

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 1, 2009

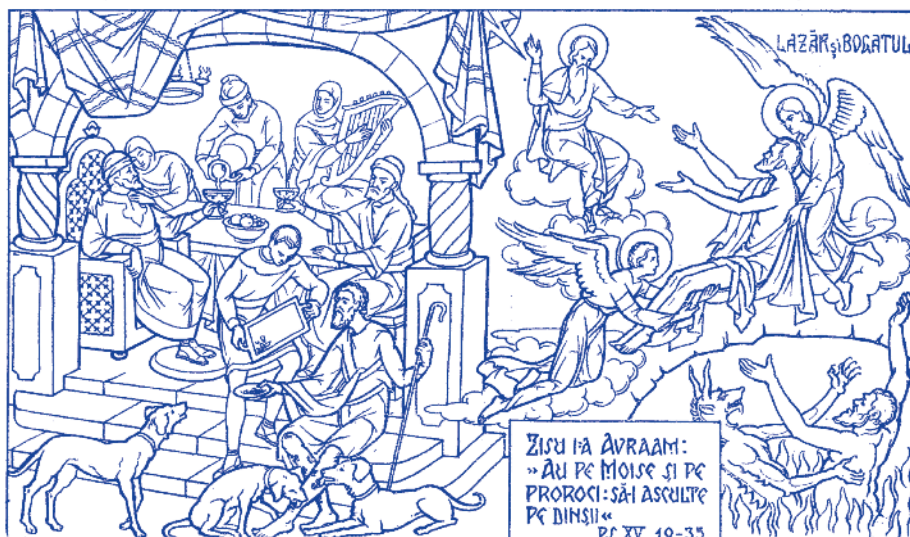
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is visiting the United States to participate in the eighth Religion, Science, and the Environment Symposium entitled: "Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River," being held in New Orleans. While here, he is also meeting with all of the Orthodox Primates of the USA. You may follow his journey, and read more about his initiatives by visiting www.patriarchate.org

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 flier by **e-mailing: pastry@stnicholaschurch.org** and we will forward

USHERS TEAM 1:
GERRY BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU
ALTAR TEAM A



THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (LUKE 16:19-31)

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

TONE 4 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 10

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 9-3 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 Friday, 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 availability 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**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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 ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

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

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 or mail your check payable to: IOCC, Attn: Megan Carniewski, 110 West Rd, Suite 360, Baltimore, MD 21204. Questions? Email: BostonMet@iocc.org

The Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches invites you to attend the "**Martha and Mary Women's Fellowship**" This season we will focus on the delightful book, **Having a Mary Spirit**. We will read and discuss each section at our meetings. No prior knowledge is needed. For the first time our group will meet at Holy Trinity's Washburn House. The Washburn House is located at 1183 Main Street in Worcester. The parking lot is to the left of the building. We are also trying a morning meeting time, since several women have indicated this would be better for them than an evening meeting.

- DATE: **Friday, November 20th**
- TIME: **10:30 A.M.**
- TOUR: Following our meeting at approximately noon time. (optional)
- REGISTER: Please call Washburn House at (508)752-4628, (weekdays be-

tween 8:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.) and say that you are planning to attend so we can prepare for dessert and coffee.

The list of the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center 2010 Mission Teams** is complete! OCMC Teams are an opportunity to change lives and to have your life changed in return! To learn more about Mission Teams, go to www.ocmc.org or contact OCMC at (904) 829-5132 or teams@ocmc.org. Share in a Journey of Faith!

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

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.

November 8

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Inva Gabriela Durmillari

The Holy Archangel Michael

Fr. Michael Abdelahad

Kenneth Michael Anderson

Michael Andronic

Michael J. Andronic, Jr.

Michael Anthony Blanchard

Michael Bourisk

Michael Walter Clem

Michaela Ionete

Michael Keimig

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

YOUR wisdom, power, and goodness, Lord, have given each of us a unique importance before you, and therefore a particular purpose in being. Enable us to grasp what this means for us as individuals and to dedicate ourselves relentlessly to fulfilling this purpose, to attaining the goal of our lives as you see it for each of us. Lead us by your divine light to achieve our end, for without you we cannot possibly see where we are going.

For you are good and full of love for us, o God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

NAMEDAYS

Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard

Scott Michael Maynard

Tyler Michael Maynard

Michael Soter

Michael Spataro

Michael Peter Toda

The Holy Archangel Raphael

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angela Demake

Angeliki Soter

Angelina Zonia

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

I BEAR THE MARKS OF JESUS

THIS is the twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, 6:11-18. In this passage, as well as throughout the whole Letter, St. Paul's emphasis is on "the Cross of Christ."

St. Paul was writing the Galatians about the negative influence a group of Jewish converts to Christ was having on their community. Galatia was a province located in north central Asia Minor, present-day Turkey. The larger cities of Galatia contained a mixed population of locals as well as Greeks and Romans. Greek and Latin was the language there. In the more rural areas the population was largely Galatians, who were related to the Celts and spoke a language more akin to Celtic than the languages of their neighbors.

Today's reading is the close of St. Paul's Letter to them. It begins: "See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand." (v. 11) St. John Chrysostom believes that this indicates that St. Paul had written the whole Letter himself, rather than leave the task to a scribe. For him, this was an indication of the intense concern Paul had about the situation, and for the Galatians themselves. Modern scholars think that the first part of the Letter was given to a scribe to write and that St. Paul wrote this part by way of emphasis. Either way, St. Paul is clearly upset and concerned.

Here is the reason: "It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh." (v. 12-13)

It might seem odd to us that what we do today for largely medical reasons was a deeply religious question in the

early Church. However, according to the Mosaic Law, the primary sign of the covenant between the Children of Israel and God was circumcision. It was and still is what defines Jews as a Chosen People. For St. Paul, to accept circumcision was to subject yourself to the Old Covenant. It was a step backward.

St. Paul's contention was that these people had no interest in truly proclaiming the Good News of Christ's coming. Rather, they wanted these Galatians to undergo a ritual that was largely for show, while ignoring the true internal spiritual transformation that should occur in those who follow the Lord. These were fundamentalists who rather than stand up for Christ — which would have probably subjected them to persecution — took the 'zealous' route that would make them look devout, but really cost them nothing. This is what's behind the statement: "they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh."

His answer to these 'missionaries' is: "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation." (v. 14-15) By the "cross" St. Paul means the whole 'economy' of our salvation; the whole of God's plan for us culminating in the Lord's death and resurrection. He also means the cross that every Christian takes up when they decide to follow Christ. The 'world' that has been crucified to him is the world of sin and excess; the passions that lead away from God. This should be the cross that we ourselves pick up, choosing against sin and for the Lord.

St. Paul then offers a blessing: "Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God." (v. 16) He is sending two subtle messages

in this blessing. He is saying that those who follow the 'rule,' that is, who choose the newness of Christ over the 'dead end' of the Law, will receive God's peace and mercy. And, by referring to the 'Israel of God' he is at once answering his critics — the Judaizers — that he is not 'Jewish' enough, and asserting that the 'Israel of God' is now the followers of Christ.

Expressing his exasperation with the Judaizers, he says: "Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." (v. 17) The word translated here as "marks" is, in Greek, "stigmata." Because of how we use 'stigmata' today, it has led some people to speculate that St. Paul had on his body the crucifixion wounds of Christ. However, in the ancient world this word meant something like "branding." It was used for the branding marks burned into slaves and cattle. It is more likely that St. Paul means the very real scars on his body that were the result of the multiple floggings he had received. Anyone who has seen photographs of the backs of slaves who had been flogged will immediately understand what he is talking about. His scars mark him as belonging to Christ.

He finishes this rather harsh Letter with a blessing: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen." (v. 18) The words that he chooses, and especially using as the very final word the affectionate term 'brethren' — brothers and sister — he wants to soften whatever hurt they might be feeling, and let them know that from his perspective all is healed.

As we reflect on St. Paul's words, we should recommit ourselves to take up our cross and follow the Lord as St. Paul did.

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

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

Saturday, November 21st

9 AM – 3 PM

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA

www.stnicholaschurch.org