

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2, 2014

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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

PITA BAKING, this **Thursday, November 6th 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 E-RECYCLING TEAM led by **Gerry Belba** for their effort this Saturday. This is a win-win: our parish helps contribute to the environmental health of our broader community, while earning a little money for the parish.

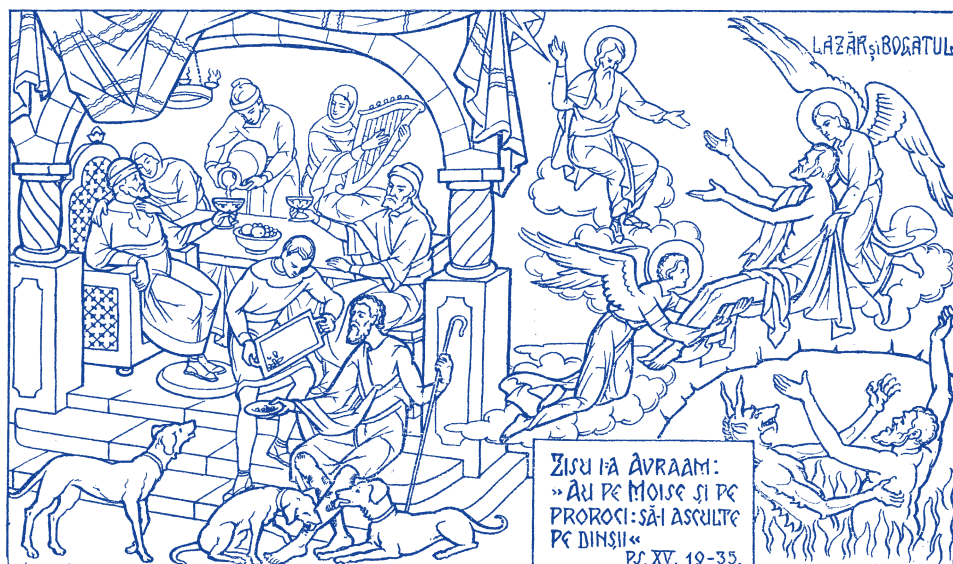
THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Nicole Apostola or Lisa Mielnicki. Our next Saturday is December 6th.

THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE TICKETS

GREETERS TEAM 1:
V. GERALD BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:
MARGARITE LANDRY, FLAVIA GURAN,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN
& KATINA COCAVESSIS

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

(THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS)

TONE 4 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 10

are in the mail thanks to all the people who stuffed and sealed the envelopes, and stuck on the address labels. God Bless You! We still have tickets so sell. Dean Valoras is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE CRE-DINȚA, the quarterly Archdiocesan magazine, is available at the candles. Please pick up a copy.

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 you like to focus your efforts in just one area. However you'd like to serve, please speak with **Fr. Nick**.

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEK is sponsored by **Carol Fotos**.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

AN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE, sponsored by the Shrews-

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mon, Nov 3 Parish Council, 6:30 pm
- Thurs, Nov 6 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
- Fri, Nov 14 Nativity Lent Begins
- Sat, Nov 22 Thanksgiving Bake Sale/Holiday Mktppls
- Sun, Nov 23 Ecu Thanksgiving Service
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 7pm
- Sat, Dec 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
- Dec 6-7 Feastday Celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

bury Clergy Association will be held on Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The Offering will go to St. Anne's Human Services. Also, in-kind offerings of canned non-perishable goods are welcome.

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

November 1

The Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian

Kosmas Karadimitriou

November 8

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Inva Gabriela Durmillari

Gabriela Gavala

The Holy Archangel Michael

Kenneth Michael Anderson

Michael Bourisk

Michael Walter Clem

Mihai Gavala

Michaela Ionete

Michael Keimig

Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard

Scott Michael Maynard

Tyler Michael Maynard

Michael Anthony Prizio

Michael Soter

Michael Spataro

Michael Peter Toda

The Holy Archangel Raphael

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angela Demake

Angeliki Soter

Angelina Zonia

November 14

The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip

Philip Rucho

Phillip Sedares



THE UNMERCENARY PHYSICIANS

COSMAS & DAMIAN

(November 1)

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor. Their pagan father died while they were still small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). Their fame spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed

the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O GOD, OUR GOD, who can neither deceive nor be deceived: Direct our minds and hearts to you at all times, and enable us to be conscious of your presence in our lives. Remove from us all false and affectitious attitudes of mind, speech, and conduct. Enable us to live in an unassuming manner and let us proclaim your greatness not so much in words as in deeds.

