

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 29, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY SERMONS.** Fr. Nick's is continuing his summer sermon series on the Divine Liturgy. This Sunday he'll be talking about the Litanies and prayers following the Great Entrance through the recitation of the Creed. If you have any questions about the Liturgy — why we do what we do — please write them down and either hand them in or e-mail him at: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org.

### THE DORMITION FAST BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1st.

We will have special services during the fourteen day fast. There's a schedule below that covers the first week. We'll have the rest of the schedule in next week's Bulletin.

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, August 4th, 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.**

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
V. GERALD BELBA & MARGARITE LANDRY

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:**  
**HELP NEEDED**  
PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND  
**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**APOSTOLIC READING:** 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17 ☩ **GOSPEL:** MATTHEW 14:22-34

*(JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA AND CALMS THE STORM)*

**TONE 8** ☩ **MATINS GOSPEL 9**

**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL** will be held **Monday through Wednesday, August 6-8.** We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Parents, if you haven't signed your child up yet, or have questions, immediately contact: **Valarie Stamoulis** (valarie@focused-intention.com); cell: 617-803-3798. Flier available at the candles.

**A PITA DOUGH ROLLING** session, is **planned for this coming Saturday, August 4th, 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!**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the **BAKERS** who rolled dough, and the **people who staffed the e-RECYCLING!** God bless them for giving their

time for our parish!

**THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by the **Sedares family.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**ST. MICHAEL SOUTHBRIDGE ANNUAL FESTIVAL** will be held next **Sunday, July 29th** on the parish grounds. Food, music, dancing, and kids' games.

[www.stmichaelorthodox.com](http://www.stmichaelorthodox.com)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, July 29 St. Michael Southbridge Festival  
Wed, Aug 1 Dormition Fast Begins  
Sat, Aug 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon  
Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-noon  
Mon, Aug 6 Transfiguration, Lit - Marlboro, 8:30am  
Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School  
Fri, Aug 17 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm

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

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**HOLY TRINITY'S VOLUNTEER TEAM IS GROWING.** Holy Trinity's volunteer program is designed to meet a variety of our residents' needs. The Activities Staff take great pride in carefully matching a volunteer's talents with one or more of our resident's needs. Dana Spinney, Activity's Director, has doubled the ranks of our volunteers in just five months. For example, she recently added Nilda, daughter of a former patient. Nilda was so pleased with the care her mother received she decided to come back to dedicate her time and talents with our Spanish-speaking residents. *If you would like to join Dana's growing "Army of Volunteers", please contact her at: 508-852-1000, or e-mail her at: dspinney@htnr.net.*

**A FEW FACTS ABOUT HOSPICE CARE.** Contrary to what a lot of people think, hospice care does not mean one's death is imminent. Rather, Hospice Care is a dedicated program that provides specific expert medical care as well as spiritual and emotional support to patients and families, when a person's health condition requires it.

Moreover, research has shown people receiving hospice care can live longer than similar patients who do not opt for hospice. If you'd like more information about Hospice Care, contact the Social Services Department at Holy Trinity: 508-852-1000.

**NOTES FROM OUR RESIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES:** A long-term resident wrote a little note to our staff telling them: *"You people are terrific the way you handle your work. God bless you all!! Keep up the good work"*. — L.K.

And from a family member of a recently discharged resident: *"Staff is respectful and loving to patients. Care was excellent. Progress of patient was*

*amazing."*

**DIVINE LITURGY** is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome. Come and spend some time with the residents; they would really appreciate it!

**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.

## GLOBAL NEEDS

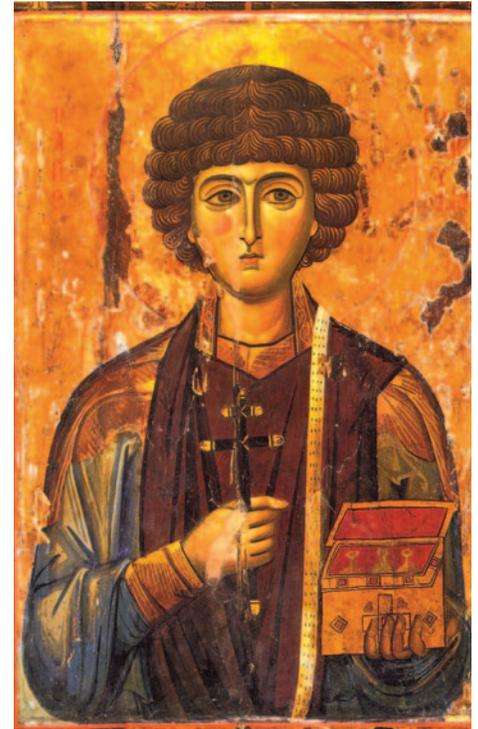
**THE INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC)** is responding to the **fast-moving wildfires in Greece** that have devastated parts of East Attica, including port city Rafina and nearby village Mati, along the Aegean coast. IOCC is working closely with Apostoli to meet the most basic needs of those who have lost their only homes.

