

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JUNE 28, 2009

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We want to **thank those who helped to prepare food and serve** the visitors at the **Mustard Seed last week**. This work is an important ministry of our Church that helps us to fulfill our mission as a Christian community. Our next scheduled Mustard Seed date is August 21st.

We will begin **"Summer Hours" on Sunday, July 5th through August 30th. Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM**, and should conclude at approximately 10:45, enabling people to enjoy the expanse of these summer Sundays.

There will be **NO Divine Liturgy** at our Church on **BOTH Sunday, July 19, and Sunday, July 26**, because Fr. Nick will be traveling. This provides a great opportunity to visit one of our sister Orthodox parishes.

For those of you who **plant and tend summer gardens, please consider planting some extra Basil** to bring to Church for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross in September. As the summer proceeds, please let Fr. Nick know the amount you think you might have to offer, so we can plan accordingly.

Just in time for summer grilling — **Lamb Shishkebob** — with all the flavor of homemade and none of the work! St. Nicholas's kitchen is offering prepared

USHERS TEAM 4:  
DEAN VALORAS, EVAN SPARAGES  
ALTAR TEAM B



### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ON THE CARES OF LIFE (MATTHEW 6:22-33)

and packaged lamb shish kabobs, four skewers to each package, selling for \$10. Marinated with our own special blend of olive oil, lemon and spices, our Lamb Shishkebob is ready for you to enjoy for a quick week night meal or for a weekend gathering with family and friends. Just thaw, grill and serve! For more information, or to place an order, speak with **Deb Sedares**.

During the summer weeks when Sunday School is not in session, there will be a **"Resource Table"** available in the hall **for parents to occupy their younger chil-**

**dren if needed after communion and during the sermon**. This table will contain a supply of crayons, paper, and simple craft materials for use by parents of small children, along with the many children's bible story books that we have available. Please remember to control the noise level while the service is ongoing, and help to clean-up the area after you're done.

### HOLY TRINITY NEWS

The **Holy Trinity Activities and Volunteer Department** provides many fun activities and meaningful moments for our residents. We (or *you* as a volunteer!) provide activities to both large and small groups:

**Large Group Activities:** BINGO, Pokeno, Trivia, Art & Crafts, Video Games on the Wii

**Small Group Activities:** Garden Club, Reading Poetry, Book Club, Music Club

**One on One Activities:** Card Playing, Writing Letters, Games, Computer/email activities

**Please come and join our volunteer team!** The residents appreciate your time and company. Volunteering at our facility is a rewarding Christian experience. If interested, **contact: Catherine E. Sabatini** at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: csabatini@htnr.net

**HOLY TRINITY HOSPICE "TRANSITIONS":** A Grief and Healing Support Group meets every other Wed. from 6-7:30 pm. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. It is held at

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, July 5 thru

August 30 Summer Hours, Lit at 9:30

Sun, July 19 & 26 NO Divine Liturgy at our Church

Sat, Aug 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry

Dormition Fast Begins

Fri, Aug 21 Mustard Seed Meal

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

Holy Trinity Hospice, at Washburn House, 1183 Main Street, Worcester, MA. For more info and to pre-register, contact David Day: 508-791-8200 or daviddday@holyltrinityhospice.org

## NAMEDAYS

June 27

**The Holy Myrrh-bearer Joanna**

Joanne V. Prizio

June 29

**The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Kenneth Paul Maynard

Peter Mountzouris

Rev. Fr. Peter Michael Preble

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

Peter Demetri Tsongalis

Paul Zekos

Peter Zekos

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD of the universe: You want all people everywhere to come to you and adore you, but we fail to live in a way that gives them any idea of how attractive your greatness really is. Then, when we try to be loving, we get into trouble, for we fail to realize that love for you respects the need others have of you. Furthermore, we do not see that you - true love - alone can enable us to love others without defiling the loneliness they need for their salvation. Help us, Lord, to understand, as only you can.

So that ever filled with health of soul and body, we may confidently glorify your wondrous and blessed name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

## MID-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

	2009 Budget	2009 Thru 6/15	
<b>Operating Income</b>			
TRAYS & CANDLES	18,000.00	9,568.00	53%
MEMBERSHIP	60,000.00	26,997.00	45%
DONATIONS	19,000.00	8,762.17	46%
CHURCH FUND RAISERS	55,000.00	10,630.49	19%
MISC. INCOME	0	0	
INTEREST	300	3.65	1%
<b>Operating Total Income</b>	<b>152,300.00</b>	<b>55,961.31</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>			
INSURANCE	4,431.48	2,147.00	48%
SALARIES	57,794.00	29,434.48	51%
UTILITIES	10,000.00	6,301.58	63%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	19,000.00	8,968.81	47%
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	8,600.00	4,440.18	52%
CHURCH/ALTAR	4,000.00	731.50	18%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1,000.00	0.00	0%
ARCHDIOCESE/COUNCIL	5,000.00	0.00	0%
CHURCH FUND RAISER EXP	25,000.00	3,987.20	16%
CHURCH GROWTH EXP	1,300.00	222.60	17%
<b>Operating Total Expense</b>	<b>136,125.48</b>	<b>56,233.35</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Operating Net Income</b>	<b>16,174.52</b>	<b>-272.04</b>	
<b>Capital Campaign Total Income</b>	<b>74,668.52</b>	<b>18,514.87</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Capital Campaign Total Expense (= Mortgage)</b>	<b>74,668.52</b>	<b>74,668.52</b>	
<b>Capital Campaign Net Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-56,153.65</b>	
<b>Combined Total Net Income</b>	<b>16,174.52</b>	<b>-56,425.69</b>	
Fundraising NET Budget		30,000.00	
Fundraising NET Year-to-Date		6,643.29	22%
Cash Balance - January 1, 2009		<b>\$26,001</b>	



### "SPECIAL NEEDS"

\$75 to sponsor Coffee Hour  
\$75 weekly for the Cleaning Service

LISTEN TO THE WEEKLY NATIONAL ORTHODOX RADIO BROADCAST "COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT"

BY WEB OR PODCAST: [WWW.RECEIVE.ORG](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

## WOULD WE DIE FOR OUR ENEMY?

**T**HIS third Sunday after Pentecost we continue reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (5:1-10). In this passage St. Paul explains how faith in our Lord Jesus Christ does not simply restore our relationship with God, but transforms it. We are able to stand before our heavenly Father as a true, albeit adopted, child of God. He calls this ability to stand before God "justification." I think it appropriate to consider our current use of the legal term "standing" in order to help us understand St. Paul's meaning. To have "standing" in the legal sense means that you have a right to be in court; you have a place there. When St. Paul says, "we are justified by faith," (v. 5:1) he means that we can stand before God because we belong there.

In the previous chapter, St. Paul provides the example of the Righteous Abraham. "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (v. 4:3) Even though Abraham and Sarah were very old, God promised him that he would be the father of many nations. Abraham believed Him. His act of faith in God made him righteous.

St. Paul continues this line of thought when he tells us that, "since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God." (v. 5:1-2) So it is because of our faith that we have peace with God. Similarly, because of our sin and lack of faith—our disobedience—we lose this peace, but it is restored to us through Jesus. Through him, as St. Paul says, we now have access to the grace that allows us to stand before God; and this gives us hope.

Having said that "we rejoice in our

hope," St. Paul directs us to an even deeper reality. He says, "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings." (v. 3) After having told us of the gift that God offers us by believing in Him, he then tells us that this faith which gives us hope, will also comfort us in the very real trials of this life. We rejoice in God not only for the good things given us, but even during the sufferings that life holds for us.

He sets before us a progression, a pattern, of spiritual growth. He says that, "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." (v. 3-4) Our hope isn't abstract; it is grounded in the very real trust that we place in God during the most difficult times of our lives.

We should understand that there is a difficulty in translating St. Paul's words in this verse. What we translate into English as endurance or patience (*ὑπομονή*) is both of these concepts together. What he speaks of is a "constant patient endurance;" a constancy which forms and develops a tried and tested character under tribulation. This kind of character begets hope. It takes away fear of what the future may bring. After describing what we need to do—what our part is— St. Paul returns to God's initiative. He says that "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (v. 5) He doesn't say that the Holy Spirit has been given to us, as though measured out. Rather, God's love has been "poured" into our hearts. This is an image of overflowing grace; an abundance of love. God is not holding back; He is overwhelming us with His presence.

In order to prove his point, St. Paul gives us the ultimate example. "While

we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (v. 6) We are the ungodly. God did not wait for us to turn and repent. He did not wait for our expression of faith. He proved his faithfulness and love "while we were yet sinners." (v. 8)

Listen to St. Paul's argument: "Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." (v. 7-8). I have often reflected on this verse, taking St. Paul's words very seriously. Would I give up my life even for a good person? Could I contemplate sacrificing myself for someone who was my enemy? But, this is what he who we call Lord, God and Savior did for us, his enemies; his disobedient children. He did it because he loves us and wants to call us back to our Father. St. Paul finishes his argument with these words: "Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." (v. 9-10)

St. Paul is giving the Romans and us hope and urging us on to courageously pursue the spiritual life; the life of faith. He points to God's love for us as expressed by His Son's sacrifice. He tells us that because of this, God and humanity are reconciled—we can be restored to what He intended us to be. He urges us to believe, to have faith in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, and in this way the hope that we have of God's love for us will pour into our hearts.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA