

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 9, 2016

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is Friday, October 14. 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. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

PITA BAKING is scheduled for **THIS coming Saturday, October 15th, 9:00am to noon.** Any questions, contact Chris Toda at: thetodas@msn.com, or 508-832-6271. **All help appreciated. No experience necessary — there's a job for everyone.**

THE PARISH COUNCIL will hold its regular monthly meeting **Monday, October 24th at 6:30 pm.** Parish Council Members, please let Fr. Nick know if you are unable to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES are in session. If you have not registered your child, and would like to do so, you may complete a registration form here at Church. If anyone would like more information, **Speak with Valarie Stamoulis or Preoteasa Maria.**

GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:

KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: GALATIANS 1:11-19 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 7:11-19

(JESUS RAISES THE SON OF THE WIDOW OF NAIN)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 5

As a reminder, quiet space to hold Religious Ed classes is limited. It takes very little to disrupt a class of children from lessons their teachers have prepared. **We ask for your cooperation during the time after communion, and during the sermon and coffee-hour.** Please remain in the Church and do not disrupt classes by walking in the coffee hour area, hallway or the kitchen.

A 40-DAY MEMORIAL is observed today for the servant of God **Kaliopi Demma. May the Lord rest her soul among the just!**

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored in memory of **Kaliopi Demma** by her family.

UP-COMING

CALLING ALL VENDORS! A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE will once again be a part of our annual **Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 19th.** 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 (tjruchov@verizon.net).** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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 at: 508-852-1000.

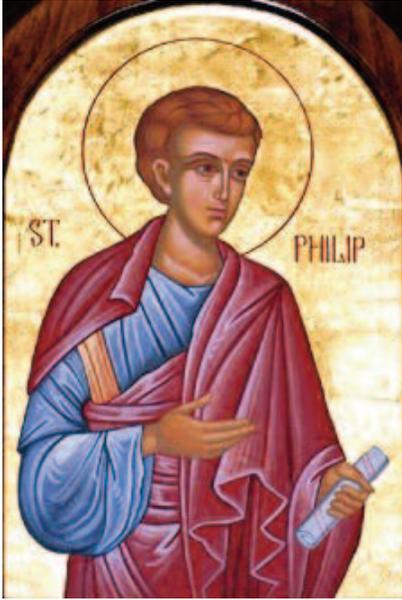
DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri, Oct 14 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
- Sat, Oct 15 Pita Baking, 9am-noon
- Mon, Oct 24 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sat, Nov 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sat, Nov 19 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon & Marketplace
- Sun, Nov 20 Shrewsbury Ecu Thanksgiving Service Congregational Church, 7:00pm
- Sat, Nov 26 e-Recycle 9am-2pm
- Sun, Dec 4 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



**APOSTLE PHILIP OF THE SEVENTY,
ONE OF THE SEVEN DEACONS
OCTOBER 11TH**

THE Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the 7 Deacons is not to be confused with St Philip one of the Twelve Apostles (November 14). This Philip was born in Palestine, was married and had children.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Twelve Apostles made Philip a deacon in the Church of Jerusalem. Along with the other six deacons, they appointed him to deal with the offerings of the faithful and attend to the concerns of the widowed, the orphaned and the needy. The eldest among the seven deacons was the holy Archdeacon Stephen. When the persecution of Christians began, the Jews stoned the Protomartyr Stephen. The Apostle Philip left Jerusalem and settled in Samaria. There he successfully preached Christianity. Among the disciple's converts was the noted magician Simon, who "after being baptized, continued with Philip." (Acts

8:9-13)

At the command of an angel of the Lord, St Philip set out upon the road connecting Jerusalem with Gaza. There he met an official of the empress of Ethiopia, whom also he converted to Christianity (Acts 8:26-39). The holy disciple Philip tirelessly preached the Word of God in many of the lands of the Near East adjoining Palestine. At Jerusalem the Apostles made him a bishop and sent him to Tralles in Asia Minor, where he also baptized many. St Philip died in old age.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

IN the midst of all the demands of this earthly life, O Christ, remind us of our purpose in this world. Draw forth from us a loving obedience to the will of your Father as it manifests itself to us daily, like the obedience you gave to him, thorough but not servile, willing and complete, without holding back or being forced, and always animated by love. Give us courage to embrace the cross and imitate you in your perfect abandonment to the Father.

So that ever filled with health of soul and body, we may confidently glorify your wondrous and bless name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



NAMEDAYS

October 7

The Holy Martyr Sergius in Syria

Sergis Eleftheriou

October 18

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Fr. Luke Veronis

October 20

The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Moraitis

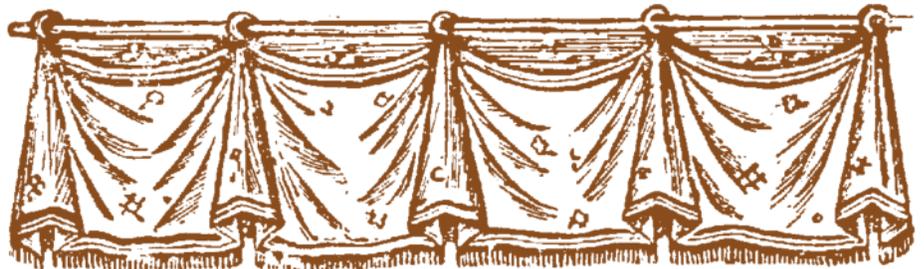
Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis



PAUL, THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

THE Epistle reading this week resumes our study of St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19). St. Paul had founded this community. After he left Galatia, a group of Jewish Christians (Judaizers) came there and began to undermine St. Paul's teachings among the members of that Church by shaking their confidence in his 'apostleship.' St. Paul feels the need to confirm the authenticity of his direct experience of our Lord Jesus Christ in order to defend what he has taught them.

In the very first verse of this Letter St. Paul lays out the basis of his authority by stating: "Paul an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead." (Galatians 1:1) After he expresses to the Galatians his deep concern regarding what he has heard concerning them, he relates in greater detail how exactly it was that God had called him.

"For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ." (v. 11-12) Sometimes we read over these words quickly, not stopping to think about what he is actually saying. He is telling us that all his knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ came to him directly through revelation or even revelations! This is the meaning of the words: "I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it." He didn't learn about Jesus in the way we have, by reading, listening, and worshiping. Jesus came to him directly.

In order to drive home the point he reminds them of the details of his conversion. "For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers." (v. 13-14) Paul, or Saul as he was known before his conversion, terrorized the early Chris-

tians. Saul was present at the stoning of St. Stephen (Acts 8:1). He "was ravaging the church, and entering house after house; he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). He received a commission from the authorities in Jerusalem to go to Damascus and root out Christians there and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial and imprisonment (Acts 9:1). He was "extremely zealous."

It was on his way to Damascus that the Lord appeared to him in a vision of blinding light. (Read the entire account of the vision and his conversion in Acts 9:3-31.) It is this experience that Paul reminds the Galatians of when he says, "he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles" (v. 15-16). St. Paul received this vision and was given a commission.

In order to emphasize both the power and the uniqueness of his vision, he says that God the Father was pleased to reveal his Son *in* me." St. John Chrysostom hones in on this preposition "in." He says, why does he say, "to reveal His Son *in* me," and not "to me?" It is to signify, that he had not only been instructed in the faith by words, but that he was richly endowed with the Spirit; that the revelation had enlightened his whole soul, and that he had Christ speaking within him. He experienced the Lord directly, and he was told specifically what he was to do: preach and convert the Gentiles.

Accentuating the fullness of this revelation he tells them, "I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus." (v. 16-17) By "flesh and blood" he is referring physically to the other Apostles, but in a deeper sense he means that he wasn't "taught" by any human person.

After this experience he went into Arabia. There is a difference of opinion

among Biblical scholars as to what he was doing in Arabia (Arabia here means the desert of eastern and southeastern Syria). Some believe that he went into the desert to pray and reflect on what God had called him to. St. John Chrysostom is of the opinion that he went to preach to the tribes there; using this as an opportunity to sharpen his message. Both of these views are possible, and not mutually exclusive. What we do know is that when he came back to Damascus he had become a powerful witness to the Gospel.

It might be helpful to remind ourselves what the word "Gospel" means. The Greek word is "Evangelion" (εὐαγγέλιον), and it literally means: "Good News." It was oftentimes associated with the accession to the throne of a new emperor, or the birth of an heir. To use this word about Jesus Christ was already to make a claim as to whom He was.

"Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days," St. Paul tells them. "But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother" (v. 18-19). He wants to show the Galatians that he is of one mind with the other Apostles; he respects them as older brothers and friends. He went to "visit" Peter and spent two weeks with him. He shows his respect to James, the Lord's brother, who is clearly in charge of the Jerusalem Church; much beloved and held in high-regard by all, Christians and Jews.

In these few verses we catch a glimpse into the man whom God called to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, to us. We see how God was preparing him for this mission even before he was born. We stand in awe of what God accomplished through him. And, we are humbled by the deep sacrifices he suffered for the sake of the Gospel.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA