

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 13, 2016

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE CHRISTMAS FAST begins this Tuesday, November 15th.

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**. Right now the need is for cash donations. Questions? contact Tim Rucho (tjrucho@verizon.net)

THE PARISH COUNCIL will hold its regular meeting, tomorrow, **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. In addition to the mailings, we also have tickets to sell. **Dean Valoras** is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD is happening once again this year! The parish Christmas card is mailed to the entire membership of our St. Nicholas Family. The Christmas Card

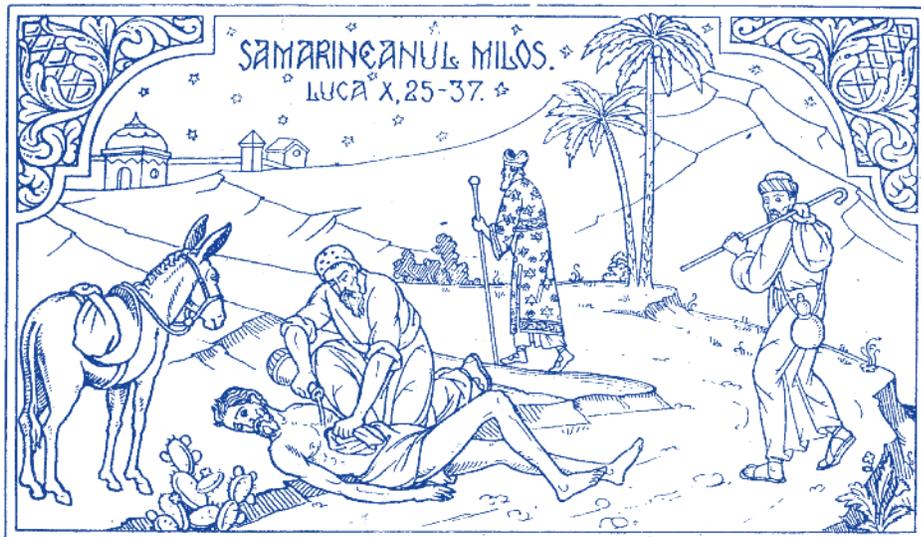
GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:

PRIZIO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ⊕ GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37
(*THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN*)
TONE 4 ⊕ MATINS GOSPEL 10

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.*

THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE CREDINȚA/THE FAITH the Archdiocese's Magazine is available at the Candles. Please take home a copy.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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

willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity is a sponsor for the Worcester Senior Center's holiday celebrations by decorating their Dickens' Village Series centerpieces.

The St. Spyridon Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society is sponsoring a coffee social for the residents at Holy Trinity on Thursday, November 17th at 2:00pm.

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.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD OUR GOD, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to 'them' and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.



THE HOLY MARTYR MENAS

NOVEMBER 11

Saint Menas, who had Egypt as his fatherland, contested in Cotyaeion of Phrygia in 296 during the reign of Diocletian and Maximian. A soldier distinguished for his valour in war, he renounced his rank and withdrew to devote himself to ascetical struggles and prayer in the mountains. Filled with zeal and more than human courage, he presented himself in the midst of a pagan festival in Cotyaeion and declared himself to be a Christian. After terrible torments which he endured with astonishing courage, he was beheaded. His martyrdom in Egypt became a place of universal pilgrimage; evidence of ancient journeys to his shrine have been found as far away as Ireland. The glory and refuge of the Christians of Egypt, he has been revealed to be a worker of great miracles and a swift defender for all who call on him with faith; besides all else, he is also invoked for help in finding lost objects.



NAMEDAYS

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

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angela Demake

Angeliki Soter

November 14

The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip

Philip Rucho

Phillip Sedares

November 16

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Scott Matthew Belba

Matthew Robert Clem

Matthew Collins

Matthew Soter

CALLED TO ONE HOPE

THIS is the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7. The great theme of the whole Letter is unity: the unity of God, the unity of the Church, the unity of Christians one with another in Christ. A few weeks ago we heard St. Paul talk about how Christ had "broken down the dividing wall of hostility" between Jew and Gentile. (Ephesians 2:14) In this week's reading we receive both inspirational words and practical spiritual advice on how to build up and maintain the oneness that God gives us in Christ Jesus.

The passage opens with a reference to Paul's imprisonment. "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (v. 4:1-3) St. Paul spent prison time in almost every place he preached and establish a Church. He was most likely writing this letter from either Caesarea or Rome. But more important than the place is the fact that he wears his suffering for Christ proudly. He is offering the joy he takes in his suffering as an example of the "lowliness and meekness" which he is urging the Ephesians to embrace. It is very much like the words he spoke to King Agrippa and Governor Festus, "I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains." (Acts 26:29) He wants to lead us to a higher spiritual awareness.

In order to prepare the Ephesians to understand the oneness of the "life worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called," he lists the necessary virtues: lowliness and meekness, patience and forbearance in love. These all could be summed up in one virtue: humility. The Church has always considered humility to be the Mother of virtues; the one from which all the other

virtues spring. In the world of Greek philosophy, not only was this not considered a virtue, it was thought as something to be avoided. Humility becomes worth something only in Jesus Christ. Through His example we find a way to remake ourselves, becoming God's witness to others, and able to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (v. 3)

In much of his writings, and especially here in Ephesians, St. Paul is concerned with this unity of the Spirit. The unity of the Church, the Body of Christ, should mirror the unity of God. This vision of God's unity is grounded in his Jewish upbringing. He was a pious Jew who prayed twice a day: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one ..." (Deuteronomy 6:4) Jewish belief is that God's Reign will bring a great revelation of God's oneness to the world. The Prophet Zechariah said: "On that day there shall be one Lord, and his name shall be one." (Zechariah 14:9 LXX)

So, St. Paul spells out exactly what this unity, this oneness, looks like: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all." (v.4-6)

Let me try to explain. "There is one body:" one visible community; one Church. "And one Spirit:" a single inner source, the one Spirit of the Father given to us at our baptism. "Called to one hope:" we all share in the one hope of our salvation; we all share in the one Spirit who is the pledge of the promise. "One Lord:" in our baptism we pledge our obedience to one Lord and Master. He is the one to whom we give our loyalty. "One faith:" much of what St. Paul and the other Apostles were writing at the time was directed at keeping the Church in one faith. "One baptism:" this refers not only to the "one baptism for the remission of sins" that we recite in the Creed; it is the one baptism of Christ that we all share. And finally, "one God

and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all:" ultimately, it is God's love for us as Father that makes us capable of moving outside of our self-centeredness and embracing one another as brothers and sisters.

As I have reminded you so often, (and as I remind myself even more frequently), the unity of the Church is not a choice; the unity of humanity is not an option. We do not get to choose this as something we might *like* to value. It lies at the very foundation of creation. If we are to be true children of our one Father, we must learn how to love each other, even those who hate us. If we don't then God's experiment with us will fail. (God forbid!)

This is not just about the Orthodox Church; we must reach out in love to all who call themselves Christians. Nor, is it limited to Christians; we must also find a way to speak to those with whom we apparently share little in common. The consequence of not doing so is not merely hostility and war. It is to be shut out from the Kingdom.

We live in a time where conflict seems never-ending. Ours are not the great epic wars of the first half of the twentieth century. Rather, we have wars without battle lines, and enemies without faces. One could almost say it is like a spiritual war, except that we see with our eyes the wounded, maimed, and dead. But, these wars are spiritual in this sense: the solution is not to be found in guns and bombs, rather in patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and in humility. Only Christ can give us these. For those who do not embrace Christ, we who do must be their example.

And so, while St. Paul begins with our oneness in Christ, it is so that we might fully and humbly accept the "grace ... given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." (v. 7)



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. Right now the need is for cash donations. Questions? contact Tim Rucho (tjrucho@verizon.net)