

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 26, 2020

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE BLESSING OF HOMES AT THEOPHANY. PLEASE NOTE we will be scheduling House Blessings differently this year. Fr. Nick will be blessing houses through January and February. If you would like him to bless your home, please contact him either by e-mail (frnick@stnicholaschurch.org) or on his cell: 508-335-7378 in order to set up a time.

PITA BAKING. We're working to rebuild our pita stock after our successful holiday baking sales. There's a pita dough rolling session, Saturday, February 1ST, 9:00 AM to NOON and also a pita baking session Thursday, February 6TH, 9:00 AM to NOON. **Questions?** Chris Toda at thetodas@msn.com and Betty Anderson at bettya16@verizon.net.

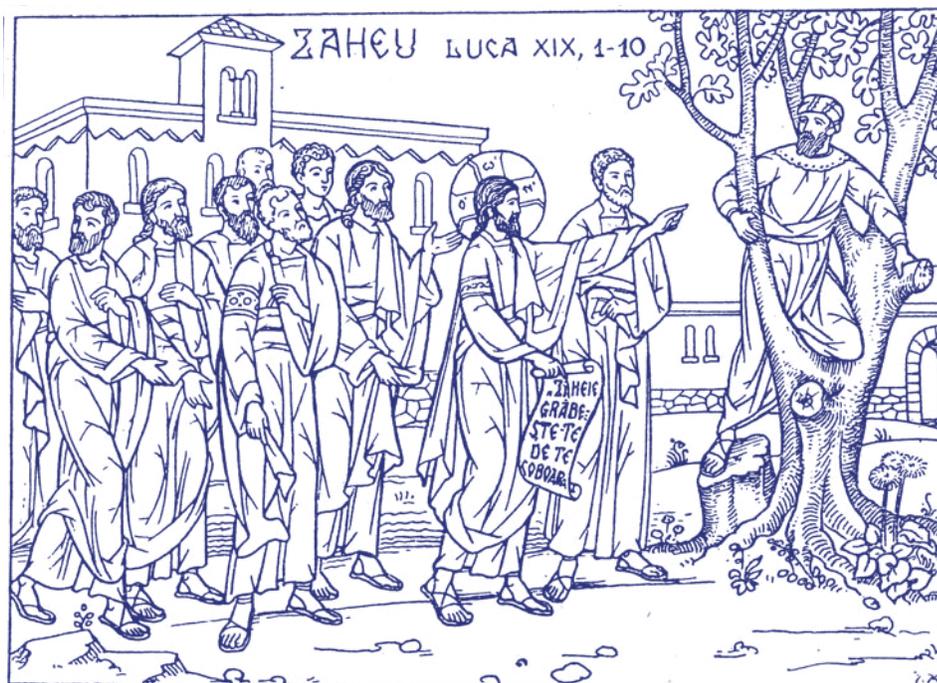
WE ARE SADDENED TO LEARN of the falling asleep of Mrs. Florica Tonna. The funeral will be Tuesday at 11:00 AM with calling hour preceding at 9:30 AM.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, February 1ST, from 9 AM-NOON.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be

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 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10

(THE CONVERSION OF ZACCHAEUS)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 10

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.

SOUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER FOR IOCC will be held on Sunday, February 9TH by the youth of the parish. See back page of Bulletin for details.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly illumined **Matthew Sean Fahey** who was baptized this past Sunday, January 19TH. Parents: **Sean & Iliana Fahey**, big sisters **Katherine and Amelia**, Sponsors: **Dimitri Saffron and Alicia Devine.**

May our good Lord grant them Many Years!

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you would like to sponsor one.

COFFEE HOUR TODAY is sponsored by **Ileana Nace** in memory of the mem-

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Feb 1	Pita Dough Rolling, 9AM-NOON Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON
Thurs, Feb 6	Pita Baking, 9AM-NOON
Sat, Feb 8	Youth Souper Bowl Prep, 2PM
Sun, Feb 9	IOCC Souper Bowl Fundraiser Publican & Pharisee. Triodion begins
Week of Feb 9	No Fasting
Sat, Feb 22	Saturday of Souls
Sun, Feb 23	Meatfare Sunday
Sun, March 1	Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday
Mon, March 2	Great Lent begins
Sun, April 19	Great and Holy Pascha

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

bers of the Nace family, fallen asleep.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity provides a comprehensive rehabilitation program of **Physical, Occupational and Speech/Language Therapies**. Call 508-852-1000 for more information.

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.

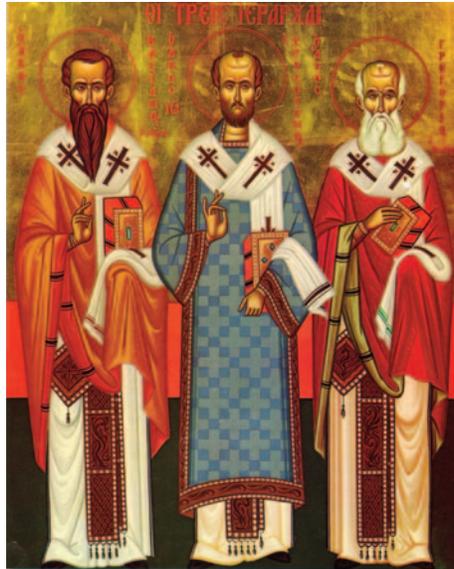
HOLY TRINITY is a non-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center and a project of the Council of Orthodox Churches of Central MA. Please keep Holy Trinity in your prayers and in your charitable plans. Contributions to the Treasured Generations Annual Fund can be made at www.htnr.net and volunteers 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,

WHEN all the difficulties and troubles of life seem to overpower us at once, Lord, come quickly to our aid and give us the wisdom and strength we need to deal with it all. From on high, reach down and seize us, as it were, pulling us out of the depths of our problems and difficulties and rescuing us in your love. Do not forget us, but help us always.

For you are God and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



TEACHERS AND HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom: During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred Saint Basil (January 1), others honored Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted Saint John Chrysostom (November 13).

Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites.

By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to Saint John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another."

They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

NAMEDAYS

January 12

St. Tatiana the Martyr of Rome

Tatiana Sofia Karadimitriou

January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Anthony Theodore Christo

Scott Anthony Maynard

Anthony Rucho

Tony Nicholas Trakadas

January 18

St. Athanasios

Patriarch of Alexandria

Thanas Lolo

Arthur Peterson

January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy

Rev. Fr. Timothy Lowe

Timothy Rucho

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

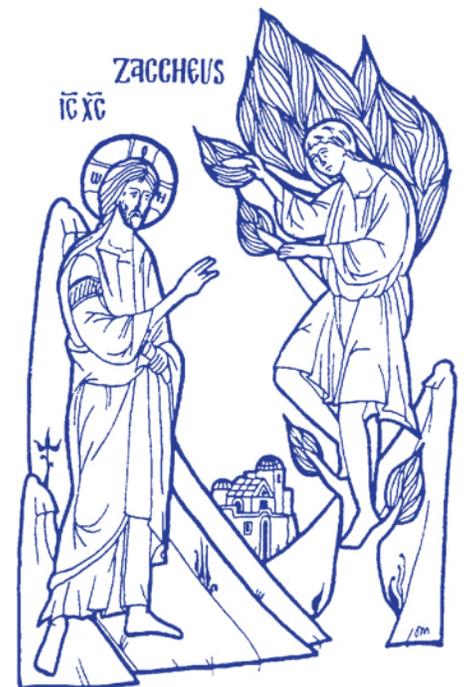
Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos

Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters



LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH

THE liturgical cycle is now directing us toward preparation for Great Lent and Pascha. This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of the repentance of Zacchæus the tax collector. The Epistle reading is from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, 4:9-15. St. Paul's Pastoral Letters — First and Second Timothy, and Titus — were addressed personally to the leader of a local church. He offered them advice on how to deal with organizational and pastoral matters within their communities. When writing to Timothy, he especially spoke of the qualifications for holding leadership positions within the Church; how the local bishop or presbyter, and deacons should comport themselves for the well-being of the community. These letters are often cited during ordinations.

Even though the advice is directed primarily toward those with spiritual responsibilities in the community, much of the advice still can be helpful to each of us. The reading begins with this affirmation: "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe" (v. 9-10). Here St. Paul is speaking especially of the difficulties of ministry. Keep in mind all of the sufferings that Paul and the other Apostles endured: imprisonment, floggings, exile, shipwreck. Many met a terrible death. They were abused even by members of their own communities. It is out of this experience that St. Paul urges Timothy to maintain his focus. "We toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God." The impulse to preach the Gospel is not grounded in human ambition and pride. It is based on the hope and faith we have in God, and the desire to share this hope with others.

God is "Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." This is a beautiful expression of a proper Christian attitude to evangelism. It embodies both God's desire that "everyone be

saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), and the particular comfort those have who answer God's call, having faith and trust in Him.

St. Paul tells Timothy: "Command and teach these things" (v. 11). St. John Chrysostom offers a helpful explanation of why St. Paul says both "command and teach." He observes that depending on the circumstance a person in authority, such as a bishop or presbyter, or a parent or teacher, might have to 'command,' that is, to be unequivocal or directive. In other cases teaching is required. If you do one when you should do the other, you'll look silly. For example, when there is a clear moral imperative — 'don't take that, it doesn't belong to you' — teaching is not the appropriate stance. An authoritative voice is required. In other circumstances, when the issue is a matter of subtle choices, or where a person is inexperienced or ill-informed, shouting a command would not only be inappropriate, but probably offensive and hurtful. Gentle words of instruction are what is called for in this situation.

St. Paul is giving this advice to Timothy because he was relatively young for the responsibility that had been laid on him. Timothy was about thirty five when St. Paul was writing to him. He had been with St. Paul since he was around seventeen. They had a long relationship. So, he tells him, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (v. 12). He isn't saying that Timothy is not capable, or 'up to the job,' just that he should recognize that some people might be uncomfortable because of his relative youth. A little later on, in Chapter 5, he offers him specific advice on how to relate to persons older and younger than he, both men and women. In this particular verse he focuses on the central aspect: Timothy's own behavior. He tells Timothy that he needs to be the example. This

is good advice for every bishop and presbyter. It is also good advice for each one of us. If we presume to teach or lead, we need first and foremost to show how it is done through our own life: our words, but especially our deeds, actions and thoughts.

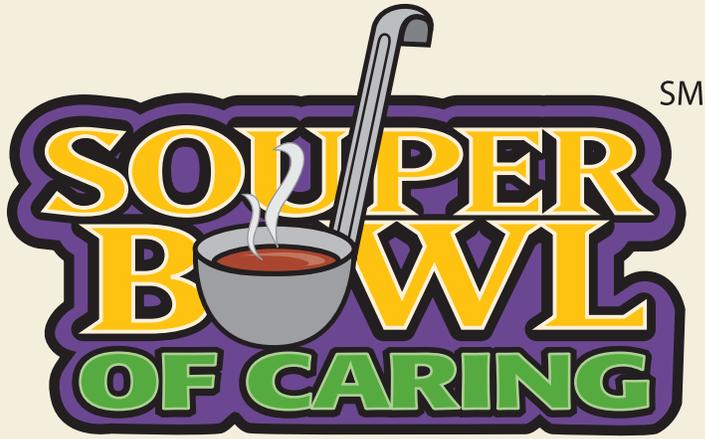
"Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching" (v. 13). The early Christian communities were organized much like the Jewish synagogues out of which they grew. As part of their service, in addition to the eucharist, there were readings of scripture, preaching (that is, an explanation of the scripture), and teaching (namely, the practical application). We do much the same today.

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you" (v. 14). In St. Paul's time ordination was by an Apostle, but the council of presbyters (elders/priests) consented by laying their hands on the candidate, along with the Apostle. By "prophetic utterance" St. Paul is referring to those spiritually gifted persons who pointed out the unique and charismatic qualities of Timothy himself. Paul doesn't want Timothy to forget the gifts God has given him.

"Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress" (v. 15). One of the ways that we can see God at work in the world is in the progress each of us makes in the spiritual life. When we practice what we have been taught and devote ourselves to the life in Christ, not only do we ourselves benefit, but we also encourage others. They see the change in us and grow in hope.

This is St. Paul's advice to Timothy. It is his advice to us as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Together we can beat hunger.

Help feed the hungry by collecting nonperishables for a local food bank, and collect money for IOCC to support our work around the globe. Together we can turn the biggest weekend in football into a super day of giving!

Learn more at
iocc.org/souperbowl



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ATTENTION ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

We are planning a "soup making" day at St Nicholas on Saturday, February 8TH from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. We will be prepping the soup that Saturday to serve Sunday, February 9TH during coffee hour to raise money for IOCC.

After prepping the soup and cleaning up, we will celebrate Vespers followed by pizza dinner for the kids.

This event will be for third graders and older. We're looking forward to having all the kids together. Please tell Valarie Stamoulis if you'll be able to make it.

E-mail:
valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com

Mobile: 617-803-3798