In addition, IOCC is supporting immediate basic needs like access to food. Through partner **Apostoli**, (an arm of the Church of Greece), IOCC will distribute prepaid grocery cards to families affected by the fires, allowing them to purchase essential items like Greek-grown produce, dairy, and meat, as well as personal hygiene items, including soap and shampoo.

Please make a gift today to support these efforts. **Contact: [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)**

**THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER IS ORGANIZING MISSION WORK IN KENYA AND ALBANIA.** Help the Orthodox mission work in Kenya and Albania with focused outreaches to women and youth. The OCMC is organizing teams of clergy wives and women lay leaders to Albania (Sep 17-27) and Kenya (Nov 19-28) to offer encouragement, education and guidance to women in their roles to strengthen the church's witness. Team opportuni-

ties in Kenya – Nairobi (Nov 28-Dec 8) and Kisumu (Nov 28-Dec 8) – to participate in the church's outreach to youth and young adults. Participate in the unending work of Orthodox missions. Apply today to serve on an Orthodox Mission Team at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)!



## AUGUST LITURGICAL CYCLE

### *Dormition Fast Period (Aug 1-15)*

- ❖ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Friday, August 3, 6:00 pm
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- ❖ **Dormition Vespers** at St. Mary's, Tuesday, August 14, 6:00 pm
- ❖ **Divine Liturgy** at Holy Trinity, Wednesday, August 15, 9:00 am



## THE HOLY GREAT PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH)

July 20th

**E**lias of great fame was from Thisbe or Thesbe, a town of Galaad (Gilead), beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leathern belt. His name is interpreted as “Yah is my God.” His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp.

He sternly reprov'd the impiety and lawlessness of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He shut up heaven by means of prayer, and it did not rain for three years and six months. Ravens brought him food for his need when, at God’s command, he was hiding by the torrent of Horraath.

He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from Heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth. At the torrent of Kisson, he slew 450 false prophets and

priests who worshiped idols and led the people astray. He received food wondrously at the hand of an Angel, and being strengthened by this food he walked for forty days and forty nights.

He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature. He foretold the destruction of the house of Ahab, and the death of his son Ohozias. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally, while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended into heaven, where God most certainly translated him alive, as He did Enoch (Gen. 5:24; IV Kings 2: 11). The Prophet Elias appeared with Moses on Mount Tabor to speak with our Lord when He was transfigured before His disciples.



THE TRANSFIGURATION

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** understanding and compassionate God: Never let us gloat over the misfortunes of others; never permit our secret hearts to take pleasure in the troubles that befall them. Rather, urge us on to assist them when we can, and in all cases truly empathizing with them, remembering the golden rule that we must grant others what we seek for ourselves.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## NAMEDAYS

July 11

*The Blessed Olga, Princess of Russia*  
Olga Lolo

July 12

*St. Veronica, the woman healed by our Lord Jesus*  
Veronica Pandaru

July 17

*The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia*  
Margarite Landry

July 20

*The Holy Prophet Elijah*  
Elias James Christo  
Irli Ilie Durmillari  
Louis Evan Stamoulis

July 24

*The Holy Great Martyr Christina*  
Christine Masterjohn

July 27

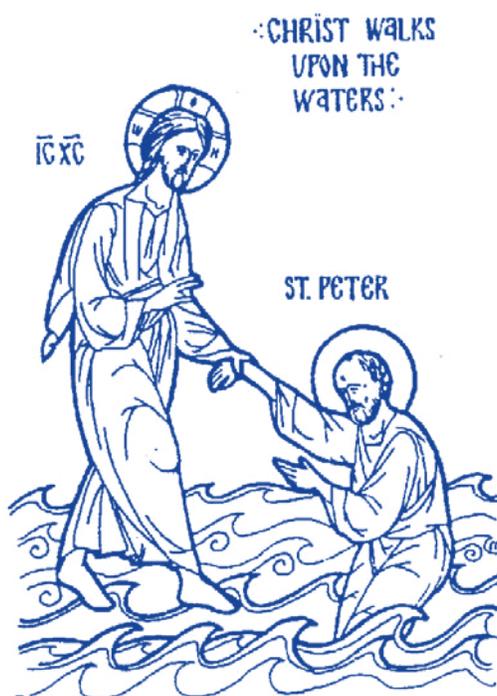
*The Holy Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon*  
Peter Mountzouris

## WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

**T**HIS Sunday's Gospel lesson (Matthew 14:23-34), the ninth after Pentecost, is a direct continuation of last week's reading. It is the account of Jesus walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee to meet the disciples' storm-tossed ship. You will recall that the Lord, after he had fed the multitude with the loaves and fish, had the disciples get into their boat while he dismissed the people. He then went alone into the wilderness to pray. At the same time, the disciples being far off from shore, got caught in a storm. This storm was not unlike the one they had encountered earlier when Jesus was with them, but asleep in the boat (Matthew 8:24-27). However, this time he was not with them, and they were frightened.

As you reflect on this Gospel passage, I would suggest three things for you to focus on. First, notice how often the Lord retreats for prayer, and how it is always in some solitary place. Second, Peter features prominently in this story, but he's a complicated figure. He has a deep faith and ardor, but also has an impetuous nature. Lastly, see how the Lord is gradually leading his disciples to a greater faith and understanding of who he really is. Let's take these one by one.

**The Lord and prayer.** As you read the Gospels you will notice how many times Jesus "withdraws," not only from the people who are pressing in on him, but also from the disciples themselves. He goes into the wilderness where he finds solitude and quiet, often spending the whole night in prayer. Again, before his passion, he goes deep into the garden to pray. This is a fundamental spiritual principle. In order to pray we need to withdraw to a quiet place. We need to have a certain tranquility and peace. At the beginning of every service, we hear: "In peace let us pray to the Lord." Noise, distractions, and disquiet do not lend



themselves to speaking with God. Elijah did not find God in the wind or fire, but in stillness and quiet (cf. 1 Kings 19:11ff). Our Lord Jesus teaches us this by his own profound example.

**Peter's faith.** We know Peter to be the first among the disciples, even though he was far from being the most articulate or polished. What he did have was a deep fervor, a longing for the Lord. He was the first one to call Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). He was the one who told Jesus that he would stay by him even if everyone else deserted him (Matthew 26:32). He also was the one who, after the Resurrection, jumped out of his boat to run to the Lord who was on shore (John 21:7). But these same qualities also led him to be impulsive. So, he didn't know himself well enough to realize that he might deny Jesus when under pressure (Matthew 27:75).

In the middle of the storm when the other disciples were terrified and thought Jesus was a ghost, Peter, recognizing Jesus' voice, says: "Lord, if it is

you, bid me come to you on the water" (v. 28). The Lord tells him to: "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water toward Jesus, but began to sink when the rush of the wind frightened him. Jesus reaches out his hand and saves him.

Have you ever noticed that it is not the big things that "trip you up," but the little ones? Peter wasn't thinking about the storm, the waves, or even walking on the water. It was that gust of wind that frightened him. He impulsively jumped out of the boat without considering that his faith might not measure up to his zeal. Yet it was his emotions, his fear, that undermined his faith.

**Leading the disciples.** Finally, we see how the Lord is slowly showing His disciples who he is. In the first storm the Lord was with them, albeit sleeping. In this storm he allows them to be buffeted by the waves and wind before coming to them. The first time he quiets the wind. This time he reveals who he is even while the storm rages. In the earlier episode the disciples wonder: "What sort of man is this?" This time they worship him: "Truly you are the Son of God." (v. 33)

And so, when we think about this story, let's not just marvel at the Lord's ability to walk on water. Rather, let us take as our prayer rule, his example of prayer. Let us be encouraged by Peter's faith and willingness to follow the Lord, but with a clear understanding of the weaknesses each of us bears. And, let us look at how God continually guides us as we grow in our faith and understanding, leading us from one glory to another.

May our loving Lord always extend his saving hand to us when the winds of life catch us unaware. But even more, may we have the faith to take hold of it.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA