

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 22, 2017

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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!**

THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS! Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! Thanks also to the **Kalpidou/Karadimitriou family** for sponsoring the meal. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve. Our next scheduled meal is December 22nd. Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

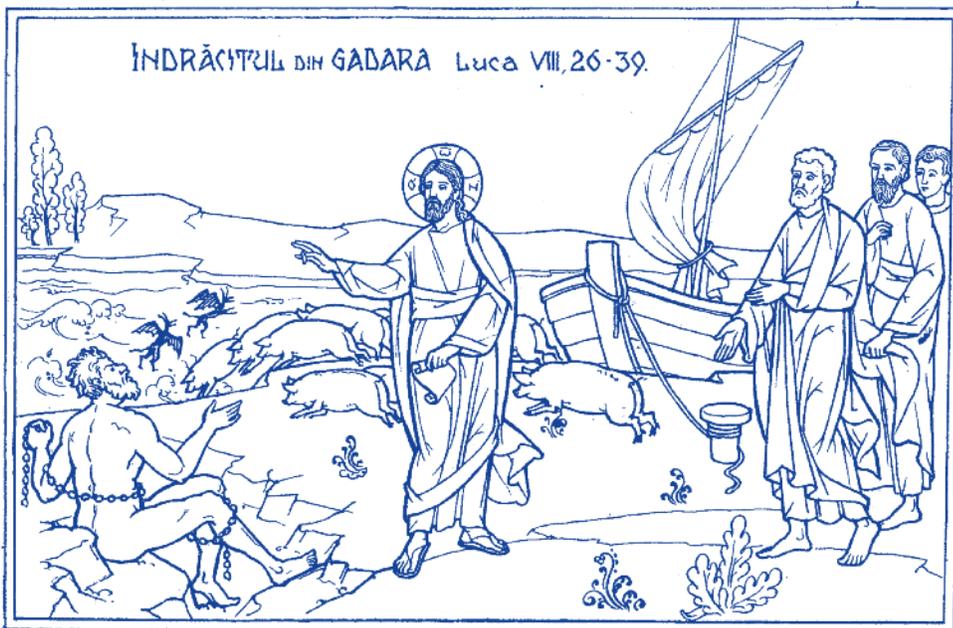
WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL today for the servant of God **Ann Marie Chachi**, fallen asleep two years. May her memory be eternal!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Chachi family** in memory of Ann Marie.

GREETERS TEAM 2:
ARTIC GAVALA AND V. GERALD BELBA

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
APOSTOLIC READING: EPHESIANS 2:4-10 ☩ **GOSPEL: LUKE 8:26-39**
(JESUS HEALS THE GERASENE DEMONIAK)
TONE 3 ☩ **MATINS GOSPEL 9**

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 CELEBRATION 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.

ANOTHER ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **Saturday, November 11th**. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with **Gerry Belba**.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MICHAEL SOUTHBRIDGE will be celebrating its **Feastday with Great Vespers on Saturday, November 4th** (6:00 pm), and **Liturgy and a Dinner on Sunday, December 5th**, with His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae celebrating. Please mark your calendars!



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

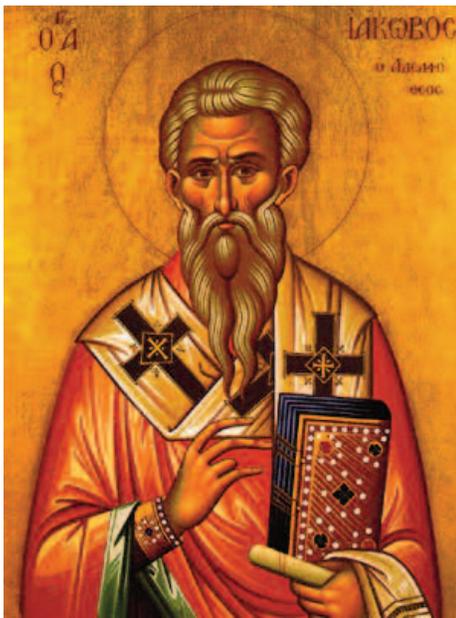
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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER'S board of trustees, management and staff are all fully committed to ensuring every patient and family experiences great care, compassion, and respect. This is our highest priority. "Holy Trinity is a facility that we should all be proud to call home for our loved ones in need of long term care and re-

habilitation services" according to Stephen Fotos Jr., President of the Board. **Read the full letter** to the community on Holy Trinity's website www.htnr.net/in-the-news.html.

REMEMBER: Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is an Orthodox Charity and relies on your donations to continue its mission of providing the best care possible.



THE APOSTLE JAMES BROTHER OF OUR LORD (OCTOBER 23)

Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). From his early years James was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach

the nation about the Kingdom of God, St James believed in Christ and became His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

St James presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, St James converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill St James. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. St James' martyrdom occurred about 63 A.D.

The holy Apostle James composed a Divine Liturgy, which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Sts Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of St James, one of the books of the New Testament.

In 1853, Patriarch Hierotheus of Alexandria sent to Moscow a portion of the relics of St James. The Church distinguishes between the holy Apostle James the Brother of God, and St James the son of Zebedee (April 30) and St James the son of Alphaeus (October 9).

NAMEDAYS

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

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

OU YOU WHO ARE THE SOURCE of all power and authority, eternal Father: You yourself have given the throne over all things to your Christ, and to him we have pledged our lives. In your divine loving kindness, strip us of everything that is ours and fill us with what is yours, that we may rise to genuine transcendence by winning access to our own true selves.

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

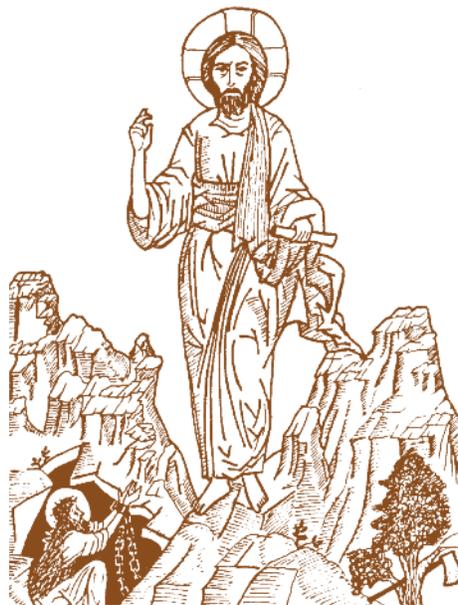
SPIRITUAL HEALING

THE GOSPEL LESSON THIS WEEK is St. Luke's account of the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac (Luke 8:26-39). (A demoniac is a person believed to be possessed by a demon.) We heard St. Matthew's account (Matthew 8:28-9:1) earlier in the year. The most obvious difference between the two accounts is that Matthew tells of two demoniacs, but Luke only one. St. John Chrysostom speaks to this discrepancy by offering the opinion that St. Luke did not say that there was just one. Rather, he thinks that Luke was singling out the fiercest one for his narrative.

Leaving aside this difference, I think that the additional details that both Luke and Mark provide in their respective renderings give us some powerful insights into the demoniac's healing, as well as our own spiritual struggle. St. Matthew oftentimes gives us a "bare bones" account of the stories he's relating. When we read all four of the Gospels we are able to gain valuable details and insights that provide a more complete picture.

Here is a brief recounting of the story. Jesus and his disciples land on the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee in the country of the Gerasenes. There they encounter a demoniac who pleads with Jesus not to torment him (them) before the time. Jesus grants the demons' request to enter a nearby herd of swine, which the demons then lead to immediate destruction. The resident Gerasenes were terrified by the Lord's action and asked him and his disciples to leave, which they did.

I would like to focus on two aspects of this story that St. Luke, as well as St. Mark, bring to our attention. The first is the "name" of the demon, and the second is what Jesus asks the man to do after he has been healed.



When the Lord encountered the demoniac on the shore, naked and dwelling in tombs, he immediately commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man (v. 29). The man (that is, the demons) pleads with Jesus not to cast them into the abyss. Then Jesus asks, "What is your name?" (v. 30) The man replies, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. (v. 30)

Let's pause here and reflect on the word "legion." A Roman legion consisted of 3-6,000 soldiers. While we might consider that the demons were using the term metaphorically, this still means that "many demons had entered" the man. Think about the torture and torment that this man was suffering. We know from the Gospel accounts that even when guarded and kept shackled with chains, the demons would give him the strength to break the bonds and then drive him into the wild. St. Mark tells us that he howled and cut himself with stones. (v. 5:5)

Was it the demons who were driving him to self-destruction, or was it his true self trying to be free from the tor-

ment? It would be hard for us to even imagine what this man was suffering. Perhaps we can gain some sort of insight when we're told that even the swine threw themselves over a cliff and into the sea in order to be free from the demons.

Now, to the second point, what the Lord asks of this man. After being healed the man "begged" Jesus to allow him to join his company. Jesus tells him to go back home, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." (v. 39) St. Mark records Jesus as saying, "Go home to your friends, and tell them ... what mercy God has shown you." (v. 5:19)

The man's healing was not complete. Surely he was embarrassed knowing all of the terrible things he had done. He did not want to face the people who knew him when he was sick. At the same time, the Gerasenes were either frightened by or unwilling to accept the healing. They saw what the demons had done to the man and the effect they had even on the swine. To accept the man's healing would compel them to believe in the power of God's Grace. After He had healed the man, they wanted, even needed, Jesus to leave as well. It would seem that both the man and the townspeople need time for more healing — a spiritual healing.

We often ask for God's help, but we should know that His help comes "at a price." God, in the person of Jesus, does indeed meet us on our own level, where we are at, but we will not be left unaffected. God's love for us requires a response. The encounter with God will ask us to have the faith and courage to change and grow.

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 on Friday, Nov 17 with set up and packaging of items for sale** and with staffing on Saturday, Nov 18. If you have questions please contact: 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 fliers** 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)