

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

A PITA DOUGH ROLLING Session will be held, **THIS COMING Thursday, February 8th, 9:00 am to noon.** **Questions?** talk to Betty Anderson (508-756-4848) or Chris Toda, 508-832-6271. Also, let us know if you'll be available. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

And, while we're on the topic of **BAKING**, check out the baking totals on the next page!

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS is this coming Saturday, **February 10th.** Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 am. If you would like to make the Memorial Wheat (coliva), please contact Fr. Nick.

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is **THIS COMING** Friday, February 16th. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), 12 noon Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

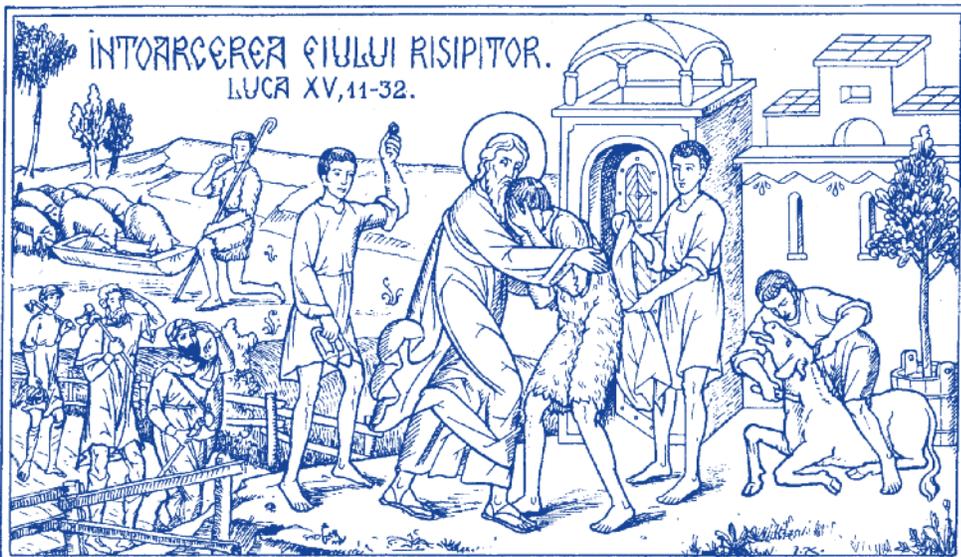
GREETERS TEAM 2:

ARTIC GAVALA AND V. GERALD BELBA

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP TEAM A:

MARGARITE LANDRY,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 15:11-32
(SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON)
TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 2

THE BLESSING OF HOMES AT THEOPHANY IS WRAPPING-UP. If Fr. Nick hasn't already contacted you, please e-mail or call (508-335-7378) him to arrange a time for next week.

PITAS AVAILABLE. There are a pitas available for purchase. If you're interest please speak with Betty Anderson.

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 March 3rd.

A FORTY DAY BLESSING will be held today for **Amelia Rose Fahey**, daughter of Iliana and Sean Fahey and sister to Katherine. *May God bless*

them with Many Years!

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you would like to sponsor one.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the grandchildren of **Jim and Argie Vlamis: Louis, James, Mark and Katherine Stamoulis.**

UP-COMING

THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Feb 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Sat, Feb 10 Saturday of the Souls, Liturgy 10am
- Sun, Feb 11 Meatfare Sunday
- Fri, Feb 16 Mustard Seed, 5 pm
- Sun, Feb 18 Cheesefare Sunday; Sun of Forgiveness
- Mon, Feb 19 Great Lent begins
- Wed, Feb 21 PreSanctified Lit at St. Spyridon 6pm
- Wed, Feb 28 PreSanctified Lit at St. George 6pm
- Sun, April 1 Palm Sunday (Western Easter)
- Sun, April 8 Great and Holy Pascha

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

SCHEDULE is posted a little farther down. Please make note of the dates and places. The first PreSanctified Liturgy will be held at **St. Spyridon Cathedral on Wednesday, February 21st.**

PRESVYTERA MARIA has been invited to speak at **Sts. Anargyroi, Marlborough**, by the Enosis-Philoptochos on **Sunday, February 25th** at 3:00 pm. She will be talking about her responsibilities as the Child Advocate of the Commonwealth and her work on behalf of especially children in need. The conversation is open to all. Please mark your calendars.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity has an openings on all shift for RNs, LPNs and CNAs. For more information: call Michelle Williamson at (508) 852-1000, ext. 218 or e-mail: mwilliamson@htnr.net. Or, stop by Holy Trinity and fill out an application.

HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS! Local Charter TV3 interviewed Holy Trinity's **Maintenance Director, Jacob Korzec** on how the facility prepares for and treats black ice conditions. Also interviewed was **Merideth Toomey, Assistant Director of Nursing & Staff Development** on how Holy Trinity is dealing with Flu conditions. Watch the interview: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhYQUpKnKfw

COMMUNITY NEWS

Notre Dame Academy (Catholic, college prep school for young women) is inviting seventh grade and transfer students to spend an academic day at NDA through May 1st. **If you're interested contact the Admissions Office at admissions@nda-worc.org.**

NAMEDAYS

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos

Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and master of my life! Dispel from me the spirit of discouragement and slothfulness, of ambition and vain talk!

Instead, give me the spirit of prudence and humility, of patience and charity.

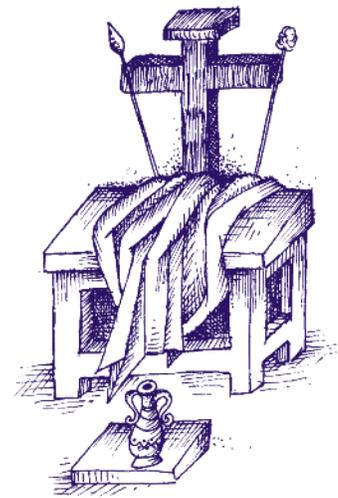
Yes, my king and Lord, let me look at my own sins and refrain from judging others: For you are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

GLORY TO YOU, O FATHER, for allowing the two elders to gaze upon your Christ! Glory to you, O Son, for giving Simeon the strength to welcome you into his arms! Glory to you, O Spirit, for letting the two elders depart in peace! O holy Trinity, one God: As we go forth to another day, make us also worthy of welcoming your Christ in the person of our brothers and sisters. At all times, touch our souls with your tender mercies, suffuse our lives with peace and tranquility, and let us meet this day creatively, with freshness of wisdom, understanding, and vision.

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



PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES

2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

St. Spyridon

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

St. George

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

St. Nicholas

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

St. Mary

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

St. Nicholas

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Sts. Anargyroi

BAKING STATISTICS

**During 2017
St. Nick's Kitchen
baked and sold:**

**365 Pitas
129 Platters
2500 Baklava
2800 Kourabia
3900 Kouralakia
65 Breads**

WOW!

ALL THINGS MAY BE LAWFUL ... BUT ARE ALL THINGS HELPFUL?

THIS is the second preparatory week before Great Lent — the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. The Epistle lesson this week is from St. Paul First Letter to the Corinthians, 6:12-20. His major concern in this selection is about illicit sexual relations, but the underlying argument is something deeper and more universal: how are we to act in our present life and body? What is our responsibility to our Lord Jesus Christ and our fellow Christians in the way we behave in the here and now?

The opening verse of this reading is a quote, repeated twice: “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything.” (v. 12) There is a difference of opinion among Biblical scholars. Some say that this is something St. Paul said and is being used by others against him. Others scholars hold that it is a saying of a faction in the Corinthian Church that St. Paul is arguing against. Whichever the case, what we need to understand is that St. Paul, who argued against ridged adherence to the Jewish Law, now feels this argument is being used to open the door to all sorts of license. He offers two arguments against this way of thinking.

The first is that while one might be free from the narrow constraints of the Law — free because of the freedom given us through our Lord’s death and resurrection — it doesn’t necessarily follow that the constraints of the Law were not helpful. For example, just because one might be considered to be mature enough not to need posted speed limits, it does not follow that driving 90 mph down the road is safe. While it might be ‘legal’, it is certainly not helpful to either the driver or any child or adult who might be in the path of the vehicle. We can all think of examples where written rules may not be necessary, because the prudent person already knows how they should act, but the rule helps nonetheless.

His second point is useful to us as we undertake the self-examination re-

quired of us when we begin Great Lent. All things may be lawful (but, as St. Paul says), I will not be enslaved by anything. This is the essence of the Fast. Our Lord through His whole Economy has opened the path to freedom.

Here is a helpful image. When the children of Israel were subject to Pharaoh they were required to make mud bricks. Because we are subject to our passions, we are forced to make mud bricks out of our foolishness. Pharaoh is a symbol for the Devil. Israel’s forty years in the desert are a symbol of our forty-day fast. To be free from Pharaoh and our sins (mud bricks) we need to change our focus. If we have learned nothing else from the excesses of the past decade we should have learned that nothing is for free; what is ‘free’ comes with a heavy price — the mud bricks we’ll be making for quite some time. God’s ways offer us freedom; the Evil One will keep us making bricks without straw forever.

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.” (v. 13-14) St. Paul is giving us an entirely new way of seeing our bodies and our selves. He is telling the persons who were using the beginning verse against him that they completely misunderstand God’s purpose. All natural impulses, such as eating to satisfy hunger, were designed for a finite purpose: to minister to our current existence. The life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ manifests to us a new reality. Our present bodies will not be discarded when we die; they will be transfigured. Our call is not simply to purity, but to become the very vessels of holiness.

It is with this in mind that we read the next four verses. “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a

prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, ‘The two shall become one flesh.’ But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body.” (v. 15-18)

Remember, in St. Paul’s day Corinth was a very free-wheeling place. All sorts of behavior was considered normal and acceptable. The philosophy of “if it feels good, do it” had many followers, including some members of the Corinthian Church. Many of these people felt that the body was a disposable vessel and a prison for the soul, not something holy and sacred. So, when St. Paul said, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?” (v. 19), this shocked and scandalized them. They wanted to be freed from their bodies.

For us Christians, our Lord’s resurrection from the dead changes the way we understand the relationship between our physical body and our soul; between the world around us — God’s creation — and the immaterial God who created it.

Finally, St. Paul uses the image of slavery to remind the Corinthians of what they committed themselves to when they decided to follow Christ. “You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (v. 19-20) In the Church we refer to ourselves as the “servant of God.” The word “servant” is more accurately translated as “slave.” It reminds us that while we may think we are free, we are always subject to something or someone, however, we still can decide. Shall we be slaves to our passions and subject to the Evil One? Or, shall we be slaves to the One who will set us free? That’s the choice.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA