

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 26, 2014 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA BAKING, this **Thursday, October 30th 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 THOSE who rolled pita dough yesterday! This is a real contribution to our Baking Fundraising. God bless you!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO CLEANED this past week. It makes a read difference. If you'd like to help in the future, please see **Christine Masterjohn!**

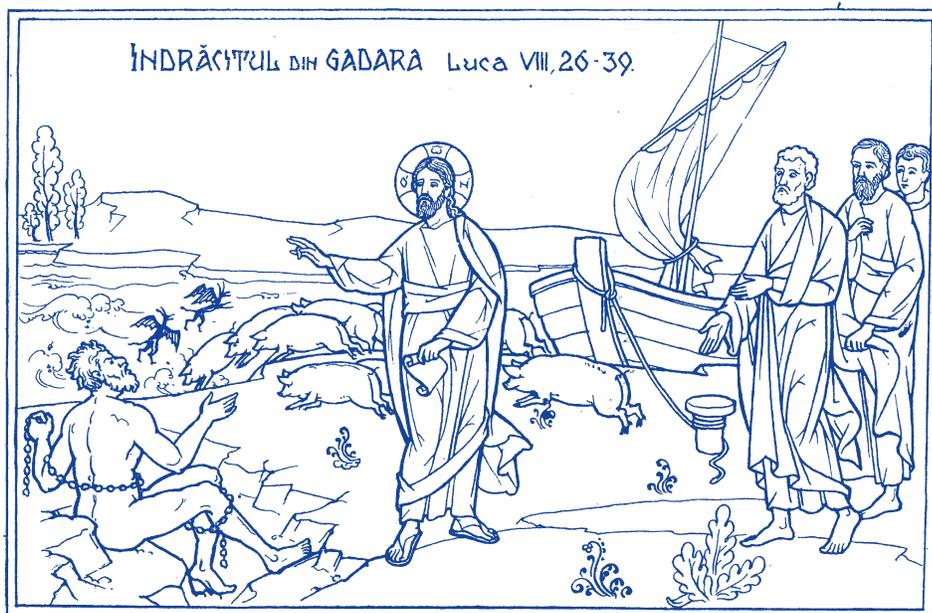
E-RECYCLING, **Saturday, November 1st from 9:00am to 2:00pm**. A few folks are needed to help set up traffic cones and direct folks who are dropping off items. Please let **Gerry Belba** know how you can help. (Even for just an hour or two at either end!)

THE PARISH COUNCIL will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 pm**. Parish Council Members, please let Deb Sedares know if you are unable to attend.

THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE TICKETS are in the mail thanks to all the people who stuffed and sealed the envelopes, and stuck on the address labels. God

**GREETERS TEAM 4:
DEBORAH SEDARES &
EVAN STAMOULIS**

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EPISTLE: **EPHESIANS 2:4-10** ☩ GOSPEL: **LUKE 8:26-39**
(JESUS HEALS THE GERASENE DEMONIAC)
TONE 3 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 9

Bless You! We still have tickets so sell. Dean Valoras is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

A NEW PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED IN JANUARY, (the two-year term of the Parish Council expires this year). Please consider offering a stewardship of your time in this important ministry. A Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates will be named next week. We also are asking for people to serve on other Parish committees, if your like to focus your efforts in just one area. However you'd like to serve, please speak with **Fr. Nick**.

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

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEK is sponsored by **Bill and Katina Cocavessis**.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. SPYRIDON GOYA is holding a **FALL DANCE on Saturday, November 1st**, 7 pm-11 pm and is inviting all of the Orthodox youth in the area. Food and drinks will be provided. There will be a DJ as well. It is casual dress. **For more information**, please email the GOYA president at: marina.raptis98@gmail.com or feel free to call at: 774-641-1619. Hope to see you!

STS ANARGYROI in Marlborough is celebrating its **Feastday with Great Vespers, Friday, October 31st** at 7 pm and Divine Liturgy on Saturday, November

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Oct 30 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
Sat, Nov 1 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
Mon, Nov 3 Parish Council, 6:30 pm
Fri, Nov 14 Nativity Lent Begins
Sat, Nov 22 Thanksgiving Bake Sale/Holiday Mktpls
Dec 6-7 Feastday Celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

1st at 10 am. Please honor the memory of the Holy Physicians Cosmas and Damian, and our sister community with your presence.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH IN SOUTH-BRIDGE is celebrating the 90th Anniversary of its founding the weekend of **November 8-9th**. His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae will be presiding over the festivities. There will be Great Vespers on Saturday November 8th at 6 pm with His Grace Bishop John of the Antiochian Archdiocese also celebrating. Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 10 am with Archbishop Nikon concelebrating along with Archbishop Nicolae. An Anniversary Banquet will follow.

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.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD, our God: Keep us from toying with idols, from flirting with fascinating and dangerous images. In every area of our lives, let our love for you lead us always to do your will, and may those who see us also be filled with love of you and the desire to please you always.

For blest and glorified is your most honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.



THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR
DIMITRIOS
(October 26)

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius, came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and

straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house. As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.



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

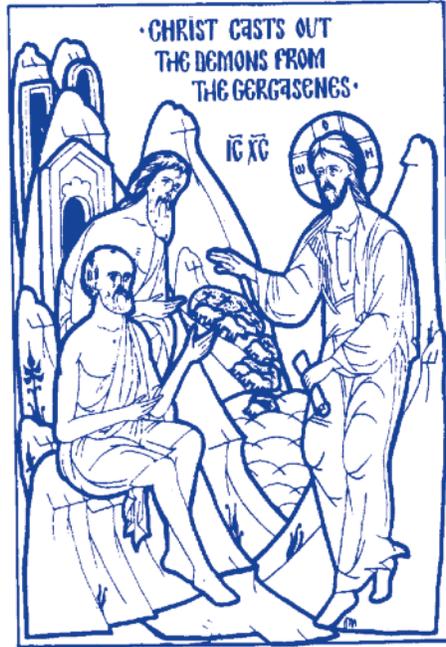
SPIRITUAL HEALING

THE Gospel lesson this week is St. Luke's account of the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac (Luke 8:26-39). (A demoniac is a person believed to be possessed by a demon.) We heard St. Matthew's account (Matthew 8:28-9:1) earlier in the year. The most obvious difference between the two accounts is that Matthew tells of two demoniacs, but Luke only one. St. John Chrysostom speaks to this discrepancy by offering the opinion that St. Luke did not say that there was *just one*. Rather, he thinks that Luke was singling out the fiercest one for his narrative.

Leaving aside this difference, I think that the additional details that both Luke and Mark provide in their respective renderings give us some powerful insights into the demoniac's healing, and our own spiritual struggle. St. Matthew oftentimes gives us a "bare bones" account of the stories he's relating. When we read all four of the Gospels we are able to gain valuable details and insights that provide a more complete picture.

Here is a brief recounting of the story. Jesus and his disciples land on the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee in the country of the Gerasenes. There they encounter the demoniac who pleads with Jesus not to torment him (them) before the time. Jesus grants the demons' request to allow them enter a nearby herd of swine, which the demons then lead to immediate destruction. The resident Gerasenes were terrified by the Lord's action and asked him and his disciples to leave, which they did.

I would like to focus on two aspects of this story that St. Luke (and St. Mark) bring to our attention. The first is the "name" of the demon, and the second is what Jesus asks the man to do after he has been healed.



When the Lord encountered the demoniac on the shore, naked and dwelling in tombs, he immediately commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man (v. 29). The man (that is, the demons) pleads with Jesus not to cast them into the abyss. Then Jesus asks, "What is your name?" (v. 30) The man replies, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. (v. 30)

Let's pause here and reflect on the word "legion." A Roman legion consisted of 3-6,000 soldiers. While we could consider that the demons were using the term metaphorically, this still means that "many demons had entered" the man. Think about the torture and torment that this man was suffering. We know from the Gospel accounts that even when guarded and kept shackled with chains, the demons would give him the strength to break the bonds and then drive him into the wild. St. Mark tells us that he howled and cut himself with stones. (v. 5:5)

Was it the demons who were driv-

ing him to self-destruction, or was it his true self trying to be free from the torment? It would be hard for us to even imagine what this man was suffering. Perhaps we can begin to understand when we're told that even the swine threw themselves over a cliff and into the sea in order to be free.

Now, to the second point, what the Lord asks of this man. After being healed the man "begged" Jesus to join his entourage. Jesus tells him to go back home saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." (v 39) St. Mark records Jesus saying, "Go home to your friends, and tell them ... what mercy God has shown you." (5:19)

The man's healing was not complete. Surely he was embarrassed knowing all of the terrible things he had done. He did not want to face the people who knew him when he was sick. At the same time, the Gerasenes shrank from how this healing compelled them to accept God's Grace. After Jesus had healed the man, they wanted Him to leave too. It would seem that both the man and the townspeople had the need for more healing — a spiritual healing. We need to constantly reflect on how God meets us on our own level in the person of Jesus. We find that our encounter with Jesus will require some kind of response to His love: either we will embrace it or reject it. If we accept the Lord's loving embrace, it will require us to summon the courage to change and grow. But to change and grow into God's image is our calling.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



*HOLIDAY BAKE SALE,
LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE*
Saturday, November 22
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church during the day on Friday, Nov. 21
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 21** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 22. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson.**
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pits** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 9, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 22 & 23.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 7, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 20 & 21. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To

ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***

- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho.** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.

PAPOU'S ATTIC:

- As part of the Holiday Marketplace and Bake Sale on November 22nd, we will sell unique "antique shop" type items for the benefit of the Church. **We are seeking donations of new and gently used giftware, knick-knacks, and ornaments.** (To be clear, we are **NOT** looking for the usual "yard-sale" fare, but specialty items.) All things must be dropped off at the Church no later than Sunday, November 16th. For more information, contact Tim Rucho.