

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 5, 2014
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

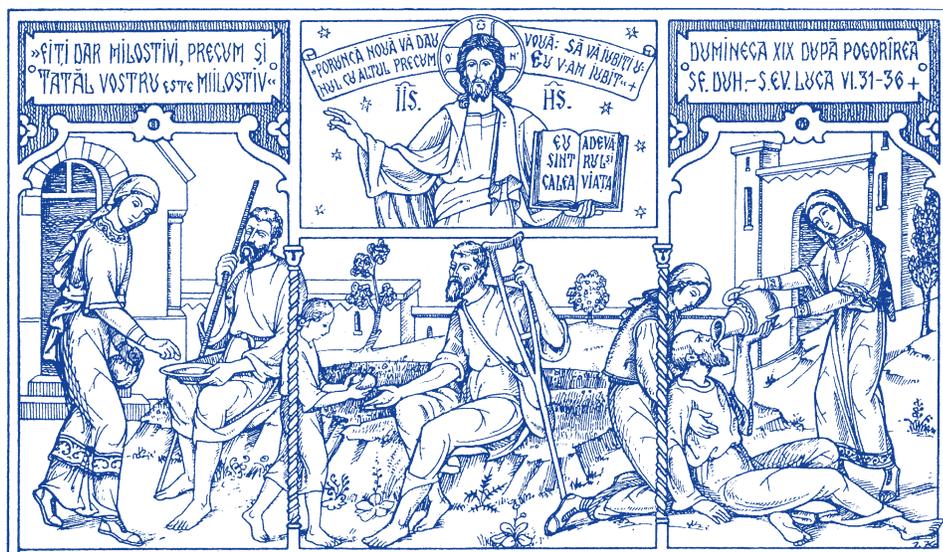
THE FALL SEMEMSTER of Religious Education Classes for children has begun. As a reminder, quiet space to hold Religious Ed classes is limited. It takes very little to disrupt a class of children from lessons their teachers have prepared. **We ask for your cooperation during the time after communion, and during the sermon and coffee-hour.** Please remain in the Church and do not disrupt classes by walking in the coffee hour area, hallway or going to the kitchen.

PITA BAKING this Thursday, October 9th at 9:00 am. We need to build the inventory for the coming holidays. Everyone's help is welcome. Questions? Please see Chris Toda. No experience necessary!

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Nicole Peterson or Lisa Mielnicki. Our next Saturday is November 1st

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please talk to Presvytera Maria.

**GREETERS TEAM 1:
V. GERALD BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU
ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EPISTLE: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:31-12:9 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36
(JESUS TEACHES: LOVE OF OTHERS, LOVE OF ENEMIES)
TONE 9 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 6

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly baptized servant of God **Isabela Cora Noble**, daughter of **Gregory and Irina Noble**. Isabela was baptized last Sunday, September 28th. **May God grant her and her family Many Years!**

LLAMBA GERO, sister of Kaliopi Demma, fell asleep in the Lord this past week. Our deepest sympathy to her family. **May her memory be eternal!**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL for Ion Constantin Pitigoi, fallen asleep six months. He is the father of Leana Manescu. May his memory be eternal!

TODAY'S COFFEE is sponsored by the Manescu family in memory of Mr. Pitigoi.

UPCOMING

PARISH LUNCHEON AND "CAKE BUFFET" on **Sunday, October 19** following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. Cost is \$20 per adults; \$5.00 per children. A roast chicken dinner will be served

family style. Homemade baked macaroni and cheese for the children. In addition, we are inviting the bakers of our parish (or those of us who know a great bakery) to bring in a cake for our Cake Buffet to share for dessert. But, for FUN, before we cut in to them, we will have a "Cake Off" with a distinguished panel of judges (YOU) — voting on the decoration/appearance of the cakes — with different categories ("Most Colorful"; "Most Original", "Most Likely to be Eaten in the Dark", etc.). So, get your creative juices going, grab the kids, grandkids, pets, and have some fun with this. There will be a sign up sheet at the candle stand for luncheon reservations and to bring a Cake! If you can help

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Oct 2 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
Fri, Oct 17 Mustard Seed 5pm-6:30pm
Sun, Oct 19 Parish Luncheon & Cake-off
Sat, Oct 25 Bible Study w/ Fr. Paul Tarazi, 9am-3pm
Sat, Nov 1 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

with luncheon (set up, prep, serving and clean up) **please see or contact Deb Sedares or Chris Toda** or just go ahead and sign up on the "Stewardship" bulletin board. If you would be interested in sponsoring or donating to **underwrite the cost of the luncheon, please contact Deb Sedares**. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit St. Nicholas Church. *Happy baking (or shopping)!*

MUSTARD SEED MEAL, Friday, October 17. We'll have details next week for cooking/prep times and volunteers needed for serving. **Please block out the date.**

A BIBLE STUDY LECTURE sponsored by the Eastern Orthodox Council and hosted by St. Mary's, will feature **Fr. Paul Tarazi**, retired Professor of Old Testament at St. Vladimir's who will speak on **St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians**. The lectures are open to the public and will start at 9:00 am on **Saturday, October 25**, ending at 5:00 pm. Registration fee is \$20.00 which includes lunch and all coffee breaks. All students are free. A flier with all the details is available at the candles. **Information: smc.worc@gmail.com.**

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. See Carol Fotos or Irene Tsoules.

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

THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION is sponsoring a **Fashion Show and Luncheon** on Sunday afternoon, October 19th. Tickets are \$45, and deadline is October 6th. Information: Karen Dono: 508-835-4846 or karenadono@aol.com.

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, or call: 508-757-6200 x229.

OUR TIME AND GOD'S TIME

Time is a precious thing. Unlike anything else in our lives we cannot make more of it, no matter how hard we try. God gives us the gift of the Liturgy as a small window into His eternity. We might chuckle a little when we think about how it is that we schedule an event that is "outside of time," at a very specific time. Nevertheless, for our parish the Liturgy normally begins, every Sunday, at 10:00 am. And we normally conclude our celebration by 11:30 am.

Some of us, perhaps remembering the long services of our youth, have adopted the very bad habit of coming into Liturgy late; some later than others. However, at St. Nicholas we keep a rather punctual schedule. You can expect (give or take 5 minutes):

- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Begins
- 10:20 a.m. Epistle/Gospel Lessons
- 10:40 a.m. Great Entrance
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 11:30 a.m. Dismissal

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

THE demons that abuse us at their whim are beyond counting, O God! They continue to nag at us, forever trying to trip us up by wearing down our resistance more and more, and we must confess that frequently they succeed. But we acknowledge our share of guilt, Lord, and our wrongdoing fills us with dismay. Therefore, come quickly to our aid and reinforce our perseverance.

For you are good and full of love for us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

NAMEDAYS

October 18

The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke

Fr. Luke Veronis

October 20

The Great-martyr

Artemius of Antioch

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

The Holy Great-martyr

Dimitrios of Thessalonika

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD, EXPECT NOTHING

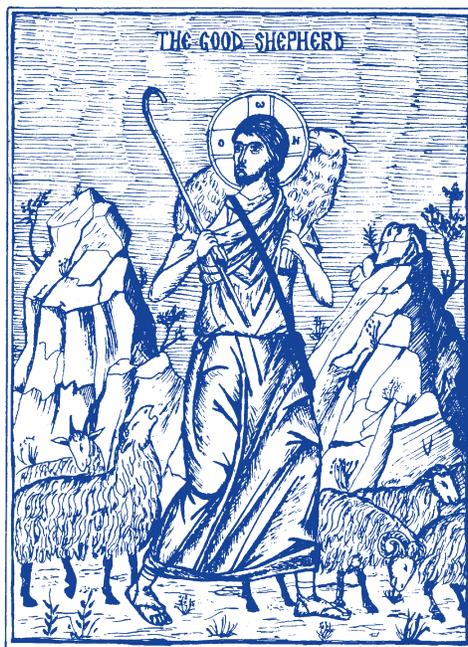
THERE comes a point in our growth as children when we begin to understand that words are not just written and spoken ideas, but are meant to take form as an object or an action. Since the time I was old enough to appreciate the important of what Jesus' was saying to us in his words and his deeds, I have struggled to put what he was telling us into practice. This is what it means to be a Christian.

Today's Gospel lesson (Luke 6:31-36) is a portion of St. Luke's account of the Lord's Sermon on the Mount. The reading begins with what's commonly called the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (v. 31), and ends with the injunction: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (v. 36). In between those two familiar phrases he offers us the possibility of living in an entirely a new way. He wants us to become a different kind of person.

The center of Jesus' message is love. He speaks about it powerfully. Most people are instinctively drawn to it. But, to love even to those who would do me harm? How do you do this?

His way of speaking about both the Law of Moses as well as the sayings of the Prophets seemed to wipe away a cloud from the eyes of many of those who heard Him. The Scripture they had read and learned now took on a new meaning. They said, he spoke with "authority" (Luke 4:32). He changed the focus of "religion," as they had known and practiced it. God's law was not simply following rules, but listening to our conscience and following our hearts, the place where our conscience resides. He said the Law is more than simple justice; it requires self-sacrificial love.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (v. 32). The standard is no longer simple parity: what is done to me, I will do to you.



Rather, he asks us to change our thinking from the inside out: how I would like to be treated is how I should treat others. If I am going to follow Christ, then I need to deal with friend or stranger by thinking of them first, putting myself in their shoes, and then acting accordingly.

Clearly, this is not easy. Often we try to find ways to avoid taking what the Lord said too seriously. We tell ourselves that these are simply pious wishes, not really meant to be put fully into practice. We see them as so difficult to achieve that we tell ourselves that it is unrealistic to imagine anyone could actually accomplish what is asked.

Or, we think that the Lord was simply teaching a moral code of life, possibly a higher (more "spiritual" in today's language) way of life, but a code that doesn't carry the weight of being God's command; something good to do, but not really required.

However, we have the witness of what Jesus actually did. The Lord's life and the way he lived it is testimony to the truth of what he said. His Death and Resurrection showed us the power it has

to transform everything. The holy men and women who down through the centuries took Jesus' words seriously and lived by them show us that it is possible for us to do the same. We can see that the world becomes a different place when we live the Gospel. People around us can sense this, and come to treat each other with respect. It isn't just monks and nuns who are asked to follow Christ. The truth is that the most important "missionaries" are the good and faithful people of our parish communities who bring the life and light of the Gospel to the society in which we live every day and in every place. The Lord's words are not pious wishes. He lived by them. Christians for millenia have lived by them.

Our Faith is not a moral code. It is a relationship with the living God. The Lord tells us to not simply *do* good, but rather to *be* perfect (cf. Matthew 5:48). This means that we are called first to a life of holiness and sanctification. Doing good springs from the desire to be like God, to be holy. People say that they don't need faith to be a good person — perhaps. But, how would we know to distinguish between good and evil except that our conscience convict us? In making us in His image (Genesis 1:26), God made us good, to do good. When we distance ourselves from God, our hearts (conscience) darkens and we loose our way. Without God in our lives we try to make our own way — a way without grounding and direction, no map and no GPS.

So, take the Lord's words seriously. Live them. "Love your enemies, do good, lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High." (v. 35)

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA