

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 10, 2019

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE NATIVITY (CHRISTMAS) FAST begins this Friday, November 15TH.

OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE will be held on Saturday, November 23RD Please look at the detailed announcements below.

AN "E-WASTE RECYCLING DAY" will be held THIS COMING 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!*

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 December 7TH.

GOD'S BLESSING on the newly illu-

### GREETERS TEAM 3:

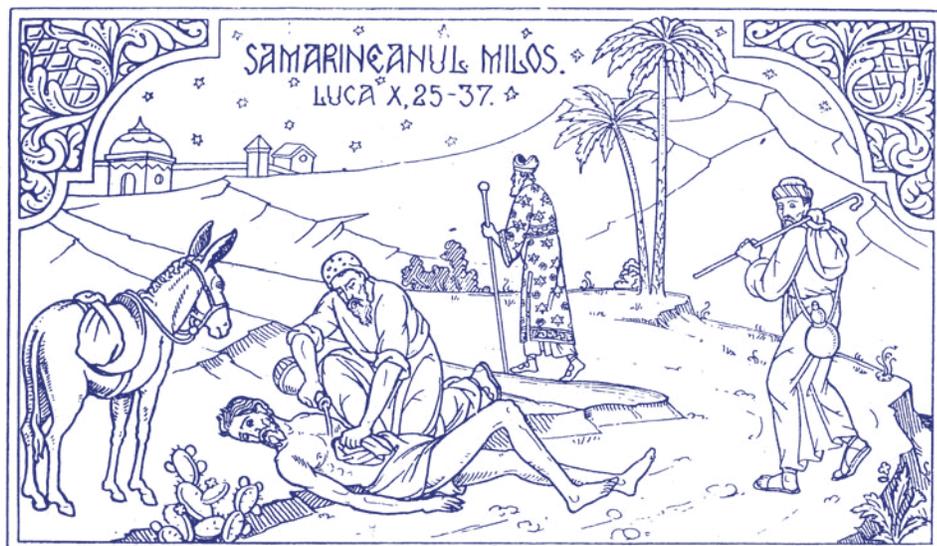
SEAN FAHEY AND MARGARITE LANDRY

### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:

HELP NEEDED

PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



## THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

(THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)

TONE 4 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 10

mined Elisa Guran Ciallella, daughter of Michael Ciallella and Flavia Guran, baptized on November 2nd. Her Nașa is Raluca Sisui. *May our good and loving Lord give her and her whole family many years!*

CONGRATULATIONS to Christos and Tracie Lynn Spyrou on the blessing of their marriage on Saturday, November 2nd. *May God grant them many blessed and happy years!*

CONGRATULATIONS to Gheorghina and Daniel Shaheen on the birth of their daughter Nadine Kamilla Shaheen on Monday, November 4th. *God bless them and their entire family!*

A MEMORIAL is celebrated today for the father of Cristina Gavala, Ioan, fallen asleep one year, and the mother of Artic Gavala, Aurora, fallen asleep seven years. *May their memory be eternal!*

COFFEE HOUR this week is sponsored by the Gavala

Family in memory of their parents.

## 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 acknowl-

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- Sun, Nov 24 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM
- Thurs, Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day
- Sat, Dec 7 Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON
- December 7-8 70TH Anniversary celebration

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edgments 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

**THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER** is available on the Holy Trinity site. Click "Newsletter" at [www.htnr.net](http://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!**

**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](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

**AN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**, sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy will be held, **Sunday, November 24th, at 7:00 pm**. At Wellspring Methodist and Trinity Episcopal, 440 Main St., Shrewsbury. A wonderful way to begin our Thanksgiving celebrations.

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD OUR GOD, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to 'them' and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**9TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT** – Thanksgiving morning Thursday, **November 28th At 8:00 am** join fellow runners, walkers and trotters for the Turkey Trot for the Memory. It's a 5 mile run or a 2 mile walk all to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's disease. This wonderful Shrewsbury tradition is the perfect way to start your holiday. Registration is available online at [www.turkeytrotforthememory.org](http://www.turkeytrotforthememory.org). Questions please email [jamesheald71@gmail.com](mailto:jamesheald71@gmail.com) or [jlizotte2@gmail.com](mailto:jlizotte2@gmail.com).

## NAMEDAYS

November 1

**The Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian**

Kosmas Karadimitriou

November 8

**The Holy Archangel Gabriel**

Inva Gabriela Durmillari

Gabriela Gavala

**The Holy Archangel Michael**

Kenneth Michael Anderson

Michael Bourisk

Michael Walter Clem

Mihai Gavala

Michaela Ionete

Michael Keimig

Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard

Scott Michael Maynard

Tyler Michael Maynard

Michael Anthony Prizio

Michael Soter

Michael Spataro

Michael Peter Toda

**The Holy Archangel Raphael**

Raphaela Zaruha

**The Holy Bodiless Hosts**

Angeliki Soter

November 14

**The Holy All-praised Apostle Philip**

Philip Favata

Philip Rucho

Phillip Sedares

November 16

**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew**

Scott Matthew Belba

Matthew Robert Clem

Matthew Collins

Matthew Soter



## CALLED TO ONE HOPE

**T**HIS is the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7. The great theme of the whole Letter is unity: the unity of God, the unity of the Church, the unity of Christians one with another in Christ. A few weeks ago we heard St. Paul talk about how Christ had "broken down the dividing wall of hostility" between Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14). In this week's reading we receive both inspirational words and practical spiritual advice on how to build up and maintain the oneness that God gives us in Christ Jesus.

The passage opens with a reference to Paul's imprisonment. "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 4:1-3). St. Paul spent prison time in almost every place he preached and establish a Church. He was most likely writing this letter from either Caesarea or Rome. But more important than the place is the fact that he wears his suffering for Christ proudly. He is offering the joy he takes in his suffering as an example of the "lowliness and meekness" which he is urging the Ephesians to embrace. It is very much like the words he spoke to King Agrippa and Governor Festus: "I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains" (Acts 26:29). He wants to lead us to a higher spiritual awareness.

In order to prepare the Ephesians to understand the oneness of the "life worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called," he lists the necessary virtues: lowliness and meekness, patience and forbearance in love. These all could be summed up in one virtue: humility. The Church has always considered humility to be the Mother of virtues; the one from which all the other

virtues spring. In the world of Greek philosophy, not only was this not considered a virtue, it was thought as something to be avoided. Humility becomes worth something only in Jesus Christ. It is revealed as a divine virtue. Through His example we find a way to remake ourselves, becoming God's witness to others, and able to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 3).

In much of his writings, and especially here in Ephesians, St. Paul is concerned with this unity of the Spirit. The unity of the Church, the Body of Christ, should mirror the unity of God. This vision of God's unity is grounded in his Jewish upbringing. He was a pious Jew who prayed twice a day: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one ..." (Deuteronomy 6:4). Jewish belief is that God's Reign will bring a great revelation of God's oneness to the world. The Prophet Zechariah said: "On that day there shall be one Lord, and his name shall be one" (Zechariah 14:9 LXX).

So, St. Paul spells out exactly what this unity, this oneness, looks like: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (v. 4-6).

Let me try to explain. "There is one body:" one visible community; one Church. "And one Spirit:" a single inner source, the one Spirit of the Father given to us at our baptism. "Called to one hope:" we all share in the one and same hope of our salvation; we all share in the one Spirit who is the pledge of the promise. "One Lord:" in our baptism we pledge our obedience to one Lord and Master. He is the one to whom we give our loyalty. "One faith:" much of what St. Paul and the other Apostles were preaching was directed at keeping the Church in the one faith. "One baptism:" this refers not only to the "one baptism for the remission of sins" that we confess in the Creed; it is also the one baptism of Christ that we all share. And finally,

"one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all:" ultimately, it is God's love for us as Father that makes us capable of moving outside of our self-centeredness and embracing one another as brothers and sisters.

As I have reminded you so often, (and as I remind myself even more frequently), the unity of the Church is not a choice; the unity of humanity is not an option. We do not get to choose this as something we might *like* to value. It lies at the very foundation of creation. If we are to be true children of our one Father, we must learn how to love each other, even those who hate us. If we don't then God's experiment with us will fail. (God forbid!)

This is not just about the Orthodox Church; we must reach out in love to all who call themselves Christians. Nor, is it limited to Christians; we must also find a way to speak to those with whom we apparently share little in common. The consequence of not doing so is not merely hostility and war. It is to be shut out from the Kingdom.

We live in a time where conflict seems never-ending. Ours are not the great epic wars of the first half of the twentieth century. Rather, we have wars without battle lines, and enemies without faces. One could almost say it is like a spiritual war, except that we see with our own eyes the wounded, maimed, and dead. But, these wars are spiritual in this sense: the solution is not to be found in guns and bombs, rather in patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and in humility. Only Christ can give us these. For those who do not embrace Christ, we who do must be an example.

And so, while St. Paul begins with our oneness in Christ, it is so that we might grow fully and humbly in order to embrace the "grace ... given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" (v. 7).

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.

### ***HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:***

- **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.**
- **WE WILL HAVE A TABLE OF VINTAGE AND UNIQUE JEWELRY** for sale at the Marketplace. We are seeking donations of jewelry to sell. Contact Lisa Meilnicki with any questions. All proceeds will benefit the Church.

### ***GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:***

- **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.