

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 7, 2017

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP AND METROPOLITAN NICOLAE was enthroned this past Sunday, April 30th, as Metropolitan Archbishop of the newly created Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas at the Ss. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Chicago. **THIS SUNDAY, Bishop Ioan Casian** will be enthroned as the **first Bishop of the newly establish Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada in Montréal.** Fr. Nicholas will be attending this ceremony as well. We **WILL** have Liturgy this Sunday at St. Nicholas. Fr. Nick will give a full report of both events upon his return.

PITA BAKING. There will be a **Pita Baking Session, on Saturday, May 6th, 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!**

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center for **May 6th,** our regular monthly obligation. **The hours are from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 9:32-42 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3 - MATINS GOSPEL 5

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 latest issue of **THE FAITH/CREDINȚA** Archdiocesan Magazine is available at the Candles. Pick up a copy and take it home with you. Also, the **2017 ARCHDIOCESE ALMANAC** is available at the Candles as well.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES in our Parish so we can recognize them on their accomplishment. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

WE OBSERVE TWO MEMORIALS THIS SUNDAY. From the **Eleftheriou family,** the servants of God: **Anthousa, Neofytos, Athina, and Andreas.** This is also the sixth anniversary of **Vasil Rucho's** falling asleep. **May their memory be eternal!**

THIS WEEK'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Eleftheriou family** in memory of their departed loved-ones, as well as by **Florence Rucho** in memory of Vasil.

UP-COMING

RESERVATIONS FOR JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT are due **NEXT SUNDAY.** See the details on the next page.

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 29th. Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. The common Memorial

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, May 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Pita Baking, 9am-noon
- Sun, May 14 Reservations for *Joseph Dreamcoat* due
- Thurs, May 24 Feast of the Lord's Ascension
- Mon, May 29 Memorial Day, Hope Cemetery
- Sat, June 3 Saturday of the Dead, Lit. 10am
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Sun, June 4 Pentecost
- Aug 7-9 Vacation Church School

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

Service will be at noon at the Altar in Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-335-7378.

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! *Vacation Church School this summer will be August 7-9.* We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when schedule other summer activities for your children. **Questions?** see or e-mail: Valarie Stamoulis (valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com); cell: 617-803-3798.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Latest issue of **Holy Trinity's "Guardian Angel Gazette"** is available on-line. It full of interesting information about our Nursing and Rehab Center. Check it out here: www.htnr.net/blog/

A Wedding Ceremony will take place at Holy Trinity for two of its residents on Sunday, May 7th at 2:00pm. *We wish them many years!*

Holy Trinity will host a **LuLaroe Clothing Fundraiser on Thursday, May 11th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** in the Holy Trinity Main Dining Room. Proceeds will go to the Holy Trinity Resident Activity Fund. **All are welcome!**

Holy Trinity honored volunteers with a luncheon held on April 26th, **Volunteer Appreciation Day. Volunteering at Holy Trinity** is a rewarding way you can make a difference in the lives of the residents by donating your time and talent. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, contact **Gina Metras**, Activities Director at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: gmetras@htnr.net. Or **Serena Shields**, Director of Community Relations, 508-852-1000, e-mail: shields@htnr.net.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD JESUS CHRIST, victor over the grave and every kind of death: The celebration of your glorious resurrection also brings to mind your cure of the paralytic. For years the paralyzed man lay at the side of the sheep's pool, and never called on you for help, but out of your loving kindness, you forgave his sins, restored the full use of his limbs, and sent him on his way to renewed life. In your tenderness, bind up the wounds of our brokenness as well, so that, enjoying renewed health and vigor of soul, we may serve you in holiness all the days of our life.

For you are the healer of our souls and bodies, Christ our God, and we give you glory, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and lifegiving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



NAMEDAYS

May 1

The Holy Prophet Jeremiah

Jeromy Grniet

May 5

The Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica

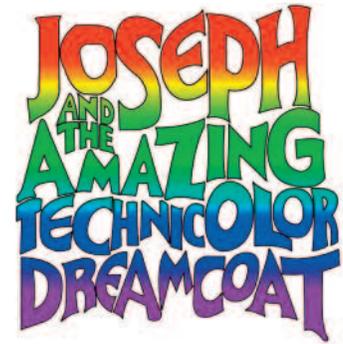
Irene Mountzouris

Irene Tsoules

May 9

The Holy Martyr Christopher

Christopher Masterjohn



Together with Sts. Anargyroi Parish we have secured group rates to see a great production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Reagle Theater in Waltham on **Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 PM.** Tickets are \$36 for adults (\$21 less than market rate) and \$25 for kids ages 5 - 18. **Reservations and full payment MUST be received by Sunday, May 14th.** For more information, contact **Tim at:** tjrucho@verizon.net

GOD'S POWER TO CONVINC

THIS is the fourth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's healing of the Paralytic Man (John 5:1-15). In the reading from Acts (9:32-42), we hear of a similar healing, as well as the miracle of a woman raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter. There is a common theme in the two readings: the power of God to persuade and convince even the most skeptical of people.

After St. Luke tells us of St. Paul's powerful conversion on the road to Damascus (in Acts 9:1ff), he returns again to the missionary work of St. Peter. As the community of believers in Jesus grew and spread, St. Peter felt it important to visit these new communities, some of which were Gentile missions. He travelled to the region of Sharon to a town called Lydda, about twenty eight miles northwest of Jerusalem and half-way to Joppa. "There he found a man named Æneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, 'Æneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.' And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (Acts 9:33-35)

As with the Paralytic in today's Gospel reading, no profession of faith is asked of Æneas. St. John Chrysostom points out that when the Lord began his ministry he rarely asked for a sign of the person's faith. He simply healed them. In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord simply said to the Paralytic: "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:6) St. Peter tells Æneas: "Jesus Christ heals you." (v. 34) In both cases the general population did not know who either the Lord or St. Peter were. Their fame had not yet spread. It was the works themselves that would "get their attention." This is what the Lord means when he says: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Fa-

ther is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves." (John 14:11) The great signs done by the Lord, and later by the Apostles in Jesus' name, are the means by which people become engaged and receptive to listening to the larger message. We see this effect at work in St. Peter's healing of Æneas, because when he stood up, "all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (v. 35)

While Peter was at Lydda the disciples in Joppa, hearing he was there, sent two men to go and get him and bring him to Joppa. There was a disciple there named Tabitha who had gotten sick and died. St. Luke tells us that "she was full of good works and acts of charity." (v. 36) Tabitha is the Aramaic word for "gazelle." St. Luke translates her name into Greek: "Dorcas." St. John Chrysostom, using the meaning of the name, emphasizes that she was lively and quick, not only in acts of charity, but in every kind of good work. This is evident in the scene St. Peter found when he arrived. "All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them." (v. 39)

Each of us knows of good and faithful women in our communities, the kind who are always giving, ready to help in a humble way. These are the women who visit the sick and shut-ins, who bake a meal for a family in need, and who volunteer in any number of

ways. This is the type of person Tabitha was. We can imagine the grief in the Joppa Church.

After she had died, the women had washed her body and laid her in the upper room. When Peter was brought into that grief-filled room he took stock of the situation and asked everyone to leave. Then he knelt down and prayed. He looked at the body and said: "Tabitha rise!" She immediately sat up and he took her hand and presented her to the saints and widows alive. (v. 40-41)

This miracle has strong parallels with the raising of Jairus' daughter. (cf. Luke 8:49-56) Jesus too ordered that everyone leave, except for Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents. Jesus took her hand and called her back from the dead. But, there is one important difference. While Jesus told them not to say anything to anyone about what had happened, in Joppa it immediately became known throughout the whole city and "many believed in the Lord." (v. 42)

These two very powerful signs that we read about in today's lesson from Acts were meant to show the world that the Apostles were graced to carry on the work of the Lord Jesus. The power of miracles and signs was given to them and to the Church throughout the ages in order to open people's hearts to hear the words that lead to salvation. Sickness, suffering, and death are not unique to any time or place. They have always been with us. The Lord has given us these and similar signs, even in our own time, to encourage us and strength our resolve to believe in Him.

Sickness, debilitating illness, and even death itself do not have the final word; the life given us in our Lord Jesus does.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA





COMMEMORATION
OF THE APPARITION OF THE
SIGN OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS
OVER JERUSALEM, IN 351 AD

The Precious Cross appeared in the sky over Jerusalem on the morning of May 7, 351 during the reign of the emperor Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine (May 21).

At that time the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Christ was merely a creature and not God, was causing great turmoil and division throughout the Empire. Even after the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325, many people were drawn to this false teaching, and the Orthodox found themselves in the minority in many places.

Constantius, the ruler of the eastern part of the Empire, was a fervent supporter of Arianism. His brothers Constantine II and Constans, who were pious Orthodox Christians, ruled in the west. They were both killed in separate battles around 350, leaving Constantius as sole ruler. Also in 350, Saint Cyril (March 18) became Patriarch of Jerusalem and began his zealous struggle against Arianism.

In May of 351 a luminous Cross appeared over Jerusalem, stretching from Golgotha to the Mount of Olives, a distance of about five and a half miles. The

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed

Cross was wide as it was long, and shone more brightly than the sun. Many people left their homes and workplaces to gather in the church and glorify Christ. The historian Sozomen says that this wondrous sign led to the conversion of multitudes of pagans and Jews to Christianity.

A letter from Saint Cyril to the emperor describing this phenomenon, and admonishing him to become Orthodox, has been preserved. The apparition of the Cross remained over the city for a whole week.

The vision of the Cross over Jerusalem strengthened the Orthodox faithful and contributed to the return of many Arians to the Church. It is also a reminder of the awesome Second Coming of Christ, when "the sign of the Son of man shall appear in heaven (Matthew 24:30).



rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

