

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 2, 2015

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THE DORMITION FAST** in preparation for the Feast of the Falling-Asleep of the Theotokos began this past Saturday, August 1st, and continues through Saturday, August 15th. During this two-week period we will hold a number of special services. Please refer to the full schedule on the next page.

**PITA BAKING** this coming Thursday, August 6th, 9:00 am. All help welcome. Questions? See Chris Toda.

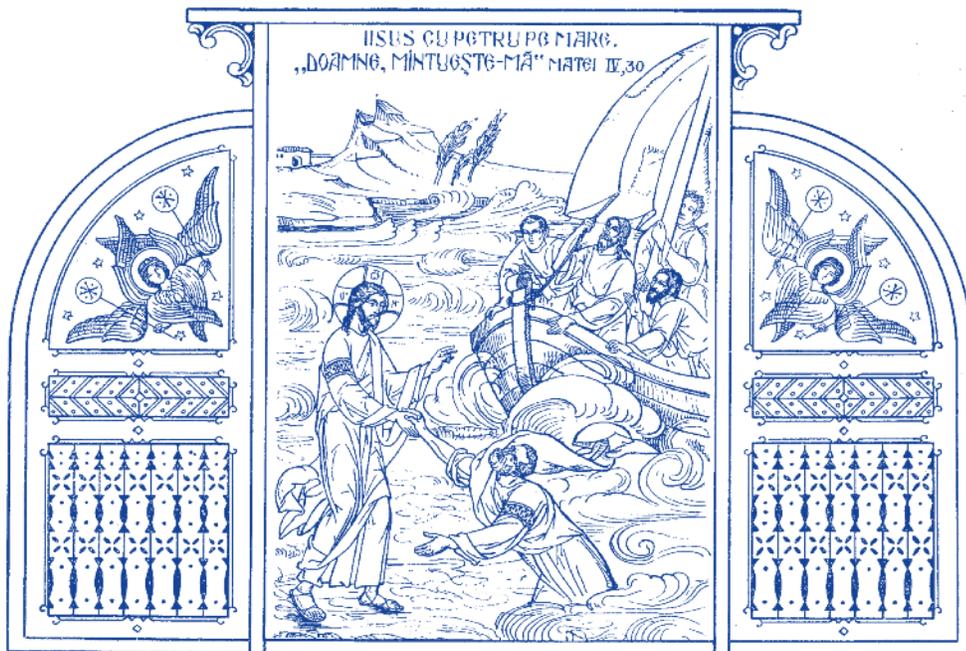
**THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is September 5th.

**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 Sat-

**GREETERS TEAM 4:**  
DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

**COFFEE HOUR**  
ON RESPITE FOR THE SUMMER

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:22-34

(JESUS WALKS ON WATER & CALMS THE STORM)

TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 9

urday morning between 10 a.m. and 12 noon (St. Spyridon Cathedral, side entrance), or to our parish and we'll have someone from here deliver them.

## THE LATEST FAITH/CREDINȚA

Magazine is now available at the candles. Please take a copy home with you.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION** Albanian Orthodox Church will be celebrating its **100th Anniversary the weekend of September 26-27**. There will be a Grand Banquet Saturday night, September 26, starting at 6:00 pm with a cocktail hour

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Aug 1 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
- Mon, Aug 3 Supplication to Theotokos, 6:30 pm
- Thurs, Aug 6 Liturgy for Transfiguration, 9:00 am  
Pita Baking
- Fri, Aug 7 Supplication to Theotokos, 6:30 pm
- Tues, Aug 11 Supplication to Theotokos, 6:30 pm
- Fri, Aug 14 Dormition Vespers, St. Mary's 6:30 pm
- Sat, Aug 15 Dormition Liturgy, St. Mary's 9:00 am
- 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

## AUGUST SERVICES

### *Dormition Fast Period (Aug 1-15)*

- ◆ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Monday, August 3, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy** for Transfiguration at Nick's, Thursday, August 6, 9:00 am
- ◆ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Friday, August 7, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Dormition Vespers** — St. Mary's, Friday, August 14, 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy** at St. Nick's, Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am

## FINANCIAL FACT

*"Burning the Mortgage"*

**If we didn't have a mortgage, we would have saved almost \$90,000 over the last 3 years!**

## NAMEDAYS

### August 6

*The Holy Transfiguration of the Savior*

S. Richard Seferi

### August 8

*The Holy New Martyr Triandaphyllos*

Rose Armida Salerno

### August 15

*The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Maria Blanchard

Mary Cocaine

Maria Dumitriu

Monika Maria Durmillari

Maria Kalpidou

Maria Prelipcean

Nancy Maria Tsongalis

Mary Tsoules

Marietta Zaruha

### August 26

*The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia*

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou

Natasha Zhaka

### August 29

*St. Theodora of Thessalonika*

Gina Theodora Trakadas

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** SOURCE AND ORIGIN OF THE SUN AND THE MOON AND THE STARS, of heaven and earth and all that is, O designer and creator of all things, visible and tangible, as well as hidden from our mind and our senses: Your wisdom and love inspire your church to celebrate the feast of the transfiguration of your Son. On Tabor, in a wondrous and unfathomable way, he gave his friends an insight into who he really is. Now, during this feast, we entreat you to open our minds and our hearts to the mystery of his person, that, by ever contemplating his passion, death, and resurrection, we may portray this understanding in our lives and abide in a lasting fellowship with him and with each other.

By the grace and mercy and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

and dinner at 7:00 pm at St. George's Hall. Keep the date open. More details to follow.

## 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.

**SAVE THE DATE!** October 15, 2015. Holy Trinity's 9th **FOOD and WINE FEST.** This year's event will be at St. Spyridon Cathedral. Look for more details soon!

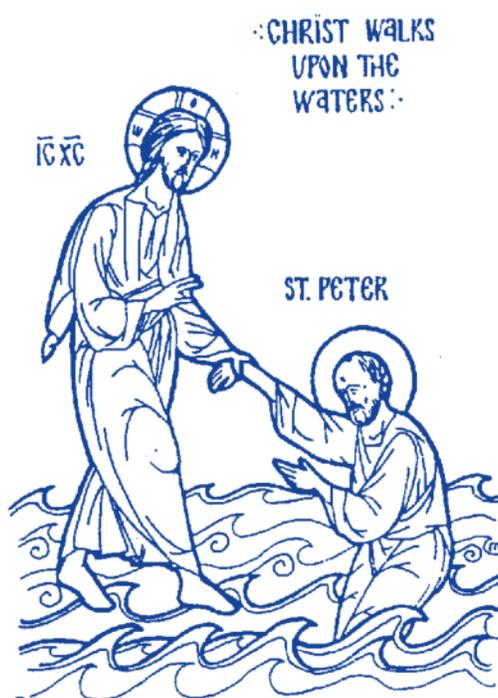


## WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

**T**HIS Sunday's Gospel lesson (Matthew 14:23-34), the ninth after Pentecost, is a direct continuation of last week's reading. It is the account of Jesus walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee to meet the disciples' storm-tossed ship. You will recall that the Lord, after he had fed the multitude with the loaves and fish, had the disciples get into their boat while he dismissed the people. He then went alone into the wilderness to pray. At the same time, the disciples being far off from shore, got caught in a storm. This storm was not unlike the one they had encountered earlier when Jesus was with them, but asleep in the boat (Matthew 8:24-27). However, this time he was not with them, and they were frightened.

As you reflect on this Gospel passage, I would suggest three things for you to focus on. First, notice how often the Lord retreats for prayer, and how it is always in some solitary place. Second, Peter features prominently in this story, but he's a complicated figure. He has a deep faith and ardor, but also has an impetuous nature. Lastly, see how the Lord is gradually leading his disciples to a greater faith and understanding of who he really is. Let's take these one by one.

**The Lord and prayer.** As you read the Gospels you will notice how many times Jesus "withdraws," not only from the people who are pressing in on him, but also from the disciples themselves. He goes into the wilderness where he finds solitude and quiet, often spending the whole night in prayer. Again, before his passion, he goes deep into the garden to pray. This is a fundamental spiritual principle. In order to pray we need to withdraw to a quiet place. We need to have a certain tranquility and peace. At the beginning of every service, we hear: "In peace let us pray to the Lord." Noise, distractions, and disquiet do not lend



themselves to speaking with God. Elijah did not find God in the wind or fire, but in stillness and quiet (cf. 1 Kings 19:11ff). Our Lord Jesus teaches us this by his own profound example.

**Peter's faith.** We know Peter to be the first among the disciples, even though he was far from being the most articulate or polished. What he did have was a deep fervor, a longing for the Lord. He was the first one to call Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). He was the one who told Jesus that he would stay by him even if everyone else deserted him (Matthew 26:32). He also was the one who, after the Resurrection, jumped out of his boat to run to the Lord who was on shore (John 21:7). But this same quality also led him to be impulsive. He didn't know himself well enough to realize that he would deny Jesus when under pressure (Matthew 27:75).

In the middle of the storm when the other disciples were terrified and thought Jesus was a ghost, Peter, recognizing Jesus' voice, says: "Lord, if it is

you, bid me come to you on the water" (v. 28). The Lord tells him to: "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water toward Jesus, but began to sink when the rush of the wind frightened him. Jesus reaches out his hand and saves him.

Have you ever noticed that it is not the big things that "trip you up," but the little ones? Peter wasn't thinking about the storm, the waves, or even walking on the water. It was that gust of wind that frightened him. He impulsively jumped out of the boat without considering that his faith might not measure up to his zeal. His emotions, his fear, undermined his faith.

**Leading the disciples.** Finally, we see how the Lord is slowly showing His disciples who he is. In the first storm the Lord was with them, albeit sleeping. In this storm he allows them to be buffeted by the waves and wind before coming to them. The first time he quiets the wind. This time he reveals who he is even while the storm rages. In the earlier episode the disciples wonder: "What sort of man is this?" This time they worship him: "Truly you are the Son of God." (v. 33)

And so, when we think about this story, let's not just marvel at the Lord's ability to walk on water. Rather, let us take his example of prayer, as our prayer rule. Let us be encouraged by Peter's faith and willingness to follow the Lord, but with a clear understanding of the weaknesses each of us bears. And, let us look at how God continually guides us as we grow in our faith and understanding, leading us from one glory to another.

May our loving Lord always extend his saving hand to us when the winds of life catch us unaware, but even more, may we have the faith to take hold of it.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA