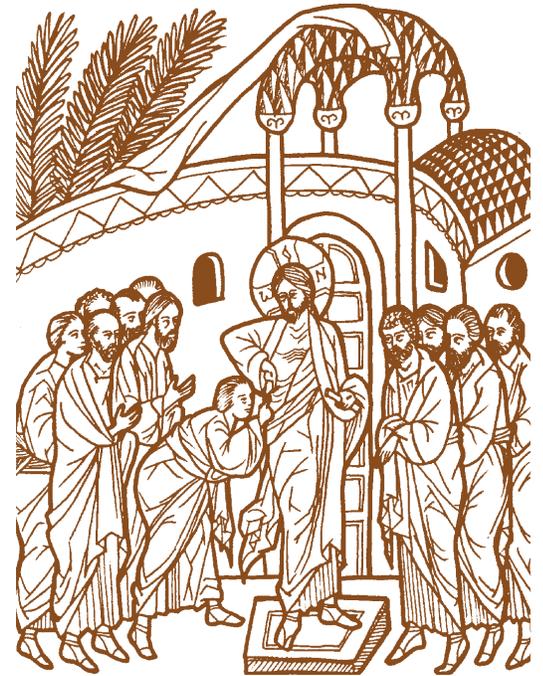
Our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, His rising from the dead, and His promise of life to each one of us, is the result of someone first having testified about their faith in the Lord to us. And

their testimony is based on someone else having witnessed to them. We can trace our faith back to the Apostles themselves. When we hear the Prophet David cry out: "We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days," (Psalm 44:1), we really are able to appreciate what he is saying.

Each of us is called in this same way to witness our faith to others. But our witness has to be more than simply having heard the story from our parents. We need to have a faith grounded in our own experience of the risen Christ.

We are called by our Lord to be witnesses to his rising, just as the Apostles were. This may seem extraordinary, but remember we partake of the risen Christ each time we receive Holy Communion. He lives within us. He knows us and we know him. We are constantly experiencing his power in our lives. It is this power of God, and the testimony of how it has changed us that we need to witness to. We have a responsibility to pass on our faith. The first people that we have the opportunity to witness to are our own family, friends, and especially our children. The most powerful witness of all is a life quietly lived in faith. It is when people see how a person of faith responds to the difficulties in life that they are moved to ask who this Jesus might be.

Listen to how St. Paul's calls us to action: "How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to pro-



claim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15)

As we go through each day, encountering people weighted by a heavy heart who need their burden lightened, we probably struggle trying to figure out how we might bring this Good News to them. We can be strengthened by the Lord in the same way he strengthened Thomas. He said to him: "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." We have Thomas' answer, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus reminds us, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:27-29) Thomas' finger is our finger. His touch is our touch. His answer is our answer: *Christ is risen indeed!*

Fr. Nicholas Apostola