

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 21, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We will mark the **Feast of the Holy Apostle James**, the brother of the Lord, on **Tuesday, October 23rd**, with the celebration of the **Liturgy of St. James**, at 9:00AM at St. Anargyroi in Marlborough.

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Our next scheduled meal is **December 21st**. Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

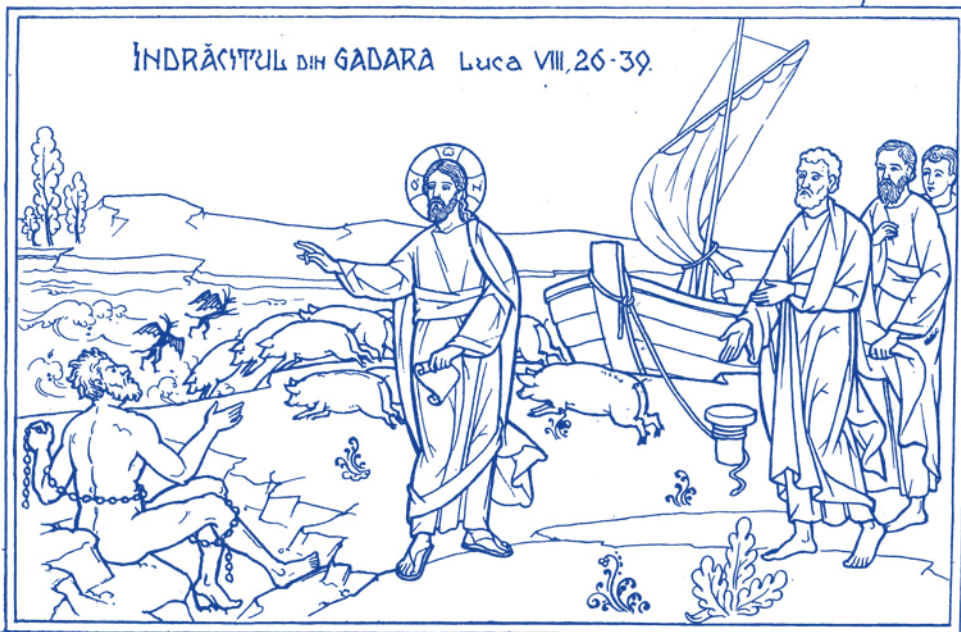
The July-September issue of the Archdiocesan quarterly **CREDINȚA / THE FAITH** is available at the candles. **Pick one up and take it home!**

**AN ANTHOLOGY** of Metropolitan Nicolae's Pastoral Letters and other writings has been published by the Archdiocese celebrating the Fifteenth Anniversary of His Eminence's Archpastorate. Entitled: **On the Path of Salvation with Christ, from the Nativity to the Resurrection**, it is available at the candles for a donation of \$10.00.

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:**  
**HELP NEEDED**  
PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

**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 4 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 10

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Lisa Mielnicki** to mark the 70th Wedding Anniversary of her parents: Nicholas and Androniki Demake.

## HOLIDAY BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

**A GIFT BASKET RAFFLE** will be part of our **Holiday Bake Sale & Luncheon on November 17th**. We are asking for donations of new items all centered on a theme to be assembled into gift baskets. Cash donations are also welcomed. We want to give parishioners the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets prior to the event so **all items/donations must be received by October 28th**.

**Questions?** e-mail:  
[tjruch@gmail.com](mailto:tjruch@gmail.com)

**CALLING ALL VENDORS!!!**  
**A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE** will once again be a part of our annual **Thanksgiving**

**ing Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 17th**. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space. We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact: **Tim Rucho**.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

With over 30 family, friends and fellow residents in attendance, **Nancy Heck**, resident and published author enjoyed her **Book Signing** on October 14th. While reading one of her poems, her 101 year old grandfather was escorted to the

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Oct 20 Pita Dough Rolling, 9 AM-NOON  
Sat, Nov 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9 AM-NOON  
Sat, Nov 17 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon, and Marketplace, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

podium to be alongside his granddaughter. A touching and loving moment! For pictures go to our website: [www.htnr.net/copy-of-events](http://www.htnr.net/copy-of-events)

### COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT HOLY TRINITY!

◆ The “Honky Tonk Piano Man”, Gary Landgren will be appearing on **Monday, October 22nd at 2:00PM**. Families and friends are all invited.

◆ There will be a **Craft Fair & Bake Sale on Saturday, October 27th** from 10:00AM until 3:30PM. Homemade baked goods are greatly appreciated!! All proceeds go to the Alzheimer’s Association. Questions? Call Dana Spinney at Holy Trinity at 508-852-1000.

◆ On **Wednesday, October 31st**, at 2:00PM there will be a Halloween Party in the Main Dining Room. Music will be provided by Joe Cariglia. Feel free to come to the event!

**JOB OPENINGS:** There are a number of employment opportunities available at Holy Trinity. For the latest postings, check out: [www.htnr.net/careers](http://www.htnr.net/careers).

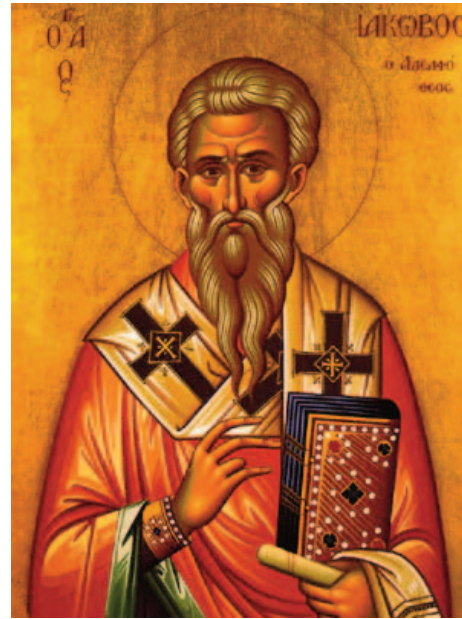
#### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** 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.

**DIVINE LITURGY** is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30AM. And please always keep Holy Trinity Nursing Home, it’s staff, directors, residents, and families in your prayers. And remember:



### THE APOSTLE JAMES BROTHER OF OUR LORD (OCTOBER 23)

**H**oly 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 Phar-

isees 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*

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  
Dimitraqi Lolo  
Dimitri Michael Saffron  
James Seferi  
James Evan Stamoulis  
James Trakadas  
James Vlamis

# WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

**T**HIS week we begin reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Ephesus was a large seaport on the western coast of Asia Minor (in present day Turkey) and the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Paul stayed in Ephesus twice, the second time for over three years. In the earliest manuscripts the title "to the Ephesians" is missing. This, together with the fact that he sends almost no personal greetings as he customarily did (even though he certainly knew scores of people in that community) has led many Biblical commentators to suggest that this may have been a general letter that St. Paul had sent out to be read in the many communities he had established.

In this letter Paul speaks about God's great plan for humanity, hidden up until now, but revealed fully in Jesus Christ. His intention is to create a single messianic people of God, uniting both Jew and Gentile. Social and religious barriers that had previously divided humanity are eliminated by faith in Jesus Christ. This is "Good News" for everyone. We have been redeemed, that is, liberated from bondage to the Evil One, bondage to sin and death.

Today's reading begins at Chapter 2, verse 4 and continues through verse 10. In the first Chapter of Ephesians he speaks of God's plan. Here he presents us with the challenge of responding to God's plan. He reminds us of God's love. "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses ..." (v. 4-5). One of the most important 'rules' or 'truths' we can ever learn is this: we only know how to love because we ourselves have been loved by others. God is the first one who loves us. He has given us our parents and family who love us. He gives us children so that we can share this love. Even if our earthly relationships have fallen short of this, still our Heavenly Father never fails us.

Listen to the words that St. Paul uses

to describe this. He doesn't simply say God is merciful and loving. He tells us He is rich in mercy. God loves us out of His great love. God is abundant in His affection for us. It is this love God has for *us* that sustains us.

The passage continues, "... even when we were dead through our trespasses [He] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (v. 5-7).

There are three points that I would like to highlight in this passage. The first is that we participate directly in our Lord's rising from the dead. Jesus died the death that awaits us because of our sin. But, in His sinless death we share in His life. Through our faith in Him, we are changed and risen. Our rising happens not only after our physical death, it happens now when we believe in God's love for us in Christ Jesus. Even while we are breathing, we were dead because of our sin. Jesus' sacrificial love changed this.

The second point is: "by grace you have been saved." St. Paul says this three times in the short passage we read today. Our salvation is a gift; we didn't earn it. We can't earn it. We could never earn it. God restores us because He loves us.

The third point is that God has not only restored us, but He allows us to share in the glory of His Son. He "raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." When we say in the Creed that "He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father," we should understand that we have a place at the Father's right hand as well, because of Jesus.

This vision of God enthroned in Heaven is completed by St. Paul when he says: "that in the coming ages [God] might show the immeasurable riches of

his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." One of the common assumptions in the world in which St. Paul lived was that history had a number of ages (seven) and these were cyclical (they kept repeating). In our Liturgy we express the idea of eternity by saying God's glory is "now, forever, and to the ages of ages." St. Paul is expressing something similar when he tells us God's love and grace will be shown toward us in the "coming ages."

After telling us all of this St. Paul reminds us again, "by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast" (v. 8-9). Then he adds something else: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (v. 10).

Here is another 'rule' or 'truth' that we need to remember and keep alive in our hearts. If we are able to be saved by faith it is because we are God's "workmanship." We were created in Christ Jesus, that is: the creative Word of God, His Son, shaped and formed us. Why? — for good works.

God in His great love created us good, to do good. We do good not to earn salvation, but to complete God's work in us. God prepared this path of good works "beforehand, that we should walk in them." What St. Paul means here is that the good we do one to another, and together for all, leads us back to God. This is how we "work out our own salvation" (Philippians 2:12). Doing good is how we communicate with God. In every good and kind thing we do we show ourselves to be God's handiwork. By growing in Him, we reveal the full glory that is within us. We do this by faith in Jesus Christ who loves us and saves us.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA