

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JUNE 14, 2015

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **THIS Friday, June 18**. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **Help is needed Thursday evening and Friday afternoon** to cook and prepare food, and **at 5:00 on Friday evening** to transport and serve. Contact **Fr. Nick** if you are able to help or have any questions.

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 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.

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:
KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA AND ROMANIA

APOSTOLIC READING: ROMANS 2:10-16 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:18-20

(JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES)

TONE 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 2

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 cookout. **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.

THANKS TO THE PITA DOUGH VOLUNTEERS. Who rolled dough yesterday. We need to build up our inventory of pitas, and we need everyone's help. There will be more baking sessions. Contact Chris Toda at: thetodas@msn.com, or 508-832-6271.

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish

last Saturday. 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 Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is August 1st.

A 40-DAY MEMORIAL is celebrated today for the servant of God **Florica Handra**, the mother of **Florentina Rus**.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Anthi Eleftheriou** in memory of her beloved **family members** and by

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- Sat, July 4 NO Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, July 12 NO Liturgy at St. Nick's
- Sun, Sept 20 stART on the Street

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

Florentina Rus in memory of her mother **Florica Handra**. *May our good and loving Lord rest their souls among the just!*

COMMUNITY NEWS

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-

FINANCIAL FACT

“Burning the Mortgage”

As of April 28, 2015, we have paid a total of \$564,648.23 in interest to the bank!

of-charge every Friday for 10 weeks this 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 Myrrh-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



THEY WENT FISHING

The Church calendar's cycle really begins with Pentecost. Pascha — our Lord's death and resurrection — in many ways completes this cycle, even as it prepares us for the Holy Spirit's coming and dwelling in our hearts. The way we choose to read the Scriptures reflects this. From Pascha through Pentecost we read from St. John's Gospel (the last of the four), and the Apostolic readings are taken from the Book of Acts — what some have called the "fifth" Gospel, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. Following Pentecost we read from St. Matthew's Gospel and the Apostolic Letters of St. Paul starting with Romans. This Sunday we hear the Lord call the first disciples, the brothers Andrew and Peter, and then two other brothers, James and John. With but a word they, fishermen all, left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-23) And so set out on their journey.

St. John Chrysostom, with his characteristic wisdom, makes some important observations from the text. The first thing he points out is that clearly this account in Matthew was a second call. They had met Jesus before. For example he notes that Simon is already referred to as Peter. He also comments on how quickly and readily they obeyed Jesus' call to follow him. He then directs our attention to the Gospel of John (1:38ff) where we can see an earlier encounter of Jesus with these and other disciples.

The Evangelist John tells us that Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist and it was John who pointed out Jesus to Andrew. Andrew then went and spoke to his brother Simon (Peter) and brought him to Jesus. They spent a few days with Jesus and then returned to their livelihood—fishing.

Chrysostom uses the fact that these future disciples were fishermen to help us understand a deeper truth. He expands on the fishing imagery. He ex-

plains that it was certainly a natural thing for them to go back to their work, especially after John the Baptist had been thrown into prison and the Lord had retired to the desert. But, in fact, the Lord hadn't entirely let go of them. Keeping in mind the technique a fisherman uses, he says that Jesus "slackened the line before reeling them in." The Lord

gave them time to reflect on that first encounter, an encounter that would eventually compel a response from them. This, Chrysostom says, explains how they easily left everything with but a word.

We see a similar thing happen after the Lord's Resurrection. The disciples, feeling a little lost and disoriented, and not knowing quite what they should do next, decide to go fishing (cf. John 21:3). It was something they knew how to do, and we can imagine it would give them a sense of security and grounding when in duress. The Lord encounters them there on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias; John says it was the third time that he had appeared to them after the Resurrection. Jesus invites them once again to "follow me." His words are directed especially to Peter, but he tells them all of the great mission he intends for them.

This same theme of fishing is used as a metaphor for the great mission the Lord has planned for the disciples, as illustrated in the Evangelist Luke's account of the disciples' call (cf. Luke 5:1ff). There, because of the miraculous catch of fish, Simon Peter and the others believe and follow Him. Jesus tells



them that as fishermen, they would from now on be fishers of men, "catching people," if you will. We hear echoes of this Gospel verse in the Troparion of Pentecost when we sing: "You made wise men out of fishermen by Your Holy Spirit. And through them You caught the whole world in Your net."

It shouldn't surprise us that imagery of fish, fishing, and fishermen runs throughout the New Testament and the hymnography of the Church. Many of the disciples were fishermen. The Lord was always using imagery from the lives of the people he was talking to. In this way he helped them understand Divine spiritual truths through examples that were very accessible to everyone.

Ultimately, however, we cannot forget the dedication of these disciples who left everything to follow Jesus. Very likely they didn't understand the true sacrifice that they would be making when they took those first steps, but they had the courage and love of God to follow when asked. Through them their world and ours has been changed forever.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



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,

O HOLY TRINITY, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT: As we think of your saints, we see how truly devoted to you these men and women were at all times. Filled with the light of your wisdom, and with no thought for themselves, they were always turned toward others, toward all your creatures. They were friendly to all, compassionate and tender, even-tempered and ready to forgive everyone without exception. Nothing could undo their peace and inner calm, nor could anger or fear or any emotion gain control over them. Free of all vain expectations, they remained intent only on reaching you. Always animated by a deep love for you, they worked solely for your glory in purity of heart. Today, as we honor them, we beseech you to keep the image of their holiness alive in our minds and hearts, so that we, too, may ever live to please you.

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

