

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 30, 2016

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**HOLIDAY BAKING ORDERS** need to be placed in the next weeks! In order for us to properly fill all of your **Thanksgiving orders they should be in by Sunday, November 6th.** Questions? see **Betty Anderson or Chris Toda.**

**OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE** will be held on **Saturday, November 19th.** Please look at the detailed announcements in the Bulletin.

As part of our **Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 19th** we will again hold a **GIFT BASKET RAFFLE.** If you have a creative flair, put together a gift basket based on a favorite theme! We are also seeking donations of **NEW** items to be assembled into gift baskets or cash donations are always welcome, but all donations are needed by November 6th because baskets must be assembled in advance. Questions? contact Tim Rucho (tjruchov@verizon.net)

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **this coming Saturday, November 5th, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed,

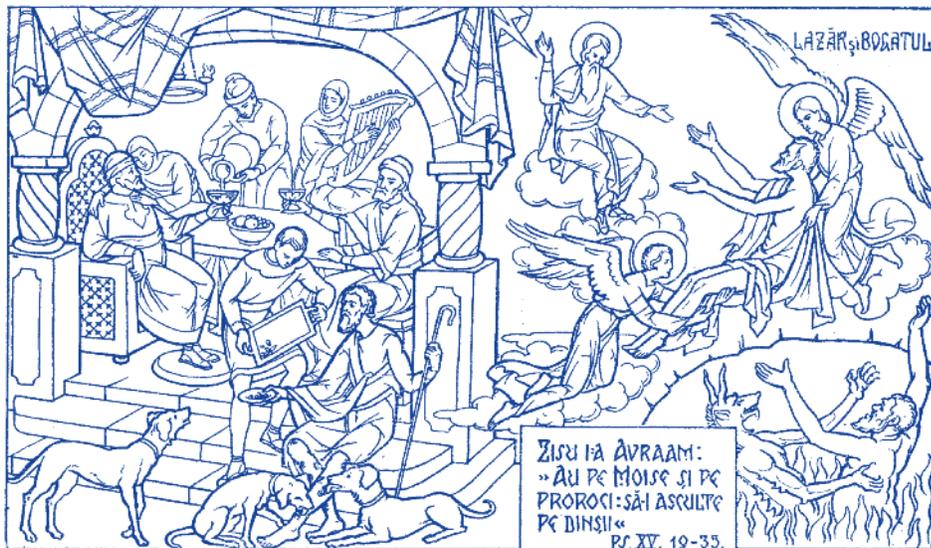
### GREETERS TEAM 2:

ARTIC GAVALA AND CĂLIN GALERIU

### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:

MARGARITE LANDRY,  
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

"THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS"

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

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 PARISH COUNCIL** will hold its Next **Monday, November 14th at 6:30 pm.** Parish Council Members, please let Fr. Nick know if you are unable to attend.

**THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE** is in the works. We need help with stuffing and sealing envelopes to get the mailing ready. We also have tickets to sell, apart from the mailing.

**Dean Valoras** is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Evans and Irene Tsoules** in celebration of the birth of their two new grandsons.

## UP-COMING

**OUR PARISH FEASTDAY CELEBRATION** will be held on **Sunday, December 4th.** We are pleased to announce that **His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae** will be join us for the festivities. A catered luncheon will be held; details are forthcoming. We are seeking **donations of sponsorship to help underwrite the costs of this event.** If you have it in your heart to offer a gift of sponsorship, please speak with Fr. Nick or Tim.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Nov 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, Nov 6 Thanksgiving Pastry Order Deadline
- Mon, Nov 14 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Tues, Nov 15 Christmas Lent Begins
- 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

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



## STS. ZENOBIUS AND ZENOBIA

OCTOBER 30

**T**HE Hieromartyr Zenobius, Bishop of Aegea, and his sister Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in the year 285 in Cilicia. From childhood they were raised in the holy Christian Faith by their parents, and they led pious and chaste lives. In their mature years, shunning the love of money, they distributed away their inherited wealth giving it to the poor. For his beneficence and holy life the Lord rewarded Zenobius with the gift of healing various maladies. He was also chosen bishop of a Christian community in Cilicia.

As bishop, St Zenobius zealously spread the Christian Faith among the pagans. When the emperor Diocletian (284-305) began a persecution against Christians, Bishop Zenobius was the first one arrested and brought to trial to

the governor Licius. "I shall only speak briefly with you," said Licius to the saint, "for I propose to grant you life if you worship our gods, or death, if you do not." The saint answered, "This present life without Christ is death. It is better that I prepare to endure the present torment for my Creator, and then with Him live eternally, than to renounce Him for the sake of the present life, and then be tormented eternally in Hades."

By order of Licius, they nailed him to a cross and began the torture. The bishop's sister, seeing him suffering, wanted to stop it. She bravely confessed her own faith in Christ before the governor, therefore, she also was tortured.

By the power of the Lord they remained alive after being placed on a red-hot iron bed, and then in a boiling kettle. The saints were then beheaded. The priest Hermogenes secretly buried the bodies of the martyrs in a single grave.

St Zenobius is invoked by those suffering from breast cancer.

**AN ECUMENICAL THANKGIVING SERVICE**, sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy Association will be held on Sunday, November 20th at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church on the Shrewsbury Common.

**AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING** day is set for **NEXT Saturday, November 26th**. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity will be holding a **CRAFT AND VENDORS FAIR**, on **Saturday, November 5th** from 9:00am-4:00pm. Tons of crafters/vendors to choose from! Food and Fun for all! Raffles and Prizes! Stock up on Holiday Gifts! **For more info:** gmetras@htnr.net or 508-852-1000.

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.

## NAMEDAYS

**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

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD, YOU WHO KNOW EVERYTHING: The eyes of our minds and hearts are not so perceptive as we would like to think. Therefore, enable us to recognize the subtleties of meaning in the various situations of life, applying, where possible, the appropriate response to the questions and problems that confront us daily. And give us wisdom and prudence, so that we may always do what is right in a manner that pleases you.

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.

## I BEAR THE MARKS OF JESUS

**T**HIS Sunday the Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, 6:11-18. St. Paul was writing the Galatians about the negative influence a group of Jewish converts to Christ was having on their community. Galatia was a province located in north central Asia Minor, present-day Turkey. The larger cities of Galatia contained a mixed population of locals as well as Greeks and Romans. Greek and Latin were the languages there. In the more rural areas the population was largely Galatian; they were related to the Celts and spoke a language more akin to Celtic than the languages of their neighbors.

Today's reading is the close of St. Paul's Letter to them. It starts out: "See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand." (v. 11) St. John Chrysostom believes this indicates that St. Paul had written the whole Letter himself, rather than leave the task to a scribe. For him, this was an indication of the intense concern Paul had about the situation, and for the Galatians themselves. Modern scholars think that the first part of the Letter was given to a scribe to write and that St. Paul wrote this part by way of emphasis. Either way, St. Paul is clearly upset and concerned.

Here is the reason: "It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh." (v. 12-13)

It might seem odd to us that a practice done today for largely medical reasons was a deeply religious question in the early Church. However, according to the Mosaic Law, the primary sign of the covenant between the Children of Israel and God was circumcision. It was and

still is what defines Jews as a people set apart. For St. Paul, being required to accept circumcision as a condition of conversion was to subject yourself to the Old Covenant. It was a step backward.

St. Paul's contention was that these people had no interest in truly proclaiming the Good News of Christ's coming. Rather, they wanted these Galatians to undergo a ritual that was largely for show, while ignoring the true internal spiritual transformation that should occur in those who follow the Lord. These were fundamentalists. Rather than stand up for Christ — which would have probably subjected them to persecution — they took the 'zealous' route that would make them look devout, but really cost them nothing. This is what's behind the statement: "they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh."

His answer to these 'missionaries' is: "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation." (v. 14-15) By the "cross" St. Paul means the whole 'economy' of our salvation; the whole of God's plan for us beginning with Adam and Eve, and culminating in the Lord's death and resurrection. He also means the cross that every Christian takes up when they decide to follow Christ. The 'world' that has been crucified to him is the world of sin and excess; the passions that lead away from God. This should be the cross that we ourselves pick up, choosing against sin and for the Lord.

St. Paul then offers a blessing: "Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God." (v. 16) He is sending two subtle messages in this blessing. He is saying that those who follow the 'rule,' that is, who choose the newness of Christ over the 'dead

end' of the Law, will receive God's peace and mercy. And, by referring to the 'Israel of God' he is at once answering his critics — the Judaizers — that he is not 'Jewish' enough, as well as asserting that the 'Israel of God' is now the followers of Christ.

Expressing his exasperation with the Judaizers, he says: "Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." (v. 17) The word translated here as "marks" is, in Greek, "stigmata." Because of how we use 'stigmata' today, it has led some people to speculate that St. Paul had on his body the crucifixion wounds of Christ. However, in the ancient world this word meant something like "branding." It was used for the branding marks burned into slaves and cattle. It is more likely that St. Paul means the very real scars on his body that were the result of the multiple floggings he had received. Anyone who has seen photographs of the backs of slaves who had been flogged will immediately understand what he is talking about. His scars mark him as belonging to Christ.

He finishes this rather harsh Letter with a blessing: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen." (v. 18) He chooses words — and especially the very final word, the affectionate term 'brethren' (brothers and sisters) — that will soften whatever hurt they may be feeling, and to let them know that from his perspective all is healed.

As we reflect on St. Paul's words, let us also recommit ourselves to take up our cross and follow the Lord as St. Paul himself did.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



## HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 21  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church either Thursday evening (Nov. 17) after 5 PM or during the day on Friday, Nov. 18.
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 18** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 19. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda (thetodas@msn.com) or Deb Sedares (Dsedares@pinehills.com).
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board and at the candle stand for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

### PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson** (Bettya16@verizon.net).
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson**.
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 6th, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 19 & 20.

- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 4, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 17 & 18. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***
- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

### HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We have a record number of Vendors this year that will greatly enhance this event.

### GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:

- **Gift-Basket Raffle:** As part of our **Holiday Marketplace** we will again hold a gift basket raffle. If you have a creative flair, put together a gift basket based on a favorite theme! We are also seeking donations of **NEW** items to be assembled into gift baskets or cash donations are always welcome, but **all donations are needed by November 6th** because baskets must be assembled in advance. Questions? contact Tim Rucho (tjruch@verizon.net)