

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 6, 2019

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** begin today, October 6TH. We will have an opening prayer at the end of Divine Liturgy. *Every child is welcomed!* If you have questions, please contact Valarie Stamoulis (617-803-3798). And please be mindful of the classes in session. Children can be easily distracted.

**A PITA BAKING** sessions are scheduled for **Thursday, October 17TH**, and **Saturday, October 26TH**, at 9:00 AM. All help welcomed and needed. *Questions?* See Chris Toda or 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 November 2ND.

**FAMILY APPLE PICKING:** We are organizing along with Sts. Anargyoi a trip to Tougas Farm in Northborough for **Friday, October 18TH**. This is a time-honored New England tradition, and great family fun. *Questions?* Valarie Stamoulis (617-803-3798).

**GREETERS TEAM 2:**  
DAN MANESCU AND CHRIS SEITH

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

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

† APOSTOLIC READING: GALATIANS 1:11-19 † GOSPEL: LUKE 7:11-19

(JESUS RAISES THE SON OF THE WIDOW OF NAIN)

† TONE 7 † MATINS GOSPEL 5

**WITH SADNESS** we remember the servant of God **Frank Ford** who fell asleep in the Lord this past Friday. His funeral will be here at St. Nicholas on Tuesday, October 8TH at 10:00 AM. Hays Funeral Home in Northborough is directing. You may read the full obituary at: [www.haysfuneralhome.com](http://www.haysfuneralhome.com). *May our Lord rest him among the just!*

**WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL TODAY** for the servant of God, **Daniela Gatej**, fallen asleep one year and **Sorin Gatej**. *May their memory be eternal!*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Sorana and Dorian Gatej** in memory of their parents **Daniela and Sorin Gatej**.



## THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

**A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE** will once again be a part of our annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on **Saturday, November 23rd**. We are seeking **Vendors from outside our community and Parishioners** who may have a craft to sell to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho**.

**ALSO, A GIFT BASKET RAFFLE** will

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, Oct 6 First Day of Religious Education  
Thurs, Oct 17 Pita Baking, 9AM-NOON  
Fri, Oct 18 Family Apple Picking, 4-5:30PM  
Sat, Oct 26 Pita Baking, 9AM-NOON  
Sat, Nov 2 Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON  
Sat, Nov 16 e-Recycling, 9AM-2PM  
Sat, Nov 23 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon, and Marketplace, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
December 7-8 70TH Anniversary celebration

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

be part of the Holiday Marketplace. We are seeking **cash donations or collections of NEW items** to be assembled into gift baskets. We need **all donations by Nov. 3RD** to have time to prepare.

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY

**THE MAIN RECEPTION** for the Anniversary celebration will be **Saturday, December 7, from 3-7 PM** here at the Church. This event will be an "open house" style party and feature Mediterranean food stations, a live jazz trio, and holiday cheer! The donation is \$25 per person and reservations sheets will be available soon.

**A 70TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM BOOKLET** is being prepared to mark this celebration. **Everyone's help is needed** to solicit greetings and acknowledgments from friends and family. Please note, the Program Book is in lieu of our Annual Raffle and Christmas Card this year, so **we are depending on this one major fundraising effort!** Solicitation sheets are available at Church and will be mailed soon!

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center's **25th Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration** will be held on **Saturday, November 9, 2019**. For more information, you may start by picking up the **Anniversary Flyer**, the **Dinner Reservation Form**, and the **Program Book Ad Form** found at the candles. If you'd like to purchase tickets or have more questions talk to: **Deb Sedares** (Dsedares@pinehills.com) from our Parish, or at Holy Trinity: **Kristina Mironidis** (kmironidis@htnr.net) at 508-852-1000.

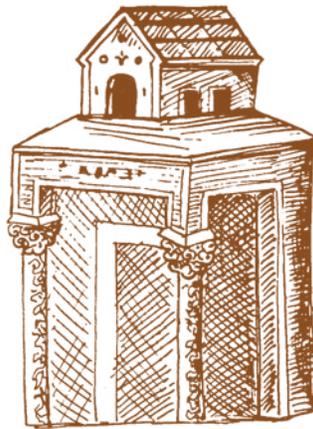
**THE LATEST ISSUE** of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available at [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net).

Holy Trinity provides a comprehensive **rehabilitation program of Physical, Oc-**

**cupational and Speech/Language Therapies**. Call 508-852-1000 for more information.

Holy Trinity **Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Orthodox Food Pantry**, October 14th – November 14th. **All donations are greatly appreciated!**

**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.



### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD, GOD OF INVINCIBLE POWER AND MIGHT: Grace us with discernment, with keen vision and refined perception. But when it comes to judging others, make us blind and disinterested, totally oblivious to all their faults and failings. Let us look, rather, at our own mistakes and refrain from condemning others for what we see as the mistakes they make and the evils they commit.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**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](http://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](mailto:dspinney@htnr.net).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU SHOT!**

Every year in the U.S. seasonal flu causes thousands of hospital admissions and deaths. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the best protection. Please remember to get yours soon!

## NAMEDAYS

October 7

### **The Holy Martyr Sergius in Syria**

Sergis Eleftheriou

Sergiou Eleftheriou

October 18

### **The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke**

Fr. Luke Veronis

October 20

### **The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch**

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

October 26

### **The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika**

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis

# PAUL, THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

**T**HE Epistle reading this week resumes our study of St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19). St. Paul had founded this community. After he left Galatia, a group of Jewish Christians (Judaizers) came there and began to undermine St. Paul's teachings among the members of that Church by shaking their confidence in his 'apostleship.' St. Paul feels the need to confirm the authenticity of his direct experience of our Lord Jesus Christ in order to defend what he has taught them.

In the very first verse of this Letter St. Paul lays out the basis of his authority by stating: "Paul an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead." (Galatians 1:1) After he expresses to the Galatians his deep concern regarding what he has heard concerning them, he relates in greater detail how exactly it was that God had called him.

"For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ." (v. 11-12) Sometimes we read over these words quickly, not stopping to think about what he is actually saying. He is telling us that all his knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ came to him directly through revelation or even revelations! This is the meaning of the words: "I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it." He didn't learn about Jesus in the way we have, by reading, listening, and worshiping. Jesus came to him directly.

In order to drive home the point he reminds them of the details of his conversion. "For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers." (v. 13-14) Paul, or Saul as he was known before his conversion, terrorized the early Chris-

tians. Saul was present at the stoning of St. Stephen (Acts 8:1). He "was ravaging the church, and entering house after house; he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). He received a commission from the authorities in Jerusalem to go to Damascus and root out Christians there and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial and imprisonment (Acts 9:1). He was "extremely zealous."

It was on his way to Damascus that the Lord appeared to him in a vision of blinding light. (Read the entire account of the vision and his conversion in Acts 9:3-31.) It is this experience that Paul reminds the Galatians of when he says, "he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles" (v. 15-16). St. Paul received this vision and was given a commission.

In order to emphasize both the power and the uniqueness of his vision, he says that God the Father was pleased to reveal his Son *in* me." St. John Chrysostom hones in on this preposition "in." He says, why does he say, "to reveal His Son *in* me," and not "to me?" It is to signify, that he had not only been instructed in the faith by words, but that he was richly endowed with the Spirit; that the revelation had enlightened his whole soul, and that he had Christ speaking within him. He experienced the Lord directly, and he was told specifically what he was to do: preach and convert the Gentiles.

Accentuating the fullness of this revelation he tells them, "I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus." (v. 16-17) By "flesh and blood" he is referring physically to the other Apostles, but in a deeper sense he means that he wasn't "taught" by any human person.

After this experience he went into Arabia. There is a difference of opinion

among Biblical scholars as to what he was doing in Arabia (Arabia here means the desert of eastern and southeastern Syria). Some believe that he went into the desert to pray and reflect on what God had called him to. St. John Chrysostom is of the opinion that he went to preach to the tribes there; using this as an opportunity to sharpen his message. Both of these views are possible, and not mutually exclusive. What we do know is that when he came back to Damascus he had become a powerful witness to the Gospel.

It might be helpful to remind ourselves what the word "Gospel" means. The Greek word is "Evangelion" (εὐαγγέλιον), and it literally means: "Good News." It was oftentimes associated with the accession to the throne of a new emperor, or the birth of an heir. To use this word about Jesus Christ was already to make a claim as to whom He was.

"Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days," St. Paul tells them. "But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother" (v. 18-19). He wants to show the Galatians that he is of one mind with the other Apostles; he respects them as older brothers and friends. He went to "visit" Peter and spent two weeks with him. He shows his respect to James, the Lord's brother, who is clearly in charge of the Jerusalem Church; much beloved and held in high-regard by all, Christians and Jews.

In these few verses we catch a glimpse into the man whom God called to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, to us. We see how God was preparing him for this mission even before he was born. We stand in awe of what God accomplished through him. And, we are humbled by the deep sacrifices he suffered for the sake of the Gospel.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA