

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 15, 2009

BEGINNING OF CHRISTMAS FAST

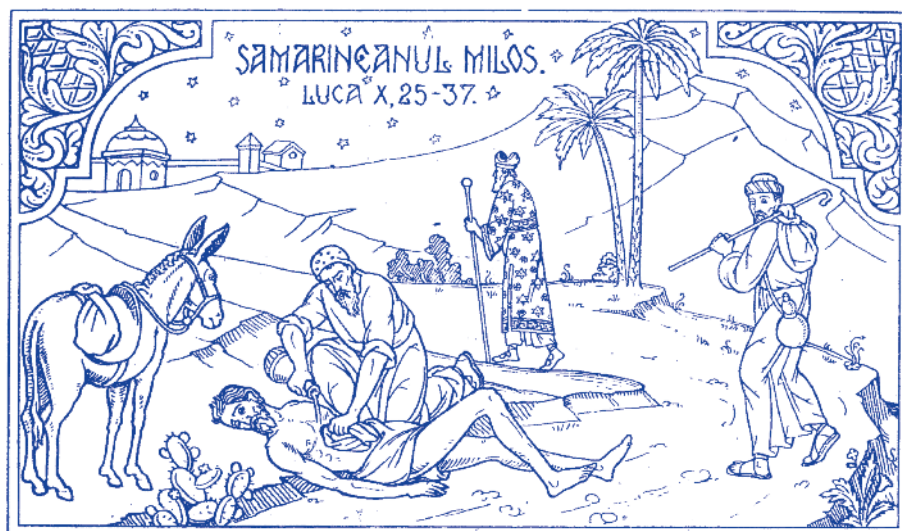
## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

### NEXT WEEKEND'S EVENTS: 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.
- There is a **Baking Session scheduled for this Saturday, November 14th, at 9 am at the Church.** Please speak with either Deb Sedares or Preoteasa Maria regarding the bake sale; or Chris Toda regarding baking pitas.
- 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.

USHERS TEAM 3:  
MARY ANNA DYMEK &  
EVAN STAMOULIS  
ALTAR TEAM A



## THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (LUKE 10:25-37)

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN  
TONE 6 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 1

The “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.

On **Sunday, November 22**, we will host a **Parish Fellowship Luncheon.** The adult menu will be Spinach Lasagna, Salad, Garlic bread and coffee at \$15 per person. The children’s meal will be macaroni and cheese, salad and French fries, at \$5 per person. To end your meal, sweets will be available for purchase from the bake sale. **To make reservations, please speak with Eleanor Sedares or sign the reservation sheet** that located at the candle stand.

### ONGOING NEWS

**Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets!** 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.

Our delicious **Holiday Pastry Platters are a big hit!** 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.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 15th Christmas Lent Begins
- 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*

We are closing in our MPG (Mortgage Payment Goal). **To date we are 52% toward our \$75,000 goal!** For more information click here.

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

**International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Sunday, November 22.** Live your faith this Thanksgiving by supporting IOCC's relief and self-help programs throughout the world. Our Parishes of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese have a particular challenge this year. IOCC has a **\$1.6 grant from the European Community for assistance to impoverished families and retirees in Romania.** But there is a "challenge" aspect to it. All of the Churches here in North America are asked to provide \$200,000. **Our Archdiocese's challenge is \$50,000. We need to raise \$1,000 from our parish by December 1st.** Read the SCOBA Pastoral Letter for IOCC Sunday and a letter from Archbishop Nicolae available at the candle stand. Makes checks payable to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church with IOCC in the "category" line. We'll forward this money to the Archdiocese as our part of the total goal. [www.IOCC.org](http://www.IOCC.org)

You should have received your invitation to our **60th Anniversary Feastday Banquet in the mail this week.** Please respond with reservations and sponsorship as soon as possible so that we may plan accordingly.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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. 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.

- 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.

**St. Spyridon Nursery School** is hosting and **"Open House"** for prospective students with the head teacher, Jen Ward, on Tuesday, November 17th from 5:00-7:00pm.

The Clergy Association of the Shrewsbury Ecumenical Council will host the **annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov 22nd at 7:00 pm at the St. Anne's Parish on Boston Tpke.** in Shrewsbury. Rev Mariah Furness Tollgaard will be the preacher. Everyone is invited to come and pray together as people of Faith, expressing gratitude for God's many blessings.

Help is needed for the **Thanksgiving distribution at St. Anne's Human Services** located at St. Anne's Parish in Shrewsbury. They have 268 families registered. Gift certificates and turkeys are most welcome. For more information, call 508-799-4169.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center** will be hosting their **3rd Annual Craft & Gift Fair on Friday, Nov. 20th** from 2-6pm and Saturday, Nov. 21st from 10am - 2pm. Rain or Shine! All proceeds will benefit the residents of Holy Trinity. For more information, call 508-852-1000.

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD OUR GOD, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to 'them' and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father' Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

## NAMEDAYS

**November 14**

**The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip**

Philip Rucho  
Phillip Sedares

**November 16**

**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew**

Richard Matthew Belba  
Scott Matthew Belba  
Matthew Robert Clem  
Matthew Collins  
Matthew John Dorogi  
Matthew Soter

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

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

## CALLED TO ONE HOPE

**T**HIS is the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The Epistle Lesson is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7. The great theme of this Letter is unity—the unity of God, the unity of the Church, the unity of Christians one with another in Christ. Last week we heard St. Paul talking about how Christ had “broken down the dividing wall of hostility” between Jew and Gentile. (Ephesians 2:14) In this week's reading we receive both inspirational words and practical spiritual advice on how to build up and maintain the oneness that God gives us in Christ Jesus.

The passage opens with a reference to Paul's imprisonment. “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (v. 4:1-3) St. Paul spent time in prison in almost every place he preached and established a Church. He was most likely writing this letter from Caesarea or Rome. But more important than the place is the fact that he wears his suffering for Christ proudly. He is offering the joy he takes in his suffering as an example of the “lowliness and meekness” which he is urging the Ephesians to embrace. It is very much like the words he spoke to King Agrippa and Governor Festus, “I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains.” (Acts 26:29)

In order to prepare the Ephesians to understand the oneness of the “life worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called,” he lists the necessary virtues: lowliness and meekness, patience and forbearance in love. These all could be summed up in one virtue: humility. The Church has always considered humility to be the Mother of virtues; the one from which all the

other virtues spring. In the world of Greek philosophy, it was not considered a virtue, and even thought something to be avoided. Humility is only valued in Jesus Christ. Through and in His example, we find the means to remake ourselves and witness to those around us. In this way we too can “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (v. 3)

It is this unity that concerns St. Paul in much of his writings, and especially here in Ephesians. The unity of the Church, the Body of Christ, must mirror the unity of God. He was a pious Jew and as such prayed twice a day: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one ...” (Deuteronomy 6:4) Their belief was that the eschatological era would bring a great revelation of God's oneness to the world. “On that day there shall be one Lord, and his name shall be one.” (Zechariah 14:9 LXX)

So, St. Paul spells out exactly what this unity, this oneness, looks like. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (v.4-6)

“There is one body:” one visible community; one Church. “And one Spirit:” a single inner source, the one Spirit of the Father given to us at our baptism. “Called to one hope:” we all share in the one hope of our salvation; we all share in the one Spirit who is the pledge of the promise. “One Lord:” in our baptism we pledge our obedience to one Lord and Master. He is the one to whom we give our loyalty. “One faith:” much of what St. Paul and the other Apostles were writing at the time was directed at keeping the Church in one faith. “One baptism:” this refers not only to the “one baptism for the remission of sins” that we recite in the Creed; it is the one baptism of Christ that we all share. And finally, “one God

and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all:” ultimately, it is God's love for us as Father that makes us capable of moving outside of our self-centeredness and embracing one another as brothers and sisters.

As I have reminded you so often, (and as I remind myself even more frequently), the unity of the Church is not a choice; the unity of humanity is not an option. We do not get to choose this as something we might *like* to value. It lies at the very foundation of the creation. If we are to be true children of our one Father, we must learn how to love each other, even those who hate us.

This imperative extends not only to the Orthodox Church; we must reach out in love to all who call themselves Christians. It is not limited only to those who embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ; we must also find a way to speak to those with whom we apparently share little in common. The consequence of not doing so is not merely hostility and war. It is to be shut out from the Kingdom.

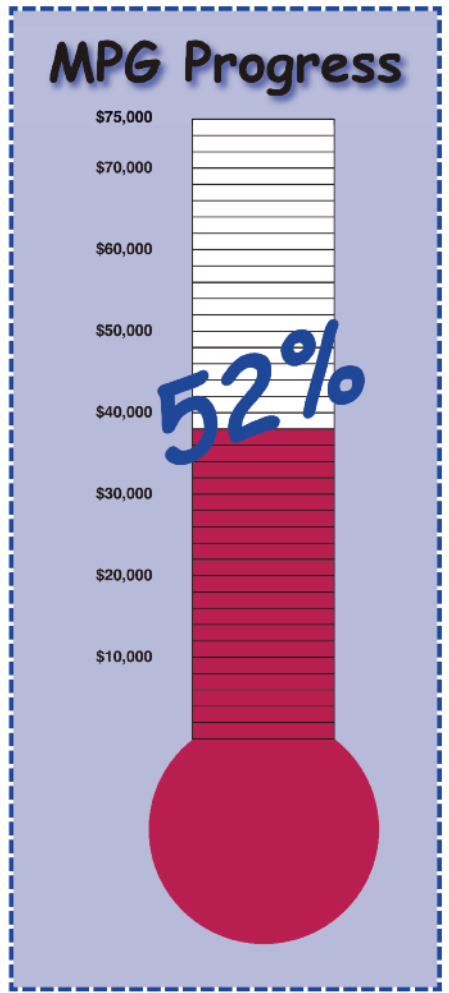
We live in a time where conflict seems never-ending. These are not the great epic wars of the first half of the twentieth century. Rather, they are wars without battle lines, and enemies without faces. One could almost say it is like a spiritual war, except that we see before our eyes the wounded, maimed, and dead. It is spiritual in this sense, however. The solution to all conflict is not to be found in guns and bombs, rather in patience, forbearance, and forgiveness. Only Christ can give us these. For those who do not embrace Christ, we who do must be their example.

And so, while St. Paul begins with our oneness in Christ, it is so that we can fully accept the “grace ... given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.” (v. 7)

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

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Commerce Bank has given us a 2% reduction on our mortgage rate. This means even more of our dollars go toward paying down the principle

11/1/09

# 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)