

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 30, 2017

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE DORMITION FAST in preparation for the Feast of the Falling-Asleep of the Theotokos begins this Tuesday, August 1st, and continues through Friday, August 15th. This is an important time for us to reflect on the example of love and sacrifice the Lord's Mother gives us.

A PITA DOUGH ROLLING session, **THIS COMING Saturday, August 5th**, 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!**

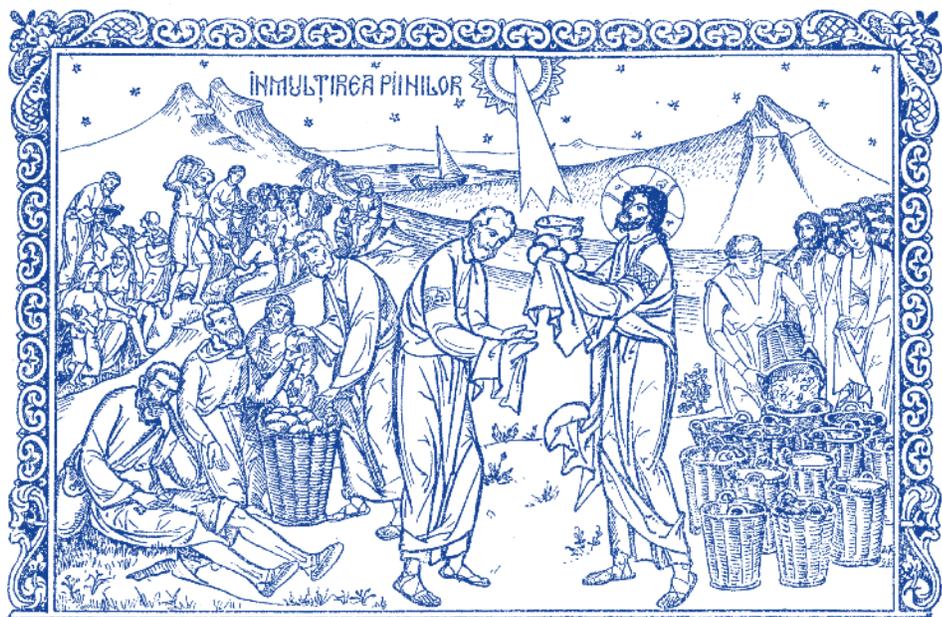
FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, August 5th, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola.**

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS ON! We will be holding

GREETERS TEAM 5:
DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:14-22

(JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND — MULTIPLICATION OF FISH AND LOAVES)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

Vacation Church School on **August 7-9** in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. **PARENTS**, please let Valarie know if your kid(s) will be participating. **Questions?** see or e-mail: Valarie Stamoulis (valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com); cell: 617-803-3798.

THANKS TO THE ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING team, especially to Gerry Belba who has faithfully headed this effort for more than a few years.

FR. NICK IS STILL TAKING QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER SERMONS. This is your chance to ask the question you've always wondered about. **There are forms at the candles or you may e-mail your suggestion to him.**

THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Spiro & Christina Kelly.**

UP-COMING

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is Friday, August 18th. We'll need help cooking and serving. This month's meal is sponsored by Janice Samara and family in memory of Randy Samara. God bless them! If you or your family would like to sponsor a future meal, or a portion thereof, the cost of the meal — around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve, please talk to Fr. Nick. We're also always excited about people

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, July 30 St. Michael Southbridge Festival
VacationChurchSchool Registration Due
- Aug 1-15 Dormition Fast
- Sat, Aug 5 Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-noon
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Aug 7-9 Vacation Church School
- Fri, Aug 18 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

who'd like to help out in the holy task.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MICHAEL ANNUAL PICNIC will be held on **Sunday, July 30th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm**, on the grounds at Romanian Avenue in Southbridge, featuring the usual fare: Shish-Kebab, Home Made Romanian Pastries, music and many more surprises. More information: www.stmichaelorthodox.com

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY COOKOUT on **Thursday, August 3rd at 11:30 a.m.** Everyone's welcomed! Please RSVP to Serena at shields@htnr.net or call 508-852-1000.

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/

NAMEDAYS

July 17

The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia
Margarite Landry

July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah (Elias)
Elias James Christo
Irli Ilie Durmillari
Louis Evan Stamoulis

July 24

The Holy Great Martyr Christina
Christine Masterjohn



Holy Virgin Martyr Paraskeva of Rome (July 26) was the only daughter of Christian parents, Agathon and Politia, and from her early years she dedicated herself to God. She spent much of her time in prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. After the death of her parents St Paraskeva distributed all of her inheritance to the poor, and consecrated her virginity to Christ. Emulating the holy Apostles, she began to preach to the pagans about Christ, converting many to Christianity.

She was arrested during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161) because she refused to worship the idols. She was brought to trial and fearlessly confessed herself a Christian. Neither enticements of honors and material possessions, nor threats of torture and death shook the firmness of the saint nor turned her from Christ. She was given over to beastly tortures. They put a red-hot helmet on her head and threw her in a cauldron filled with boiling oil and pitch. By the power of God the holy martyr remained unharmed. When the emperor peered into the cauldron, St Paraskeva threw a drop of the hot liquid in his face, and he was burned. The emperor began to ask her for help, and the holy martyr healed him. After this the

emperor set her free.

Traveling from one place to another to preach the Gospel, St Paraskeva arrived in a city where the governor was named Asclepius. Here again they tried the saint and sentenced her to death. They took her to an immense serpent living in a cave, so that it would devour her. But St Paraskeva made the Sign of the Cross over the snake and it died. Asclepius and the citizens witnessed this miracle and believed in Christ. She was set free, and continued her preaching. In a city where the governor was a certain Tarasius, St Paraskeva endured fierce tortures and was beheaded in 140 AD.

Many miracles took place at the saint's tomb: the blind received sight, the lame walked, and barren women gave birth to children. It is not only in the past that the saint performed her miracles, but even today she helps those who call on her in faith.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

ALMIGHTY LORD AND GOD: We desire to be true disciples of yours, not only in words, but in our actions, that in our own person we may glorify your divine grace. We realize that this implies, first and foremost, the practice of fraternal charity in every-day living. Yet, our weakness and stubbornness frequently prevent us from achieving this, and, without your help, our efforts are fruitless. In your love for us, enable us to love each other truly, no matter — and this is the core of the problem! — who the other is.

For you alone can do all things, and for this we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

THE Gospel lesson for this Sunday, the eighth after Pentecost, is St. Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand in the wilderness (Matthew 14:14-22). When Jesus learned from the disciples of John the Baptist that he had been beheaded by Herod, he decided to withdraw into a deserted place to be by himself and pray. He got into a boat, but the crowds followed him along the shore by foot. Eventually, this multitude of people — five thousand men, besides women and children (v. 21) — completely focused on following the Lord, found themselves in a wilderness.

The reaction of the Lord is one of gentleness and compassion. Seeing their faith and their need, he went ashore and without having to be asked he cured those who were sick (v. 14). Then the Lord prepared to feed them spiritually; and he did this by first nourishing their bodies.

It was only as evening approached that the disciples became anxious thinking of the needs of all these people now stranded in this lonely place. They would need food. Realizing that they themselves didn't have enough food to feed this many people, the disciples urged Jesus to send them away to buy some, but the Lord said: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat" (v. 16).

Let's stop here for a moment and reflect on the situation and what the Lord said. We know that the disciples have nothing more than five loaves and two fish. The Lord is asking the disciples to distribute out of their meager resources food that would not have sufficed even for themselves, let alone ten thousand plus persons. This is what they under-



stand the Lord to have said. But, the Lord is not testing the faith of the disciples. He has something greater in mind. He is preparing to teach them how God works, and how God will work through them. Rather than distribute the food himself, he pulls the disciples into the center of this wonder.

In commenting on this passage, St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the smallest of details. He notes that the Lord, rather than say: "I will feed them,"



...WITH 5 LOAVES + 2 FISH
OVER 5,000 WERE FED...

turns to the disciples and says: "you feed them." How do the disciples respond? "We have only five loaves and two fish." In spite of the fact that they had already seen so many wondrous things done by Jesus, even there in that very place among the multitude, their thinking remains narrow. Jesus tells them to bring the fish and bread to him and then orders the crowds to sit.

He takes the food and in front of everyone offers a prayer to his Father to show them — and us — that at all times, we need to stop and give thanks to the One who in truth gives us our food. Then he breaks the loaves and gives the pieces to the disciples to distribute. He not only works this great miracle, he

enlists the disciples to participate in and become witnesses to it as the food is multiplied in their very hands. The crowd which saw the five loaves and the two fish also see the disciples feeding everyone with it. Finally, not only is everyone fed and satisfied, but there is an abundance of food remaining.

Our God is compassionate. He heals our sicknesses. He feeds our stomachs. He nourishes our souls. He draws us to Heaven without ignoring our everyday earthly needs.

For our part, we are asked to follow him. Like these people who left everything simply to hear Jesus, we need to "lay aside all earthly cares" (as we sing in the Cherubim Hymn). And when we are about to take nourishment from the abundance he gives us, we should never forget to first stop and give thanks to the Giver of every good thing (cf. James 1:17).

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA