

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

APRIL 29, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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

PITAS AND PASTRIES are available for purchase! Talk to **Betty Anderson or Chris Toda.**

LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES in our Parish so they can be recognized. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

ROYA IS ORGANIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL HERITAGE TRIP TO ROMANIA. The trip sponsored by our Archdiocese's Youth Organization is for youth and young adults who wish to get in touch with their roots and (re)discover their Romanian heritage. Links to all of the details can be found in the online eBulletin, or by asking Fr. Nick.

GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:

MARGARITE LANDRY,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 9:32-42 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3 - MATINS GOSPEL 5

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL DATES HAVE BEEN SET.

St. Nicholas along with Sts. Anargyroi will be holding our annual Children's summer retreat, for ages K-8, on August 6-8. **PAR-ENTS!** Please note the dates and plan your children's summer activities accordingly. Scheduling details will follow. **Questions?** Talk to Valarie Stamoulis.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED

for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

A MEMORIAL IS CELE- BRATED TODAY

for the servant of God **Alexandra Valoras**, fallen asleep forty days. May our good and loving Lord rest her soul.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Joanne Sotiropoulos.**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY HOSTED A LUNCHEON for its volunteers during National Volunteer Week. The staff and residents are always grateful for their commitment and loyalty to Holy Trinity.

THE SPRING ISSUE of the **Holy Trinity Newsletter** is available. Go to the website: www.htnr.net and click on the "DOWNLOAD OUR NEWSLETTER" button.

HOLY TRINITY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS! Share your talents and experience! While helping others, you will make new friends, learn new things, have a choice of assignments, and fun.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, May 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Thurs, May 17 The Lord's Ascension
Sat, May 26 Saturday of Souls
Sun, May 27 Pentecost
Mon, May 28 Memorial Day
Mon, June 4 Apostles' Fast Begins
Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School

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

Holy Trinity will find or create volunteer opportunities to match a person's interest. *Become a part of the volunteer team and make a difference!* Contact Serena at: 508-852-1000, or e-mail shields@htnr.net.

Holy Trinity has job openings for **Cooks, Staff Nurses (RN/LPN), CNA's, and Unit Manager.** For a full description of job requirements and responsibilities, go to: www.htnr.net/employment-opportunities, or contact **Michele Williamson** at: mwilliamson@htnr.net, or call 508-852-1000, ext. 218.

NAMEDAYS

April 21

*The Holy Martyr
Alexandra the Queen*

Alexandra Dymek
Alexis George
Alexandra Mentis
Sandra Nedelescu
Casie Soter

April 23

*The Holy Great-martyr
George the Wonderworker*

George Belba
George M. Bourisk
George Demake
Gjergji Disho
Gheorghe O. Galica
George Grniet
George Krassopoulos
George Symock
George Tonna
George James Trakadas

April 25

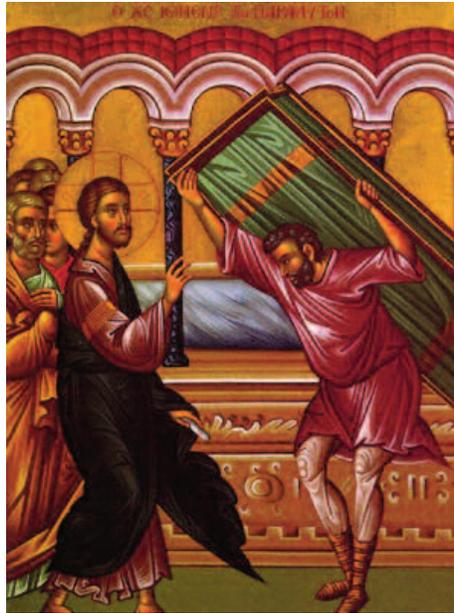
*The Holy Apostle and
Evangelist Mark*

Rev. Fr. Mark Doku
Mark Soter
Mark Stamoulis

April 30

*The Holy Apostle James, brother of
John the Evangelist*

James Collins



SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

ETERNAL FATHER, O you who are the source and norm of all that is healthy and whole: As we continue our celebration of the resurrection of your only Son, who is your power and wisdom, we also celebrate his cure of the paralytic at the sheep's pool. This poor man was certainly dead if not buried, for the pallet on which he lay had become an open grave for him. But the Lord Jesus healed him of the paralysis of both his soul and body. May we, too, be worthy of being healed of all that holds us with the grip of death, so that like him, we, too, may jump for joy in praise of you all the days of our life.

For you are the physician of our souls and bodies, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.



DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?

ONE CANNOT READ THE GOSPELS without being struck by how central the reality of sickness and desire for healing are to the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus' coming. When John the Baptist was in prison awaiting execution he sent word to Jesus asking him: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered, ... 'Go and tell John ... the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them'" (Matthew 11:2-5). He was echoing the way in which the Prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would be known (cf Is 29:18). Healing — God's healing — is at the heart of His presence among us.

Both of today's Scripture readings, that of the healing Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2ff), and the healing of the paralytic Æneas and the raising of Tabitha by Peter (Acts 9:32ff), are given to us as proof of Jesus' power to restore people to health. And, who does not want to be healed?

When one is sitting on this side of sickness, it is hard to appreciate or imagine what it is like to be diminished or impaired. But our health is a fragile thing. Even when we have an illness that we know we'll recover from — like a mild flu — we still can get a glimpse into our own mortality. However, when the symptoms fade, often so does whatever insight we may have gained.

Sitting on the other side of sickness, the kind that is chronic and debilitating, things look very differently. People will do almost anything to get better. Those of us who suffer in this way know how it feels. If we have had a loved-one or friend who is afflicted we know the extent to which one would go to help relieve their pain. If you have been in this situation it is not hard to put yourself in the place of the paralyzed man waiting thirty-eight years by the Bethesda Pool waiting for a cure, or, as Æneas paralyzed for eight years perhaps due to a

stroke. If you've ever visited a nursing/rehab facility, you probably understand what this means.

When Jesus' finds the paralyzed man, he asks him a question, the answer to which, on the surface, seems obvious: "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6) Some other translations say, "healed," but the most interesting is the King James': "made whole." There was a deficit in this man's soul that was larger than his disability, and the Lord perceived it. This is perhaps the reason Jesus, when he sees that man later after his walking had been restored, says to him: "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you" (John 5:14). The Lord was giving him an insight into the spiritual challenges with which he would be presented now that he was "made whole."

Perhaps this is the reason the Lord initially asked him the question. In fact, Jesus never worked a healing unless he was invited to, either explicitly or implicitly, and for some very good reasons. One cannot be healed unless they want to be. Being healed changes you, and not just physically. Often we become comfortable with our illness and disoriented when it's gone. Being "whole" requires something from us; we have to assume roles and responsibilities we may not want to take on. All of this applies even more intensely when our sickness is spiritual. Being healed might be something we would like to avoid. It may hurt too much.

One thing that I very much appreciate about the stories of healing in the Gospels is that they remind us that human beings are the same not only in the here and now, but also down through the millennia. Without a doubt today's living conditions are different than in Jesus' time. Today we have cures for illnesses that afflicted them then, but we also have diseases that are as frightening to us as the illness described in the Gospels were to those people. Their

fears and joys are the same as ours. When reminded of this we can begin to understand the fullness of what God did and does for all of us in the person of Jesus Christ. He healed the paralytic at Bethesda and Æneas the stroke victim so that we who live two thousand years from those events might have hope.

Similarly, our discussions about the state of health-care are not so very different than theirs. Whenever I hear someone talk about the cost of health-care, it always bring to mind the story of Jairus and his daughter, and the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years (Luke 8:40ff). Jairus was rich. The woman had spent all she had on physicians. Both came to God as their last resort. There are two morals here. The first is that God should not be our *last* resort, but our *starting* point. The second is that people will give all they have in search for a cure. How many people do we know who have been bankrupted as they seek out the relief of their illness?

The search for healing and health is something that touches us all. Every time we sneeze we are reminded of how temporary this present existence is. At the same time, we also know that God offers us healing on many levels. In the next few weeks we will hear of other healings, other encounters with the Lord. We know the names of those people, even though they may not be mentioned in the Gospels. They are recorded in the memory of the Church. They were changed by their encounter with Jesus and followed him. As far as I know, we know little if anything about this paralytic. While we cannot say he wasn't changed by the encounter, it does not appear that he was.

We pray that God might make us whole and help us to be prepared to accept the challenges he presents us.

Christ is indeed Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

A Day at the Museum

The young people from Sts. Anagroi and St. Nicholas spent this past Wednesday, April 18th, on a field trip to the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton. They toured the Museum, did a little 'hands-on' craft work, and finished with a visit to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Clinton. All in all, a great day!

