

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 28, 2016

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST is commemorated this **Monday, August 29th**. It is a strict fast day

AN E-RECYCLING EVENT will be held on **Saturday, September 17th from 9am-2pm**. **Gerry Belba** is coordinating and will be looking for volunteers to help with traffic control. If you're interested and available, please talk to him.

THE IOCC is engaged in relief efforts all over the globe, but in particular they are at work in **Louisiana and Syria**. Please consider a donation to help those who are in desperate need. Go to: www.IOCC.org or call: **877-803-4622**.

stART on the Street

PITA & PASTRY CONCESSION AT "START ON THE STREET." **Sunday, September 18th**. (Rain Date – Sunday, September 25th). St. Nicholas is returning to this community art festival, held on Park Avenue in Worcester between Pleasant and Highland Streets, **which draws over 20,000 attendees each year**. Our Church will again be one of the vendors in the Food Court selling pita and pastry. This is a HUGE undertaking

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

NO COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEK

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9-16 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:14-23

(JESUS HEALS THE EPILEPTIC BOY)

TONE 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 10

for us, and requires your “sweat stewardship” to realize the **fundraising potential of \$5,000**.

Please watch the announcements and the Stewardship Bulletin Board in the Church Hall for additional information on how you can help with this event. Preparations for the event will be on Friday, September 16. And help will be needed as well throughout the day on Sunday. Pita and pastry baking is also currently underway and help is needed with that part of the effort as well. The venue is established and presents a great opportunity to showcase our goods to the larger community. **The only variable is YOU!** St. Nicholas needs your commitment of time and talent to make this a success! The volunteering schedule needs will be posted on the Bulletin Board soon.

For more info, speak with Deb Sedares, Chris Toda or Betty Anderson.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY is selling the **WASHBURN HOUSE Residence**. Grey Ghost Auctions of Webster will be conducting an **ESTATE SALE** at the Washburn Resident, 1183 Main St., Worcester, MA on **Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 2:00pm**. A public walk through to view the items for sale will begin at 1:00pm.

HOLY TRINITY is holding its **annual General Assembly meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm**. Delegations from each of the Worcester area parishes are asked to attend. If you are

DATES TO REMEMBER

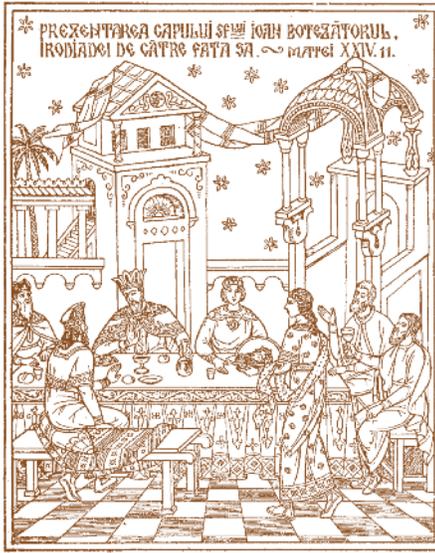
- Sat, Aug 27 Pita Baking, 9am-noon
- Mon, Aug 29 Beheading of John Baptist-Strict Fastday
- Sept 3-5 Marlborough Greek Festival
- Fri, Sept 16 Prep for stART, noon thru 5pm
- Sat, Sept 17 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
- Sun, Sept 18 stART on the Street Festival
- Tues, Sept 20 Holy Trinity General Assembly, 7pm
- Thurs, Oct 6 Holy Trinity Wine/Food Fest

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

HEROD'S BIRTHDAY BANQUET
BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN



interest please speak with either Fr. Nick or George Demake.

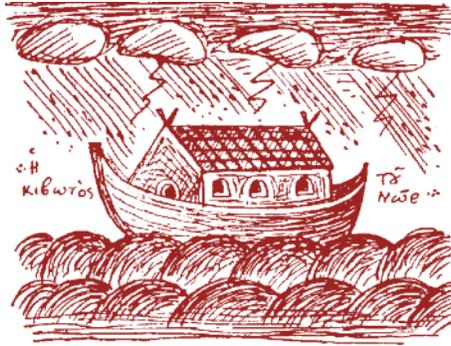
Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center has the following **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**: CNA's, RN's and Dietary Aides. Please contact Michelle Williamson, Dir. of Human Resources, (508) 852-1000 or e-mail: mwilliamson@htnr.net

Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is an Orthodox Charity and relies on your donations to continue their mission of providing the best care possible.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SS. ANARGYROI PARISH IN MARLBOROUGH will be holding its annual **Greek Festival, Labor Day weekend** (Saturday through Monday). For more information check their website: www.stsanargyoi.org.

ST. MICHAEL IN SOUTHBRIDGE will be holding its **9th Annual Romanian Golf Open on Saturday, September 10th**. For more information and/or to register, call Luke Yanka at 508-958-4144 or e-mail: lsyanka@yahoo.com.



A PRAYER IN TIME OF DROUGHT

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

MASTER, LORD OUR GOD, You heard Elijah the Tishbite because of his zeal for You, and, for a time, ordered that rain be held back from the earth, and again, at his prayer, granted that fruitful rain fall: O Master of all, easy to entreat, out of your deep compassion, grant abundant rain to fall on Your inheritance. Overlook our sins. We implore You, send down rain on every place parched and in need. For the sake of the poor and the weak; for small children and the aged; for animals small and large: make the face of the earth glad, for all trust in You that You will give them drink in due season.

For You are our God, a God who is merciful and saves, and to you we send up glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

NAMEDAYS

August 26

The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou
Natasha Zhaka

August 29

St. Theodora of Thessalonika

Gina Theodora Trakadas

August 30

St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople

Alexander Charalambides
Emilia Alexandra Galeriu
Dr. Alexander Gouvelis
Alexandra Mazanitis
Alexandru Nace
Conner Alexander Polymeros
Alexanna Soter
Alexander James Trakadas

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD GOD, SOURCE OF ALL PRUDENCE AND GOOD SENSE: We are always ready to deny our sins completely, or to forget them, or insist that they are mere trifles! Let the practice of our faith be more than lip-service and empty forms, and help us to enter into the struggle for our souls with sincerity of heart and firmness of purpose. Enable us to be faithful to you and conscious of your generosity. Pour forth your mercy on us and give us an authentic righteousness of heart.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

BE IMITATORS OF ME

THIS is the tenth Sunday after Pentecost, and we resume our reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We begin almost where we left off last week, at chapter 4:9-16. After reprimanding the Corinthians for their factionalism and childish behavior, St. Paul now uses sarcasm and irony to shock them into repentance. Even though babes in Christ, many in the Corinthian community have come to see themselves as more spiritually advanced than the Apostles themselves. He is looking for a way to put them back on the correct path.

The first thing he does is set the stage. "For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men." (v. 9) St. Paul tells them that in his opinion God is giving the world the Apostles as an example of what it means to be a Christian — not just on earth, but in heaven as well. God has made them like the lowliest of persons — as last of all; like men sentenced to death, in order to show how followers of His Son should behave.

"We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute." (v. 10) St. Paul's sarcasm rings true to the Corinthians. Here he echoes what he said earlier in the letter: "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (v. 1:25) The fool for Christ is the one who returns good for evil and a blessing for a curse. This kind of real strength only appears to be weakness. It is incomprehensible to people who only know the ways of this world.

He now changes his tone. He is no longer being sharp, but rather descriptive of what he and the other Apostles endure in order to preach the Gospel. "To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless;

when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things." (v. 11-13) We should stop and ponder this image of a Christian that St. Paul is presenting us. Just as in first century Corinth, there are people today who understand Jesus and the path toward Him very differently than the picture St. Paul is painting.

In our day there are those preaching a "Gospel of Prosperity" — God wants us to be rich; or a "muscular Jesus" — Jesus and Christians are not wimps; or a gleeful, smiling Jesus — personal happiness is what the Faith is all about. These as well as many other perversions of the Gospel corrupted Corinth and corrupt our time as well. Paul wanted to open the eyes of the Corinthian Christians to really see these preachers who were distorting the Gospel. He wanted to protect the people that he had nurtured and formed. He wanted them to appreciate how a true minister of the Gospel lives.

Our own experience matters. Many of us have had the experience of a true disciple of the Lord. We have known and experienced humble priests, monks, and nuns who have given their whole lives to the Lord's Gospel: the bishop or the lay person who is nothing, or lower than nothing in the eyes of the world, but shines with God's brightness to those with eyes to see. Some may dress shabbily or appear unlearned, but radiate with God's wisdom and love to those who care to look beyond surface appearances. There are many who claim to understand the Lord's teachings, but very few who really do.

Having said things that St. Paul knew would cut the Corinthians to the quick, he tries to comfort them. "I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in

Christ Jesus through the gospel." (v. 14-15) Rather than use his status as Apostle and founder of their Church, or to speak condescendingly to them, as might a teacher to students, he calls them his "children." He says that he considers himself to be their "father," in Christ Jesus. In this one word he expresses the depth of his concern and love in such a way as to encourage them to open their hearts toward him.

He tells them that he has spoken so openly about the "price" of preaching the Gospel not to make them ashamed of him and themselves, but rather to admonish them, to correct them, as a loving father would to his own children.

Notice how careful he is not to speak disparagingly of the other preachers who have been working in the Corinthian community. He distinguishes himself without impugning them. He says to them, "though you have countless guides [or teachers] in Christ, you do not have many fathers." He points to the qualitative difference in their relationship, without directly challenging their authority.

In order to strengthen what he is saying, he tells them: "I urge you, then, be imitators of me." (v. 16) St. John Chrysostom seems to have a text that adds the words: "as I also am of Christ." The text we have does not contain this phrase, but St. John's reading is echoed later on in the Letter where St. Paul tells them: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (v. 11:1)

St. Paul isn't being conceited; he's being truthful. He's offering himself as an example to them in order to encourage them. For if Paul is able to follow Christ — and that is how we should understand what he said in verses 11-13 — then surely the Corinthian Christians, and we too, will be able to follow our Lord's example and his life.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA