

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 8, 2009

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS  
MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND ALL THE  
BODILESS HOSTS

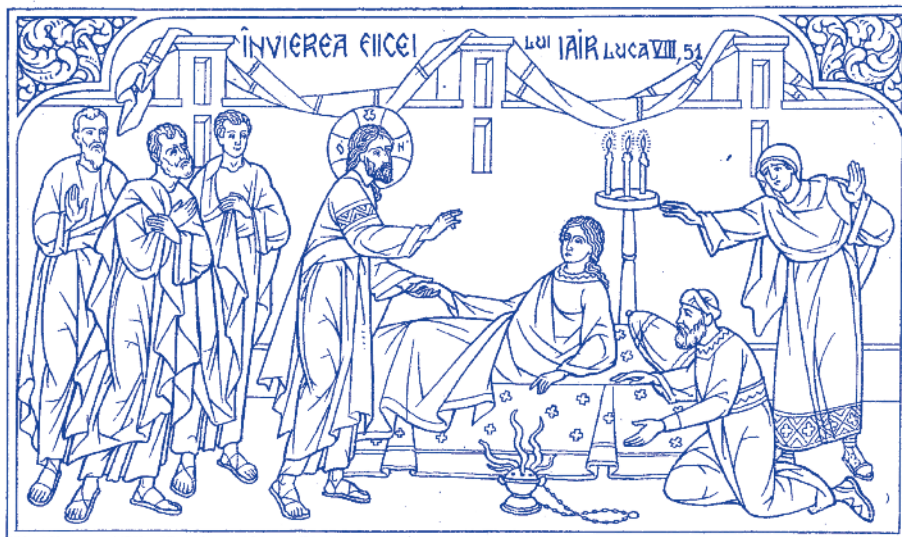
## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We have 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](mailto:pastry@stnicholaschurch.org)** and we will forward it to you.

**How many teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 do you think we have in our Parish?** A recent compilation puts that number at **39!** We are looking for a few parents or other young adults who might be interested in helping to organize and plan some activities for that group. If you would be willing to

USHERS TEAM 2:  
LISA MIELNICKI & JIM CHRISTO  
ALTAR TEAM B



### THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (LUKE 8:41-56)

THE RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER  
TONE 5 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 11

contribute to this critical ministry of our Church, please speak with Fr. Nick

We want to thank everyone for helping with our monthly responsibility for the **Orthodox Food Center** yesterday. Our next scheduled date is **Saturday, December 5th**. About 6-8 people are needed to bag and distribute groceries. If you can help with this worthwhile ministry once a month on a Saturday morning from 9 am till noon, please see Nicole Peterson or Lisa Mielnicki.

### 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**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri, Nov 20 Bake Sale Set-up
- Sat, Nov 21 Harvest Bake Sale and Luncheon  
E-Recycling Day
- Sun, Nov 22 Parish Thanksgiving Luncheon
- Sat, Dec 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- 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*

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

**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)

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 between 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](http://www.ocmc.org) or contact OCMC at (904) 829-5132 or [teams@ocmc.org](mailto: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](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.

### 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,

**O** JESUS, Lord most wise and loving: You know that our lives cannot be lived humanely without some ordinary; innocent pleasures and diversions. Yet, let us not indulge in these to the point of accepting all the pleasures of the world as innocent and necessary. You said that we cannot serve God and mammon. Give us the courage we need, then, to dispense with things and places — and even persons, if need be — that lead us away from you.

For you are the way, the truth, and the life, O Christ, our God, and we give you glory, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-giving 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](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

## BREAKING DOWN WALLS THAT DIVIDE

**T**HIS is the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22. In these verses we hear St. Paul explain how the division and tension between Jew and Gentile are healed and reconciled in Christ. Keep in mind, Ephesus, as well as the other early Christian communities, were composed of both Jewish followers of Jesus and pagan converts. Jews did not associate with Gentiles, if they could possibly avoid it. Certainly not in worship. Here St. Paul describes how the two separate 'peoples' are now one in and through Christ.

"For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end." (v. 14-16) This first sentence is long and complicated. It contains many important ideas. Let's address each one in turn.

Christ is not only the herald of peace; he is peace itself. He carries in his person the means and power to heal and resolve differences and separation. He was a perfect Jew for the Jews, but also reached out and ministered to those who were not Jews.

He "has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." St. Paul meant for his readers to understand this 'dividing wall' in two ways. The first was spiritually; the ways in which Jews and Gentiles were separated one from the other in faith and lifestyle. The other was in a very physical sense.

Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, tells us that there was in the Jerusalem Temple a stone wall of three cubits high (five feet), separating the inner court from the outer. On this wall were signs prohibiting any non-

Jew from going any farther, on pain of death. It was like the Berlin wall, an actual wall, but with deeper symbolic meaning. One of the reasons the crowd in Jerusalem wanted to kill Paul (cf. Acts 21:28-31) was that they thought he had brought Trophimus an Ephesian Gentile into the Temple to defile it. Like the dividing wall, the hostility it represented was very real. The wall was a symbol for the way in which the Jews understood themselves: as God's people, a people separated, apart and dedicated only to Him.

Having this 'dividing wall of hostility' as background, we hear St. Paul's proclamation that Jesus "came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" (v. 17-18) with the full power he intended. The Gentiles were 'far off' not just in distance, but more importantly in faith. They worshiped pagan gods and often lived immorally. The Jews were 'nearer' but because of the limits of the law were still distanced from God.

In the person of Jesus Christ both Jew and Gentile are united as one people. It is not that the Gentile now becomes a Jew, rather both are transformed into a new creation. The Holy Spirit who rests on the Son now rests on us as well. We both become sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father through the spirit of adoption. We become heirs with Christ. (cf. Romans 8:14-17) We have 'access' to the Father the way any child is able to approach their parents.

We are accustomed to referring to God as our Father, so it might be a difficult to fully appreciate how radical these words sounded to St. Paul's listeners. God was not thought of in familial terms. Gods generally were to be feared and placated. It was our Lord Jesus himself who taught his disciples to address God as "Abba" — "Daddy."

We are to approach God with love and trust. He allows us to address Him in the most affectionate and loving way. This is Good News! If we understand and trust God's Word, it will transform our lives.

We are "no longer strangers and sojourners, but ... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (v. 19) We no longer have to feel lost and alone. We no longer have to feel displaced and abandoned. We have a true family, an eternal home, with the saints. We are members of God's household.

Look at the image St. Paul paints for us. We are not only members of the household of God, we are also His Temple. This household and temple are "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord." (v. 20-21) His words echo St. Peter who calls us to be "like living stones," allowing ourselves to "be built into a spiritual house." (1 Peter 2:5)

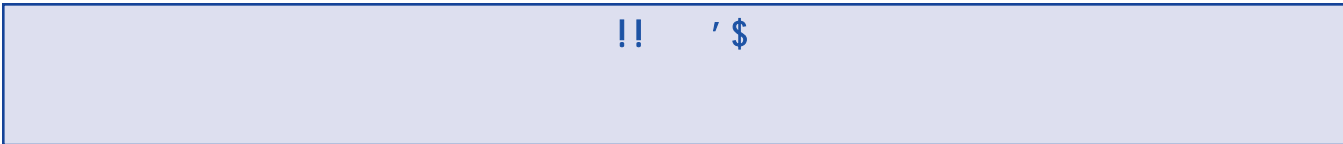
The image given is one of a building, and this can help us understand how all of the pieces — the building blocks — need to fit together for the structure to stand. However, it is not a physical building that is being talked about, nor is it stone and brick that are to be the materials. It is us together with all the saints from all eternity that are the pieces for this structure that God is building. We are asked to become part of this project, to be "built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (v. 22)

The Church, the place where God dwells, is not made of bricks and mortar. It is made of us, brothers and sisters of one Father.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

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# 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)

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## 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)