

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 20, 2019

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES are in session. **Every child is welcomed!** If you have questions, please contact Valarie Stamoulis (617-803-3798). And please be mindful of the classes. Children can be easily distracted.

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

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

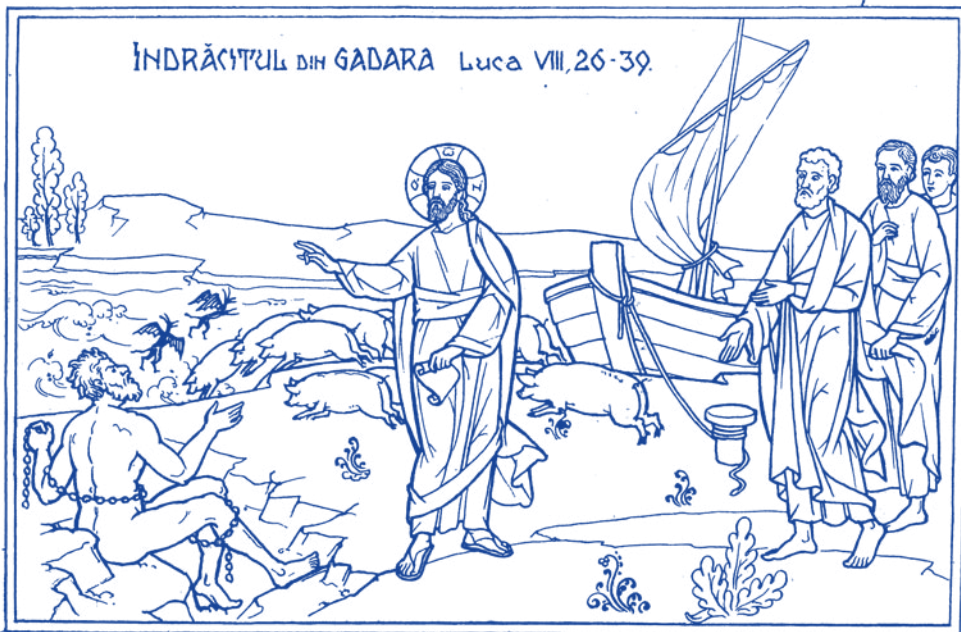
A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE will once again be a part of our annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on **Saturday, November 23rd**. We are seeking **Vendors from outside our community and Parishioners who may have a craft to sell** to rent table space at a cost of **\$25 per table**. If you or a vendor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

ALSO, A GIFT BASKET RAFFLE will be part of the Holiday Marketplace. We

GREETERS TEAM 4:
V. GERALD BELBA & ROSE SALERNO

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 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 7

are seeking **CASH donations (preferably) or collections of NEW complimentary items** to be assembled into gift baskets. We need **all donations by Nov. 3RD** to have time to prepare. For more information, contact **Tim Rucho**.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

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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E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

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 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER is available on the Holy Trinity site. Click "Newsletter" at www.htnr.net.

Holy Trinity provides a comprehensive rehabilitation program of **Physical, Occupational 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!**

CRAFT & BAKE SALE at Holy Trinity Nursing Home, **Saturday October 26th from 10:00am – 3:30 PM**. We are in need of bakers or donations of baked goods contact: 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.

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.

ICON STAND ARRIVES
THE PROSKYNETARION designed to house the Icon and relics of our Patron Saint Nicholas arrived this week! It is really beautiful. (Check out the photograph.) People have been very generous in donating. We still need around \$750 to cover the whole cost. If you'd like to help with this please see Fr. Nick.



NAMEDAYS

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



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!



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.

WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

THIS 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



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 23

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church by Thursday November 21st. People will be there all day Thursday.
- **We also need volunteers to help on Thursday, and Friday November 21-22 with set up and packaging of items for sale,** and with staffing on Saturday, Nov 23. If you have questions please contact: Chris Toda (thetodas@msn.com) or Betty Anderson (bettya16@verizon.net).
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board and at the candle stand for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** with pitas and pastries here at the Church and also with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda** (thetodas@msn.com) **and Betty Anderson** (Bettya16@verizon.net)
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by **November 3rd,** for pick-up Sat/Sun November 23 & 24.

- **Christmas Orders** must be in by **December 1st,** for pick-up Sat/Sun December 21 & 22. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***
- **You may download fliers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

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