

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

## AUGUST 10, 2014

### THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THE DORMITION FAST** in preparation for the Feast of the Falling-Asleep of the Theotokos began this past Friday, August 1st, and continues through Friday, August 15th. During this two-week period we will hold a number of special services. Please refer to the full schedule on the next page.

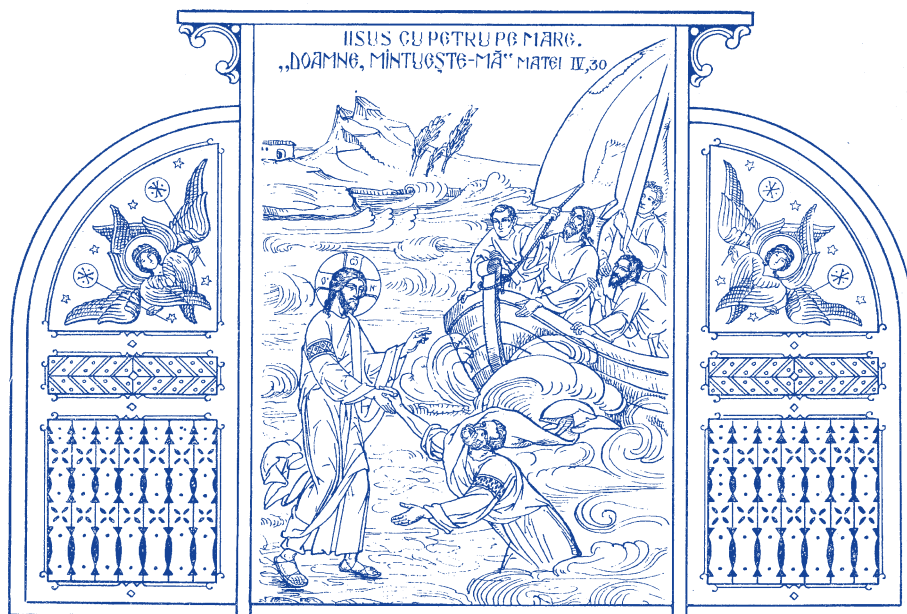
**PITA BAKING, THIS Thursday, August 14th** at 9:00 am. Will be working on inventory for the stART event. **Extra help is needed** and everyone's help is welcome. Questions? Please see Chris Toda. No experience necessary!

**ARCHBISHOP NICOLAE's** meditation at beginning of the Fast for the **Feast of the Dormition** is available at the candles. Please take a copy home with you.

**THE MUSTARD SEED MEAL** originally scheduled for **Friday, August 15th** has been cancelled. The Mustard Seed staff has decided to close for a two-week vacation.

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES** need to be ordered and we're **looking for donations to cover the expense**. We normally order a large quantity to get the best price. The supply usually lasts us 3-4 years. The total cost is \$1,200, (that's 2,000 bottles at 60¢/each). Also, if you have any empty Holy Water bottles, please bring them back to the Church.

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
V. GERALD BELBA & CALIN GALERIU  
**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**  
**COFFEE HOUR ON VACATION**



### THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:22-34

(JESUS WALKS ON THE WATERS AND CALMS THE STORM)

TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 9

As you can see, the cost savings can be substantial.

**PITA & PASTRY CONCESSION AT "START ON THE STREET:" SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST.** (Rain Date – Sunday, September 28th). St. Nicholas is returning to this community art festival, held on Park Avenue in Worcester between Pleasant and Highland Streets, which draws over 20,000 attendees each year. Our Church will again be one of the vendors in the Food Court selling pita and pastry. **This is a HUGE undertaking for us**, and requires your **"sweat stewardship"** to realize the fundraising potential of \$5,000. A detailed sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for prep on Saturday the 20th as well as throughout the day on Sunday. Pita baking is also underway and help is needed with that part of the effort as well. **The venue is established and presents a great opportunity to showcase our goods to the larger commu-**

**nity. The only variable is YOU!** St. Nicholas needs your commitment of time and effort to make this a success! The volunteering schedule needs are on the Bulletin Board. **For more info, speak with Deb Sedares or Chris Toda.**

**THE QUARTERLY ISSUE** of the Archdiocese's magazine **Credința/The Faith** is available at the candles. Pick up a copy and bring it home with you.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE** will be offered today for the servant of God **Mary Tanacea** fallen asleep 40-days. Her family is offering a Coffee Hour in her memory. **May our Lord rest her soul among the saints!**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 1-15 Dormition Fast  
Thurs, Aug 14 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Dormition Vespers, St Mary 6:30 pm  
Fri, Aug 15 Dormition Liturgy, 10:00 am  
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

## VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL will be held **August 18-21 at St. George Cathedral, Worcester.** This year, the theme for Vacation Church School will be "Champions & Defenders." Children will learn about the saints and martyrs who preserved our faith and how they can model their own lives after them today. The Flier for more information is available at the Candles. You may also contact Benjamin Daniel at: Benjamin.E.Daniel@gmail.com or 267-294-9793.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**HOLY TRINITY CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY** on August 15th. On Wednesday, August 20th at 9:30 am, the Orthodox clergy of our area will concelebrate a Divine Liturgy with Bishop John of the Antiochian Archdiocese at Holy Trinity to mark this milestone. Please plan on attending!

