

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

AUGUST 9, 2009

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We are now on "Summer Hours" with Divine Liturgy **beginning at 9:30am** this week through **August 30th**.

The fast period for the **Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Mother of God** began on August 1st, and culminates in the celebration of the Feast on August 15th. During this time, we will hold services to pray to the Mother of God for her help and intercession in our lives and the world. The schedule of special services celebrating these Feast is as follows:

- ❖ Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 pm, Supplication Service to the Theotokos
- ❖ Thursday, August 13, 6:00 pm, Supplication Service to the Theotokos
- ❖ Friday, August 14, 7:00 pm, Feast-Day Vespers at St. Mary's
- ❖ Saturday, August 15, 9:30 am, Feast-Day Liturgy at St. Mary's

We will prepare food and serve the visitors at the **Mustard Seed on Friday, August 21st**. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Help is needed at 9 am to cook and prepare food, and at Church at 4:45 to transport and serve, or 5:45 directly at the Mustard Seed. **Please contact Fr. Nick** if you can help with this ministry.

USHERS TEAM 4:  
DEAN VALORAS, EVAN SPARAGES

ALTAR TEAM A



### NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JESUS WALKS ON WATER AND CALMS THE STORM (MATTHEW 14:22-34)

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 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**.

**A few people are needed to help complete maintenance on the area surrounding the detention pond.** Someone with a "weed wacker" is needed to further clear the area, and then spread mulch around the plantings. A date/time will be arranged based on availability of volunteers. Please speak with **Tim Rucho** if you can help.

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

On Sunday, September 13th, we

will once again host an "Old Style Church Picnic" here on the Church grounds **At this time, some help is needed to prepare "shish" on Thursday, August 27 at 6 pm, and Saturday August 29 at 9 am.** Please let Deb Sedares know if you can help. Mark your calendars! More details are forthcoming ...

The opening ceremonies for **Religious Education for children will be Sunday, September 20th.** Registration Forms are available at Church. We ask that you complete and return those

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sun thru Aug 30 | Summer Hours, Lit at 9:30          |
| Tues, Aug 11    | Supplication to Theotokos, 6:00 pm |
| Thurs, Aug 13   | Supplication to Theotokos, 6:00 pm |
| Fri, Aug 14     | Vespers at St. Mary, 7:00 pm       |
| Sat, Aug 15     | Dormition Lit at St. Mary 9:30 am  |
| Fri, Aug 21     | Mustard Seed Meal                  |
| Sat, Sept 5     | Staff Orthodox Food Pantry         |
| Sun, Sept 13    | St. Nicholas Parish Picnic         |
| Sun, Sept 20    | Religious Ed Classes begin         |

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*

forms ASAP so we may plan appropriately. Please speak with **Preoteasa Maria or Deb Sedares** if you have any questions.

### HOLY TRINITY NEWS

You have received a letter in the mail inviting you to participate in **Holy Trinity's Treasured Generations 2009 Annual Fund**. This annual gift program helps to provide the highest quality of care that we believe every "senior citizens in residence" deserve. You may also visit [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net) to give online. Please be generous.

Save the Date!! Holy Trinity is planning a special **15th Anniversary celebration** titled "Rehabilitate with Laughter" on Friday, October 2, 2009, at 6:30 pm at the Manor Restaurant in West Boylston. Stay tuned ...



THE HOLY NEW-MARTYR  
TRIANDAPHILLOS

## NAMEDAYS

### August 6

#### The Holy Transfiguration of the Savior

Samuel Demma  
Richard James Seferi  
S. Richard Seferi

### August 8

#### The Holy New Martyr Triandaphyllos

Rose Armida Salerno

### August 15

#### The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos

Maria Blanchard  
Mary Cocaine  
Maria Dumitriu  
Monika Maria Durmillari  
Mary Gity  
Fr. Peter Mentis  
Melika Mossaides  
Maria Panagore  
Mary K. Seferi  
Mary Tanacea  
Nancy Maria Tsongalis  
Mary Tsoules  
Marietta Zaruha

### August 26

#### The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia

Natalia Grace Dorogi  
Natasha Zhaka

### August 29

#### St. Theodora of Thessalonika

Gina Theodora Trakadas

### August 30

#### St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople

Alexander Charalambides  
Aleksandar Cheverevski  
Emilia Alexandra Galeriu  
Dr. Alexander Gouvelis  
Alexandra Mazanitis  
Alexander Moe  
Alexandru Nace  
Conner Alexander Polymeros  
Alexander James Trakadas



THE TRANSFIGURATION

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**I**N spite of our sins and failings, Lord, do not be angry with us, nor shorten our lives. Bent over as we are from all our foolishness and inadequacies, we cannot rise without your saving help. Hear us and do not scorn us, though we stand before you bound in the chains we ourselves have forged. Help us to love your name and to live in you that you may live in us.

For yours is dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

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

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

## YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

**T**HIS is the ninth Sunday after Pentecost, and we continue reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians; this week the selection is 3:9-17. St. Paul is dealing with reports of scandal and division, including some immoral behavior, within the Corinthian Church. In last week's reading we listened to him directly address the attitudes that were at the basis of the factionalism. In the verses that followed (v. 1:18-3:5) he severely reprimands them for their childish behavior. He knows that they see themselves as "spiritually mature" because some in the community have been graced with the charismatic gifts of the Spirit, yet he sees them as spiritually immature, even children.

He says, "I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?" (v. 3:1-3) He uses two images, two metaphors, to help them understand the path to spiritual growth. The first is an agricultural image: Paul plants, Apollos waters, and God gives the growth (cf. 3:6). The second is the image of a building. This is where today's reading begins, as St. Paul moves from the first metaphor to the second.

In order to soften the edge of his rebuke, St. Paul invites the Corinthians to see the spiritual project of the Church as a building, on which, as God's servants, we all work collaboratively, according to our talents and the grace given us. He says: "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care

how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (v. 3:10-11) Paul is saying three things here: First, as Apostle and founder of the community—the master builder—he gave them the spiritual foundation on which to build. Second, the foundation not only provides support for the building to be built upon it, but also determines its shape and parameters. And three, the foundation for the Church is Christ Himself; one must be careful if something or someone else is being preached.

He continues, "Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done." (v. 12-13) There are two possible interpretations as to whom St. Paul is referring. The "anyone" in verse 12 could refer to other preachers or ministers; people responsible for building up the community through teaching and example. Or, he could be referring to us, the members of the Church. St. John Chrysostom leans toward the second understanding.

He comes to this conclusion from the context. He says that clearly Paul is not speaking of a physical building, because people do not use gold, silver and precious stones for this. Rather these "building materials" represent the quality of our actions. How we internalize and then incorporate the Gospel into our actions and habits become like spiritual gold or wood or straw. Our works will become visible on the Day, that is, the Day of the Lord when He comes in judgment. Everything will be revealed—tested—by fire.

Fire has this quality, it can either consume or it can purify. Materials such as wood, hay and straw are con-

sumed, leaving only blackened ash. Gold and silver, on the other hand, are purified and made more brilliant.

And so, "If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire. (v. 14-15) For the person whose works are like precious metals and stones, the fire on the Day of Judgment is a refining fire. For the person whose works cannot withstand the fires of judgment, they will escape with their lives, but with nothing to show for it. Like someone standing on the street watching all of their life's work and memories being reduced to smoldering ash, so will it be for us if we are not willing and ready to put into practice the Good News that we've heard.

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (v. 16-17) This is the heart of St. Paul's argument. The "building" with which he is concerned is us. We are God's dwelling place. St. Paul echoes the Lord's words when he said: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (John 14:23)

By the way we live we either build up or destroy God's temple. Even in this secular age people are still outraged when a holy place—church, synagogue, or mosque—is desecrated. To the Corinthians these words were even more powerful. Whether you were a pagan or a Jew the desecration of a temple invited God's wrath. This is St. Paul's admonishment for us, to remember that we are responsible for God's dwelling place.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA