

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 22, 2016

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES in our Parish so we can recognize them on their accomplishment. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL for the mother of **Remus Ionete** — **Dumitra**, fallen asleep 40-days. *May her memory be eternal!*

COFFEE HOUR this week is sponsored by the **Ionete family** in memory of Remus' mother.

UP-COMING

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 30th. Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. The common Memorial Service will be at noon at the Altar in Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-845-0088.

DOUGH ROLLING AND PITA BAKING SET FOR Saturday, June 11th, 9:00am to noon and Saturday, June 25th, 9:00am to noon. We need 12-15 people, so that the work is evenly distributed and we can finish with prep and clean-

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:
KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 9:32-42 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15
TONE 3 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 5

up in 3 hours. All help appreciated. No experience necessary — there's a job for everyone. If you'd like to participate, contact Chris Toda at: thetodas@msn.com, or 508-832-6271.

GODPARENTS & GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY. On **Sunday, June 12th**, together with the closing ceremonies for Religious Education, we will host "Godparents and Grandparents Sunday." Children (and adults) are encouraged to invite their godparent or grandparent to join them at Divine Liturgy, after which a special prayer will be offered to affirm those relationships. We will also be honoring graduates from our parish. A Parish Cookout will follow on the Church Grounds to kick off the summer with hot dogs, burgers, sausages and all the fixings. Lawn chairs and bats, balls, and other back yard

games are welcomed. **If you would like to contribute to sponsoring the event, please see or contact Deb Sedares.** Adults: \$15.00 — Children: \$5.00. Reservations are needed by Sunday,

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mon, May 30 Memorial Day, Hope Cemetery
- June 3, 4, 5 St. Spyridon Greek Festival
- Sat, June 4 NO Food Pantry
- Thurs, June 9 The Lord's Ascension
- Sat, June 11 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-12pm
- Sun, June 12 Godparents/Grandparents Sunday
Parish Cookout
- Mon, June 13 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Fri, June 17 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
- Sat, June 18 Saturday of Souls, Lit, 10am
- Sun, June 19 PENTECOST
- Sat, June 25 Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-12pm
- Sat, July 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, July 3 NO LITURGY, Archdiocesan Congress
- Sun, July 31 St. Michael Southbridge Annual Picnic
- Sun, Sept 18 stART on the Street Festival
- Thurs, Oct 6 Holy Trinity Wine/Food Fest

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

June 5th. Sign up at the Candle Stand or see Eleanor Sedares during Coffee Hour or e-mail: info@StNicholasChurch.org. **Deb Sedares** (Dsedares@pinehills.com) and **Dimitri Saffron** (DSLandscape1@yahoo.com) are organizing the cookout. **Please let them know if you can help with the event.** A volunteer sign-up sheet is also posted on the Stewardship Bulletin Board in the church hall.

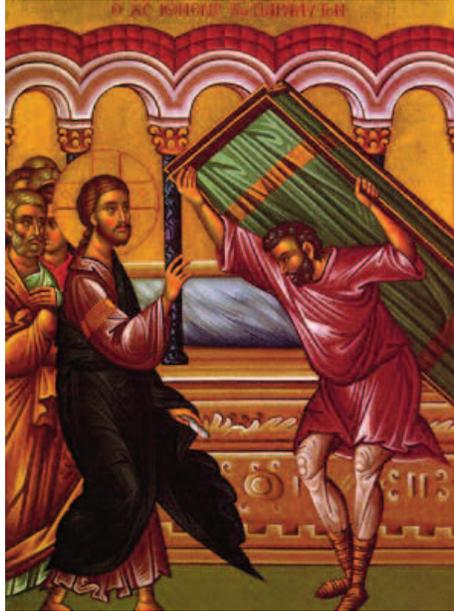
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is **Saturday, June 11th from 9 am to 2 pm.** Gerry Belba is coordinating, and we need about 3 people to help with traffic and coordination. Please contact him: vgbelba@msn.com.

THE NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **Friday, June 17th.** The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **Help is needed Friday from noon to cook and prepare food , and at 5:00 on Friday evening** to transport and serve. If you'd like to help, contact **Fr. Nick.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL is holding its **Greek Festival** the weekend of June 3-5. Mark your calendars!

THE WEeping ICON of the **Theotokos "Kardiotissa" (Tender-Hearted)** from the St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA, will be coming to the Ss. Constantine & Helen Church in Webster on Friday, June 17th. You may venerate the Icon from the afternoon. There will be a Paraklesis Service at 6:00 pm with anointing with Myrrh from the Icon.



SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the

moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.



GOD'S POWER TO CONVINC

THIS is the fourth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's healing of the Paralytic Man (John 5:1-15). In the reading from Acts (9:32-42), we hear of a similar healing, as well as the miracle of a woman raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter. There is a common theme in the two readings: the power of God to persuade and convince even the most skeptical of people.

After St. Luke tells us of St. Paul's powerful conversion on the road to Damascus (in Acts 9:1ff), he returns again to the missionary work of St. Peter. As the community of believers in Jesus grew and spread, St. Peter felt it important to visit these new communities, some of which were Gentile missions. He travelled to the region of Sharon to a town called Lydda, about twenty eight miles northwest of Jerusalem and half-way to Joppa. "There he found a man named Æneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, 'Æneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.' And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (Acts 9:33-35)

As with the Paralytic in today's Gospel reading, no profession of faith is asked of Æneas. St. John Chrysostom points out that when the Lord began his ministry he rarely asked for a sign of the person's faith. He simply healed them. In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord simply said to the Paralytic: "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:6) St. Peter tells Æneas: "Jesus Christ heals you." (v. 34) In both cases the general population did not know who either the Lord or St. Peter were. Their fame had not yet spread. It was the works themselves that would "get their attention." This is what the Lord means when he says: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Fa-

ther is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves." (John 14:11) The great signs done by the Lord and later by the Apostles in Jesus' name are the means by which people become engaged and receptive to listening to the larger message. We see this effect at work in St. Peter's healing of Æneas, because when he stood up, "all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (v. 35)

While Peter was at Lydda the disciples in Joppa, hearing he was there, sent two men to go and get him and bring him to Joppa. There was a disciple there named Tabitha who had gotten sick and died. St. Luke tells us that "she was full of good works and acts of charity." (v. 36) Tabitha is the Aramaic word for "gazelle." St. Luke translates her name into Greek: "Dorcas." St. John Chrysostom, using the meaning of the name, emphasizes that she was lively and quick, not only in acts of charity, but in every kind of good work. This is evident in the scene St. Peter found when he arrived. "All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them." (v. 39)

Each of us knows of good and faithful women in our communities, the kind who are always giving, ready to help in a humble way. These are the women who visit the sick and shut-ins, who bake a meal for a family in need, and who volunteer in any number of

ways. This is the type of person Tabitha was. We can imagine the grief in the Joppa Church.

After she had died, the women had washed her body and laid her in the upper room. When Peter was brought into the grief-filled room he took stock of the situation and asked everyone to leave. Then he knelt down and prayed. He looked at the body and said: "Tabitha rise!" She immediately sat up and he took her hand and presented her to the saints and widows alive. (v. 40-41)

This miracle has strong parallels with the raising of Jairus' daughter. (cf. Luke 8:49-56) Jesus too ordered that everyone leave, except for Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents. Jesus took her hand and called her back from the dead. But, there is one important difference. While Jesus told them not to say anything to anyone about what had happened, in Joppa it immediately became known throughout the whole city and "many believed in the Lord." (v. 42)

These two very powerful signs that we read about in today's lesson from Acts were meant to show the world that the Apostles were graced to carry on the work of the Lord Jesus. The power of miracles and signs was given to them and to the Church throughout the ages in order to open people's hearts to hear the words that lead to salvation. Sickness, suffering, and death are not unique to any time or place. They have always been with us. The Lord has given us these and similar signs, even in our own time, to encourage us and strength our resolve to believe in Him.

Sickness, debilitating illness, and even death itself do not have the final word; the life given us in our Lord Jesus does.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



2016 GRADUATES

"He has filled them with the spirit of God, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft." (Exodus 35:31)

We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

HIGH SCHOOL

Dimitri Daniel Christo is graduated from Abby Kelly Foster Public Charter School in Worcester. He will attend Assumption College in the fall.

Tatiana Karadimitriou is graduated from Shrewsbury High School. She earned a full scholarship to attend the University of Southern California and study neuroscience.

Alex Trakadas is graduated from Grafton High School. Over the summer he will be working with the Special Olympics program in the Marlborough offices and will attend Quinsigamond Community College in the fall to pursue a Business and Political Science Degree.

Zoe Tsongalis is graduated from Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH. She will attend Providence College in the fall to study Education.

Christian Wybieracki (grandson of Janice and Randy Samara) is graduated from Boston College High School and will attend Bentley College in the fall.

COLLEGE

Alex Johnson is graduated from Worcester State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Stephen Keimig is graduated from Franklin Pierce University with a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in journalism and production. He was recipient of the Fitzwater Center Medallion for contributions to the public discourse by a graduating senior, among his other achievements.

Matthew Rucho is graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in Construction Management. He has accepted a position as an assistant Project Manager at Trinity Construction Co. in Wilmington, MA.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Christine Masterjohn has received a professional certificate in Health Care Advocacy from Assumption College.

May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!

NAMEDAYS

May 21

*The Holy Equals to the Apostles
Constantine and Helen*

Constantin Apostol
Elaine Apostola
Konstantin Charalambides
Presvytera Eleni Christakos
Amalia Helene Collins
Hannah Constance Datz
Dina Entwistle

Iliana Victoria Fahey
Elena Galeriu
Ileana A Nace
Constanța Papit
V. Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos
Eleni Polymeros
Elena Prelipcean
Dina K. Salerno
Eleanor Sedares
Elaine Tanacea
Dean Valoras

CHRIST IS RISEN



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD JESUS CHRIST, victor over the grave and every kind of death: The celebration of your glorious resurrection also brings to mind your cure of the paralytic. For years the paralyzed man lay at the side of the sheep's pool, and never called on you for help, but out of your loving kindness, you forgave his sins, restored the full use of his limbs, and sent him on his way to renewed life. In your tenderness, bind up the wounds of our brokenness as well, so that, enjoying renewed health and vigor of soul, we may serve you in holiness all the days of our life.

For you are the healer of our souls and bodies, Christ our God, and we give you glory, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and lifegiving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.