

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 26, 2015

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THANKS TO THE PITA BAKING CREW! Their dedication is really appreciated. We're having to postpone the session we had set for this coming Thursday, but we'll scheduling others soon. Any and all help appreciated. Questions? See Chris Toda, 508-832-6271.

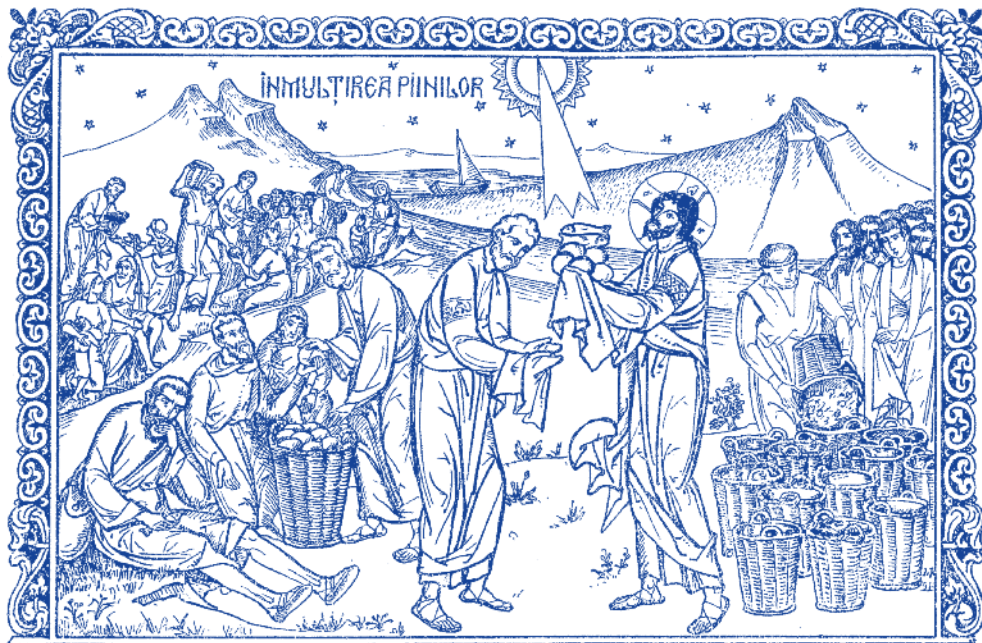
FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **this coming Saturday, August 1st, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola.**

ORTHODOX FOOD CENTER NEEDS BAGS, both plastic and paper. We all have hundreds of these filling our pantries. This is your chance to save the Food Center some cash and do even more good by recycling. Please collect good, usable paper and plastic bags and bring them either to the Pantry on Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 12 noon (St. Spyridon Cathedral, side entrance), or to our parish and we'll have

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR
ON RESPITE FOR THE SUMMER

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 ☩ **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:14-22**

(JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND)

TONE 7 ☩ **MATINS GOSPEL 8**

someone from here deliver them.

THE LATEST FAITH/CREDINȚA Magazine is now available at the candles. Please take a copy home with you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER PICNICS/FESTIVALS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST parish in Woonsocket will hold their annual Festival, Saturday and Sunday July 25-26 on the Church grounds.

ST. MICHAEL parish in Southbridge will hold their annual Picnic, Sunday August 16 on the Church grounds.

UPCOMING

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is on Friday, August 21st. We'll need help cooking and serving. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **Saturday, August 29th.** If you're able and willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jul 25-26 Woonsocket Festival, Sat-Sun
Sat, Aug 1 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
Sun, Aug 16 St Michael Southbridge Picnic
Fri, Aug 21 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
Sat, Aug 29 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Sun, Sept 20 stART on the Street

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



Holy Virgin Martyr Paraskeva of Rome (July 26) was the only daughter of Christian parents, Agathon and Politia, and from her early years she dedicated herself to God. She spent much of her time in prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. After the death of her parents St Paraskeva distributed all of her inheritance to the poor, and consecrated her virginity to Christ. Emulating the holy Apostles, she began to preach to the pagans about Christ, converting many to Christianity.

She was arrested during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161) because she refused to worship the idols. She was brought to trial and fearlessly confessed herself a Christian. Neither enticements of honors and material possessions, nor threats of torture and death shook the firmness of the saint nor turned her from Christ. She was given over to beastly tortures. They put a red-hot helmet on her head and threw her in a cauldron filled with boiling oil and pitch. By the power of God the holy martyr remained unharmed. When the emperor peered into the cauldron, St Paraskeva threw a drop of the hot liquid in his face, and he was burned. The emperor began to ask her for help, and the holy martyr healed him. After this the

emperor set her free.

Traveling from one place to another to preach the Gospel, St Paraskeva arrived in a city where the governor was named Asclepius. Here again they tried the saint and sentenced her to death. They took her to an immense serpent living in a cave, so that it would devour her. But St Paraskeva made the Sign of the Cross over the snake and it died. Asclepius and the citizens witnessed this miracle and believed in Christ. She was set free, and continued her preaching. In a city where the governor was a certain Tarasius, St Paraskeva endured fierce tortures and was beheaded in the year 140.

Many miracles took place at the saint's tomb: the blind received sight, the lame walked, and barren women gave birth to children. It is not only in the past that the saint performed her miracles, but even today she helps those who call on her in faith.

NAMEDAYS

July 16

The Holy Martyr Julia of Carthage

Julia Donabed

July 17

The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia

Margareta Gikas

Margarite Landry

Lindsey Marina Sparages

Marina Sparages

July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah (Elias)

Louis P. Belba

Elias James Christo

Irli Ilie Durmillari

Louis P. Messier

Louis Rucho

Louis Evan Stamoulis

July 24

The Holy Great Martyr Christina

Christine Masterjohn

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.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

ALMIGHTY LORD AND GOD: We desire to be true disciples of yours, not only in words, but in our actions, that in our own person we may glorify your divine grace. We realize that this implies, first and foremost, the practice of fraternal charity in every-day living. Yet, our weakness and stubbornness frequently prevent us from achieving this, and, without your help, our efforts are fruitless. In your love for us, enable us to love each other truly, no matter — and this is the core of the problem! — who the other is.

For you alone can do all things, and for this we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

THE Gospel lesson for this Sunday, the eighth after Pentecost, is St. Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand in the wilderness (Matthew 14:14-22). When Jesus learned from the disciples of John the Baptist that he had been beheaded by Herod, he decided to withdraw into a deserted place to be by himself and pray. He got into a boat, but the crowds followed him along the shore by foot. Eventually, this multitude of people—five thousand men, besides women and children (v. 21)—completely focused on following the Lord, found themselves in the wilderness.

The reaction of the Lord is one of gentleness and compassion. Seeing their faith and their need, he went ashore and without having to be asked he cured those who were sick (v. 14). Then the Lord prepared to feed them spiritually; and he did this by first nourishing their bodies.

It was only as evening approached that the disciples became anxious thinking of the needs of all these people now stranded in this lonely place. They would need food. Realizing they didn't have enough food, the disciples urged Jesus to send them away to buy some, but the Lord said: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat" (v. 16).

Let's stop here for a moment and reflect on the situation and what the Lord said. We know that the disciples have nothing more than five loaves and two fish. The Lord is asking the disciples to distribute out of their meagre resources food that would not have sufficed even for themselves, let alone ten thousand plus persons. This is what they understand the Lord to have said. But, the



Lord is not testing the faith of the disciples. He has something greater in mind. He is preparing to teach them how God works, and how God will work through them. Rather than distribute the food himself, he draws the disciples into the center of this wonder.

In commenting on this passage, St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the smallest of details. He notes that the Lord, rather than say: "I will feed them," turns to the disciples and says: "you feed



...WITH 5 LOAVES + 2 FISH
OVER 5,000 WERE FED...

them." How do the disciples respond? "We have only five loaves and two fish." In spite of the fact that they had already seen so many wondrous things done by Jesus, even there in that very place among the multitude, their thinking remains narrow. Jesus tells them to bring the fish and bread to him and then orders the crowds to sit.

He takes the food and in front of everyone offers a prayer to his Father to show them—and us—that at all times, we need to stop and give thanks to the One who gives us our food. Then he breaks the loaves and gives the pieces to the disciples to distribute. He not only works this great miracle, he enlists the disciples to participate in and become witnesses to it as the food is

multiplied in their very hands. The crowd which saw the five loaves and the two fish also see the disciples feeding everyone with it. Finally, not only is everyone fed and satisfied, but there is an abundance of food remaining.

Our God is compassionate. He heals our sicknesses. He feeds our stomachs. He nourishes our souls. He draws us to Heaven without ignoring our everyday earthly needs.

For our part, we are asked to follow him. Like these people who left everything simply to hear Jesus, we need to "lay aside all earthly cares" (as we sing in the Cherubim Hymn). And when we are about to take nourishment from the abundance he gives us, we should never forget to first stop and give thanks to the Giver of every good thing (cf. James 1:17).

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA