

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 25, 2009

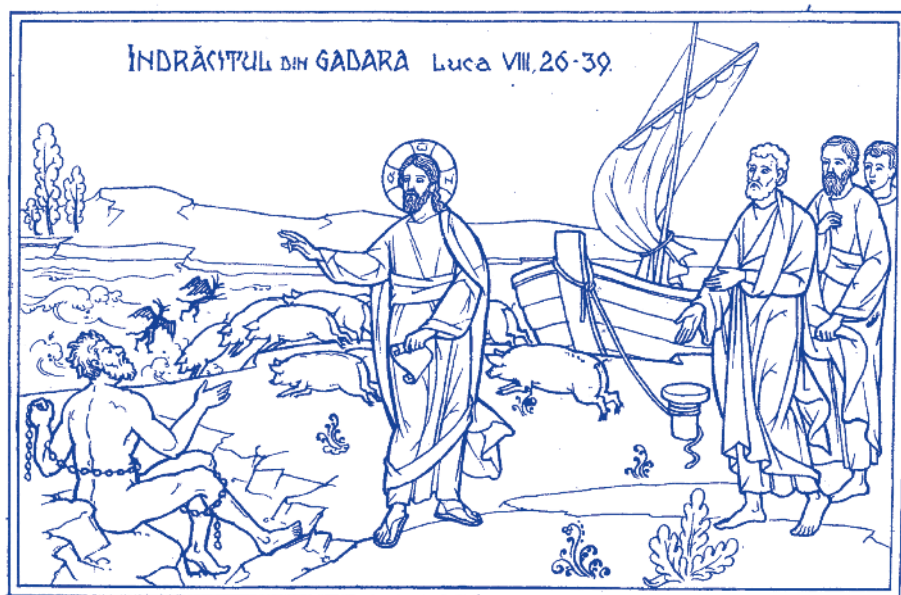
## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We will hold a **Special General Assembly** this Sunday, October 25, 2009 immediately following Divine Liturgy. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update to the parish concerning the financial condition of the parish and to present a proposal obtained from Commerce Bank for refinancing of the current church mortgage. We will be requesting a vote from the General Assembly to authorize the officers of the Parish Council to undertake the refinancing. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Last week, we kicked off our annual **Feast Day Raffle**. The price is \$25 a ticket and drawing will be held at the Feast Day Banquet, December 6th. The prizes are: **a grand prize of \$2500, with four \$500, and five \$100 prizes.** Our goal this year, as always is simple: **"Participation!"** — Please take some tickets and give it a try. See **Dean Valoras** in Church or contact him at 508-308-3582 for more information and tickets.

We are gearing-up for the sale of our wonderful **Pastry Platters** over the coming months. We have created an "e-flier" with colored pictures of our platters that we ask you to send to your friends and family. They could place orders with you, or use the contacts on the flier directly. Please request this

USHERS TEAM 5:  
BRYAN DONABED &  
GEORGE DEMAKE  
ALTAR TEAM B



### THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (LUKE 8:26-39)

THE HEALING OF GERASENE DEMONIAK

tone 3 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 9

flier by **e-mailing: [pastry@stnicholaschurch.org](mailto:pastry@stnicholaschurch.org)** and we will forward it to you.

*It's that time again!* A **pita dough making session** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 31, at 9 AM** here at the Church. Please let **Chris Toda** know if you can attend so she can ensure that we have adequate help.

### UPCOMING BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON, & E-WASTE RECYCLING

We are hosting a **Thanksgiving Bake Sale & Luncheon on Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 11-3 in the church hall.** We are asking for **donations of home baked goods**, especially ethnic pastries to sell. **We need to know what you are bringing**, so please let us know the specialty you will make so we may plan ahead. All baked goods must be delivered to the church Thursday evening, Nov. 19 or anytime during the day on Fri-

day, Nov. 20 so that we can package them for sale.

**Volunteers are needed on Friday, Nov. 20** for packaging the baked goods and on **Saturday for selling and serving the luncheon.** A sign up will be posted in the church hall. Please speak with **Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.**

For the Bake Sale we will **schedule some baking dates at the Church and we are looking for folks to help with that effort.** The baking would occur during the week prior to the bake sale, on a day/time that meets the availabili-

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, Oct 25 Special General Assembly
- Sat, Oct 31 Pita Dough Making, 9:00 am
- Sat, Nov 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sat, Nov 21 Harvest Bake Sale and Luncheon  
E-Recycling Day
- Sun, Nov 22 Parish Thanksgiving Luncheon
- Sat/Sun Dec 5-6 60th Anniversary  
Feastday Celebration
- Fri, Dec 18 Mustard Seed Meal

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850  
E-MAIL: [FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG](mailto:FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG) ♦ WEB: [WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG)

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

ty of volunteers. Please speak with either **Deb Sedares** or **Preoteasa Maria** regarding the bake sale; or **Chris Toda** regarding baking pitas.

The “**Fall Cleaning E-Waste Recycling Day**” will also be held in conjunction with our **Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 21st from 9-3 here at the Church**. In one day, you can get rid of unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and protect the environment too! The **Fliers are on the tables** in coffee hour with all of the details.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**St. Mary’s Albanian Orthodox Church** is sponsoring a **Costume Party and Dance on Friday Night, October 30th**. They will have a DJ, food, drinks etc. It is not a “Halloween” Party, but a fun night so they young people (ages 13-17) can get to meet one another. The party is for the members of our Orthodox parishes (please, not for “friends” outside of our communities). If interested, please see **Fr. Nick**.

The **Saint Spyridon Women’s Philoptochos Society** cordially invites you to attend “**An Array of Extraordinary Tables**” on **Sunday, November 8th**, to benefit the many missions of the Philoptochos Society. Table viewing at 12:30 pm, Luncheon at 1:30 pm. Donation: \$25.00

**IOCC International Wine Tasting and Afternoon of Jazz — Sunday, November 15th from 2-5PM**. Jazz provided by Greg Floor Ensemble. Featured speaker: Louis Zagami, IOCC development officer. At the X & O Restaurant, 217 Washington Street/Rt. 138, Stoughton, MA. Cost \$40 if you are pre-registered by November 7th and \$50 after November 7th or at the door, (\$20 for designated drivers.) Register online at [www.IOCC.org/boston](http://www.IOCC.org/boston) or mail your check payable to: IOCC,

Attn: Megan Carniewski, 110 West Rd, Suite 360, Baltimore, MD 21204. Questions? Email: [BostonMet@iocc.org](mailto:BostonMet@iocc.org)

### HOLY TRINITY NEWS

The **Holy Trinity Activities and Volunteer Department** provides many fun activities and meaningful moments for our residents. *Please come and join our volunteer team!* The residents truly appreciate your time and company. Volunteering at our facility is a deeply rewarding Christian experience. If interested, please contact: Catherine E. Sabatini at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: [csabatini@htnr.net](mailto:csabatini@htnr.net)

**Holy Trinity Hospice “Transitions”: A Grief and Healing Support Group** meets every other Wednesday from 6-7:30pm. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. It is held at Holy Trinity Hospice, at Washburn House, 1183 Main Street, Worcester, MA. For more info and to pre-register, e-mail David Day or call at 508-791-8200.

#### October 13

**St. Edward the Confessor**

Brian Edward Miner

#### October 18

**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke**

Luke Alexander Demma

Fr. Luke Veronis

#### October 20

**The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch**

Artemis Gouvelis

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD our Lord: Awaken us from our lethargy and excite us with a vivid consciousness — limited as it is! — of your tremendous glory. Remove the scales from the eyes of our minds and hearts and make us attuned to your presence in our midst. Prevent us from becoming irretrievably enmeshed in this world and its concerns, lest we completely ignore the actions of the grace you grant us, and thereby perish.

For blest and glorified is your most honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

### NAMEDAYS

#### October 26

**The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika**

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

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)

# WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

**T**HIS week we begin reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Ephesus was a large seaport on the western coast of Asia Minor (in present day Turkey) and the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Paul stayed in Ephesus twice, the second time for over three years. In the earliest manuscripts the title "to the Ephesians" is missing. This, together with the fact that he sends almost no personal greetings as he customarily did (even though he certainly knew scores of people in that community) has lead many Biblical commentators to suggest that this may have been a general letter that St. Paul had sent out to be read in the many communities he had established.

In this letter Paul speaks about God's great plan for humanity, hidden up until now, but revealed fully in Jesus Christ. His intension is to create a single messianic people of God, uniting both Jew and Gentile. Social and religious barriers that had previously divided humanity are eliminated by faith in Jesus Christ. This is "Good News" for everyone. We have been redeemed, that is, liberated, from bondage to the Evil One; bondage to sin and death.

The reading for today begins at Chapter 2, verse 4 and continues through verse 10. In the first Chapter of Ephesians he speaks of God's plan. Here he presents us with the challenge of responding to God's plan. He reminds us of God's love. "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses." (v. 4-5) One of the most important 'rules' or 'truths' we can learn is that we know how to love, because we have been loved by others. God is the first one who loves us. He has given us our parents and family who love us. He gives us children so that we can share this love. Even if our earthly relationships have fallen short of this, still our Heavenly Father never fails.

Listen to the words that St. Paul

uses to describe this. He doesn't simply say God is merciful and loving. He tells us He is rich in mercy. God loves us out of His great love. God is abundant in His affection for us. It is this love that God has for us that sustains us.

"Even when we were dead through our trespasses [He] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (v. 5-7)

There are three points that I would like to highlight in this passage. The first is that we participate directly in our Lord's rising from the dead. Jesus died the death that awaits us because of our sin. But, in His sinless death we share in His live. Through our faith in Him, we are changed and risen. Our rising happens not only after our physical death, it happens now when we believe in God's love for us in Christ Jesus. Even when we were breathing, we were dead because of our sin. Jesus' sacrificial act changed this.

The second point is this: "by grace you have been saved." St. Paul says this three times in the short passage we read today. Our salvation is a gift; we didn't earn it. We can't earn it. We could never earn it. God restores us because He loves us.

The third point is that God has not only restored us, but He allows us to share in the glory of His Son. He "raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." When we say in the Creed that "He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father," we should understand that we have a place at His right hand as well, because of Jesus.

This vision of God enthroned in Heaven is completed by St. Paul when he says: "that in the coming ages [God] might show the immeasurable riches of

his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." One of the common assumptions in the world in which St. Paul lived was that history had a number of ages (seven) and these were cyclical (they kept repeating). In our Liturgy we express the idea of eternity by saying God's glory is "now, forever, and to the ages of ages." St. Paul is expressing something similar when he tells us God's love and grace will be shown toward us in the "coming ages."

After telling us all of this St. Paul reminds us again, "by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast." (v. 8-9) Then he adds something else: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (v. 10)

Here is another 'rule' or 'truth' that we need to remember and keep alive in our hearts. If we are able to be saved by faith it is because we are God's "workmanship." We were created in Christ Jesus, that is, the creative Word of God, His Son, shaped and formed us. Why? For good works.

God in His great love created us good, to do good. We do good not to earn salvation, but to complete God's work in us. God prepared this path of good works "beforehand, that we should walk in them." What St. Paul means here is that the good we do one to another, and together toward all, leads us back to God. This is how we "work out our own salvation." (Philippians 2:12) Doing good is how we communicate with God. In every good and kind thing we do we show ourselves to be God's handiwork. By growing in Him, we reveal the full glory that is within us. We do this by faith in Jesus Christ who loves us and saves us.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Announces a couple of great opportunities for you!

## E-Waste Recycling Day



### COST

- ✓ \$5 each – computers, monitors, DVD players, stereos, misc. electronics, etc.
- ✓ \$10 each – TV's, appliances, washing machines, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, exercise equipment, lawn mowers & snow blowers (gas removed)
- ✓ \$20 - large wood console TV – Questions? Contact: [j.wood36@yahoo.com](mailto:j.wood36@yahoo.com)

---

## Bake Sale & Luncheon



- ✓ Stock up on home-made pastries, desserts and "pita" for Thanksgiving
- ✓ Order beautifully decorated ethnic pastry platters for special Holiday events
- ✓ Place orders for Holiday gatherings and parties throughout the entire season!
- ✓ For an order form, or more information, contact: [pastry@StNicholasChurch.org](mailto:pastry@StNicholasChurch.org)

# Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

## 9 AM – 3 PM

### 34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA

[www.stnicholaschurch.org](http://www.stnicholaschurch.org)