

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 15, 2017

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **THIS Friday, October 20th**. Please join us with cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), noon Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **This month's meal is sponsored by Maria Kalpidou and Kosmas Karadimitriou** in memory of Maria's grandmother, **Maria Albani**, and the members of their family, fallen asleep. **May their memory be eternal!** If you'd like to help with the meal, please talk to Fr. Nick.

PITA BAKING. There will be a **Pita Baking Session, Saturday, October 28th, 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!**

UP-COMING

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON AND MARKET-PLACE is coming up on November 18th. Check out the detailed announcements below!

OUR ANNUAL FEASTDAY CELE-

GREETERS TEAM 1:
V. GERALD BELBA AND MARGARITE LANDRY

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-20 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:5-15

(THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 8

BRATION will be held on **Sunday, December 3rd**. We will again have a catered luncheon, and are **seeking donations to underwrite that cost**. If you have it in your heart to contribute towards that effort, please speak with Fr. Nick or any member of the Parish Council.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE IVERON HAWAIIAN ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS will be at Ss. Constantine & Helen in Webster on **Monday, October 16th** from 5:30 pm, and at St. George Cathedral on Anna Street, on **Wednesday, October 18th**, from 7:00 am through the the Paraklesis service at 7:00 pm. The Theotokos has worked many miracles through this Myrrh-streaming image. **It is a great blessing to have this holy image here with us.**

PROF. CANDACE HETZNER, of Boston College, will deliver the Bishop Flanagan Lecture at **Assumption Col-**

lege on Wednesday, October 18th at 7:00 pm. The title of her talk will be: **"An Orthodox College?"** She will address the question as to why has Christian Orthodoxy done so little to establish institutions of higher learning in the United States, and argue that many features of the theology of the Church, as well as Orthodox Christian experience in its various jurisdictions, would provide a rich culture for intellectual and spiritual development for both students and the Church itself. Now is the time for the Orthodox Church to invest in a robust Orthodox college. Admission is free. **Location: Testa Science Center, Room 006, Fuller Auditorium.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Oct 19 Holy Trinity Wine & Food Fest
Fri, Oct 20 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm
Sat, Oct 28 Pita Baking, 9am-noon
Sat, Nov 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Sat, Nov 11 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Sat, Nov 18 Holiday Marketplace, etc.!
Sun, Dec 3 Feastday Celebration

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850

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

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

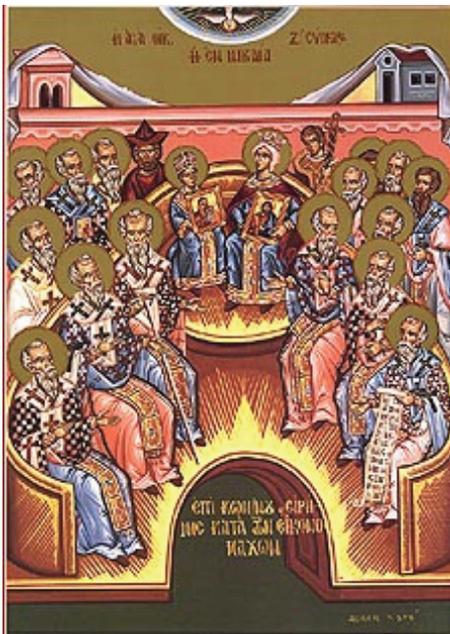
ARCHDEACON SERAPHIM of St. George Cathedral will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on October 22nd. He has served at St. George for over 25 years. We wish him well, and say with a loud voice: *Axios!*

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, 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.**

THE SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL



Hoday the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

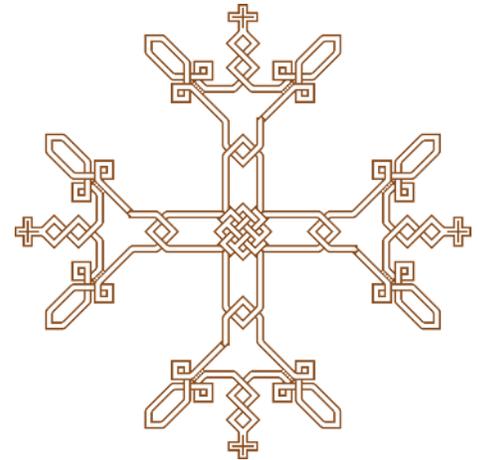
The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

How often, indeed, does our tongue lead us into sin, O God! For one thing, we talk too much — too much of it needless, empty talk. In so doing we lose the ability to control ourselves, for we must have the last word in every instance. Besides this, we fail to put out the smouldering embers of anger, grudge-bearing, and simple mindlessness that threaten to burst into offensive, stinging words and attitudes. Help us to learn some self-control, to think before we speak, and to reflect on our appearance before your throne. Our hope lies in you alone.

For yours is dominion, and your is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



NAMEDAYS

October 7

The Holy Martyr Sergius in Syria

Sergis Eleftheriou

October 18

The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke

Fr. Luke Veronis

October 20

The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Moraitis

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis

HOW FERTILE IS YOUR HEART?

THE Lord oftentimes uses the art of story-telling in the form of parables to convey a greater truth to His listeners. Probably more than any other literary device the parable is able to help its hearers understand and retain a deep message. It paints a mental picture for us so that the words are then recalled and reinforced by the image. Jesus, in particular, often tells a story taken from examples out of everyday life, and then gives them new meaning. The advantage of a parable is that long after we've forgotten the words, the image painted in our minds remains for deeper reflection.

The Gospel lesson this week is such a parable. It is the story of a farmer sowing seeds in his field (Luke 8:5-15). While this sort of scene is not so much a common part of our experience today, for the people who were listening to Jesus it was a part of everyday life and essential for their survival. They themselves had either sown a field, or they would have seen it being done hundreds of times. They didn't need too many details.

There are three important "players" in this parable: the Sower, the Seed, and the Place where the seed lands. The Sower throws his seed carefully — he's not going to squander it — but he's generous as well. He doesn't discriminate; he wants as much of his field as possible to produce a bountiful crop.

Certainly the quality of the seed matters. The Sower picks and prepares the best seed, but this is not a precise art. If in this parable the seed is likened to the Word of God, the Preacher recognizes how important it is to preach the Word well. But, in spite of the Sower's best efforts the Seed will often land where it wills. Neither the Sower's skill nor the Seed's quality are the only deter-



mining factors. Where the seed lands is probably the most critical piece, as anyone who's tried to seed a new lawn knows.

The Lord gives us these very real examples. He said that some seed fell on a trodden path and were eaten by birds; some fell on rocky soil and withered for lack of water; some fell among thorns and weeds and were choked out; and some fell on good soil where they produced abundantly (v. 5-8).

Fortunately we have the advantage of not only having heard the parable before, but also of having had it explained to us. However, the Lord's disciples were a little at a loss, so he provided them with a clear explanation of the parable. He said: "The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they

go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance." (v. 11-15).

The Lord is talking about "receptivity;" our willingness to really listen to what God is saying to us, and to put the 'seed' deep within our hearts so that it might take root and grow. This kind of receptivity is what leads to change in a person's heart.

Look again at the story. The Sower is throwing the seed generously and even somewhat indiscriminately. God is constantly trying to reach us. He speaks to everyone. He doesn't play favorites. If a person doesn't read the Scriptures, all that he or she would have to do is to look up in the sky and behold the wonder of the universe. Or, gaze at the smallest creature and marvel at its beauty.

And, lest anyone think that by giving examples of rocky ground or weeds and thorns the Lord is saying that certain people are incapable of hearing and keeping the Word, ask any farmer or gardener what they do to enhance and maintain the fertility of their soil. Do we not also need to be constantly cultivating and fertilizing the soil of our hearts? Shouldn't we remove the rocks and thorns from our hearts?

The Lord wants us to properly prepare the soil of our hearts — the receptivity of our souls — so that He might find a place for His Word to grow. Let us open our hearts to God's Word. Let it take root in us and bear fruit a hundred-fold.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 18
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church. People will be there setting up all day Thursday (Nov. 16) and Friday (Nov. 17).
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 17** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 18. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda (thetodas@msn.com) or Betty Anderson (bettya16@verizon.net).
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board and at the candle stand for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** with pitas and pastries here at the Church and also with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda** (thetodas@msn.com) and **Betty Anderson** (Bettya16@verizon.net).
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson**.

- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by **November 5th**, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 18 & 19.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by **December 3rd**, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 16 & 17. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***
- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We have a record number of Vendors this year that will greatly enhance this event.

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:

- **Gift-Basket Raffle: As part of our Holiday Marketplace** we will again hold a gift basket raffle. If you have a creative flair, put together a gift basket based on a favorite theme! We are also seeking donations of **NEW** items to be assembled into gift baskets or cash donations are always welcome, but **all donations are needed by November 5th** because baskets must be assembled in advance. **Questions?** contact **Tim Rucho** (tjruch@verizon.net)