

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 22, 2017
THE HOLY APOSTLE TIMOTHY

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA BAKING IS STARTING. There will be a **Dough Rolling Session**, **THIS Saturday, January 21st, 9:00 am to noon**, and a **Pita Baking Session**, **Saturday, February 11th, 9:00 am to noon**. Please mark your calendars. **Questions?** talk to **Chris Toda, 508-832-6271**. Also, let her know if you'll be coming. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

ANGELA PRIZIO DEMAKE fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday. Calling hours are Sunday, 2:00pm - 7:00pm at Mercadante Funeral Home. The funeral service will be here at St. Nicholas, Monday at 10:00am, preceded by calling hours beginning at 9:00am. A full obituary, with details, is available at: www.mercadantefuneral.com. **May our loving Lord rest her soul with the righteous!**

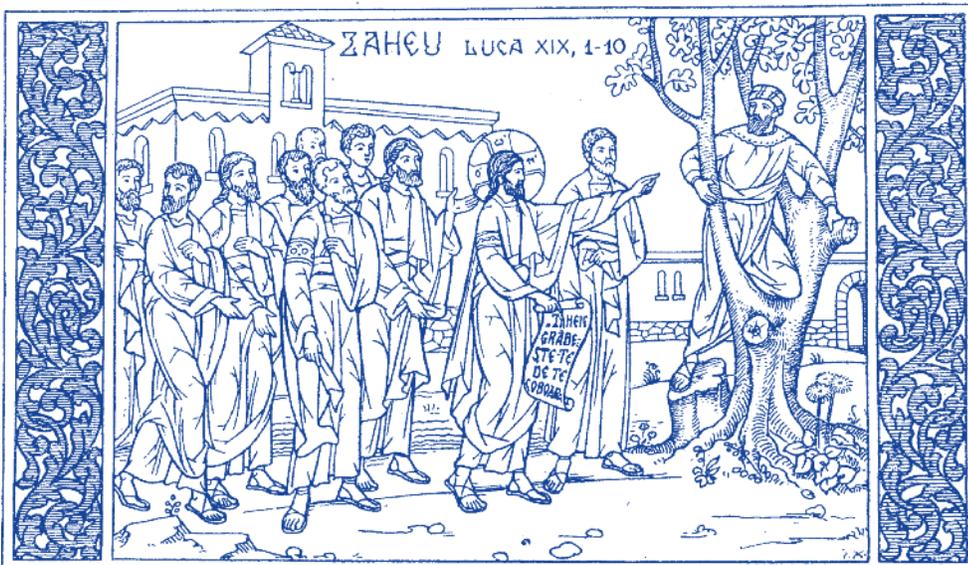
THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE FAITH/CREDINȚA (the Archdiocesan Magazine) is now available at the candles. Please take a copy home with you.

THE BLESSING OF HOMES AT THEOPHANY CONTINUES. As in the past, we are setting times to bless your

GREETERS TEAM 4:
DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:
MARGARITE LANDRY,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10

(THE CONVERSION OF ZACCHÆUS)

TONE 6 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 9

home. If you haven't gotten a notice yet, please talk to Fr. Nick. Also, if there is a specific time that is more convenient for you, please e-mail or call (508-335-7378) Fr. Nick to arrange it.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR EXTRA HOLY WATER BOTTLES! Many of you have Holy Water bottles at home. Please return the ones you're finished using. You can give them to Fr. Nick when he comes to bless your house, or just bring to Church on Sunday.

A NEW PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED IN JANUARY, (the two-year term of the Parish Council expires this year). Please consider offering a stewardship of your time in this important ministry. We also are asking for people to serve on other Parish committees, if you would like to focus your efforts in just one area. However you'd like to serve, please speak with **Fr. Nick**.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE is held today for the departed members of the **Nace family**. *May their memory be eternal.*

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by Ileana Nace in memory of the members of the **Nace family, fallen asleep.**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

St. Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church parishioners are hosting a coffee social at Holy Trinity on Thursday, January 26, 2:00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Jan 21 Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-noon
Sat, Feb 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
Fri, Feb 10 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
Sat, Feb 11 Pita Baking, 9am-noon
Sat, Feb 18 Saturday of Souls, Lit 10am
Sun, Feb 19 Meatfare Sunday
Sun, Feb 26 Cheesfare Sunday
Mon, Feb 27 Great Lent Begins
Sun, April 16 Great and Holy Pascha

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

The Holy Trinity staff and residents would like to thank **Elaine Voutas of Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church** in Marlboro, for making “lapghans” for the residents!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Notre Dame Academy (Catholic, college prep school for young women) is inviting seventh grade and transfer students to spend an academic day at NDA through May 1st. **If you're interested contact the Admissions Office at admissions@nda-worc.org.**

Venerini Academy is holding an open your on Sunday afternoon, January 29th. For more information: www.veneriniacademy.com.



NAMEDAYS

January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Anthony Theodore Christo
Scott Anthony Maynard
Anthony Rucho
Tony Nicholas Trakadas

January 18

St. Athanasios of Alexandria

Thanas Lolo
Arthur Peterson

January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy

Rev. Fr. Timothy Lowe
Timothy Rucho

January 25

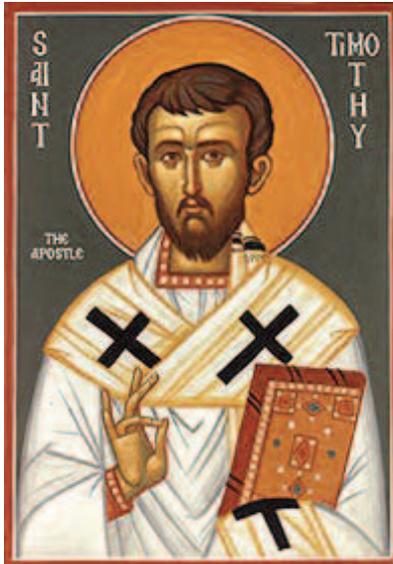
St. Gregory the Theologian

Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos
Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters



The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint

Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of Saint Andrew and Saint Luke. The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with Saint Paul's words to Saint Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

WHEN all the difficulties and troubles of life seem to overpower us at once, Lord, come quickly to our aid and give us the wisdom and strength we need to deal with it all. From on high, reach down and seize us, as it were, pulling us out of the depths of our problems and difficulties and rescuing us in your love. Do not forget us, but help us always.

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

LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH

THE liturgical cycle is now directing us toward preparation for Great Lent and Pascha. This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of the repentance of Zacchæus the tax collector. The Epistle reading is from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, 4:9-15. St. Paul's Pastoral Letters — First and Second Timothy, and Titus — were addressed personally to the leader of a local church. He offered them advice on how to deal with organizational and pastoral matters within their communities. When writing to Timothy, he especially spoke of the qualifications for holding leadership positions within the Church; how the local bishop or presbyter, and deacons should comport themselves for the well-being of the community. These letters are often cited during ordinations.

Even though the advice is directed primarily toward those with spiritual responsibilities in the community, much of the advice still can be helpful to each of us. The reading begins with this affirmation: "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." (v. 9-10) St. Paul is speaking especially of the difficulties of ministry. Keep in mind all of the sufferings that Paul and the other Apostles endured: imprisonment, floggings, exile, shipwreck. Many met a terrible death. They were abused even by members of their own communities. It is out of this experience that St. Paul urges Timothy to maintain his focus. "We toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God." The impulse to preach the Gospel is not grounded in human ambition and pride. It is based on the hope and faith we have in God, and the desire to share this hope with others.

God is "Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." This is a beautiful expression of a proper Christian attitude to evangelism. It embodies both God's desire that "everyone be

saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), and the particular comfort those have who answer God's call, having faith and trust in Him.

St. Paul tells Timothy: "Command and teach these things." (v. 11) St. John Chrysostom offers a helpful explanation of why St. Paul says both "command and teach." He observes that depending on the circumstance a person in authority, such as a bishop or presbyter, or a parent or teacher, might have to 'command,' that is, to be unequivocal or directive. In other cases teaching is required. If you do one when you should do the other, you'll look silly. For example, when there is a clear moral imperative — 'don't take that, it doesn't belong to you' — teaching is not the appropriate stance. An authoritative voice is required. In other circumstances, when the issue is a matter of subtle choices, or where a person is inexperienced or ill-informed, shouting a command would not only be inappropriate, but probably offensive and hurtful. Gentle words of instruction are what is called for in this situation.

St. Paul is giving this advice to Timothy because he was relatively young for the responsibility that had been laid on him. Timothy was about thirty five when St. Paul was writing to him. He had been with St. Paul since he was around seventeen. They had a long relationship. So, he tells him, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (v. 12) He isn't saying that Timothy is not capable, or 'up to the job.' Just that he should recognize that some people might be uncomfortable because of his relative youth. A little later on, in Chapter 5, he offers him specific advice on how to relate to persons older and younger than he, both men and women. In this particular verse he focuses on the central aspect: Timothy's own behavior. He tells Timothy that he needs to be the example. This

is good advice for every bishop and presbyter. It is also good advice for each one of us. If we presume to teach or lead, we need first and foremost to show how it is done through our own life: our words, but especially our deeds, actions and thoughts.

"Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching." (v. 13) The early Christian communities were organized much like the Jewish synagogues out of which they grew. As part of their service, in addition to the eucharist, there were readings of scripture, preaching (that is, an explanation of the scripture), and teaching (namely, the practical application). We do much the same today.

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you." (v. 14) In St. Paul's time ordination was by an Apostle, but the council of presbyters (elders/priests) consented by laying their hands on the candidate, along with the Apostle. By "prophetic utterance" St. Paul is referring to those spiritually gifted persons who pointed out the unique and charismatic qualities of Timothy himself. Paul doesn't want Timothy to forget the gifts God has given him.

"Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress." (v. 15) One of the ways that we can see God at work in the world is in the progress each of us makes in the spiritual life. When we practice what we have been taught and devote ourselves to the life in Christ, not only do we ourselves benefit, but we also encourage others. They see the change in us and grow in hope.

This is St. Paul's advice to Timothy. It is his advice to us as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA