

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

APRIL 17, 2016

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**A CHILDREN/YOUTH RETREAT** is planned for the first two days of **April Vacation Week, Monday and Tuesday, April 18th and 19th.** For all ages, through High School. Starts at 10:00 am and ends at 1:30 pm. Lunch and snacks provided. We're doing this in conjunction with the Ss Anagyroi parish in Marlborough; Monday, April 18th will be at Ss Anagyroi. and Tuesday, April 19th will be at St. Nicholas. There are no fees, but you will need to register, for planning purposes. Fr. Gregory Christakos (fathergreg@stsanagyroi.org) and Valarie Stamoulis (valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com) are coordinating. Contact either with questions and registration data. More information is available in a flier at the Candles.

**THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY** for this coming Wednesday, April 20th, is at St. Mary's Assumption, at 6:00 pm.

**GET YOUR BAKING ORDERS FOR EASTER IN.** Pick up and fill out an order form. Pascha will be here before you know it and we need to plan our baking schedule. Questions about orders? See Betty Anderson.

**GREETERS TEAM 1**  
V. GERALD BELBA AND  
MARGARITE LANDRY

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:**  
PRIZIO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREW 9:11-14 ☩ GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45  
(ST. MARY OF EGYPT)  
TONE 5 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 2

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Our next scheduled meal is **June 16th.** Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help.

**THE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE** with a list of donations needed is available at the Candles.

**WE CELEBRATE THREE MEMORIALS TODAY:** Angelina Zonia, fallen asleep one year; Elva Gartsu, fallen asleep one year; and Ann Marie Chachi, fallen asleep six months. *May their memory be eternal!*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by the families of Angelina, Elva, and Ann Marie in their memory.

### PALM SUNDAY LUNCH

**THE PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON** will be held following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 24. **Reservations for the luncheon are required** and can be made at the candle stand at church or by calling 508-845-0088 and leaving a message on the church phone. The menu for the luncheon will include clam chowder, meze platter, salad, baked haddock, rice

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon/Tues	School Vacation Week
April 18-19	Youth Retreat
Wed, April 20	PreSanctified, St. Mary, 6pm
Sun, April 24	Palm Sunday / Dinner
	HOLY WEEK BEGINS
	SERVICES each evening at 6:00 pm
Sun, May 1	Great and Holy Pascha
Sat, May 7	Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm

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pilaf, vegetable, dessert and coffee. A children's meal of cheese pizza, french fries, dessert and soft drink will also be provided. A donation of \$25.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children is recommended for those attending the luncheon. **Thanks to the generosity of Michael and Casie Soter, all proceeds from the luncheon will benefit St. Nicholas Church. Please make your reservations by no later than Sunday, April 17.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to assist with setting the hall, serving the meal and clean up for the Palm Sunday Luncheon. Assistance is needed following Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 23 to set the tables for the luncheon. Assistance is also needed from our teens and youth on Sunday, April 24 with serving the meal. Finally, help will be needed with clean up and resetting the hall for Holy Week following the luncheon. If you can assist please speak with or contact Deb Sedares (dsedares@pinehills.com). Those helping with serving the meal are asked to report to the kitchen area following communion on Sunday. If you are interested in assisting with the meal preparation, please speak with or contact Mike Soter (mjsba39@gmail.com). Thank you for your stewardship.

## DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

General donations in any amount to defray the cost of decorations for the Paschal Feast are most appreciated. Some specific needs are:

Flowers for Palm Sunday Icon .....	\$50.00
Palms .....	\$100.00
Flowers for Bridegroom Icon .....	\$50.00
Holy Thursday Gospel Candles .....	\$60.00
Wreaths for Cross (Great Friday) .....	\$50.00
(Resurrection) .....	\$100.00
Resurrection Icon .....	\$50.00
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday .....	\$100.00
1 Gallon of Olive Oil .....	\$25.00
½ lb Incense .....	\$40.00
Priest's Paschal Candle .....	\$50.00
Rose Oil for Epitaphion .....	\$25.00

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Flowers for Epitaphion .....	\$500.00
Decorations for Pascha .....	\$350.00
Easter Candy/Gifts for our children .....	\$100.00

*Please see Lillian Chachi or Betty Anderson to make a donation*

## UP-COMING

**HOLY FRIDAY YOUTH PROGRAM** will be held from 12:30 to 2:00 on Holy Friday followed by Holy Friday Vespers in which the children will participate in the service. Valarie Stamoulis is coordinating the program. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the candle stand. A snack will be provided. A letter for authorize school absence for religious observance will also be available at the candle stand. If you have any questions regarding the program or are able to offer assistance that day, please speak with Valarie (valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com).

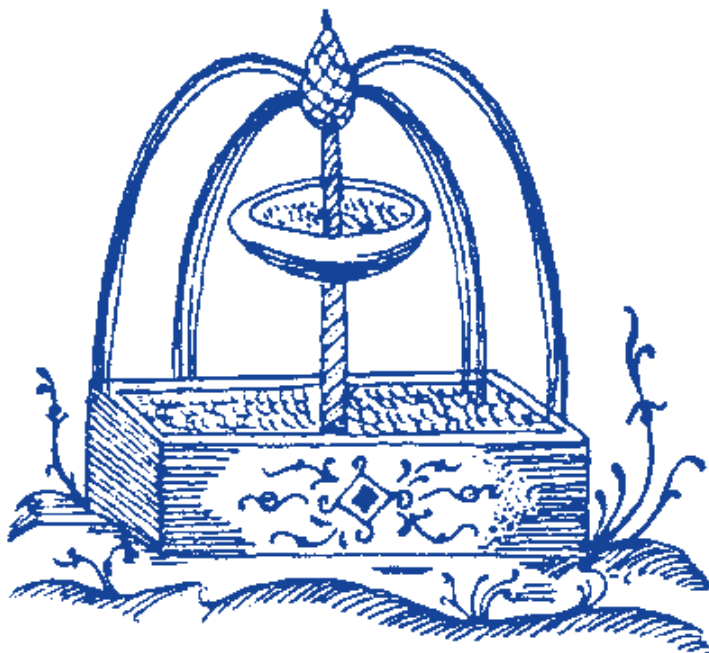
**THE GOOD FRIDAY ABSENCE** Letter, that parents may need to present to their children's school authorities, is available from Fr. Nick





## ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Without stain was God's image preserved in you, O holy mother, Mary, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh, so that, now, you rejoice with the angels of heaven.



## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**COMPASSIONATE LORD:** At night we sleep comfortably, in spite of the mediocrity of our lives. So now, finding ourselves alive, once more, and able to greet the beauty of another morning, we are disturbed at the lethargy in which we live. We beseech you, therefore: Give us determination to succeed in repentance. During these lenten days, change our ravenous appetites to control everyone and everything into a praiseworthy desire for self-control, so that, learning the wisdom of this self-restraint, we may enjoy the freedom of all your sons and daughters.

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.

## NAMEDAYS

**April 11**

*St. Calinic of Cernica*

Călin Galeriu

**April 21**

*The Holy Martyr Alexandra the Queen*

Alexandra Dymek

Alexis George

Alexandra Mentis

Sandra Nedelescu

Casie Soter

Alexandra Valoras

**April 23**

*The Holy Great-martyr George the Wonderworker*

George Belba

George M. Bourisk

George Demake

Gjergji Disho

Gheorghe O. Galica

George Grniet

George Krassopoulos

George Symock

George Tonna

George James Trakadas

**April 25**

*The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark*

Rev. Fr. Mark Doku

Mark Soter

Mark Stamoulis

**April 30**

*The Holy Apostle James, brother of John the Evangelist*

James Collins

## THE SERVANT OF ALL

**T**HIS is the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the last before we enter Holy Week. The Gospel lesson, taken from St. Mark (10:32-45), is meant to prepare us for the events of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. As they are making their way to Jerusalem the Lord tells his disciples for a third time what will happen to him when he gets to Jerusalem.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, all the wonders they have witnessed, the disciples are unable to "hear" what the Lord is telling them. As we would say today, they are in a state of denial. St. Luke is a little stronger in his observation. He says, "They understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said" (Luke 18:34).

It is probable that Luke might be closer to the truth, because no sooner had Jesus told them of the terrible things that will occur, James and John come and ask Jesus that they be granted to sit one on his right hand and one at his left, in his glory (cf. Mark 10:37). They clearly do not understand what they were asking. Not only was it presumptuous of them to ask for such a thing, it shows that they really *did not* hear what the Lord was telling them.

However, the Lord is gentle with them. He says: "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (v. 38) By not repeating the predictions of his impending suffering, but instead phrasing his response in the form of a challenge, the Lord means to both encourage and admonish James and John. When they rather naïvely respond, "We are able," the Lord tells them that they will indeed drink of his cup and be baptized with his same baptism, but, he says: "to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared" (v. 40).



We can understand two things from the way the Lord tells them who will take the places of honor in the Kingdom. The first is that places of honor will be given on merit. Just because these two were chosen to be disciples does not mean that they will necessarily be given the highest places of honor. Many people who came before and after have shared in the Lord's cup and baptism. Each has a place that has been prepared for them.

The second is that the disciples had no way of understanding the magnitude of the Lord's true glory. Remember how St. Paul describes and explains the Lord's glory: "To which of the angels has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand?'" (Hebrews 1:13). Even while the disciples see Jesus as a remarkably different prophet, they have not yet fully apprehended who he is.

The real difficulty in this whole business comes when the other ten disciples heard what James and John had asked Jesus (v. 41). They were furious. But the Lord diffuses their anger by redirecting them to the heart of the mat-

ter. He gathers them around himself and says: "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you" (v. 42-43). He wants them to understand the true significance of what will happen in Jerusalem: the way of earthly kingdoms and foolish power-grabbing will give way to God's Reign.

He gave them this rule to follow: "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all" (v. 44). The person who assumes leadership must be prepared to empty himself or herself and to *serve* those over whom they exercise authority. If we ever needed such an example of true leadership, it is certainly today. This saying of our Lord is a powerful reminder of what happens when people follow their own desires and not the way of God.

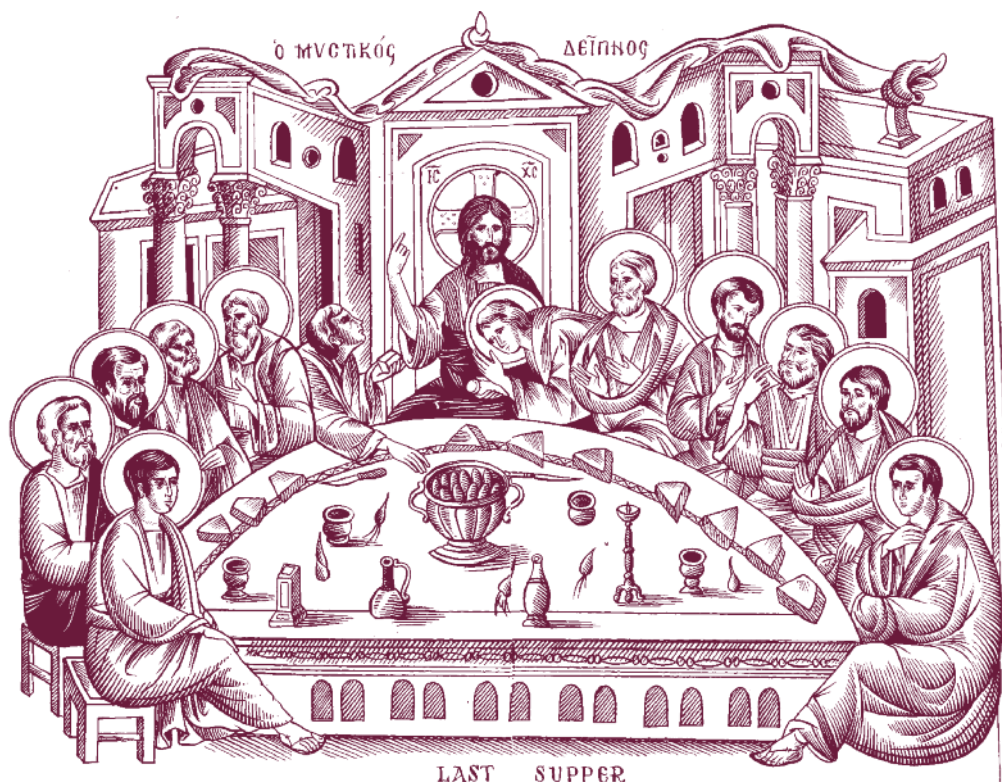
Finally the Lord offered Himself as their example to follow. He said, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (v. 45). When we find ourselves feeling discouraged and disrespected, this is an important passage to contemplate. Perhaps we have been mistreated at work, or provoked at home. We are overcome with a sense of being humbled and perhaps humiliated. It is then that we need to reflect on these words of the Lord. However much our humiliation, it cannot compare to the distance between the Father's throne in heaven and the judgment seat of Pilate. Jesus lowered the Heavens for us, and by lowering Himself, He changed the world. He offers us the opportunity to drink his cup and share in his baptism; but, will we be ready and able to do so?

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

# Walking With The Lord

## *Getting Ready for Holy Week*

A Vacation-Week Retreat for Children and Youth  
Monday, April 18, 2016 & Tuesday, April 19, 2016  
10:00 am — 1:30 pm



### **Monday, April 18th**

Ss Anagyroi Greek Orthodox Church  
9 Central Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
(508) 485-2575

### **Tuesday, April 19th**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
34 Gold Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
(508) 845-0088

Ages: K - High School ∞∞∞ Everyone's Welcome  
No Fees ∞∞∞ Lunch & Snacks Provided

### ***REGISTRATION REQUIRED***

Questions and registration information should be directed to:

*Fr. Gregory Christakos: (fathergreg@stsanagyroi.org)*

**Include the name and age of the child/children and any food allergies**