

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 19, 2019

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 27th. Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. The common Memorial Service will be at noon at the Altar in Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-845-0088.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is **Saturday, June 1st from 9 am to 2 pm**. Gerry Belba is coordinating, and we need about 3 people to help with traffic and coordination. Please contact him: vgbelba@msn.com.

A FORTY DAY BLESSING is held today for the servant of God **Noah Vasil Spyrou**, son of **Christo and Tracie Spyrou**. *May God grant him many years!*

TWO MEMORIALS TODAY. We will remember the servant of God **Anthousa**

GREETERS TEAM 2:

DAN MANESCU & CHRIS SEITH

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:

HELP NEEDED

PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

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

Neofytou, the aunt of Anthi Eleftheriou, fallen asleep 18 years.

We also will remember the servant of God **Niko Zhaka**, fallen asleep one and one-half years. *May our loving Lord rest them with the just!*

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Zhaka and Eleftheriou families** in memory of their departed loved-ones.

UPCOMING

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE

NOTE! Vacation Church

School this summer will be

August 5-7. We will again be

holding it in conjunction with

Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough.

Please keep these date in

mind when schedule other

summer activities for your

children. Questions? see or e-

mail: Valarie Stamoulis:

valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com;

cell: 617-803-3798.

70TH ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATE: The weekend of **December 7 – 8, 2019** our Parish **Feast Day** will have special significance as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a church community.

A few people are needed to serve on a **committee to plan for the 70th Anniversary Festivities**. Please speak with Tim if you have it in your heart to help plan that celebration.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon, May 27 Memorial Day, NOON at Hope Cemetery

May 31-June 2 Albanian Festival

Sat, June 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON
e-Recycling

Thurs, June 6 ASCENSION

Sat, June 15 Saturday of Souls, Liturgy, 10:00AM

Sun, June 16 PENTECOST

Fri, June 21 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00PM

Mon, June 24 Apostles Fast Begins

Aug 5-7 Vacation Church School

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

COMMUNITY NEWS

STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN in Webster will be celebrating its patronal feast with Great Vespers on Monday, May 20th at 6:00 PM, and Liturgy at 9:30 AM on Tuesday. <http://schwebster.org/>.

ALBANIAN FESTIVAL 2019 will be held the weekend of May 31-June 2. Keep the dates open.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

THE APRIL ISSUE of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available for download. Click the link to view April Newsletter. And don't forget to 'like' Holy Trinity on Facebook and Twitter!

JOIN THE RESIDENTS for a music concert by the **Worcester Music Academy, this Sunday, May 19th at 2:00PM.** Families and friends are all invited.

SAVE THE DATE for Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center **25th Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2019** at St. George Cathedral Anna St., Worcester.

HOLY TRINITY is a non-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center and a project of the Council of Orthodox Churches of Central MA. Please keep Holy Trinity in your prayers and in your charitable plans. Contributions to the Treasured Generations Annual Fund can be made at www.htnr.net and volunteers are welcome to be a part of Holy Trinity by contacting: **Dana Spinney**, Activities Director, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: dspinney@htnr.net

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.

NAMEDAYS

May 1

St. Isidora of Egypt

Sydney Ellen Mountzouris

The Holy Prophet Jeremiah

Jeromy Grniet

May 5

The Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica

Irene Mountzouris

Irene Tsoules

May 21

The Holy Equals to the Apostles Constantine and Helen

Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos

Constantine Apostol

Elaine Apostola

Konstantin Charalambides

Presvytera Eleni Christakos

Amalia Helene Collins

Hannah Constance Datz

Dina Entwistle

Lana Eleni Ermilio

Iliana Victoria Fahey

Eileen Favata

Elena Galeriu

Ileana A Nace

Constanta Papit

Eleni Polymeros

Elena Prelipcean

Elaine Rocheford

Dina K. Salerno

Eleanor Sedares

Elaine Tanacea

Dean Valoras



GREETERS/USHERS AND COFFEE HOUR TEAMS SOUGHT

Parishioners are needed to assist with greeting and ushering. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board, or you can talk to **Chris Seith**: 978-257-2765 or email: cbseith@gmail.com.

What does the job require?

You should try to be at the church 15 min prior to the start of the service. General duties are to assist at the candle stand (stock the candles, monitor the lit candles and extinguish the short ones, make change), assist or direct parishioners and visitors with seating, and anything else that may be related to the particular service. Greeters should also make sure that any donations and the like are collected, accounted for, and given to the treasurer. Greeters should also be sure that the candle stand is left in a neat and clean condition, that candles are restocked and as the sand is cleaned/neatened for the next service. If there are any issues, the Parish Council members can assist.

Coffee Hour Teams are also being reestablished. We're looking to set up 4 to 5 teams to assist with Coffee Hour set-up and clean-up. **Chris Seith** is also in charge of this. Please contact him.

Whether Greeter or Coffee Crew, the idea is that it would be at most a once-a-month commitment. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the warm community of our St. Nicholas parish.



THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

This celebration is the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. Saint John tells us (John 7:14) that “in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught.” The Feast is referenced by St. John as the Feast of Tabernacles (celebrated in September), not Pentecost.

However, the Church has appointed John 7:14-30 to be read for the Midfeast, thereby linking Pascha and Pentecost. In Chapter 8 of Saint John’s Gospel, the Lord came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him. After leaving the Temple, he encounters the man born blind. We will hear about him on the Sunday of the Blind Man.



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.



GOD'S POWER TO CONVINC

THIS is the fourth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's healing of the Paralytic Man (John 5:1-15). In the reading from Acts (9:32-42), we hear of a similar healing, as well as the miracle of a woman raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter. There is a common theme in the two readings: the power of God to persuade and convince even the most skeptical of people.

After St. Luke tells us of St. Paul's powerful conversion on the road to Damascus (in Acts 9:1ff), he returns again to the missionary work of St. Peter. As the community of believers in Jesus grew and spread, St. Peter felt it important to visit these new communities, some of which were Gentile missions. He traveled to the region of Sharon to a town called Lydda, about twenty eight miles northwest of Jerusalem and half-way to Joppa. "There he found a man named Æneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, 'Æneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.' And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:33-35).

As with the Paralytic in today's Gospel reading, no profession of faith is asked of Æneas. St. John Chrysostom points out that when the Lord began his ministry he rarely asked for a sign of the person's faith. He simply healed them. In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord simply said to the Paralytic: "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:6) St. Peter tells Æneas: "Jesus Christ heals you" (v. 34). In both cases the general population did not know who either the Lord or St. Peter were. Their fame had not yet spread. It was the works themselves that would "get their attention." This is what the Lord means when he says: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Fa-

ther is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves" (John 14:11). The great signs done by the Lord, and later by the Apostles in Jesus' name, are the means by which people become engaged and receptive to listening to the larger message. We see this effect at work in St. Peter's healing of Æneas, because when he stood up, "all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord" (v. 35).

While Peter was at Lydda the disciples in Joppa, hearing he was there, sent two men to go and get him and bring him to Joppa. There was a disciple there named Tabitha who had gotten sick and died. St. Luke tells us that "she was full of good works and acts of charity" (v. 36). Tabitha is the Aramaic word for "gazelle." St. Luke translates her name into Greek: "Dorcas." St. John Chrysostom, using the meaning of the name, emphasizes that she was lively and quick, not only in acts of charity, but in every kind of good work. This is evident in the scene St. Peter found when he arrived. "All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them" (v. 39).

Each of us knows of good and faithful women in our communities, the kind who are always giving, ready to help in a humble way. These are the women who visit the sick and shut-ins, who bake a meal for a family in need, and who volunteer in any number of

ways. This is the type of person Tabitha was. We can imagine the grief in the Joppa Church.

After she had died, the women had washed her body and laid her in the upper room. When Peter was brought into that grief-filled room he took stock of the situation and asked everyone to leave. Then he knelt down and prayed. He looked at the body and said: "Tabitha rise!" She immediately sat up and he took her hand and presented her to the saints and widows alive (v. 40-41).

This miracle has strong parallels with the raising of Jairus' daughter (cf. Luke 8:49-56). Jesus too ordered that everyone leave, except for Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents. Jesus took her hand and called her back from the dead. But, there is one important difference. While Jesus told them not to say anything to anyone about what had happened, in Joppa it immediately became known throughout the whole city and "many believed in the Lord" (v. 42).

These two very powerful signs that we read about in today's lesson from Acts are meant to show the world that the Apostles were graced to carry on the work of the Lord Jesus. The power of miracles and signs was given to them and to the Church throughout the ages in order to open people's hearts to hear the words that lead to salvation. Sickness, suffering, and death are not unique to any time or place. They have always been with us. The Lord has given us these and similar signs, even in our own time, to encourage us and strength our resolve to believe in Him.

Sickness, debilitating illness, and even death itself do not have the final word; the life given us in our Lord Jesus does.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

