

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JANUARY 31, 2016

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

NEXT SUNDAY — FEBRUARY 7TH — IS "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY." Before the other "Bowl", the youth of our parish, in support of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) "Souper Bowl" campaign will be preparing and serving bowls of delicious homemade egg-lemon chicken soup during coffee hour. A free will donation will be collected for each bowl served with all funds to be donated to the IOCC to support efforts to feed the hungry. Let's support our young people in their efforts to help those in need and enjoy some delicious soup and fellowship! Young folks participating in preparing the soup should be at the church kitchen Sunday morning at 9:00am. Servers should come to the church kitchen immediately following Holy Communion.

PITA DOUGH ROLLING RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 6TH. It's that time again! We did so well with our sales for the holidays that we've depleted our inventory. We've schedule a session for Saturday, February 6th, 9:00am to noon. We need 12-15 people, so that the work is evenly distributed and we can finish with prep and clean-up in 3 hours.

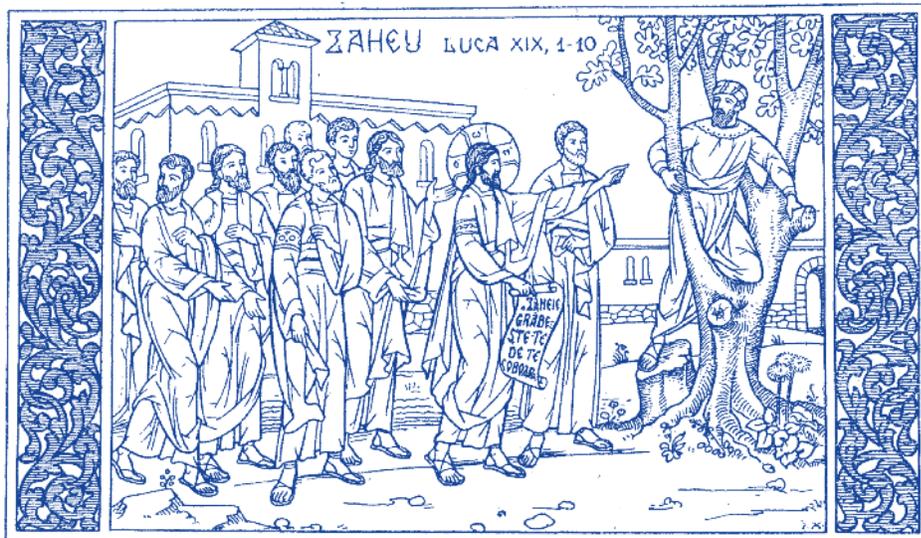
GREETERS TEAM 5:

DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW D:

ILIANA & SEAN FAHEY,
DIMITRI SAFFRON,
CHRISTOS & SPIRO SPYROU

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10

(REPENTANCE OF ZACCHÆUS)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 2

No experience necessary. If you'd like to participate, contact Chris Toda at: thetodas@msn.com, or 508-832-6271.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center for **NEXT Saturday, February 6th, 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.**

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

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Presvytera Maria** in memory of her father, **Panagioti.**

UPCOMING

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is Friday, February 19th. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), 6pm Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY STAFF AND RESIDENTS are thrilled to welcome **Music Therapist, Megan Goddu, to the Holy Trinity Activities Department!** Megan is also working with the staff to imple-

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Jan 30 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
Sat, Feb 6 Pita Dough Rolling, 9am - noon
Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
Fri, Feb 19 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
Mon, March 14 Great Lent Begins
May 1 Great and Holy Pascha

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



ment the new “Music & Memories” individualized playlist program, as well as training students from Anna Maria College to provide 1 on 1 Music Therapy Sessions and to assist with Music Therapy Groups to expand the program! Please contact Gina Metras, Activity Director, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail her: gmetras@htnr.net to find out more about the Music Therapy Program and how you can get involved!

HOLY TRINITY HOSPICE offers exceptional care for individuals facing serious illnesses and those at the end of life. It provides individualized care for loved ones in their place of residence, whether that be at home, in an assisted living or at a nursing facility. Holy Trinity Hospice would be honored to help through your difficult time. If you would like further information, please call our office at 508-791-8200 and ask for the Hospice Director, Beth Miller or the Community Liaison, Ursula Hanus.

COMMUNITY NEWS

VENERINI ACADEMY, a private Catholic elementary school (PK-3 through Grade 8) is holding an Open House Sunday, January 31st, from 12:15-3:00 pm. For more information: call the Admissions Office at 508-753-3210 x7310 or www.veneriniacademy.com.

NAMEDAYS

January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Anthony Theodore Christo
Scott Anthony Maynard
Anthony Rucho
Tony Nicholas Trakadas

January 18

St. Athanasios

Patriarch of Alexandria

Thanas Lolo
Arthur Peterson

January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy

Rev. Fr. Timothy Lowe
Timothy Rucho

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos
Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD OF PEACE: Let not unruly thoughts agitate our hearts. We desire to walk the path of your commandments, but then we constantly flirt with temptation. Give us the strength to resist temptations, no matter how subtle. Do not permit us to delude ourselves into thinking that we may entertain them with impunity. Grant us the wisdom to perceive the insidious dangers that accompany them and flow from them and the spiritual fortitude we need to overcome them.

For yours is dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



Let's Work
Together
to be
Mortgage
Free!

Please Join Us!

TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE

THIS week's Gospel reading is the story of the conversion of Zacchæus, the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10). This encounter takes place in Jericho, following on the healing of the Blind Man (Luke 18:35-43) which occurred just on the outskirts of the city as Jesus was making his way into Jericho. Although the Evangelist Luke doesn't say so explicitly, it would be fair to assume that Zacchæus had heard of the miracle and was curious, like so many others, to see this Jesus.

St. Luke tells us a few things about Zacchæus. He's a chief tax collector and he's rich (v. 2). From what we know about how tax collectors operated in those days, we might infer that at least some of his wealth was ill-gotten gain. He also tells us that he is short (v. 3).

As Jesus is walking into Jericho, a crowd begins to form and people are struggling to get a glimpse of him. Because of the crowd it is difficult for Zacchæus to see Jesus as he passes, so he climbs a sycamore tree. Sycamore trees have short, fat trunks and branches that spread broad and wide, making it relatively easy for someone to climb up and gain an advantage of a few feet. Nonetheless, it must have been something to see — a prominent official climbing a tree, like a child.

When Jesus gets to where Zacchæus is he says to him: "Zacchæus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today" (v. 5). Zacchæus is overwhelmed. He hurries down and welcomes him with joy. People in the crowd began to grumble complaining that Jesus was going to Zacchæus' house, the house of a sinner, but Zacchæus isn't cowered. He turns to Jesus and says, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay



back four times as much" (v. 8).

St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the way in which Zacchæus expresses his repentance. Chrysostom says that it isn't enough to simply restore what was stolen, but reparations are a necessary part of making amends. In this case Zacchæus says that he will pay back four times as much. Chrysostom uses this example to challenge us. He asks, if when we bring our sins before God asking for forgiveness, do we follow the example of Zacchæus? Do we offer to repay our debt four times as much?

Chrysostom presents another interesting analogy. He observes that when someone hosts an important guest the first impulse is to clean and redecorate and fill their houses with fine and even luxuriant furnishings. Zacchæus, Chrysostom says, "decorates" his house with this profound act of repentance.

When we bless a new home, the service prescribed uses this very same Gospel reading, illustrating for us what it means to ask Christ to come into our own homes. The prayer says: "O Lord,

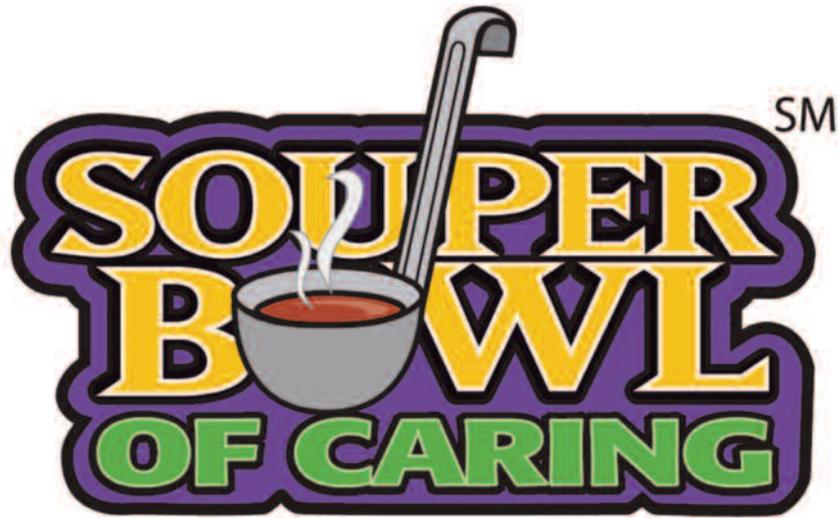
who condescended to enter under the roof of Zacchæus, bringing salvation to him and his whole house ... keep safe from harm those who dwell here ..."

In a prayer written by St. John Chrysostom read when preparing for Holy Communion we say, "O Lord my God, I know that I am not worthy that you should come under the roof of the house of my soul, for all is desolate and fallen in ruins ..." In these moving words, that bring to mind the faith of the Centurion (Matthew 8:8), Chrysostom also intended that we should find the image of Zacchæus, and his act of repentance. We are offered this example for us to model and follow.

When Jesus sees Zacchæus' repentance, he says, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham" (v. 9). Some early Fathers speculated from the way in which Jesus said this, that Zacchæus might have been a Gentile. Others say that the Lord is clarifying what makes each of us a true son or daughter of Abraham: faith in the Living God. Whichever is the actual case, we know that it is love of God and our repentance that makes us true children of Abraham.

Zacchæus followed Jesus until the day he died. He was ordained Bishop of Caesarea in Palestine by the Apostle Peter. Later, during one of the persecutions of the late first century, he suffered martyrdom along with the Apostle Alphaeus. The story of Zacchæus' great act of repentance comes alive for us each time we read it in Holy Scriptures, and especially when we put his example into practice in our own lives.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Score a Souper Bowl Victory Against Hunger!

One in six Americans go hungry each day. Your gift of \$1 and one canned good can change that. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, rally your church youth and team up with IOCC to feed the hungry in your community. Set up a collection center in your parish and let's turn the biggest weekend in football into a super day of giving.



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