

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 6, 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 **TODAY, 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)

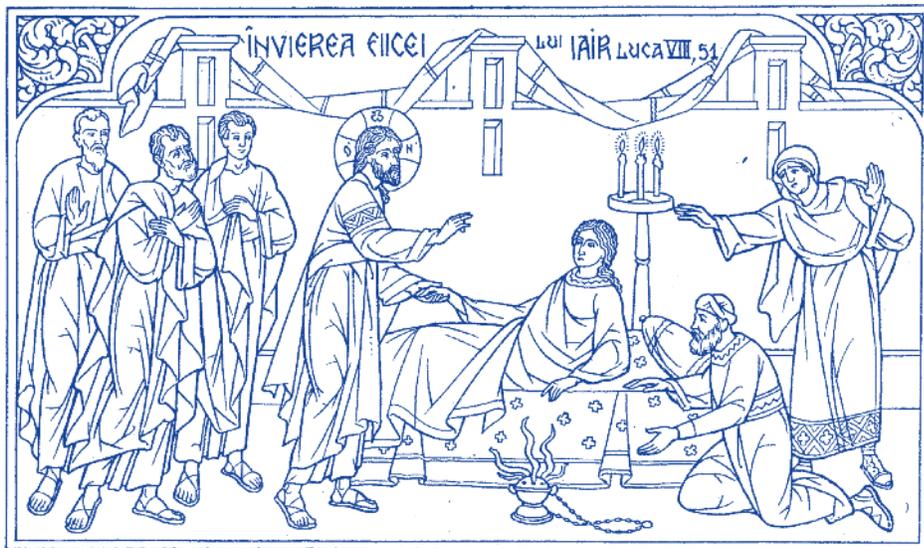
**ST. MICHAEL'S** in Southbridge will be holding **Vespers for their Feastday** of the Holy Archangels this **Monday, November 7th at 6:00pm**.

**THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY**

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

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

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



**THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:14-22 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:41-56  
(JESUS RAISES JAIRUS' DAUGHTER AND HEALS THE WOMAN)  
TONE 3 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 9

**VOLUNTEERS** for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is December 3rd.

**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.

**THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD** is hap-

pening once again this year! The parish Christmas card is mailed to the entire membership of our St. Nicholas Family. The Christmas Card flier is available at the Church. If you'd like more information, please contact Tom FitzPatrick or Evans Tsoules in Coffee Hour or by e-mail, to tell us how to place your name. **We don't want anyone who wants to be a part of this Christmas greeting to miss the opportunity.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Alexis George and José Peña** on the birth of

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- Sat, Dec 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, Dec 4 Feastday Celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

their daughter **Isabella Rose Peña**, born on September 20. (She was 21 inches long and weighed 7 lbs, 10 ounces.) Today we will celebrate a **40-day blessing** for her and her mother. *Many Years to them all!*

**WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL** today for the members of the **Eleftheriou family: Neophytos and Anthousa**, uncle and aunt to Anthi Eleftheriou, as well as her mother **Athina**; and **Andreas**, Sergis' father. *May their Memory be Eternal!*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Sergis and Anthi Eleftheriou** in memory of their family members, fallen asleep.

## 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.

**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 **Saturday, November 26th**. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Parishioners from **Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Maynard, MA** brought gift bags to the residents of Holy Trinity. It was a wonderful after-

noon of fellowship! **This Thursday** Holy Trinity will be hosting a Tribute to our Veterans with entertainment by Worcester's Joe Cariglia. The **Daughters of St. Mary's Assumption** Albanian Orthodox church will also be there to sponsor coffee and dessert!

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

### November 1

**The Holy Martyrs  
Cosmas and Damian**  
Kosmas Karadimitriou

### November 8

#### **The Holy Archangel Gabriel**

Inva Gabriela Durmillari  
Gabriela Gavala

#### **The Holy Archangel Michael**

Kenneth Michael Anderson  
Michael Bourisk  
Michael Walter Clem  
Mihai Gavala  
Michaela Ionete  
Michael Keimig  
Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard  
Scott Michael Maynard  
Tyler Michael Maynard  
Michael Anthony Prizio  
Michael Soter  
Michael Spataro  
Michael Peter Toda

#### **The Holy Archangel Raphael**

Raphaella Zaruha

#### **The Holy Bodiless Hosts**

Angela Demake  
Angeliki Soter

### November 14

#### **The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip**

Philip Rucho  
Phillip Sedares



## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** GOD of all consolations: Sustain us in our trials and troubles, and reinforce the little strength we have as we battle with our demons. Then, lead us out of our own small world to embrace others and help them with their concerns. Prevent us from always focusing on ourselves. Let us never repay evil with evil, but, rather, may we always respond with good, for this is how you yourself deal with us at all times.

For you are one to have mercy on us and save us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. \

## BREAKING DOWN WALLS THAT DIVIDE

**T**HIS is the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22. In these verses we hear St. Paul explain how the division and tension between Jew and Gentile are healed and reconciled in Christ. Keep in mind, Ephesus, as well as the other early Christian communities, were composed of both Jewish followers of Jesus and pagan converts. Generally, Jews did not associate with Gentiles, if they could possibly avoid it, and certainly not in worship. Here St. Paul describes how the two separate 'peoples' are now become one in and through Christ.

"For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end." (v. 14-16) This first sentence is long and complicated. It contains many important ideas. Let's address each one in turn.

Christ is not only the herald of peace; he is peace itself. He carries in his person the means and power to heal and resolve differences and separation. He was a perfect Jew for the Jews, but also reached out and ministered to those who were not Jews.

He "has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." St. Paul meant for his readers to understand this 'dividing wall' in two ways. The first was spiritually; the ways in which Jews and Gentiles were separated one from the other in faith and lifestyle. The other was in a very physical sense.

Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, tells us that there was in the Jerusalem Temple a stone wall of three cubits high (five feet), separating the inner court from the outer. On this wall were signs prohibiting any non-Jew

from going any farther, on pain of death. It was like the Berlin wall, an actual wall, but with deeper symbolic meaning. One of the reasons the crowd in Jerusalem wanted to kill Paul (cf. Acts 21:28-31) was that they thought he had brought Trophimus, an Ephesian Gentile, into the Temple to defile it. Like the dividing wall, the hostility it represented was very real. The wall was a symbol for the way in which the Jews understood themselves: as God's people, a people separate, apart, and dedicated only to Him.

Having this 'dividing wall of hostility' as background, we can truly hear the depth of St. Paul's proclamation that Jesus "came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" (v. 17-18). The Gentiles were 'far off' not just in distance, but more importantly in faith. They worshiped pagan gods and often lived immorally. Perhaps the Jews were 'nearer,' but because of their inability to fulfill the Law were also distanced from God.

In the person of Jesus Christ both Jew and Gentile are united as one people. It is not that the Gentile now becomes a Jew, rather both are transformed into a new creation. The Holy Spirit who rests on the Son now rests on us as well. Both become sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father through the spirit of adoption. We become heirs with Christ. (cf. Romans 8:14-17) We have 'access' to the Father the same way any child is able to approach their parents.

We are accustomed to referring to God as our Father, so it might be difficult to fully appreciate how radical these words sounded to St. Paul's listeners. God was not thought of in familial terms. Gods generally were to be feared and placated. It was our Lord Jesus himself who taught his disciples to address God as "Abba" — "Daddy." We could ap-

proach God with love and trust. He allows us to address Him in the most affectionate and loving way. This is Good News! If we understand and trust God's Word, it will transform our lives.

We are "no longer strangers and sojourners, but ... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (v. 19) We no longer have to feel lost and alone. We no longer have to feel displaced and abandoned. We have a true family, an eternal home, with the saints. We are members of God's household.

Look at the image St. Paul paints for us. We are not only members of the household of God, we are also His Temple. This household and temple are "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord." (v. 20-21) His words echo St. Peter who calls us to be "like living stones," allowing ourselves to "be built into a spiritual house." (1 Peter 2:5)

The image given is one of a building, and this can help us understand how all of the pieces — the building blocks — need to fit together for the structure to stand. However, it is not a physical building that is being talked about, nor is it stone and brick that are to be the materials. It is us together with all the saints from all eternity that are the pieces for this structure that God is building. We are asked to become part of this project, to be "built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (v. 22)

The Church, the place where God dwells, is not made of bricks and mortar. It is made of us, brothers and sisters of one Father.

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)