

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 25, 2015
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE will be held on **Saturday, November 21st**. Please look at the detailed announcements in the Bulletin.

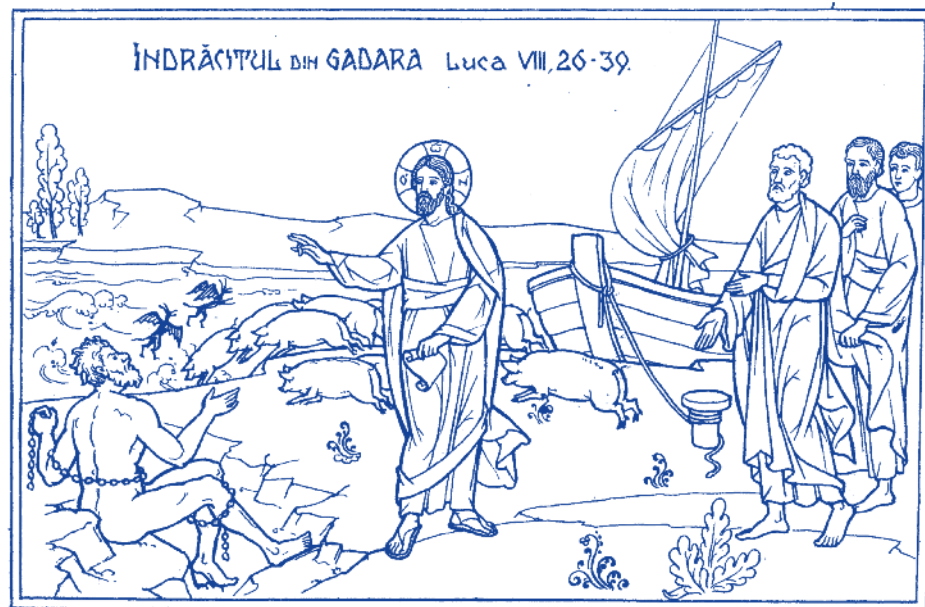
OUR NEXT PITA BAKING SESSION is this coming Saturday, October 31st. (An additional session is set for Saturday, November 14.) Assistance is needed with setting the hall, the pita making and baking, cleaning the hall and kitchen and then resetting the hall for church on Sunday. Plenty to do for bakers and non-bakers, alike, and all to support our church. We need everyone's support in this effort so please see or contact **Chris Toda** and let her know if you will be able to participate. **No experience necessary!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A MUSTARD SEED MEAL? Helping those in need is a central Christian principle, and was oftentimes done by families in memory of a departed loved one. We serve somewhere between 150-200 persons, and the overall cost is around \$400 (that just a little over \$2.00/plate!). Donations for all or a part of that would really help. God bless you!

GREETERS TEAM 1:
V. GERALD BELBA AND MARGARITE LANDRY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:
PRIZIO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:4-10 ⊕ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:26-39
(JESUS HEALS THE GERASENE DEMONIAK)
TONE 4 ⊕ MATINS GOSPEL: 10

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

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you would like to sponsor one.

COFFEE HOUR this week is sponsored by **Anthi Eleftheriou** in memory of her beloved family members fallen asleep.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY'S ENTRANCE EXAM will be held on Saturday, November 7th at

8:30 am. Pre-registration is required for the exam. Please register for the exam on their website: www.nda-worc.org by October 26th. Also, all current eighth grade students are invited to Spend-A-Day at NDA. If you are interested in spending an academic day at NDA, please contact their Office of Admissions at 508-757-6200, Ext. 229 or email: admissions@nda-worc.org. NDA is the only Catholic college preparatory school for young girls in grades 9-12 in Central Massachusetts.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Oct 31 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
Sat, Nov 7 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
Sun, Nov 8 Thanksgiving Orders Deadline
Sat, Nov 14 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
e-Recycling, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Sat, Nov 21 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon & Marketplace

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850
E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



THE APOSTLE JAMES

BROTHER OF OUR LORD

(OCTOBER 23)

Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). From his early years James was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach the nation about the Kingdom of God, St James believed in Christ and became

His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

St James presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, St James converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill St James. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. St James' martyrdom occurred about 63 A.D.

The holy Apostle James composed a Divine Liturgy, which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Sts Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of St James, one of the books of the New Testament.

In 1853, Patriarch Hierotheus of Alexandria sent to Moscow a portion of the relics of St James. The Church distinguishes between the holy Apostle James the Brother of God, and St James the son of Zebedee (April 30) and St James the son of Alphaeus (October 9).

FINANCIAL FACT

"Burning the Mortgage"

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

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

OU YOU WHO ARE THE SOURCE of all power and authority, eternal Father: You yourself have given the throne over all things to your Christ, and to him we have pledged our lives. In your divine loving kindness, strip us of everything that is ours and fill us with what is yours, that we may rise to genuine transcendence by winning access to our own true selves.

By the grace and mercies 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.

NAMEDAYS

October 20

The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch

Artemie Gavala
Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika

Dimitri Soterios Apostola
Dhimitra Belica
Dimitri Daniel Christo
James L. Christo
James Demake
Dhimitri Disho
Dimitraq Lolo
Dimitraqi Lolo
Rev. Fr. Dimitri Moraitis
Dimitri Michael Saffron
James Seferi
James Evan Stamoulis
James Trakadas
James Vlamis

SPIRITUAL HEALING

THE GOSPEL LESSON THIS WEEK is St. Luke's account of the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac (Luke 8:26-39). (A demoniac is a person believed to be possessed by a demon.) We heard St. Matthew's account (Matthew 8:28-9:1) earlier in the year. The most obvious difference between the two accounts is that Matthew tells of two demoniacs, but Luke only one. St. John Chrysostom speaks to this discrepancy by offering the opinion that St. Luke did not say that there was just one. Rather, he thinks that Luke was singling out the fiercest one for his narrative.

Leaving aside this difference, I think that the additional details that both Luke and Mark provide in their respective renderings give us some powerful insights into the demoniac's healing, as well as our own spiritual struggle. St. Matthew oftentimes gives us a "bare bones" account of the stories he's relating. When we read all four of the Gospels we are able to gain valuable details and insights that provide a more complete picture.

Here is a brief recounting of the story. Jesus and his disciples land on the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee in the country of the Gerasenes. There they encounter a demoniac who pleads with Jesus not to torment him (them) before the time. Jesus grants the demons' request to enter a nearby herd of swine, which the demons then lead to immediate destruction. The resident Gerasenes were terrified by the Lord's action and asked him and his disciples to leave, which they did.

I would like to focus on two aspects of this story that St. Luke, as well as St. Mark, bring to our attention. The first is the "name" of the demon, and the second is what Jesus asks the man to do after he has been healed.



When the Lord encountered the demoniac on the shore, naked and dwelling in tombs, he immediately commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man (v. 29). The man (that is, the demons) pleads with Jesus not to cast them into the abyss. Then Jesus asks, "What is your name?" (v. 30) The man replies, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. (v. 30)

Let's pause here and reflect on the word "legion." A Roman legion consisted of 3-6,000 soldiers. While we might consider that the demons were using the term metaphorically, this still means that "many demons had entered" the man. Think about the torture and torment that this man was suffering. We know from the Gospel accounts that even when guarded and kept shackled with chains, the demons would give him the strength to break the bonds and then drive him into the wild. St. Mark tells us that he howled and cut himself with stones. (v. 5:5)

Was it the demons who were driving him to self-destruction, or was it his true self trying to be free from the tor-

ment? It would be hard for us to even imagine what this man was suffering. Perhaps we can gain some sort of insight when we're told that even the swine threw themselves over a cliff and into the sea in order to be free from the demons.

Now, to the second point, what the Lord asks of this man. After being healed the man "begged" Jesus to allow him to join his company. Jesus tells him to go back home, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." (v. 39) St. Mark records Jesus as saying, "Go home to your friends, and tell them ... what mercy God has shown you." (v. 5:19)

The man's healing was not complete. Surely he was embarrassed knowing all of the terrible things he had done. He did not want to face the people who knew him when he was sick. At the same time, the Gerasenes were either frightened by or unwilling to accept the healing. They saw what the demons had done to the man and the effect they had even on the swine. To accept the man's healing would compel them to believe in the power of God's Grace. After He had healed the man, they wanted, even needed, Jesus to leave as well. It would seem that both the man and the townspeople need time for more healing — a spiritual healing.

We often ask for God's help, but we should know that His help comes "at a price." God, in the person of Jesus, does indeed meet us on our own level, where we are at, but we will not be left unaffected. God's love for us requires a response. The encounter with God will ask us to have the faith and courage to change and grow.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 21

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church during the day on Friday, Nov. 20
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 20** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 21. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson.**
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 8, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 21 & 22.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 7, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 19 & 20. We are only able

to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***

- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho.** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:

- **Gift-Basket Raffle:** A new feature at our Holiday Marketplace this year will be a raffle of specialty gift baskets to benefit our Church. Donations are welcome! You may be creative and design your own gift basket, contribute complimentary items and we will assemble them into a gift basket, or donate gift certificates, gift cards, or money to purchase needed items. For more information, speak with Tim Rucho.