

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 27, 2019

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THANKS TO THE PITA BAKERS!

They've been working tirelessly over the past few months getting ready for the upcoming Bake Sale and Holiday season. There will be more to be done over the next weeks. All help welcomed and needed. **Questions?** See Chris Toda or Betty Anderson.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, November 2nd, from 9 AM-NOON.** About 4 people are needed. 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.**

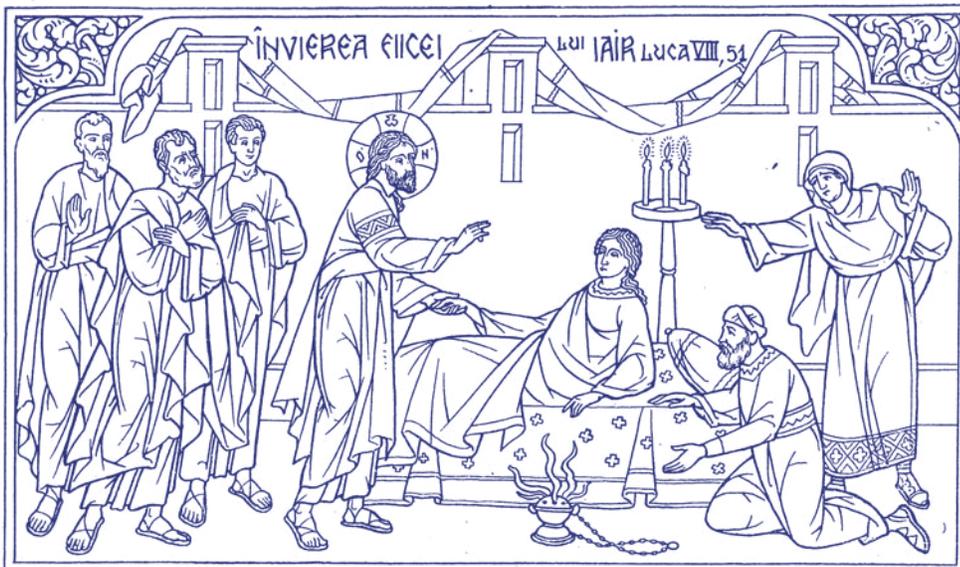
AN "E-WASTE RECYCLING DAY" will be held on **Saturday, November 16th, from 9-2** here at the Church. Recycle unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and help protect the environment. **A few folks are needed to help** direct traffic. Please see **Gerry Belba** if you can help.

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

GREETERS TEAM 1:
MACLYNN AND DIMITRI SAFFRON

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:14-22 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:41-56
(JESUS HEALS THE WOMAN & RAISES JAIRUS' DAUGHTER)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

A 40-DAY MEMORIAL is celebrated today for **Dimitri Cico**. Dimitri was the husband of **Valentina Cico**, and father of **Tomi Tsitsos** and his wife **Krisida Treska**. **May his memory be eternal!**

COFFEE HOUR this week is sponsored by the **Cico Family** in memory of **Dimitri**.

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 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**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Oct 26 Pita Baking, 9AM-NOON

Sat, Nov 2 Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON

Fri, Nov 15 Nativity Fast Begins

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

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 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 Direc-

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



tor, 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.



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O GOD of all consolations: Sustain us in our trials and troubles, and reinforce the little strength we have as we battle with our demons. Then, lead us out of our own small world to embrace others and help them with their concerns. Prevent us from always focusing on ourselves. Let us never repay evil with evil, but, rather, may we always respond with good, for this is how you yourself deal with us at all times.

For you are one to have mercy on us and save us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

BREAKING DOWN WALLS THAT DIVIDE

THIS is the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22. In these verses we hear St. Paul explain how the division and tension between Jew and Gentile are healed and reconciled in Christ. Keep in mind, Ephesus, as well as the other early Christian communities, was composed of both Jewish followers of Jesus and pagan converts. Generally, Jews did not associate with Gentiles, if they could possibly avoid it, and certainly not in worship. Here St. Paul describes how the two separate 'peoples' are now become one in and through Christ.

"For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end" (v. 14-16). This first sentence is long and complicated. It contains many important ideas. Let's address each one in turn.

Christ is not only the herald of peace; he is peace itself. He carries in his person the means and power to heal and resolve differences and separation. He was a perfect Jew for the Jews, but also reached out and ministered to those who were not Jews.

He "has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." St. Paul meant for his readers to understand this 'dividing wall' in two ways. The first was spiritually; the ways in which Jews and Gentiles were separated one from the other in faith and lifestyle. The other was in a very physical sense, an actual wall.

Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, tells us that there was in the Jerusalem Temple a stone wall of three cubits high (five feet), separating the inner court from the outer. On this wall

were signs prohibiting any non-Jew from going any farther, on pain of death. It was like the Berlin wall, an actual wall, but with deeper symbolic meaning. One of the reasons the crowd in Jerusalem wanted to kill Paul (cf. Acts 21:28-31) was that they thought he had brought Trophimus, an Ephesian Gentile, into the Temple to defile it. Like the dividing wall, the hostility it represented was very real. The wall was a symbol for the way in which the Jews understood themselves: as God's people, a people separate, apart, and dedicated only to Him.

Having this 'dividing wall of hostility' as background, we can truly hear the depth of St. Paul's proclamation that Jesus "came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" (v. 17-18). The Gentiles were 'far off' not just in distance, but more importantly in faith. They worshiped pagan gods and often lived immorally. Perhaps the Jews were 'nearer,' but because of their inability to fulfill the Law they were also distanced from God.

In the person of Jesus Christ both Jew and Gentile are united as one people. It is not that the Gentile now becomes a Jew, but rather both are transformed into a new creation. The Holy Spirit who rests on the Son now rests on us as well. Both become sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father through the spirit of adoption. We become heirs with Christ (cf. Romans 8:14-17). We have 'access' to the Father the same way any child is able to approach their parents.

We are accustomed to referring to God as our Father, so it might be difficult to fully appreciate how radical these words sounded to St. Paul's listeners. God was not thought of in familial terms. Gods generally were to be feared and placated. It was our Lord Jesus him-

self who taught his disciples to address God as "Abba" — "Daddy;" that we could approach God with love and trust. He allows us to address Him in the most affectionate and loving way. This is Good News! If we understand and trust God's Word, it will transform our lives.

We are "no longer strangers and sojourners, but . . . fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (v. 19). We no longer have to feel lost and alone. We no longer have to feel displaced and abandoned. We have a true family, an eternal home, with the saints. We are members of God's household.

Look at the image St. Paul paints for us. We are not only members of the household of God, we are also His Temple. This household and temple are "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord" (v. 20-21). His words echo St. Peter who calls us to be "like living stones," allowing ourselves to "be built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

The image given is one of a building, and this can help us understand how all of the pieces — the building blocks — need to fit together for the structure to stand. However, it is not a physical building that is being talked about, nor is it stone and brick that are to be the materials. It is we together with all the saints from all eternity that are the pieces for this structure that God is building. We are asked to become part of this project, to be "built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (v. 22).

The Church, the place where God dwells, is not made of bricks and mortar. It is made of us, brothers and sisters of one Father.

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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