For you are able to do all things, O you who alone can make us holy, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

EVEN IF SOMEONE SHOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD

THE Gospel lesson this week is taken from St. Luke (16:19-31). It is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. This parable is unique in a number of ways. First, it appears only in the Gospel of Luke. Second, it gives us an important insight into the “next life,” and the judgment to come. And third, we learn something about names—how our very identity is captured in our name.

Very few places in the whole of the Bible tell us so clearly of the judgment to come and the nature of Heaven and Hell. While there are many places in the Gospels where the Lord urges us to be virtuous and speaks to us of the importance of choosing correctly between the comforts of this life and the rewards of the world to come, here we clearly see the consequences of our choices. Lazarus rests in the bosom of Abraham with the righteous. The Rich Man is tormented in Hades.

It is interesting that we never learn the Rich Man’s name. He is only referred to by his “class.” On the other hand, we learn the poor beggar’s name at the very outset. We live in a culture where names are given and used freely. We address people we hardly know by their first name, where once this privilege was reserved for only our most cherished relatives and friends. To know a person’s name is to know them intimately. When Moses encounters God in the burning bush and God gives him the mission to free the people of Israel from Pharaoh’s bondage, the first thing he asks of God is, “What is your name?” (Exodus 3:13) To know His name is to know something about Him. In fact the name that God gives Moses — “I AM” — reveals a great deal about Himself. He is the Existing One.

The Lord gives us Lazarus’ name so that we might know him. Because we know his name he becomes a real person to us. The Rich Man has no name.



In his greed and selfishness we know him only by these character traits; he is not worthy of a name. Lazarus sat begging every day outside of the Rich Man’s house. While there is no way he could not have noticed him, Lazarus was invisible to him. Now, without a name, the Rich Man is “invisible” to us.

How many people do we see on the streets who look to us for kindness, and yet they remain invisible to us? And while we live in a society where there are various forms of institutional assistance, if we have learned anything from our work at the Orthodox Food Pantry and at the Mustard Seed, it is that not only the destitute who are hungry, but also working people who cannot make ends meet on their wages. Even a middle class family can be thrown into the situation of Lazarus by a devastating illness for which they have no medical coverage, the sudden loss of a job, or by a crisis in the economy. In a very real way we all could easily become Lazarus.

Finally, we learn about the nature of repentance. In the picture that the Lord gives us of Heaven and Hell, the one

thing that has always fascinated me is that there is an ability to communicate between the two realms. Each could see and talk to the other. Each knew of the other’s condition. And yet, when the Rich Man asks of Abraham that he send Lazarus to comfort him, we learn of a “gulf” or “chasm” between the two places which cannot be crossed. They could communicate, but no one could pass from one realm to the other. There would be no comfort given to the Rich Man by water on the finger of Lazarus. This is a symbol of the unalterable destiny between the saved and the lost.

But even in this situation the Rich Man has not lost his arrogance. He asks to have Lazarus sent to his brothers so that they might repent before suffering a similar fate. Abraham explains that repentance does not spring from witnessing miracles, but from a true change of heart. He tells him: “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” When the Rich Man protests, Abraham replies further, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (v. 29, 31). Miracles alone will not convince any one of us to believe if our heart is not willing to receive the Word.

A more subtle point that we should note is that the Rich Man, even while he is suffering torment because of his sin, because of his neglect of Lazarus who lay before him all those years, never actually addresses Lazarus, never calls him by name. He speaks to Abraham and through him wants to order poor Lazarus around as though he is nothing. Even in his punishment, the “poor” Rich Man has learned nothing. May God save us from this fate!

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.