**SAVE THE DATE!** October 9, 2014. Holy Trinity's 8th **FOOD and WINE FEST** in conjunction with Holy Trinity's 20th Anniversary promises to be a great evening! This year's event will be at St. George Orthodox Cathedral. Look for more details!

**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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**WOMEN URGENTLY NEEDED TO SERVE ON A SHORT-TERM MISSION TO ALBANIA.** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is seeking clergy wives and lay women leaders to serve on a short-term mission team that will plan and lead spiritual retreats for women in Albania.

## AUGUST SERVICES

### *Dormition Fast Period (Aug 1-15)*

- ◆ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Monday, August 11, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Dormition Vespers** — St. Mary's, Thursday, August 14, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy** at St. Nick's, Friday, August 15, 10:00 am

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** MASTER AND MAKER OF ALL THAT IS, whether visible or hidden from our sight: We give you thanks for transforming our frail human nature and all creation with the transfiguration of your Son on the mountain. Of old, you fashioned us in your own image and likeness, but this beauty was soon obscured by sin. Now as we celebrate the mystery of this feast, change our hearts for the good, that we may praise you with the rest of your creatures all the days of our life.

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

This team will serve from September 17th to the 29th. For more information or to volunteer please visit [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org) or contact Pres. Renee Ritsi by phone 1-877-463-6784 x. 141 or by e-mail at [teams@ocmc.org](mailto:teams@ocmc.org). Only two or three volunteers are needed to make this much-needed ministry a reality!

## NAMEDAYS

### August 6

#### *The Holy Transfiguration of the Savior*

S. Richard Seferi

### August 8

#### *The Holy New Martyr Triandaphyllos*

Rose Armida Salerno

### August 15

#### *The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Maria Blanchard

Mary Cocaine

Maria Dumitriu

Monika Maria Durmillari

Maria Kalpidou

Fr. Peter Mentis

Maria Prelipcean

Nancy Maria Tsongalis

Mary Tsoules

Marietta Zaruha

### August 26

#### *The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia*

Natalia Grace Dorogi

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou

Natasha Zhaka

### August 29

#### *St. Theodora of Thessalonika*

Gina Theodora Trakadas

### August 30

#### *St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Alexander Charalambides

Emilia Alexandra Galeriu

Dr. Alexander Gouvelis

Alexandra Mazanitis

Alexandru Nace

Conner Alexander Polymeros

Alexanna Soter

Alexander James Trakadas

## WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

**T**HIS Sunday's Gospel lesson (Matthew 14:23-34), the ninth after Pentecost, is a direct continuation of last week's reading. It is the account of Jesus walking on the water of the sea to meet the disciples' storm-tossed ship. You will recall that after he had fed the multitude with the loaves and fish, the Lord had the disciples get into their boat while he dismissed the people. He then went alone into the wilderness to pray. At the same time, the disciples got caught in a storm when they were far off from shore. This storm was not unlike the one they had encountered earlier when Jesus was with them, but asleep in the boat (Matthew 8:24-27). However, this time he was not with them, and they were seriously frightened.

I would like to highlight three points that you might want to consider as you think and reflect on as you read this Gospel passage. First, notice how often the Lord prays and where. Second, look at Peter's faith and ardor, but also his impetuous nature. Lastly, observe how the Lord gently leads his disciples, step by step, to a greater faith and understanding of who he really is. Let me expand on each of these points.

As you read the Gospels you will notice how many times Jesus "withdraws" not only from the people who are pressing in on him, but also the disciples themselves. He goes into the wilderness where he finds solitude and quiet, often spending the whole night in prayer. We need to withdraw to a quiet place in order to pray. A certain tranquility and peace is the starting point of our conversation with God. This is partly why we are directed at the beginning of every



Service: "In peace let us pray to the Lord." Noise, distractions, and disquiet do not lend themselves to speaking with God. Elijah did not find God in wind or fire, but in stillness and quiet (cf. 1 Kings 19:11ff). Our Lord Jesus teaches us this same lesson through His own profound example.

The most powerful aspect of this story is Peter's test. We know that Peter was the first among the disciples, even though he was far from being the most articulate or polished. What he did have was a deep fervor, a longing for the Lord. He was the first one to call Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). He was the one who told Jesus that he would stay by him even if everyone else deserted him (Matthew 26:32). He also was the one who, after the Resurrection, jumped out of his boat to run to the Lord who was on the shore (John 21:7). But this same quality also led him to be impetuous and impulsive.

In the middle of the storm when the other disciples were terrified and thought Jesus was a ghost, Peter, recognizing Jesus' voice says: "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water" (v. 28). The Lord says to him: "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water toward Jesus, but begins to sink when a rush of wind frightens him. Jesus reaches out his hand, pulls him up, and saves him.

Have you ever noticed that it is not the big things that "trip you up," but the little ones? Peter didn't think about the storm, the waves, or walking on the water. It was that gust of wind that frightened him. Moreover, he was impetuous when that he jumped out of the boat without considering that perhaps his faith was not as strong as his will.

Finally, we see how the Lord is slowly showing His disciples who He is. In the first storm the Lord was with them, albeit sleeping. In this storm He allows them to be buffeted by the waves and wind before coming to them. The first time he quiets the wind. This time He reveals who He is even while the storm rages. In the earlier episode the disciples wonder: "What sort of man is this?" This time they worship him as the Son of God.

May our loving Lord give us Peter's faith and courage. Likewise, may He be always be with us ready to extend his saving hand when the winds of life catch us unaware and cause us to doubt.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA