

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES begin this Sunday, September 24th.** If you have not registered your child, and would like to do so, you may complete a registration form here at Church. If anyone would like more information, **speak with Valarie Stamoulis or Preoteasa Maria.**

As a reminder, quiet space to hold Religious Ed classes is limited. It takes very little to disrupt a class of children from lessons their teachers have prepared. **We ask for your cooperation during the time after communion, and during the sermon and coffee-hour.** Please remain in the Church and do not disrupt classes by walking in the coffee hour area, hallway or going to the kitchen.

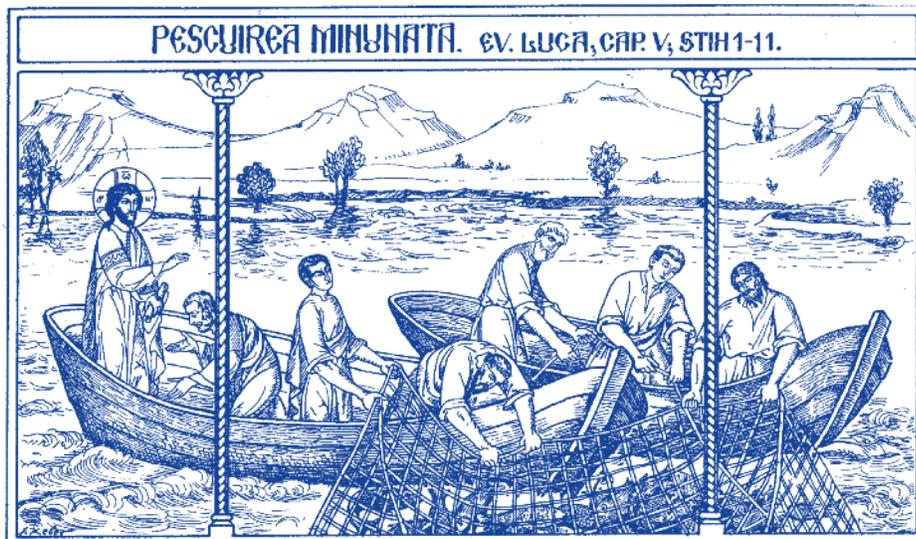
**THANKS TO THE CHURCH CLEANERS!** Thanks to Christine Masterjohn and her team for doing some of the necessary deep cleaning! If you'd like to help in the future, please speak with her, and she'll put you on the volunteer list.

**THANKS TO THE PITA BAKERS!** They've been diligently baking in preparation for the Holiday season. **Questions?** talk to **Chris Toda, 508-832-6271.** She'll let you know how you can help. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CREW B:**  
KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
APOSTOLIC READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 5:1-11  
(THE MIRACULOUS CATCH)  
TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 5

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED** for the coming months. If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Hour please speak with **Presvytera Maria.**

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Eleanor Sedares** in honor of the birth of her new great-grandson **Logan George Oster**, son of proud parents Anastasia (Sedares) and Frank Oster, and proud big brothers Caulin and Thomas. **May God grant them Many Years!**

## UP-COMING

**AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING** day is set for **THIS COMING Saturday, October 7th.** If you're able and willing to help, please speak with **Gerry Belba.**

**A GIFT BASKET RAFFLE** is an additional fundraiser at our **Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 18th.** We are asking for donations of **NEW** items all centered on a

theme to be assembled into gift baskets. We also welcome cash donations. All items must be received by November 5th. **Questions?** contact **Tim Rucho** (tjruchov@verizon.net)

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, October 7th, 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.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Sept 23 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
- Sun, Sept 24 Religious Ed Classes begin
- Sat, Oct 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon  
e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
- Thurs, Oct 19 Holy Trinity Wine & Food Fest
- Fri, Oct 20 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm
- Sat, Nov 18 Holiday Marketplace, etc.!

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**E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG**

*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**ARCHDEACON SERAPHIM** of St. George Cathedral will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on October 22nd. He has served at St. George for over 25 years. We wish him well, and say with a loud voice: *Axios!*

**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY** is holding an open house on **Thursday, Oct 22nd at 7:00 pm** for prospective students (young women grades 7-12). For info: [www.nda-worc.org](http://www.nda-worc.org), or call: 508-757-6200 x229.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

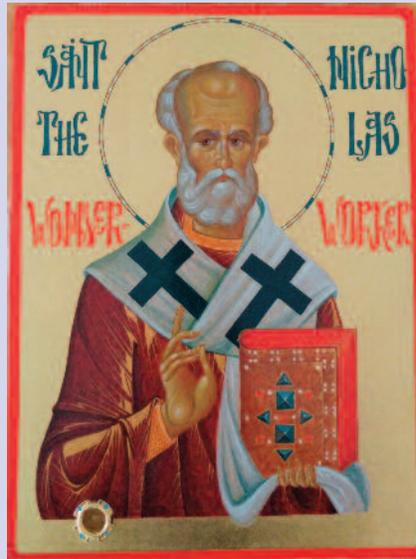
**HERE IT COMES!** Another great **FOOD & WINE FEST** benefiting Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center. Terrific food, music, wine and friends while supporting a great facility. Can't ask for more! Thursday, Oct. 19th, 5:30-8:30 at St. George Cathedral, 30 Anna St., Worcester. **For tickets see either Irene Tsoules or Margarite Landry.**

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**E**TERNAL FATHER: Keep our minds from souring and our feelings from growing hard and callous. Let us hold on to compassion and tenderness, to empathy and understanding. Prevent us from becoming cynics because of all the evils we see around us. Let not our own lives be a sham, a great deception; but rather, make us authentic human beings who truly seek to be like you, as your only Son taught us.

By the grace and mercies and love for us of your only Son, this same Lord, Jesus Christ, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.



### A GREAT GIFT TO OUR PARISH

**O**UR HUMBLE PARISH OF **ST. NICHOLAS** has been blessed with a Holy Gift. His Grace Bishop Siluan of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy has shared with us a relic of our Patron: Saint Nicholas. Moreover, Fr. Daniel Ene, the Dean

of our Eastern Deanery and Secretary of the Archdiocese, commissioned an Icon of St. Nicholas for us, and in which the relic rests.

Some have asked, "What is a relic?" It can be a few things, but in this case it is a sliver of the bones of our beloved Patron. His full remains rest in Bari, Italy where they were taken from Myra in Lycia (present-day Turkey) to Bari, where they remain today. The sarcophagus that contain his body regularly fills with a clear fragrant oil called Manna that is distributed and used to anoint the myriad of faithful.

We will find a place within our temporary Church space to properly house this wonderful gift so that all can properly venerate the Icon and the Relic of our beloved Patron.

St. Nicholas has always blessed and watched over our community. To have him present with us in this special way is overwhelming! Through his intercessions on our behalf, may our Lord always have mercy on us.

## NAMEDAYS

### September 14

*The Exaltation of the  
Precious and Lifegiving Cross*

Stavri Tanacea

### September 17

*The Holy Martyr Sophia of Rome*

Sofia Apostol

Sophia Amyra Apostola

Carol Fotos

*The Holy Martyr Faith,  
Daughter of St. Sophia*

Faith Mayer



## DEPART FROM ME FOR I AM A SINFUL MAN

**T**HIS Sunday we begin reading passages from the Gospel according to St. Luke. After the Feast of the Cross, up until Christmas, Scripture selections for Sundays and weekday services are taken from the Gospel of Luke. Just as we began the Gospel of St. Matthew with the call of the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22), so the Holy Fathers who fashioned the Gospel lectionary decided that the first Sunday of St. Luke should also be his account of the disciples' call (Luke 5:1-11). It is a subtle way of telling us that being called is the first "mark" of being a Christian. We are, each of us in our own way, "called" by God. It is our challenge to discern this call, to discover what God wants for and from us.

In Luke's account Jesus has already begun his ministry. He has preached. He has cast out unclean spirits. He has even healed Peter's mother-in-law. There are many signs that precede this encounter by the Sea of Galilee, but now something will be different. He is going to call his disciples, and especially Peter, in a very special way.

St. Luke tells us that a crowd was following Jesus when he was at the Lake of Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee). He saw two boats there, one of which belonged to Simon (who later would be given the name Peter) (v. 2). Jesus entered the boat and asked him to put out from shore just a little. This was so that he could address the crowd from the boat, since the water would act like an amplifier, enabling everyone to hear him.

When he had finished speaking, Jesus asked Simon to put out even farther from the shore and let down the nets in deeper waters. Simon said: "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets" (v. 5). When they had done so, they caught so many fish

that the nets began to break and they had to call to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. Both boats were filled almost to the point of sinking.

Simon Peter's reaction is to immediately recognize the power of God in Jesus. He falls to his knees and says: "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (v. 8) Notice the difference in how Simon Peter changes the way he addresses Jesus. When Jesus asked him to put out into the deep, Simon calls him "Master" reflecting the respect he had for him, as a teacher or prophet. When he sees the catch of fish he calls him "Lord," in recognition of God at work in Jesus. He asks Jesus to go away from him, for being aware of his own sinfulness, he shrinks back in fear. He knew that for a sinner to be in the presence of God or His angels meant death.

Jesus understood Simon's anxiety and calms him with the words: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." However, these are also life-altering words. Peter's life will never be the same. From the original Greek it is clear that the Lord is speaking to Peter directly. St. Luke brings this account of the disciple's call to a close by telling us how they responded. "When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him" (v. 11). This powerful imagery of simple fishermen, now charged to gather all peo-

ples into their nets, is a central theme in the writings of our Church. As the Troparion for the Feast of Pentecost states, "You made wise men, out of poor fishermen ... and through them you caught all the world."

God calls us from the place that we are, to a life beyond what we can imagine. Simon and his companions clearly knew Jesus before that day at the Lake of Gennesaret. What they didn't know was what Jesus had in store for them. Jesus called them from the simple life they knew, to one in which they would change the whole world. May each one of us strive to hear that call for our own lives, and have the courage to respond.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

