

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 7, 2015

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA DOUGH ROLLING SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, at 9:00 am. We need to build up our inventory of pitas, and we need your help. With 12-15 people the work can be evenly distributed and can be finished with prep and clean-up in 3-4 hours. Contact Chris Toda at: thetodas@msn.com, or 508-832-6271.

LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES in our Parish so they can be recognized for their accomplishment! If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

GODPARENTS & GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY. On **Sunday, June 21st**, together with the closing ceremonies for Religious Education, we will host "Godparents and Grandparents Sunday." Children (and adults) are encouraged to invite their godparent or grandparent to join them at Divine Liturgy, after which a special prayer will be offered to affirm those relationships. We will also be honoring graduates from our parish. A Parish Cookout will follow on the Church Grounds (rain or shine) to kick off the summer with hot dogs, burgers, sausages and all the fixings. Lawn chairs and bats, balls, and other back yard

GREETERS TEAM 2:
MARY ANNA DYMEK &
MARGARITE LANDRY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW D:
MARGARITE LANDRY,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE SUNDAY OF ALL-THE-SAINTS

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:33-12:2 ✚ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:32-35; 37-38; 19: 27-30
TONE 8 ✚ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 1

games are welcomed. **If you would like to contribute to sponsoring the event, please see or contact Deb Sedares.** Adults: \$15.00 — Children: \$5.00. Reservations are needed by Sunday, June 14. Sign up at the Candle Stand or see Eleanor Sedares during Coffee Hour or e-mail: info@StNicholasChurch.org. **Dimitri Saffron** is organizing the cook-out. **Please let him know if you can help with the event.** His e-mail is: DSLandscape1@yahoo.com. A volunteer sign-up sheet is also posted on the Stewardship Bulletin Board in the church hall.

THE MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **Friday, June 18.** The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **Help is needed Friday morning at 9:30 am** to cook and prepare food, and **at 5:00 on Friday evening** to transport and serve. There is a sign-up sheet on the Stewardship

Board in the Hall or contact Deb Sedares if you can help with preparing the meal. Contact **Fr. Nick** if you have any questions.

A 40-DAY MEMORIAL is celebrated today for the servants of God **Angelina Zonia and Elva Gartsu.**

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored in their memory by their families. *May our good and loving Lord rest their souls among the just!*

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE 2015 ALBANIAN FESTIVAL will be held the weekend of **June 5, 6, & 7 by**

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 5, 6, & 7 Albanian Festival at St. Mary's
Sat, June 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
Mon, June 8 Apostles' Fast Begins
Sat, June 13 Pita Dough Rolling 9am
Fri, June 19 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
Sun, June 21 Godparents/Grandparents Sunday
Parish Cookout

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church on Salisbury Street in Worcester. Please plan on attending and supporting our sister parish! For more information: www.albanianfestival.org/

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN. St. George Orthodox Cathedral is hosting a MobilePack event where **500 volunteers will come together on June 27th to pack 100,000 life-saving meals** for starving children in developing countries. This will be the only location in the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts to host this event. The goal is to raise \$22,000. Adults and children as young as 5 years of age will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags, and prepare boxes for shipping. Registration will be live beginning May 16th; go to the website to register. You may **donate online** at www.stgeorgeworcester.org or mail your check to: Feed My Starving Children; ATTN: MobilePack #1506-99AU; 401 93rd Avenue NW; Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Checks should be payable to: FMSC, memo line MobilePack #1506-99AU. We are trying to organize a group from St. Nicholas to help with this. If you are interested in participating please see or contact Deb Sedares.

FREE FUN FRIDAYS ARE BACK FOR THE SUMMER! Free Fun Fridays is the annual summer program that opens doors at no cost to visitors to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. Free Fun Fridays shines a spotlight on the broad and diverse art and cultural offerings across Massachusetts. Whether you live in Boston or the Berkshires, Worcester or Cape Cod, the North Shore or the South Coast, you can take advantage of this free program. This year, 70 museums and cultural venues will participate in the program. Beginning June 26th through August 28th, seven cultural venues will be open free-of-charge every Friday for 10 weeks this

FINANCIAL FACT

"Burning the Mortgage"

We have over \$42,000 in our brokerage account and there are great tax advantages when donating your stock to the Church.

summer. Keeping young people intellectually and socially engaged in the summer is very important — whether the children are in pre-school or all the way through high school. This is a great program for families to take advantage of this summer. To see the whole program, and the sites that available each Friday, go to: highlandstreet.org/freefunfridays.htm or pick up a hard copy flier at the Church. Free Fun Fridays are organized by the Highland Street Foundation and a number of other prominent organizations.

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

June 7

The Sunday of All the Saints

Amalia Polymeros

June 8

The Holy Martyr Kalliopi

Kaliopi Demma

June 27

The Holy Mnnyrrh-bearer Joanna

Joanne V. Prizio

June 29

The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Rev. Fr. Peter Michael Preble

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

Peter Demetri Tsongalis





2015 GRADUATES

“He has filled them with the spirit of God, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft.” (Exodus 35:31)

We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

HIGH SCHOOL

Nicholas Belishta is graduated from Doherty Memorial High School and will attend Worcester State University in the Fall.

Alexandra Dymek is graduated from Worcester Technical High School specializing in culinary arts, and is currently engaged at a local restaurant.

Theodore Nedelcu is graduated from Doherty High School and will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Boston in the fall.

Brian Rucho is graduated from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School and will be attending Westfield State University to pursue a career in education.

COLLEGE

Nicole Trakadas is graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Framingham State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science. She also earned an Environmental Science Award, an Honors Science Book Award and the Ada Shawkey Scholarship Award.

Christine Masterjohn was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at Worcester State University. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree Healthcare Management at Assumption College

Alex Johnson is graduated from the Boylston Regional Police Academy. Another step forward toward his goal.

May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

ETERNAL, SELF-SUBSISTENT GOD, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT: The entire creation that surrounds and includes us glorifies your ineffable divinity: The rustling of the leaves in the breeze and the buzz of insects in the fields, the warmth of the sun and the chill of the frost, the beauty of a smile and the anguished expression of those in pain. The genius of your wisdom and goodness whispers to us, no matter where we turn, gently telling us that this wondrous creation is the arena of our struggle for holiness and wholeness. And what is this struggle, if not coming to know, love, and serve you in all our brothers and sisters, if not becoming like you, servants and lovers of all! Today, as we celebrate the memory of all those who engaged in this struggle before us, we ask you to help us do the same, so that, with them, we, too, may one day enjoy your presence in the eternal kingdom.

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.



WHAT'S THE PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP?

This is the first Sunday after Pentecost, the Sunday when we remember all of those holy persons who have lived from the beginning of time down through the present. People who lived the life in Christ with love and holiness, but may not have been formally recognized by the Church. These are the good men and women who, for the most part, lived their lives quietly, in an ordinary fashion, yet willingly took on the Christian yoke and in so doing influenced and perhaps even changed many of those around them.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday begins with these powerful and even terrifying words: "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). The Lord is laying out in this passage what is expected of those of us who wish to follow him.

He expands the point. He says that he has not come to bring peace, but a sword, to set father against son, and daughter against mother. Finally he says: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 38). He is speaking of confrontation and even violence, not ideas we normally associate with Jesus.

The Lord is giving us an insight into what the price of discipleship is. He shows us the choice, leaving the decision to us. In telling us that a choice for God is more valuable than following the conventions of society, Jesus introduces a revolutionary shift in human history. He phrases it dramatically. When he speaks of the choices that we may have to make, he illustrates it by using as examples family relationships. Our family relationships are "hard-wired" on so



many levels. Even in our social context we would be hard-pressed to violate these relationships, but in the social and cultural context out of which the Lord is speaking, the boundaries of these relationships were never almost never violated. A son never openly disobeyed his father. A daughter never openly disobeyed her mother. These sorts of things were simply not tolerated. And if they were violated, there was a heavy price to pay. Our Lord's words must have seemed unbelievable and even scandalous to those who first heard them.

If we can appreciate how revolutionary Jesus' words were to the first disciples, it will begin to make sense to us how He immediately turns to questions of life and death: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 38). In order to be worthy of him we are asked to put everything on the line. Suddenly, every choice we make takes on a life and death quality, or rather, by understanding the true significance of the choices we make, we appreciate how precious those around us are. We can

appreciate how precious we are to God. Following Christ and loving God and neighbor can change everything.

It is worth repeating, what the Lord was asking of his first followers was not an easy thing. If we see this as something radically hard, it was even harder for them. We who have been raised with a more individualist spirit might find it conceivable to leave family and friend, but still, choosing God over everything else that we hold dear, even those we love, even our very own life, is still not something one takes lightly.

However, most of us who have chosen to follow Christ will never be asked to make these great sacrifices. Most of us will have parents who also love God. Generally speaking, the society in which we live is receptive to Christians. It is not very likely that we will be asked to be martyrs. But, this *has* been asked of many, and this ultimate sacrifice *has* been made by some, even in our own time. Look at the world around us. If we were really prophetic, as Christ was prophetic; if we really lived our lives and interacted with others as He did, don't you think that people would be angry at us? And, while some might feel drawn to follow Christ's call, might not others hate us or even want to kill us?

Remember though, the transformation that our Lord asks of us in an internal one. Today, many who call themselves Christians demand transformations in others. Yet, our Lord tells us that we are to judge only ourselves. It is hard enough to change ourselves. However, if we change ourselves, the Lord promises others will follow.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA