

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014  
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**PITA BAKING THIS Thursday, September 18th** 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!

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE DOUGH-MAKING on Saturday.** This major effort really helps the Pita project and fundraising. Thank You!

**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 community.** *The only vari-*

**GREETERS TEAM 2:  
MARY ANNA DYMEK &  
MARGARITE LANDRY**

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24

GOSPEL: JOHN

19:6-11; 19:16-19; 13:20; 25:28; 31-35

*EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE FEAST*

**able 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 PARISH COUNCIL** will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, September 15th at 6:30 pm.** Parish Council Members, please let Deb Sedares know if you are unable to attend.

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL AND OUR YOUTH** are a central part of our parish. We need you! If you are interested in teaching or assisting with Church School this year and/or working with the

Youth of our parish on activities and programs geared to them, please see **Preoteasa Maria.** **The first day of Church School is Sunday, September 28th.** Everyone is welcome! Providing vibrant and meaningful opportunities for our Youth to learn about their Orthodox Faith and traditions, and work and play together is key to ensuring that our Orthodox Faith and the community of St. Nicholas remains vital for generations to come. Pick up a Registration form at the candles.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehab Center.** Holy Trinity is extending an invitation to you to attend this year's Food & Wine Fest, a critical fund raiser for our community. The event this year will honor the Founders of our beloved Holy Trinity, and in particular, our very own Father Nick! Tickets will be on sale at St. Nick's on Sundays up till October 5th.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**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. Tickets will be on sale at St. Nick's on Sundays up till October 5th.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, Sept 14 Exaltation of Cross *Strict Fast*  
Mon, Sept 15 Parish Council, 6:30 pm  
Thurs, Sept 18 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Sat, Sept 20 stART Festival Prep 9:00am  
Sun, Sept 21 stART on the Street Festival  
Sun, Sept 28 First Day of Religious Education  
Sat, Oct 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm  
Fri, Oct 17 Mustard Seed 5pm-6:30pm

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

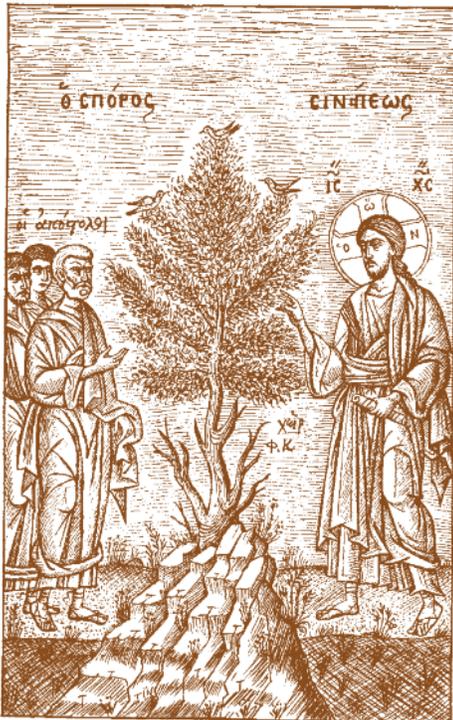
*Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities* and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*HOLY TRINITY IN FITCHBURG* will be holding it's 2014 Greek Festival Saturday September 20th. from 11am to 10 pm. The Parish is also celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year! For info call: 978-342-1216.

*NOTRE DAME ACADEMY* is holding an open house on **Thursday, Oct 2nd at 7:00 pm** for prospective students (young women grades 9-12). For info: [www.nda-worc.org](http://www.nda-worc.org), or call: 508-757-6200 x229.

### THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED



### EXTREME HUMILITY

#### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** CREATOR AND MAKER OF THIS HOUR: Another morning finds us before you, celebrating the exaltation of the precious cross, that immortal and life-giving tree that bore the saviour's body in death. From barren wood and bitter death was that tree made, but its stark and naked limbs produced unfailing fruit and leaves that never fade. It was the very price that saved us from the law of old, a price paid not in gold or silver, but in the blood of that pure and spotless lamb. Enlighten us as we reflect on this mystery, O God and Father. Impress on our feeble minds how much we need to embrace the cross, in whose rough surface we see ourselves as we really are.

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

**September 5**

*St. Elizabeth the mother of St. John the Baptist*

Elizabeth Anderson  
Isabella Banks-Binici  
Elizabeth Florica Galeriu  
Lisa Mielnicki  
Karen Elizabeth Wilder

*The Holy Prophet Zachariah, father of St. John*

Zachary Spataro

**September 8**

*The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Presvytera Maria Mossaides

**September 9**

*The Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna*

Ann Marie Chachi  
Ann Marie Clem  
Anna Maria Collins  
Ann Trakadas  
September 14

*The Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross*

Stavri Tanacea

**September 17**

*The Holy Martyr Faith, Daughter of St. Sophia*

Faith Mayer

*The Holy Martyr Sophia of Rome*

Sofia Apostol  
Sophia Amyra Apostola  
Sophia Banks-Binici  
Carol Fotos

**September 18**

*The Holy Martyr Ariadna of Phrygia*

Ariana Sparages



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

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





few of the things that I learned. The dollars we spend buying foreign oil largely go directly to fund repressive governments and terrorist movements. It is not an exaggeration to say that when we waste energy we fund those people who wish us harm and cause real suffering to innocent people throughout the world. I have joked (but, not really) with my family and friends that when they leave a light on unnecessarily they are “terrorists.” We have become very aware of the recent Hydra-head called I.S.I.L., but how many of us know that the majority of their funding comes from stealing and black-marketing oil? We are outraged by the expansionist activities of Russia under President Putin, but how many of us realize that if the price of a barrel of oil were to fall below \$85 then Russia would go bankrupt? Fasting from oil and gas could easily cripple these and future terrorist and imperialist forces.

Scientists tell us that our carbon-based fuel usage is warming the planet. How much and how harmful the result of this is a matter of debate, but what almost all experts say is that the consequences of global warming will be very severe, even catastrophic. It will change the world we live in for us and our children. Fasting could help!

While we have received encouraging reports about oil and gas reserves on our own territory, the truth is that no amount of drilling for oil or fracking for gas within our borders will make us ultimately “energy independent.” We simply consume too much. These new estimates may help in the “short run,” but will not really solve the problem. Moreover, the environmental “costs” of drilling, sand-tars, and fracking are terrifying. No one knows how to pay those costs. Fasting could avoid that cost!

A great deal more could be said on this one issue, but I don’t want us to lose sight of the most important point of this discussion: fasting is central if you want to grow spiritually. We cannot love if we are unwilling to sacrifice ourselves. We will not be able to sacrifice ourselves until we first learn to say “no” to ourselves — for the right reasons.

Next week we will hear the Lord tell us: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). He isn’t instructing us to tell others to deny themselves or that “some person over there” needs to sacrifice him or herself. Rather, it is directed to each and every one of us personally. He is telling us that if we want to follow him, to be a true Christian, *we* need to deny ourselves. *We* need to take up *our own* Cross.

If I were asked to name the greatest spiritual challenge facing our nation it would be this: we need to relearn the spiritual discipline of fasting. We need to embrace self-sacrifice as *the* necessary prerequisite for love. And then, perhaps, we will learn how to love our neighbors as ourselves (cf. Matthew 22:39).

By embracing the Cross, the Lord has shown us the way off of the crooked road of selfishness to the divine path of selflessness. Let us make these words of the hymnographer truly our own: “Today the Cross is exalted and the world is sanctified. For You who are enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit have spread Your arms upon it, and drawn the world to the knowledge of You, O Christ. Make us worthy of divine glory, we who put our trust in You.”

May our Lord Jesus Christ lift us up from the pain of our self-centeredness to the light and lightness of divine love.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

