

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MARCH 29, 2015

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE BAKERS! As we come up to the holidays, we want to acknowledge the heroic efforts of the ladies and men who have been baking pitas and pastries these past weeks and months. We especially want to thank Chris Toda and Betty Anderson who hold this effort together. Not only is this a serious fundraiser for our parish, the wonderful baked goods produce grace and enhance the tables of scores of households this Paschal season. May God bless them!

REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR HOLIDAY PITA AND PASTRY ORDERS. Any questions or pick-up arrangements, see Betty Anderson.

THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY sponsored by the Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches will be at **St. Spyridon Cathedral on this coming Wednesday, April 1st** at 6:00 pm.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, April 5th, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can

GREETERS TEAM 2:
MARY ANNA DYMEK &
MARGARITE LANDRY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:
MARGARITE LANDRY &
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN
ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — ST. MARY OF EGYPT

APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 9:11-14

GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45 (REQUEST OF THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE)

TONE 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 9

help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola.**

THE FULL PASCHA SCHEDULE and announcements may be found attached to this Bulletin or as a separate sheet at the candles.

VESPERS AND CONFESSION will be held each Saturday evening at 5:00 pm during Great Lent. Fr. Nick will be available for confession each week after Vespers, and before Vespers by appointment (call or e-mail Fr. Nick).

THE GREAT FRIDAY CHILDREN'S RETREAT will be held on **Friday, April 10 starting at 12:30 pm, and concluding with a celebration of Great Vespers at 2:00 pm.** All children grades kindergarten through 8th are welcome to attend. Younger children are welcomed accompanied by a

parent. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the candle stand. Please be sure to register your child to attend. Besides assisting with the children's lessons and activities, assistance is needed with lunch, snacks and other logistics. For additional information and offers to assist, **please contact Valarie Stamoulis or Alysia Valoras.**

DONATIONS FOR MIDNIGHT PASCHAL MEAL are requested. Please see Presvytera Maria if you would like

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed, April 1 PreSanctified Lit at St. Spyridon 6pm
- Fri, April 3 Ecu Good Friday Service
Congregational Church, noon
- Sat, April 4 Lazarus Sat., Liturgy 10 am
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, April 5 Palm Sunday Luncheon
- Fri, April 10 Great Friday Children's Program, 12:30
- Sun, April 12 Great and Holy Pascha
- Sun, April 19 General Assembly following Liturgy

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

to contribute and assist with preparing and serving the meal. Please join with your fellow parishioners to celebrate the Resurrection and break-the-fast together. All are welcome!

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held on **Sunday, April 19th** following Divine Liturgy. In addition to the usual reports, we will be voting in a new Parish Council to serve a two year term. Please make plans to attend.

TODAY WE REMEMBER:

- ✦ The servant of God **Elizabeth Kehayoglou**, mother of Sofia Apostol.
- ✦ The servants of God **Ion Constantin Pitigoi**, fallen asleep one year, and father of Liana Manescu, as well as her grandparents **Maria and Constantin**.
- ✦ The servant of God **John Rucho**, fallen asleep, now 40-days.

May our good and loving Lord rest their souls with the righteous!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Sofia Apostol, Liana Manescu, and the Rucho Family** in memory of their loved ones.

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.



PALM SUNDAY DINNER

Please join us for our annual **PALM SUNDAY DINNER** following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, April 5, 2015**. A traditional baked fish dinner will be served. An alternative Lenten non-fish menu for children and others will also be offered. Donations for the Luncheon are **\$25.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children**. Thanks to the generosity of two families from our parish, all proceeds from the dinner will benefit St. Nicholas Church. **Reservations are strongly encouraged** so that we can properly plan for the dinner. A sign-up sheet is located at the candle stand or see Eleanor Sedares during coffee hour to make reservations. You may also e-mail (FrNick@StNicholas Church.org) or call (508-845-0088) the Church. If you can help with the luncheon, please e-mail or speak with Presvytera Maria (mzm@net1plus.com) during coffee hour.

HOLY WEEK GREETERS/USHERS SOUGHT

Parishioners are needed to assist with greeting and ushering for the Holy Week services. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board, or you can talk to Evan Stamoulis or Tom Fitzpatrick.

This is what is required: If possible (based on work and childcare schedules, etc.) it is preferred that the greeter/ushers be at the church 15 min prior to the start of the service. General duties are to assist at the candle stand (stock the candles, monitor the lit candles and dispose

of as necessary and appropriate, make change), assist or direct parishioners/visitors with seating, and any other assistance that may be related to the particular service. Greeter/ushers should also make sure that any donations for candles, etc. are collected and accounted for. Greeter/ushers should also be sure that the candle stand is left in a neat and clean condition, that candles are restocked and as the sand is cleaned/neatened for the next service.

NAMEDAYS

April 5

*The Entrance of our Lord into
Jerusalem*

Elodie Lauren Killick
Florence Rucho
Flora Soter
Florica Tonna

*The Holy Martyrs Victor
and Victorin*

Victor Ioan Nedelcsu
Victoria Wilder

April 11

St. Calinic of Cernica

Călin Galeriu

April 17

The Life-giving Fountain

Zoica Nedelcu
Zoitza Tsongalis

April 19

The Holy Apostle Thomas

Thomas Chachi
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Robert T. Sedares
Thomas R. Sedares
Thomas Spataro

DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

General donations in any amount to defray the cost of decorations for the Paschal Feast are most appreciated. Some specific needs are:

Flowers for Palm Sunday Icon	\$50.00
Palms	\$100.00
Flowers for Bridegroom Icon	\$50.00
Holy Thursday Gospel Candles	\$60.00
Wreaths for Cross (Great Friday)	\$50.00
(Resurrection)	\$100.00
Resurrection Icon	\$50.00
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday	\$100.00
1 Gallon of Olive Oil	\$25.00
½ lb Incense	\$40.00
Priest's Paschal Candle	\$50.00
Rose Oil for Epitaphion	\$25.00
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Flowers for Epitaphion	\$500.00
Decorations for Pascha	\$350.00

Please see Fr. Nick or Lillian Chachi to make a donation

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O YOU WHO ARE SERENITY AND PEACEFULNESS ITSELF, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: When the cares and labors of another day are over, we come to you with our evening prayers. We stand before you and reflect on the day that has passed, and we pray that, by your grace, this lenten season will make a difference in our lives. Do not permit us to be consumed with thoughts of the past or of the future, but teach us to live always in the present. Take our attention off things that perish, and focus our mind's eye on you and the things that last forever. Enable us to attain a share of the peace that only you can give, so that we may one day join the saints in the paschal celebrations of the world to come.

For you are indeed our God, and we give you glory, Father Son and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

THE SERVANT OF ALL

THIS is the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the last before we enter Holy Week. The Gospel lesson, taken from St. Mark (10:32-45), is meant to prepare us for the events of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. As they are making their way to Jerusalem the Lord tells his disciples for a third time what will happen to him when he gets to Jerusalem.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, all the wonders they have witnessed, the disciples are unable to "hear" what the Lord is telling them. As we would say today, they are in a state of denial. St. Luke is a little stronger in his observation. He says, "They understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said" (Luke 18:34).

We can see that Luke might be closer to the truth because no sooner had Jesus told them of the terrible things that will occur, James and John come and ask Jesus that they be granted to sit one on his right hand and one at his left, in his glory (Mark 10:37). They clearly do not understand what they are asking. Not only is it presumptuous of them to ask for such a thing, it shows that they really did not "hear" what the Lord was telling them.

However, the Lord is gentle with them. He asks them: "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (v. 38) By not repeating the predictions of his impending suffering, but rather phrasing his response in the form of a challenge, the Lord means to both encourage and admonish James and John. When they rather naïvely respond: "We are able," the Lord tells them that they will indeed drink of his cup and be baptized with his same baptism, but, he says: "to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared" (v. 40).



We can understand two things from the way the Lord tells them who will take the place of honor in the Kingdom. The first is that places of honor will be given on merit. Just because these two were chosen to be disciples does not mean that they will necessarily be given the highest places of honor. Many people who came before and after have shared in the Lord's cup and baptism. Each has a place that has been prepared for them.

The second is that the disciples had no way of understanding the magnitude of the Lord's true glory. Remember how St. Paul, when explaining the Lord's glory, says, "To which of the angels has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand?'" (Hebrews 1:13).

The real difficulty comes when the other ten disciples heard what James and John had asked Jesus (v. 41). They were furious. But the Lord diffuses their anger by directing them to the real point. He gathers them around him and says: "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their

rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you" (v. 42-43). He wants them to understand the true significance of what will happen in Jerusalem: the way of earthly kingdoms and foolish power-grabbing will give way to the Kingdom of God.

He gives them this rule to follow: "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all" (v. 44). The person who assumes leadership must be prepared to empty himself or herself and to serve those over whom they exercise authority. If we ever needed such an example of true leadership, it is certainly today. This saying of our Lord is a powerful reminder of what happens when people follow their own desires and not the way of God.

Finally the Lord offers Himself as the example to follow. He says, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (v. 45). When we find ourselves feeling discouraged and disrespected, this is an important passage to contemplate. Perhaps we have been mistreated at work, or provoked at home. We are overcome with a sense of being humbled and perhaps humiliated. It is then we need to reflect on these words of the Lord. However much our humiliation, it cannot compare to the distance between the Father's throne in heaven and the judgment seat of Pilate. Jesus lowered the Heavens for us, and, by lowering Himself, changed the world. He offers us the opportunity to drink his cup and share in his baptism. Will we be ready and able to do so? Let us pray that we are.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA SCHEDULE

As Orthodox Christians, one of the ways we set ourselves apart from the secular world is by placing a high priority on attending as much of the full cycle of Holy Week services as we are able. By participating in the services that commemorate our Lord's passion and death on the Holy Cross, we can more fully experience the joy of the Paschal celebration.



Pascha. Holy Communion is only offered within the context of a Divine Liturgy. Confessions will be heard after Vespers at 5:00 on Lazarus Saturday, April 4th and before and after the Holy Week Services up until Great Tuesday. There will be no Confession in the hours before the Resurrection Service. If you have any questions or wish to arrange a special time, please call Fr. Nick at 508-845-0088.



Dinner following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 5, 2015. A traditional baked fish dinner will be served. An alternative



Lenten non-fish menu for children and others will also be offered. Donations for the Luncheon are **\$25.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children**. Thanks to the generosity of two families from our parish, all proceeds from the dinner will benefit St. Nicholas Church. Reservations may be made at church, by email (info@StNicholasChurch.org) or by calling the church phone (508-845-0088) and leaving a message.

❖ **Confession and Communion:** The Faithful should prepare themselves for Confession and Holy Communion, and everyone should try to receive Holy Communion on

❖ **Palm Sunday Dinner:** Please join us for our annual Palm Sunday

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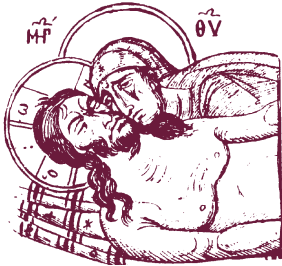
Please see Fr. Nick or Lillian Chachi to make a donation

❖ **Agape Meal:** Preoteasa Maria (mzm@net1plus.com) is organizing the Agape meal after the Resurrection Service. Please speak with her in regard to what food items are needed or consider a donation to help cover the cost of the paper goods and other needed items.

❖ **Easter Eggs:** We are asking for a donation of cooked and dyed red eggs from each family. The eggs should be at the Church by Holy Thursday evening if possible (*Tradition has it that the eggs are cooked on Holy Thursday.*) Please see Preoteasa Maria if you can help wrapping the eggs for distribution on Pascha.

❖ **Bay Leaves:** Help is needed to remove leaves from their stems in preparation for use on Holy Saturday. This is a task that can be done at home at your leisure. Please see Tim Rucho if you can help.

Great and Holy Friday: We will have a Church School Program for the younger Sunday school children. The program will begin at 12:30 pm and conclude with the celebration of Great Vespers at 2:00 pm. Please contact Valarie Stamoulis or Alysia Valoras.



if you are interested in helping and to register your child/children for the program

Paschal Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday: We have the tradition of reading the Gospel message in many different languages. If you are able to read the Gospel in a particular language and would like to participate, please speak with Fr. Nick or Tim early in Holy Week. This is not something that can be “pulled together” at the last minute, so we need commitments by Palm Sunday if we are to continue this tradition.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



SATURDAY OF LAZARUS APRIL 4, 2015

Matins	9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2015

Matins	9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Matins of Holy Monday	6:00 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY APRIL 6, 2015

Matins of Holy Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
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HOLY TUESDAY APRIL 7, 2015

Matins of Holy Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
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HOLY WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2015

Mystery of Holy Unction	6:00 p.m.
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GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2015

Vespers of St. Basil (at Holy Trinity Nursing Ctr) .	9:30 a.m.
Holy Passion (Reading of the 12 Gospels)	6:00 p.m.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2015

Royal Hours	9:30 a.m.
Great Friday Children's Retreat	12:30 p.m.
Vespers with the Taking-down from the Cross	2:00 p.m.
Lamentations-Matins of Holy Saturday	6:00 p.m.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2015

Vespers of St. Basil	9:30 a.m.
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GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA APRIL 12, 2015

Vigil of Pascha	11:15 p.m.
Resurrection Service	11:30 p.m.
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	12:00 a.m.
Vespers of Agape	12:00 p.m.

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS APRIL 19, 2015

Matins	9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

Communion is offered at every Liturgy

Confessions may be heard after every service until Holy Wednesday