

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JULY 6, 2014  
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

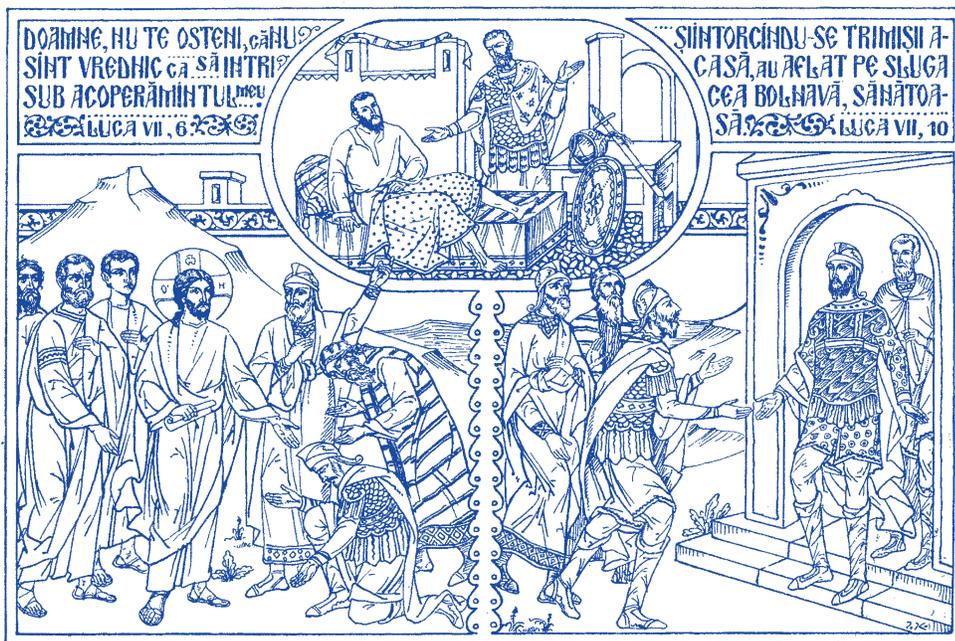
**NO LITURGY THIS** Sunday, July 6th. Fr. Nick will be attending the Archdiocesan Congress in Chicago. Please plan on attending Liturgy at one of our sister parishes.

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **this coming Saturday, July 5th 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.**

**ALSO, THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS PLASTIC BAGS.** Please bring any plastic grocery bags that you might have — in good condition — to Church and we'll see that they get put to use.

**COFFEE HOUR** is on summer vacation. Exceptions are always made for special occasions such as memorials and anniversaries. The reason we're doing this is because the volunteers who prepare the coffee hour and those who clean up afterward need a break, as do we all. We'll pick up the usual routine again in the fall.

**NO LITURGY  
AT  
ST. NICHOLAS  
TODAY**



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

† APOSTOLIC READING: ROMANS 6:18-23 † GOSPEL: MATTHEW 8:5-13

(JESUS HEALS THE CENTURION'S SERVANT)

† TONE 3 † MATINS GOSPEL: 4

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**FR. PAUL TARAZI**, distinguished professor and theologian specializing in the Old Testament, will be offering two lectures on the Book of Genesis at St. Mary's Assumption, **Monday, July 7th** and **Wednesday, July 9th**, both 7pm-9pm. Fr. Paul is a profound speaker and well worth the effort at rearranging your schedule on such short notice.

**ST MICHAEL, SOUTHBRIDGE**, will be held on **Sunday, July 20th**, 12:00pm - 6:00pm, on the grounds at Romanian Avenue in Southbridge. St. Michael is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year, so this is a very special occasion. Featured will be the usual fare: Shish-Kebab, Home Made Romanian Pastries, Live Music by the Near East Sounds Band and many more surprises. Admission is free and the event will

be held rain or shine. For more information: [www.stmichaelorth.org/](http://www.stmichaelorth.org/)

**FREE FUN FRIDAYS ARE BACK FOR THE SUMMER!** Free Fun Fridays is the annual summer program that opens doors at no cost to visitors to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. Free Fun Fridays shines a spotlight on the broad and diverse art and cultural offerings across Massachusetts. Whether you live in Boston or the Berkshires, Worcester

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, July 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
- July 4-6 Archdiocesan Congress
- Sun, July 6 NO LITURGY
- Sun, July 20 Parish Picnic-St Michael, Southbridge
- Aug 1-15 Dormition Fast
- Sat, Aug 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
- Fri, Aug 15 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
- Sat, Sept 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
- Sun, Sept 21 stART on the Street Festival

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**E**TERNAL FATHER: Your self-revelation in the incarnation of your only Son is a mystery that humbles us, though it also has greater and greater attraction for us, the more we reflect on it. In adoring this mystery, we are rendered utterly speechless by it, and we beseech you to increase and strengthen our weak and feeble faith in it. Your love shines forth to us in everything you do, but how much more in this great feat, this wondrous mystery!

For blest and glorified be the glory of your divinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

or Cape Cod, the North Shore or the South Coast, you can take advantage of this free program. This year, 60 museums and cultural venues will participate in the program. Beginning June 28th through August 30th, six cultural venues will be open free-of-charge every Friday for 10 weeks this summer. Keeping young people intellectually and socially engaged in the summer is very important – whether the children are in pre-school or all the way through high school. This is a great program for families to take advantage of this summer. To see the whole program, and the sites that available each Friday, go to: [highlandstreet.org/freerfunfridays.htm](http://highlandstreet.org/freerfunfridays.htm) or pick up a hard copy flier at the Church. Free Fun Fridays are organized by the Highland Street Foundation and a number of other prominent organizations.



**Saint Olga**, renowned for her wisdom and sobriety, in her youth became the wife of Igor, Great Prince of Kiev, who ruled during the tenth century. After her husband's death, she herself ruled capably, and was finally moved to accept the Faith of Christ. She traveled to Constantinople to receive Holy Baptism. The Emperor, seeing her outward beauty and inward greatness, asked her to marry him. She said she could not do this before she was baptized; she furthermore asked him to be her Godfather at the font, which he agreed to do. After she was baptized (receiving the name of Helen), the Emperor repeated his proposal of marriage. She answered that now he was her father, through holy Baptism, and that not even among the heathen was it heard of a man marrying his daughter. Gracefully accepting to be outwitted by her, he sent her back to her land with priests and sacred texts and holy icons. Although her son Svyatoslav remained a pagan, she planted the seed of faith in her grandson Vladimir (see July 15). She reposed in peace in 969.

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## 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.

## NAMEDAYS

**July 7**

*The Holy Martyr Kyriaki*

Kyri Sedares

**July 11**

*The Blessed Olga, Princess of Russia*

Olga Lolo

Olga Thanas

**July 12**

*St. Veronica, the woman healed by our Lord Jesus*

Veronica Pandaru

**July 16**

*The Holy Martyr Julia of Carthage*

Julia Donabed

**July 17**

*The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia*

Margareta Gikas

Margarite Landry

Lindsey Marina Sparages

Marina Sparages

**July 20**

*The Holy Prophet Elijah (Elias)*

Louis P. Belba

Elias James Christo

Irli Ilie Durmillari

Louis P. Messier

Louis Rucho

Louis Evan Stamoulis

**July 24**

*The Holy Great Martyr Christina*

Christine Masterjohn

**July 26**

*The Holy Martyr Parascheve of Rome*

Premtina Thamel

**July 27**

*The Holy Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon*

Peter Mountzouris

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: [WWW.RECEIVE.ORG](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

**T**HE Gospel lesson for this, the fourth Sunday after Pentecost, is the account of the healing of the Centurion's servant, taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:5-13). St. Luke tells of the same event (7:1-10) and adds a few other details.

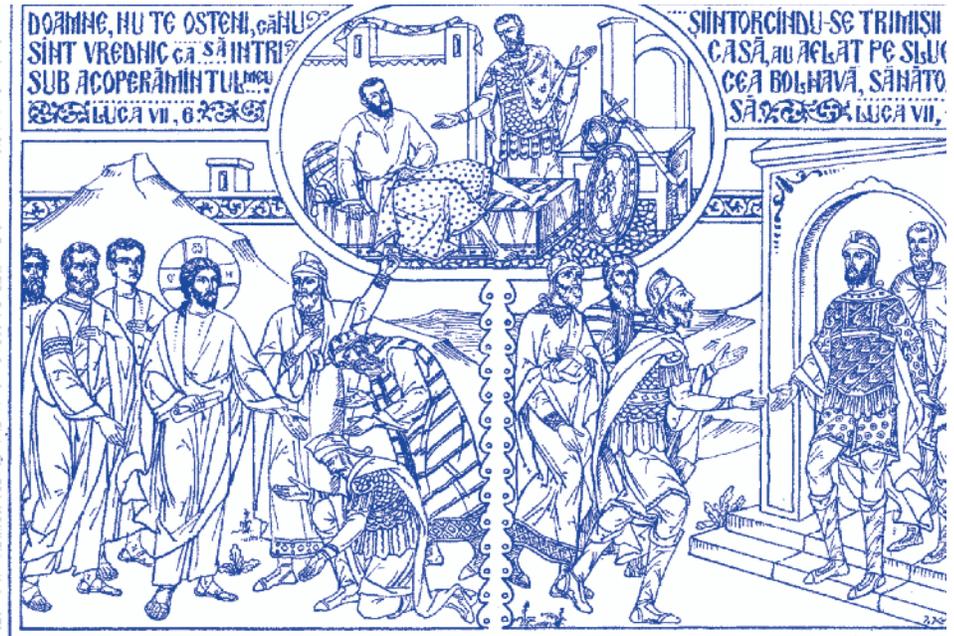
The basic story is that there is a Centurion, stationed in Palestine, whose servant has fallen seriously ill. (A Centurion was a Roman soldier who commanded a regiment of 100 men.) He is obviously quite worried about this servant. From St. Luke we learn that the Centurion is very pious and had even built a synagogue in the locale. He approaches Jesus and asks him to heal his servant. Jesus offers to go, but the Centurion says, "Only say the word, and my servant will be healed" (v. 8). Jesus marvels at his faith and points this out to everyone. Before proceeding, you might want to pick up your Bible and read both accounts.

There are two aspects of this story I think are important for us to focus on. The first is the most obvious: the immediate faith-response of the Centurion. The second is a bit more subtle: the way the Lord elicits the Centurion's faith response. Let me begin with the second.

The Centurion comes to the Lord with his request. In almost every other similar incident the Lord would simply perform the request (miracle) and send the person on his or her way. In this instance what does he do? He says to the Centurion: "I will come and heal him" (v. 7). This leads to the Centurion to openly confess his faith.

St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to other similar instances where the Lord, by subtle provocation, tests the depth of the faith of the person requesting his help. One example is the Canaanite women who approached the Lord asking him to heal her daughter (Matthew 15:22-28). He at first refuses to

## ONLY SAY THE WORD ...



even speak to her and then, in a startling response, likens her request to taking the children's bread and tossing it to the dogs. Rather than taking issue with the comparison, she rises to the challenge by embracing it, replying that even a dog under a table will get the children's crumbs. Or, in the account of the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:12-19), only one returns to thank him, a Samaritan. Rather than praise him directly for this gratitude, he comments about the other nine and then calls the Samaritan a foreigner. But the Lord, having tested his faith tells him, "Get up and go on your way, your faith has made you well" (v. 19). It is clear from the context that the other nine lacked faith.

Finally there is the case of Martha after her brother Lazarus had died. She says to the Lord: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died ... even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you (John 11:21-22). Jesus questions her lack of faith. He tells her: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and

believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (v. 25-26).

By contrast, the faith of the Centurion is immediate and unwavering. He uses his own military training to explain it. He tells the Lord that as a military officer he knows that if he gives an order it will be carried out. He doesn't need to see it to believe it. In the same way he knows that Jesus has the power to simply "order" the healing and it will be done. He doesn't need to see it to believe it. This is the lesson of total faith we should draw from the Centurion's example.

Finally, there is one more verse worth noting in this story. The Centurion says: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof" (v. 8). We repeat this verse in the prayers we say before Holy Communion, echoing the Centurion's humility. Let us pray that the Lord might give us his faith, as well as his humility.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA