

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 10, 2020

Happy Mother's Day

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE LIVE STREAMING of the Services continues. You can count on our regular Sunday services: Matins at 9:00am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

• For the Live-Streaming of Sunday Services, go to: www.stnicholaschurch.org and click on "Live Streaming Services."

STEWARDSHIP. It was really heartening to see how many people remembered the Parish in their giving this Pascha. However, the economic crisis is paralleling the Covid crisis. Everyone is being effected. Please remember that **the Church is also in the same situation.** There are on-going expenses. As you are able, please continue to send what stewardship offering that you feel comfortable with. You may mail it to the Church address. You may also give online, on the parish website. That address is: <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=854>

WE HAVE A COVID FUND. There are people both in our parish and who come to the Church who are in need. There will very likely be even more as this situation continues. **If you need help,** whatever it might be, including financial assistance, please contact Fr. Nick. We'll find a way to assist you. **ALSO,** we are asking the faithful in our parish **WHO ARE ABLE,** to perhaps contribute toward this fund. We've set up a small committee, headed by Fr. Nick, to administer this fund, and dis-



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 9:32-42 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3 - MATINS GOSPEL 5

tribute what we're able to give as equitably as possible. **May God keep us all!**

"THANK YOU MEALS" FOR HOLY TRINITY STAFF. One way Holy Trinity is trying to show the staff how much each of them is appreciated is by providing a substantial meal for them during their shift. (See the paragraph below in the Holy Trinity section.) They've partnered with a number of our local restaurateurs. One way we can help is to sponsor some of these meals. **We have donated \$500 on behalf of our parish and want to sponsor at least one day of meals each month (hopefully more).** If you'd like to donate toward this you may either go to **our website** and click on the **"On-Line Giving"** button, or mail in a check. Please designate **"Holy Trinity Meals."** **Questions?** e-mail Fr. Nick.

THERE ARE PITAS AND PASTRIES AVAILABLE! If you'd like to know what we have and how to purchase, talk to **Chris Toda, 508-832-6271**

or Betty Anderson, 508-756-4848.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES (Yes, people are still graduating) in our Parish so we can recognize them on their accomplishment. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform **Tim Rucho or Fr. Nick.**

THE PARISH COUNCIL has been meeting regularly during this time period (by conference call). You'll notice in the announcements some of the ideas being discussed. If you have suggestions please send them along to George Demake.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER. You already know that Fr. Nick maintains a Parish Diptych. He remem-

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, May 28	Ascension of the Lord
Sat. June 6	Saturday of the Dead
Sun, June 7	Pentecost

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

bers all of the members of the Parish, living and dead, as he prepares the Holy Offering at every Liturgy. But each one of us has a part in that prayer as well. Sometimes we bake a Prospora and bring it, along with names of people who need our prayers, to be remembered during the Liturgy. Very often, when we enter the Church we light a candle, or two or three, as another kind of offering for people we love. The distancing imposed upon us has definitely put a crimp in these and other beautiful practices, but here's a suggestion. **Send the names of people you'd especially like to be remember to Fr. Nick.** He'll make sure they are prayed for during the Liturgy. If you'd like to have **candles lit as well**, make a note on the message that you send, and we'll make sure candles are offered. If you'd like to **make a donation**, that would be a help for our Parish. Either mail it to the Church address, or give on-line by clicking here.

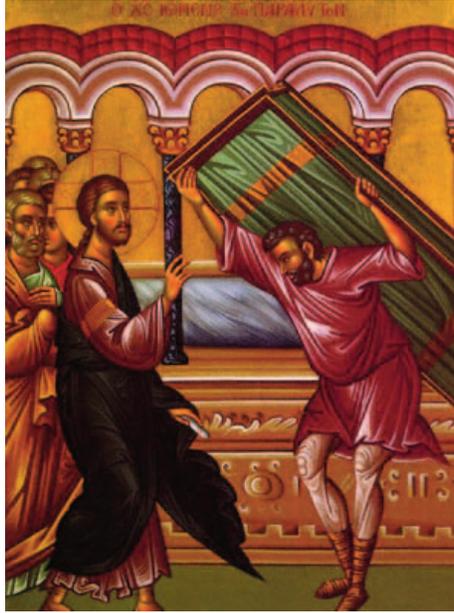
WE WILL CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL today for **Anthousa**, the aunt of **Anthi Eleftheriou**, as well as other members of the Eleftheriou family fallen asleep: Neofytos, Athina, Emilianos, Eleni, Costantinos, Evdokia, and Andreas. **May their memory be eternal!**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

This is the latest update from Holy Trinity (4 May 2020).

Numbers Update – Currently there are 58 positive residents and 19 negatives. There have sadly been 8 deaths in total since the outbreak. Holy Trinity expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the families of those that have perished due to the virus, as well as those that have perished due to other natural causes.

Resident Update – The residents have started to enjoy family visits through their windows during nice weather days! The residents continue to enjoy



SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people

virtual visits as well as phone calls. Please contact Holy Trinity (508-852-1000) if you would like to schedule a visit.

Staff "Thank You Meals" – Holy Trinity continues to feed every staff member during their shift through the wonderful donations from our community and resident families that go towards the purchase of food from local restaurants. This week New England Roast Beef, Northborough House of Pizza, Garden Fresh Courthouse Café, Thai and I, and Bagel Inn were our generous restaurants. Holy Trinity would like to thank our donors for their wonderful generosity and continued support. Most importantly, a special "THANK YOU" to the staff of Holy Trinity for continuing to make the residents comfortable, healthy,

with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel way lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

and happy during this extremely difficult time

REMEMBER, HOLY TRINITY has set up a **dedicated web page** on its site to address questions and changing information. We urge all families and other interested persons to go directly to the site — <https://www.htnr.net/coronavirus> — for answers to the questions you might have.



GOD'S POWER TO CONVINC

THIS is the fourth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's healing of the Paralytic Man (John 5:1-15). In the reading from Acts (9:32-42), we hear of a similar healing, as well as the miracle of a woman raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter. There is a common theme in the two readings: the power of God to persuade and convince even the most skeptical of people.

After St. Luke tells us of St. Paul's powerful conversion on the road to Damascus (in Acts 9:1ff), he returns again to the missionary work of St. Peter. As the community of believers in Jesus grew and spread, St. Peter felt it important to visit these new communities, some of which were Gentile missions. He traveled to the region of Sharon to a town called Lydda, about twenty eight miles northwest of Jerusalem and half-way to Joppa. "There he found a man named Æneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, 'Æneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.' And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:33-35).

As with the Paralytic in today's Gospel reading, no profession of faith is asked of Æneas. St. John Chrysostom points out that when the Lord began his ministry he rarely asked for a sign of the person's faith. He simply healed them. In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord simply said to the Paralytic: "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:6) St. Peter tells Æneas: "Jesus Christ heals you." (v. 34) In both cases the general population did not know who either the Lord or St. Peter were. Their fame had not yet spread. It was the works themselves that would "get their attention." This is what the Lord means when he says: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Fa-

ther is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves." (John 14:11) The great signs done by the Lord, and later by the Apostles in Jesus' name, are the means by which people become engaged and receptive to listening to the larger message. We see this effect at work in St. Peter's healing of Æneas, because when he stood up, "all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (v. 35)

While Peter was at Lydda the disciples in Joppa, hearing he was there, sent two men to go and get him and bring him to Joppa. There was a disciple there named Tabitha who had gotten sick and died. St. Luke tells us that "she was full of good works and acts of charity." (v. 36) Tabitha is the Aramaic word for "gazelle." St. Luke translates her name into Greek: "Dorcas." St. John Chrysostom, using the meaning of the name, emphasizes that she was lively and quick, not only in acts of charity, but in every kind of good work. This is evident in the scene St. Peter found when he arrived. "All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them." (v. 39)

Each of us knows of good and faithful women in our communities, the kind who are always giving, ready to help in a humble way. These are the women who visit the sick and shut-ins, who bake a meal for a family in need, and who volunteer in any number of

ways. This is the type of person Tabitha was. We can imagine the grief in the Joppa Church.

After she had died, the women had washed her body and laid her in the upper room. When Peter was brought into that grief-filled room he took stock of the situation and asked everyone to leave. Then he knelt down and prayed. He looked at the body and said: "Tabitha rise!" She immediately sat up and he took her hand and presented her to the saints and widows alive. (v. 40-41)

This miracle has strong parallels with the raising of Jairus' daughter. (cf. Luke 8:49-56) Jesus too ordered that everyone leave, except for Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents. Jesus took her hand and called her back from the dead. But, there is one important difference. While Jesus told them not to say anything to anyone about what had happened, in Joppa it immediately became known throughout the whole city and "many believed in the Lord." (v. 42)

These two very powerful signs that we read about in today's lesson from Acts were meant to show the world that the Apostles were graced to carry on the work of the Lord Jesus. The power of miracles and signs was given to them and to the Church throughout the ages in order to open people's hearts to hear the words that lead to salvation. Sickness, suffering, and death are not unique to any time or place. They have always been with us. The Lord has given us these and similar signs, even in our own time, to encourage us and strength our resolve to believe in Him.

Sickness, debilitating illness, and even death itself do not have the final word; the life given us in our Lord Jesus does.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Victor over the grave and every kind of death: This morning, the celebration of your glorious resurrection also brings to mind your cure of the paralytic. For years the paralyzed man lay at the side of the sheep's pool, and never called on you for help, but out of your loving kindness, you forgave his sins, restored the full use of his limbs, and sent him on his way to renewed life. In your tenderness, bind up the wounds of our brokenness as well, so that, enjoying renewed health and vigor of soul, we may serve you in holiness all the days of our life.

For you are the healer of our souls and bodies, Christ our God, and we give you glory, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and lifegiving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



2020 GRADUATES

"He has filled them with the spirit of God, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft." (Exodus 35:31)

We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mihai Gavala, son of Artic and Cristina Gavala, is graduated from Sutton Middle School, and will attend St John's High School in Shrewsbury.

HIGH SCHOOL

Gabriela Joanna Gavala, daughter of Artic and Cristina Gavala, is graduated from Worcester Academy and will attend Union College in Schenectady, New York. She will study Biology/Psychology and hopes to enroll in PreMed.

Elodie Killick, daughter of Elaine and Nicholas Killick, is graduated from Doherty High School. She will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall studying Biology.

Dan Alexandru Nedelescu, son of Bogdan and Sandra Nedelescu, is graduated from the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Sciences at WPI. He will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta to study Computer Science.

COLLEGE

Dimitri Christo, son of James and Lea Christo, is graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston with a BA in Graphic Design. He is working for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Tatiana Karadimitriou, daughter of Kosmas Karadimitriou and Maria Kalpidou, is graduated from the University of Southern California. She is working in a cancer research lab during her gap year as she applies to medical school.

Brian Rucho, son of Christopher and Julie Rucho, and grandson of Florence Rucho, is graduated from Westfield State University with a BS in Liberal Studies and is pursuing his electrician's license.

Christian Wybieracki, grandson of Janice Samara, is graduated from Bentley College in Waltham with a BA in Finance. He is pursuing a position in his field.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Elias Christo, son of James and Lea Christo, is graduated from Roger Williams University with a MA in Architecture. He is preparing for the national Architectural Registration Exam and pursuing employment at a residential architecture firm in New England.

Matthew Moore, grandson of Janice Samara, is graduated from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, with a MA in Bio-Medical Engineering. He is pursuing a position in his field.

May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!