

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JUNE 4, 2017

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY 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 July 1st.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Lindberg family** in memory of **Randy Samara**.

UP-COMING

THE ALBANIAN FESTIVAL, sponsored by St. Mary's on Salisbury St., will be held **Friday-Sunday, June 2, 3, & 4**. Make plans to attend and support our sister Church!

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! *Vacation Church School this summer will be August 7-9*. We will again be holding

GREETERS TEAM 2:

ARTIC GAVALA AND CĂLIN GALERIU

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:

KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 2:1-11 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 7:37-53; 8:12

EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE FEAST

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

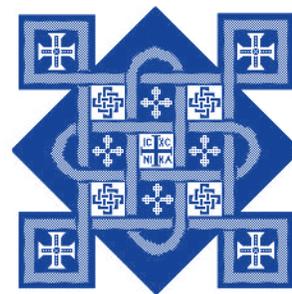
SAVE THE DATE! Holy Trinity's annual fundraiser, 11th Annual **Food and Wine Fest, Thursday, October 19, 2017**. 5:30-8:30pm at St. George Orthodox Cathedral. Watch for details to follow!

The 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: www.htnr.net/blog/

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.

Interested? Contact **Gina Metras**, Activities Director at 508-852-1000.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 2, 3, & 4 Albanian Festival
- Sat, June 3 Saturday of the Dead, Lit. 10am
- Sun, June 4 Pentecost
- Fri, June 16 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm
- Sat, July 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Aug 7-9 Vacation Church School

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

BLESSED ARE YOU, O ALMIGHTY FATHER, for gathering us together to celebrate the descent of your all-holy Spirit. We beseech you: Enkindle in our hearts the fire of that same divine Spirit whom you sent upon the twelve apostles on that first Pentecost. Enable us, throughout our lives, to honor those fishermen, not for their elegant speech, but because they revived us all with divine power. As we hope and pray and work for the continuance of that renewal throughout the world, let your divine fire consume the sinfulness and ignorance within us, so that we may become temples worthy of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

NAMEDAYS

June 11

The Sunday of All the Saints

Amalia Polymeros

June 27

The Holy Myrrh-bearer Joanna

Joanne V. Prizio

June 29

The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Kenneth Paul Maynard

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

Peter Demetri Tsongalis



2017 GRADUATES

“He has filled them with the spirit of God, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft.” (Exodus 35:31) We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

HIGH SCHOOL

Aaron Paul Christo will be graduated from the International Baccalaureate program of Abby Kelly Foster Public Charter School and will attend Northeastern University.

Noah Peter Christo will be graduated from Abby Kelly Foster Public Charter School and will attend Worcester State University.

Jani Lico will be graduated from Millbury High School and has received a full scholarship to study at Worcester State University.

COLLEGE

Thomas Sedares will be graduated from Worcester State University with a B.A. in Sociology and is working towards his next goal of obtaining a commercial pilot's license.

Catherine Soliman will be graduated from Framingham State University and is pursuing admission to medical school.

Tony Trakadas will be graduated *summa cum laude* from the Commonwealth Honors College of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, with a degree in Information and Computer Sciences.

Sarah Bourisk will be graduated from the University of New Haven with a double major in Forensic Science and premed and will continue her graduate studies there in the fall majoring in Forensic Technology.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Zachary Demma will be graduated from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and will serve his Internship/Residency there also.

May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!

THE RUSH OF WIND AND TONGUES OF FIRE

THIS is the eighth Sunday of Pascha, the day of Pentecost. It is also the Fiftieth Day after Pascha. In Biblical imagery infinity is usually described as seven times seven, because seven is considered the number of perfection. Seven times seven (forty-nine) is perfection squared. Fifty is beyond perfection; it is God's time.

The Holy Spirit comes to us in God's time not only as a sign, but as the actual reality of the promised Kingdom. He comes as wind and fire (cf. Act 2:2,3). His presence fills the space, while also resting on each one individually. He makes God known to us and enables us to proclaim Him to the world.

The principle text for the Feast is Acts 2:1-11. Even though the Pentecost event is the final chapter in the whole story of God's economy (His plan of salvation), St. Luke places it at the beginning of the second volume of his Gospel (i.e., Acts). What began with the Birth of the Savior, ends with the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is placed at the beginning of the second volume because even though it may be the final chapter of one story, it is also the beginning of another. The coming of the Holy Spirit to 'rest' on us (v. 3) is the birth of the Church. The Apostles' missionary activity described in the Book of Acts requires the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Christian Feast of Pascha has roots in the Old Testament Feast of Passover, so too the Christian Feast of Pentecost has a Jewish antecedent. It was approximately fifty days after the Children of Israel had left Egypt that they arrived at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1ff). There Moses ascended to God who revealed Himself by fire and smoke and wind (cf. Exodus 19:18, also Isaiah 66:15ff). Moses ascends the mountain to meet God and descends with the Tablets of the Law.

God fulfills and perfects His Law in the New Covenant with the outpouring of the Spirit. When the people ran and

gathered to find out what was causing the sound of rushing wind, St. Peter answered them with words from the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ... And I will give portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke." (Joel 2:28-30, Acts 2:14-20)

When the Holy Spirit descended on those assembled in the upper room, tongues of fire appeared and were distributed and rested on each one there (v. 3), not just the Apostles, but everyone. As the Prophet Joel said, "Even upon the menservants and maidservants in those days, I will pour out my spirit." (Joel 2:29) The Holy Spirit is a gift to the whole Church. The gifts of the Spirit are distributed to each one (cf. Ephesians 4:11) for the building up of the Body of Christ. We have been given these gifts in Baptism and Holy Anointing (Chrismation).

When the Spirit had been given to them they all began to speak in tongues. Some commentators think this might have been glossolalia (cf. 1 Corinthians 12ff), what Pentecostal Christians call 'speaking in tongues,' but St. Luke says, "other tongues," and records how Jews from all over the world who were in Jerusalem at the time were amazed and said, "how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?" (v. 8) So, while some may have been 'speaking in tongues,' the Spirit had also given them the power to speak in languages so that everyone could understand.

The Church has always understood the Pentecost event as a remedy to the division of humanity into languages and nations following the sin of Babel. In Genesis (11:1-9) we read that in the beginning everyone spoke one language. This enabled people to begin to build a

tower "with its top in the heavens." They said that they wanted to "make a name" for themselves. The problem was not that they were cooperating; it was how they were cooperating. Their cooperation led them to believe arrogantly that they could challenge God. Seeing how their arrogance was bringing them to evil purpose, God "confused their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Unable to communicate with one another, they scattered throughout the world abandoning their Tower.

The Tower of Babel divided humanity. The Holy Spirit restored that unity on the day of Pentecost. However, the unity we have in the Holy Spirit is different than the pre-Babel unity in one very important respect. The unity of Babel was predicated on a uniformity of language and, one can presume, culture. The unity that the Holy Spirit brings preserves our particular and distinctive characteristics. It is unity in diversity and diversity in unity. The Church sees the Pentecost event as a way to understand how diverse peoples can be one in Christ. Historically, unity of faith has not necessitated one language or even one uniform practice throughout the Church. We can share one faith and be one Church even as we acknowledge our ethnic and cultural diversity.

When St. Peter had finished speaking to the assembled crowd on Pentecost day, people asked him what they should do. He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him" (Acts 2:38-39).

"And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (v. 21).

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA