

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE is **NEXT Saturday, November 21st**. Please look at the detailed announcements in the Bulletin.

CHRISTMAS (NATIVITY) LENT begins today, **November 15th** and continues through December 24th.

THANKS TO THE BAKERS!! Over the past weeks and months the ladies (mostly) and the men (a few courageous souls) have been working non-stop to fill holiday orders. The baking is not over. There's the Holiday Marketplace next Saturday, and Christmas orders to fill, but this is a fitting time to really express our **heartfelt thanks!**

THANKS ALSO to Gerry Belba and those who helped with the Recycling Day. By organizing this event our parish provides a real service to our community, even as we raise some dollars for the Church.

OTHE FEASTDAY RAFFLE is in the works. The mailed tickets are arriving at people's homes. We also have tickets for you to sell, apart from the mailing. Dean Valoras is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

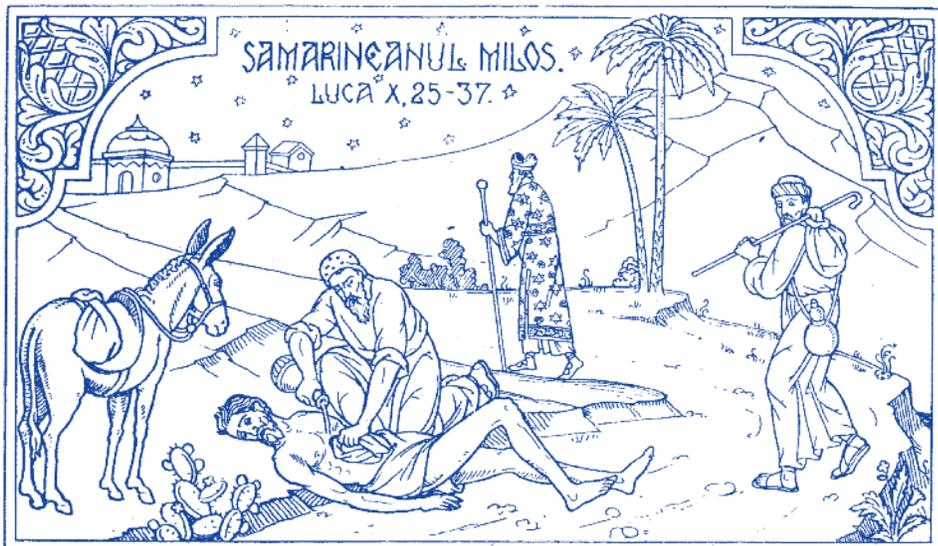
GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:

KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

(THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

THANKS TO Mrs. Mary Cocaine for sponsoring the October Mustard Seed meal. *May God bless her and her whole family!*

THE 2016 CHURCH CALENDARS in both English and Romanian are available at the Candles. Please consider making a donation to cover the costs!

COFFEE HOUR this week is sponsored by **the Gavala Family**.

UPCOMING

FEASTDAY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCHEON, Sunday December 6th after Liturgy. Before we plunge into the frenzy of the holidays, let's pause for a moment and gather for a few hours to enjoy a relaxing potluck luncheon. Please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Chris Toda for details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A HOLIDAY BAKE SALE sponsored by The Women's

Guild at **St. Mary's Assumption on Salisbury St** will be held on **Sunday, November 22nd** at 12:00 pm. Kutures, baklava, and kurabia galore! Plus cakes, cookies, cupcakes, pies ... *just in time for Thanksgiving!*

AN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE, sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy Association will be held on Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Nov 14 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
e-Recycling, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Sat, Nov 21 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon & Marketplace
- Sun, Nov 22 Shrewsbury Ecu Thanksgiving Service
St. Mary RC Church, 7:00pm
- Sat, Dec 5 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
- Dec 6 St. Nicholas Feastday Celebration

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

Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O HEAVENLY FATHER, maker and benefactor of our life: By your inscrutable love and power you abide in the depths of our hearts, unseen and unheard, waiting for us to meet you there. But we live constantly on the surface of things, never entering the deeper waters even of our own existence. Help us to be conscious of this and to respond in a real way to this great mystery of life, for you alone hold the meaning and purpose of our existence.

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

November 14

The Holy Apostle Philip

Philip Rucho
Phillip Sedares

November 16

Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew

Scott Matthew Belba
Matthew Robert Clem
Matthew Collins
Matthew Soter



ST. PAISIUS VELICHKOVSKY

NOVEMBER 15

St Paisius has had an enormous influence, not only in Romania, but throughout the Orthodox world. His disciples traveled to Russia, sparking the spiritual revival of the nineteenth century with Slavonic translations of the *Philokalia* and the tradition of eldership which they had learned from St Paisius. This influence has been felt even in America through St Herman of Alaska (December 13). St Herman was taught by Elders whose spiritual formation was guided by St Paisius. He first met Fr Nazarius, who became his Elder at Valaam, at Sarov, then followed him to Sanaxar

when St Theodore (February 19) was their igumen.

One of the books that St Herman brought with him to America was the Slavonic *PHILOKALIA*, printed in 1794. He absorbed the spiritual wisdom that it contained, and imparted it to others.

St Paisius fell asleep in the Lord on November 15, 1794 at the age of seventy-two. It is possible that God revealed the date of his death to him beforehand, for he stopped translating books. He only reviewed and corrected what had already been translated.

The holy relics of St Paisius were uncovered in 1846, 1853, 1861 and 1872, and were found to be incorrupt.

Troparion — Tone 2:

Having become a stranger on earth, / you reached the heavenly homeland, venerable Father Paisius. / You taught the faithful to lift up their minds to God, / crying out to Him with all their hearts: / “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!”

Kontakion — Tone 8:

Like a much-laboring bee, you were an elect zealot of the monastic life, / supplying our souls with the writings of the Fathers through which you guide us on the path of salvation. / Therefore we cry out to you: “Rejoice, truly-wise Paisius, / for through you the tradition of spiritual elders has been restored to us!”

FINANCIAL FACT

“Burning the Mortgage”

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

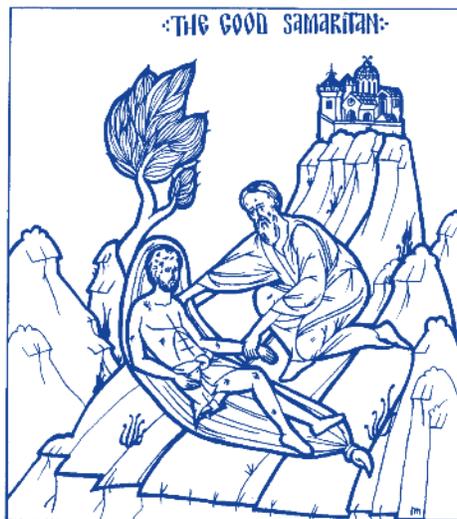
WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

THE Gospel lesson this week, taken from St. Luke (10:25-37), is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of a stranger, who out of complete sympathy and kindness saves the life of another, is so powerful that it has entered our common language. Christians and non-Christians alike speak of the “Good Samaritan” when a person helps someone in need for no other reason than it’s the right thing to do.

The story opens with a lawyer testing Jesus by asking a question about what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (v. 26). Jesus turns the question around and asks him what he reads in the Law. This lawyer then quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:34) saying: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself” (v 27). In the Gospel of Matthew it is Jesus who speaks these words, but with a slight difference. He distinguishes between the two commandments, and then equates them. He says: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” And then he says: “a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

By equating love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus draws both the lawyer and us into the story of a man beaten to near death by robbers and a traveling Samaritan who responds in love. Remember, the lawyer wanted to know: “who is my neighbor?” (v. 29). He wants to justify himself, and find the loophole in the Lord’s words that will “let him off the hook.” The Lord gives him an answer that challenges him to rethink the question.

The Lord begins the story: This unfortunate man is going from Jerusalem



to Jericho and falls into the hands of robbers who leave him half dead. This should be something we can understand. As our world has become increasingly more unpredictably violent we hear of and even see beatings and shootings; people are left for half dead on the street or in an alleyway. We are never very far from this scenario, especially those of us who live in cities.

The Lord continues: People come by and see the man in agony. These are not ignorant people. One is a Levite, the other is a priest. These are religious people who have studied the Scriptures and know what God asks of them, but they cross the street, not wanting to get involved, and go on their way.

The person who does stop is a Samaritan. For the people to whom Jesus was speaking this would be like saying an illegal alien, a persecuted minority, or some other kind of outcast. Perhaps even more vividly, it would be like an enemy: Taliban or terrorist. Jesus wants to get those people who felt comfortable in their “righteousness” to notice that it is the “outsider” or the “enemy” who is doing what God asks.

In order to help us better understand the Samaritan’s generosity, let’s place the story in a contemporary con-

text. He doesn’t just drop off the wounded person at the Police station or the hospital emergency room. Rather he puts him in the back of his own car and takes him to the motel with him. He puts him up in his own bed, cleans his wounds, and nurses him. When he has to leave to make his next appointment, he does the equivalent of giving the innkeeper his credit card and telling him to continue to care for the person, on his tab, until he’s finished with his business and can return to take care of the man.

The Lord then asks the Lawyer: “Which of the three, do you think, was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” (v. 36) How can one not be overwhelmed by this story? There is only one way to answer the Lord’s question.

And don’t forget the question that started the story: What must I do to inherit eternal life? This powerful story of the Good Samaritan is given to us as a way to embrace the answer to that question. It provides a vivid image of the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The love of our neighbor is “just like” this first and greatest commandment.

So often we look for God in the sky but neglect to see Him in the suffering person next to us. We try to justify ourselves by finding the loophole in the Lord’s commandments that “lets us off the hook” and allows us to think that God asks this of “the other guy, not me”. So often we think salvation is found in fulfilling so many different rules, when it is truly to be found in opening our hearts to feel compassion for those who simply need our help.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 21, 2015

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 and at the candle stand 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.