

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 16, 2009

10TH 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 **Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Mother of God** is celebrated on August 15th, and is the Parish Feastday of our sister Parish, **St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church in Worcester**. Everyone is invited to attend the Divine Services there for the Feast. They will hold **Great Vespers on Friday, August 14 at 7:00 pm, and the Divine Liturgy will be Saturday, August 15 at 9:30 am**.

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.

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,

USHERS TEAM 5:  
BRYAN DONABED  
& GEORGE DEMAKE

ALTAR TEAM B



### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JESUS HEALS THE EPILEPTIC (MATTHEW 17:14-23)

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**.

We want to thank **Gerry Belba, John Sedares, and Tim Rucho** for completing the cleaning and maintenance of the plantings surrounding the detention pond. Their generosity of time is appreciated!

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

On **Sunday, September 13th**, we will once again host an "Old Style Church Picnic" here on the Church grounds. The theme **will be "Bring a Friend to Chuch."** In celebration of our 60th Anniversary year, we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to visit the "open house" we will have set-up in the Church for visitors and guests to tour the Church and learn a little bit more about the Orthodox Faith.

The **Picnic Lunch will be**

**served from noon - 3pm, with an "a-la-carte" menu** of Lamb Shish-ke-bab with Pilaf & Roasted Vegetables, "Mititei" - Traditional Romanian Lamb & Beef Sausage, Spinach, Leek, and Cheese "Pita," Ethnic Pastries and Delicious Sweets, and for the kids; Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and Ice Cream.

For the picnic, **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.

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  
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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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 ...



#### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD God, our Father: So many times we feel frustrated. We love life, obviously, but at times it leaves us drained of all energy. As we get older, it gets harder to accomplish a day's work, not to mention mustering up sufficient energy to embark on some new, additional endeavor. In addition to this, there are the constant temptations, worries, and cares that do not seem to diminish in the least. We are left confused, discouraged, and exhausted. Keep us from whining, and help us with your grace and love to deal with all that comes our way.

For you are a good and loving God, and we give you glory, together with your co-eternal Son and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

### NAMEDAYS

#### 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 Nedelcu
- 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

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

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

## BE IMITATORS OF ME

**T**HIS is the tenth Sunday after Pentecost, and we resume our reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We begin almost where we left off last week, at chapter 4:9-16. After reprimanding the Corinthians for their factionalism and childish behavior, St. Paul now uses sarcasm and irony to shock them into repentance. Still babes in Christ, many in the Corinthian community have come to see themselves as more spiritually advanced than the Apostles themselves. He is looking for a way to put them back on the correct path.

The first thing he does is set the stage. "For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men." (v. 9) St. Paul tells them that in his opinion God is giving the world the Apostles as an example of what it means to be a Christian — not just on earth, but in heaven as well. God has made them like the lowliest of persons — as last of all; men sentenced to death, in order to show how followers of His Son should behave.

"We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute." (v. 10) St. Paul's sarcasm rings true to the Corinthians. Here he echoes what he said earlier in the letter: "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (v. 1:25) The fool for Christ is the one who returns good for evil and a blessing for a curse. This is the kind of real strength that appears to be weakness: it is incomprehensible to people who only know the ways of this world.

He now changes his tone. He is no longer being sharp, but rather descriptive of what he and the other Apostles endure in order to preach the Gospel. "To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and

homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things." (v. 11-13) We should stop and ponder this image of a Christian that St. Paul has presented to the Corinthians, and to us. Just as in first century Corinth, there are people today who see Jesus and the path toward Him very differently.

In our day there are those preaching a "Gospel of Prosperity" — God wants us to be rich; or a "muscular Jesus" — Jesus and Christians are not wimps; or a gleeful, smiling Jesus — personal happiness is the affirmation of correct Faith, as well as many other perversions of the Gospel. In Corinth there were preachers who were similarly distorting the Gospel. Paul wanted to open the eyes of the Corinthian Christians, the people that he had nurtured and formed. He wanted them to see how a true minister of the Gospel lives.

Many of us have had the experience of a true disciple of the Lord. We have known and experienced humble priests, monks, or nuns who have given their whole lives to the Lord's Gospel. The bishop or the lay person who is nothing, or lower than nothing in the eyes of the world, but shines with God's brightness to those with eyes to see. Those who may dress shabbily or appear unlearned, but radiate with God's wisdom and love to those who take care to look beyond surface appearances. There are many who pretend to understand the Lord's teachings, but very few who do.

Having said things that St. Paul knew would cut the Corinthians to the quick, he tries to comfort them. "I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have

many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (v. 14-15) Rather than use his status as Apostle and founder of their Church, or to speak condescendingly to them as perhaps a teacher to students, he calls them his "children." He says that he considers himself to be their "father," in Christ Jesus. In this one word he expresses the depth of his concern and love in such a way as to open their hearts toward him.

He tells them that he has spoken so openly about the cost of preaching the Gospel not to make them ashamed of him and themselves, but rather to admonish them, correct them, as a loving father would do to his children.

Notice how careful he is not to speak disparagingly of the other preachers who have been working in the Corinthian community. He distinguishes himself without impugning them. He says to them, "though you have countless guides [or teachers] in Christ, you do not have many fathers." He points to the qualitative difference in their relationship, without directly challenging their authority.

In order to strengthen what he is saying, he tells them: "I urge you, then, be imitators of me." (v. 16) St. John Chrysostom seems to have a text that adds the words: "as I also am of Christ." The text we have does not contain this phrase, but St. John's reading is echoed later on in the Letter where St. Paul tells them: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (v. 11:1)

St. Paul isn't being conceited; he's being truthful. He's offering himself as an example to them in order to encourage them. For if Paul is able to follow Christ — and that is how we should understand what he said in verses 11-13 — then surely the Corinthian Christians, and we too, will be able to follow our Lord's example and his life.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA