

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 11, 2014

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES** in our Parish so they can be recognized on Sunday, June 1st. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

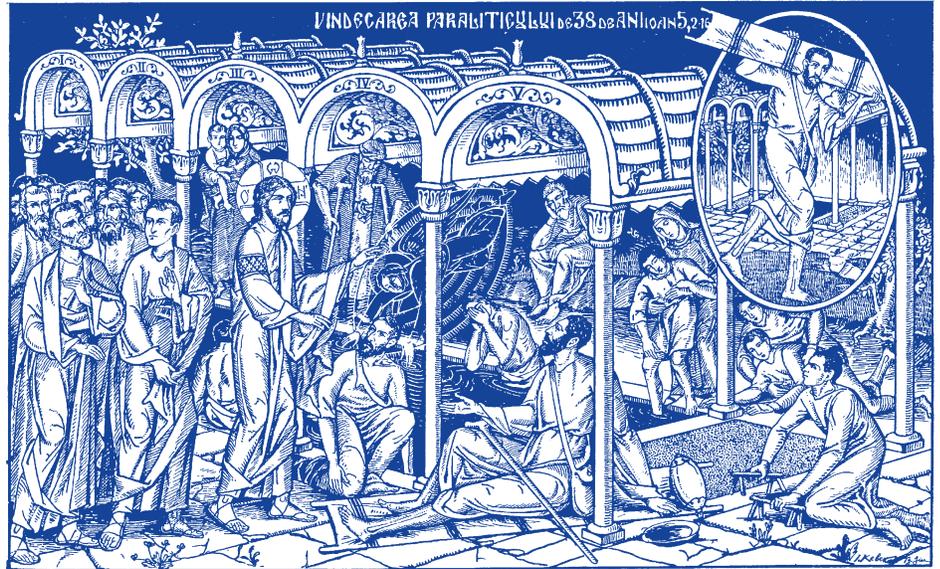
**GREETERS ARE NEEDED** to assist on Sundays with various activities including: greeting parishioners and visitors, activity at the candle stand, seating, and directing participants during the Liturgy. We would like to have a minimum of two greeters each Sunday. A "job description" is posted on the Church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

**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

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
V. GERALD BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**

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



### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 9:32-42 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3 - MATINS GOSPEL 5

Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-845-0088.

**AN "E-WASTE RECYCLING DAY"** will be held on **Saturday, May 31st, from 9-2 here at the Church.** You can get rid of unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and help protect the environment. **A few folks are needed to help** direct traffic into and out of the church parking lot. Please see Gerry Belba during coffee hour if you can help.

**THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE CREDINȚA**, the quarterly Archdiocesan magazine, is available at the candles. Please pick up a copy.

**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 blan-

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- Sat, July 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

kets 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!*

**A MEMORIAL** is celebrated today for **Genevieve Apostola**, fallen asleep 2 years. *May her memory be eternal!*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored in memory of **Genevieve Apostola** by her family.

## 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 5 delegates. If you would like to represent our parish please speak with either Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares.

**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.

## NAMEDAYS

**May 5**

**The Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica**

Irena Dorogi  
Irene Mountzouris  
Irene Tsoules

**May 9**

**The Holy Martyr Christopher**

Christopher Masterjohn

**May 21**

**The Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine and Helen**

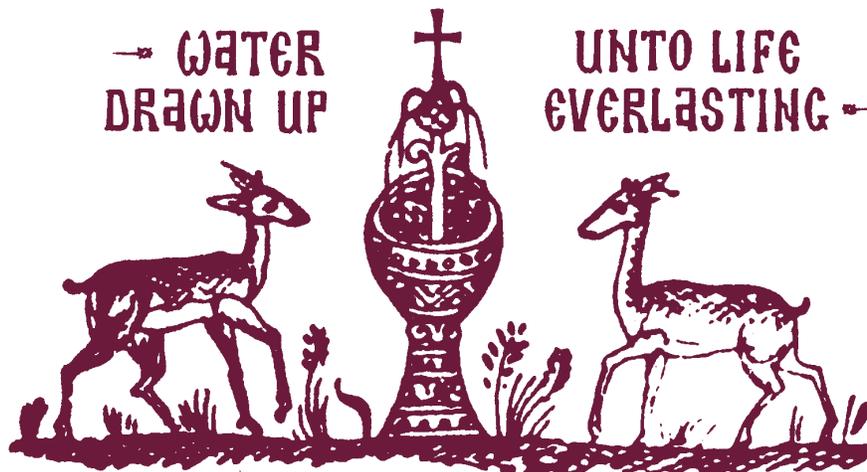
Constantine Apostol  
Elaine Apostola  
Konstantin Charalambides  
Presvytera Eleni Christakos  
Amalia Helene Collins  
Hannah Constance Datz  
Dina Entwistle  
Iliana Victoria Fahey  
Elena Galeriu  
Ileana A Nace  
V. Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos  
Constanța Papit  
Eleni Polymeros  
Elena Prelipcean  
Elaine Rocheford  
Dina K. Salerno  
Eleanor Sedares  
Elaine Tanacea  
Dean Valoras

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**E**TERNAL FATHER, O you who are the source and norm of all that is healthy and whole: As we continue our celebration of the resurrection of your only Son, who is your power and wisdom, we also celebrate his cure of the paralytic at the sheep's pool. This poor man was certainly dead if not buried, for the pallet on which he lay had become an open grave for him. But the Lord Jesus healed him of the paralysis of both his soul and body. May we, too, be worthy of being healed of all that holds us with the grip of death, so that like him, we, too, may jump for joy in praise of you all the days of our life.

For you are the physician of our souls and bodies, and we give you glory, 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](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

# DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?

ONE CANNOT READ THE GOSPELS without being struck by how central the reality of sickness and desire for healing are to the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus' coming. When John the Baptist was in prison awaiting execution he sent word to Jesus asking him: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered, ... 'Go and tell John ... the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them'" (Matthew 11:2-5). He was echoing the way in which the Prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would be known (cf Is 29:18). Healing — God's healing — is at the heart of His presence among us.

Both of today's Scripture readings, that of the healing Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2ff), and the healing of the paralytic Æneas and the raising of Tabitha by Peter (Acts 9:32ff), are given to us as proof of Jesus' power to restore people to health. And, who does not want to be healed?

When one is sitting on this side of sickness, it is hard to appreciate or imagine what it is like to be diminished or impaired. But our health is a fragile thing. Even when we have an illness that we know we'll recover from — like a mild flu — we still can get a glimpse into our own mortality. However, when the symptoms fade, often so does whatever insight we may have gained.

Sitting on the other side of sickness, the kind that is chronic and debilitating, things look very differently. People will do almost anything to get better. Those of us who suffer in this way know how it feels. If we have had a loved-one or friend who is afflicted we know the extent to which one would go to help relieve their pain. If you have been in this situation it is not hard to put yourself in the place of the paralyzed man waiting thirty-eight years by the Bethesda Pool waiting for a cure, or, as Æneas paralyzed for eight years per-

haps due to a stroke. If you've ever visited a nursing/rehab facility, you probably understand what this means.

When Jesus' finds the paralyzed man, he asks him a question, the answer to which, on the surface, seems obvious: "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6) Some other translations say, "healed," but the most interesting is the King James': "made whole." There was a deficit in this man's soul that was larger than his disability, and the Lord perceived it. This is perhaps the reason Jesus, when he sees that man later after his walking had been restored, says to him: "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you" (John 5:14). The Lord was giving him an insight into the spiritual challenges with which he would be presented now that he was "made whole."

Perhaps this is the reason the Lord initially asked him the question. In fact, Jesus never worked a healing unless he was invited to, either explicitly or implicitly, and for some very good reasons. One cannot be healed unless they want to be. Being healed changes you, and not just physically. Often we become comfortable with our illness and disoriented when it's gone. Being "whole" requires something from us; we have to assume roles and responsibilities we may not want to take on. All of this applies even more intensely when our sickness is spiritual. Being healed might be something we would like to avoid. It may hurt too much.

One thing that I very much appreciate about the stories of healing in the Gospels is that they remind us that human beings are the same not only in the here and now, but also down through the millennia. Without a doubt today's living conditions are different than in Jesus' time. Today we have cures for illnesses that afflicted them then, but we also have diseases that are as frightening to us as the illness described in the Gospels were to

those people. Their fears and joys are the same as ours. When reminded of this we can begin to understand the fullness of what God did and does for all of us in the person of Jesus Christ. He healed the paralytic at Bethesda and Æneas the stroke victim so that we who live two thousand years from those events might have hope.

Similarly, our discussions about the state of healthcare are not so very different than theirs. Whenever I hear someone talk about the cost of healthcare, it always bring to mind the story of Jairus and his daughter, and the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years (Luke 8:40ff). Jairus was rich. The woman had spent all she had on physicians. Both came to God as their last resort. There are two morals here. The first is that God should not be our *last* resort, but our *starting* point. The second is that people will give all they have in search for a cure. How many people do we know who have been bankrupted as they seek out the relief of their illness?

The search for healing and health is something that touches us all. Every time we sneeze we are reminded of how temporary this present existence is. At the same time, we also know that God offers us healing on many levels. In the next few weeks we will hear of other healings, other encounters with the Lord. We know the names of those people, even though they may not be mentioned in the Gospels. They are recorded in the memory of the Church. They were changed by their encounter with Jesus and followed him. As far as I know, we know little if anything about this paralytic. While we cannot say he wasn't changed by the encounter, it does not appear that he was.

We pray that God might make us whole and help us to be prepared to accept the challenges he presents us.

*Christ is indeed Risen!*

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA