

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JANUARY 17, 2010

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

As is our custom in celebration of the Feast of Holy Theophany, the **blessing of homes** will continue until all homes are blessed. If you are unable to receive the Priest at the scheduled time indicated on the card you received in the mail, or if for some reason did not receive a notice, please contact Fr. Nick at 508.845.0088 or FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org

There is a pita **dough-making session scheduled for Saturday, January 23**, at 9 am here at the Church. To volunteer to help, speak with or contact Chris Toda

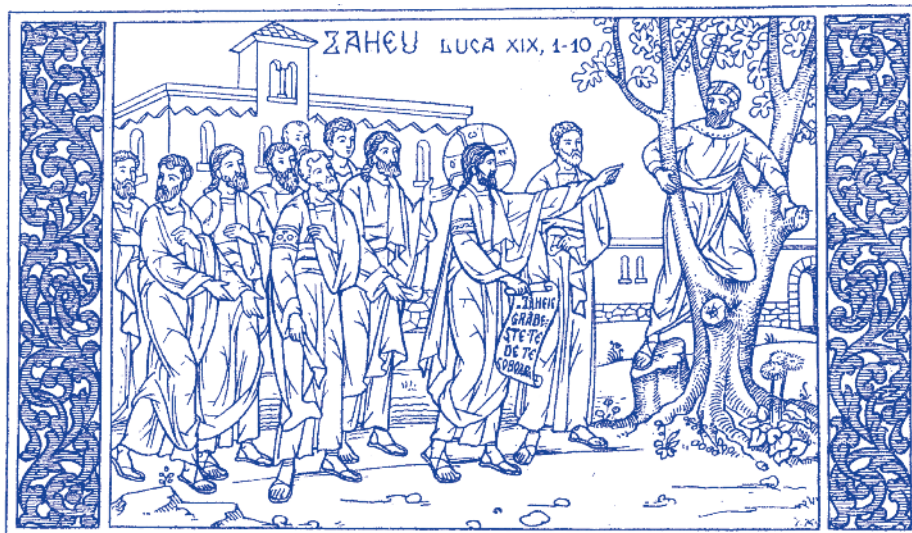
The **Annual General Assembly** of our Parish will be held on Sunday, January 24th directly following the Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to attend and participate in that important act of stewardship of your Church.

Today's coffee hour is sponsored by **Ileana Nace** in memory of her beloved family members, fallen asleep.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The **St. Spyridon Nursery School** is hosting and open house for interested families on **Sunday, January 24, from 12 noon until 2 pm**. For more information about the school, its mission, and programs offered, visit www.spyridon-cathedral.org/parishadmin/nurseryschool.html

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



THE THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15

GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10 (ZACCHÆUS)

TONE 7 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 10

St. George Orthodox Cathedral is hosting their 10th Annual **Hafli on Saturday, February 13**, at the Cathedral Auditorium, 30 Anna Street, Worcester. Doors open with mazza at 7:30pm, music and dancing from 8:30 -12:30pm. The cost is \$30.00 adults, and \$20.00 ages 7-16. For tickets, contact HAFLI2009@gmail.com or call Andre Houssan at 508-667-7099.

St. Mary's is holding a **Grand Raffle** with a first prize of \$3,000, followed by prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and two \$250 prizes. **Tickets are \$25 each or \$100 for five tickets.** The drawing will take place on Sunday, February 14th. To purchase tickets, contact the Church at 508-756-1690 or e-mail: info@stmarysalbani-anchurch.org

Rev. Fr. Peter-Michael Preble of St. Michael's in Southbridge has been producing a **half hour radio program** titled "Shepherd of Souls" www.shepherdof-souls.com airing in Southbridge on WESO 970 am, Sunday mornings at 7am. One year later,

the show now airs on 16 stations across the country and a new affiliate in New Zealand. Very soon, folks in the greater Worcester area will be able to listen-in, as it will begin airing at **1pm on Sunday afternoons on WARE 1250 am in Ware**. The signal is strong and should reach Worcester and the surrounding areas.

New Experience Theater (N.E.T. Works) Productions Inc. in conjunc-

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Jan 23 Pita Dough-making 9am
- Sun, Jan 24 General Assembly, after Liturgy
- Sat, Jan 30 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, Jan 31 Baking/Pastry Strat Mtg.
- Mon, Feb 1 Parish Council Mtg. 6:30pm
- Sat, Feb 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
Saturday of the Souls, Liturgy 10am
- Sun, Feb 7 Parish Luncheon after Liturgy
- Mon, Feb 15 Great Lent begins
- Wed, Feb 17 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Nick's
- Sat, March 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
- Sun, March 28 Palm Sunday
- Sun, April 4 Great and Holy Pascha
- Sat, April 24 Spring Dance

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O LORD OUR GOD, forever beyond our reach: We are not at all able to pierce the mystery of your interactions with our world from the beginning. Therefore, we also frequently fail to penetrate the mystery of your will for our own lives. In times of old, your holy men saw the ordinary in life and perceived your hand behind it. Most people saw nothing, just as we see nothing but 'ordinary events.' We need to see something of you; we need to comprehend something. Give us light, then, that we may see and understand.

For you are our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

tion with the **Shrewsbury Ecumenical Council** is sponsoring "**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!**" at Southgate Theater, 30 Julio Dr., Shrewsbury. This show is a whimsical journey through many antic-filled snippets in the lives of the 5 year old Charlie Brown cartoon characters. The dates are **Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22, 23, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm.** The cost is \$15 general admission, \$12 senior/student. Matinees are Sunday, Jan. 24, 31 at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$10 matinee general admission for all. A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Anne's Food Pantry in Shrewsbury. You may purchase tickets from Fr. Nick or contact Chris White at 508-842-0867.

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! If interested, please contact: Catherine 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 6-7:30 pm 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.

Did you know? Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is the **ONLY** Pan Orthodox Nursing Home in the United States!

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Appeal of His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae For Help and Prayers for the People of Haiti

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 an earthquake that could leave up to half a million people dead devastated the country of Haiti and a countless number of people were injured. The infrastructure and institutions of the capital city, Port-au-Prince, are in ruins. In response to this tragedy, I would ask all of you, clergy and faithful, to offer prayers for the people of Haiti.

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) has begun a response on behalf of the Orthodox in the United States. You can find their **Urgent Appeal** on our Archdiocese's web site: www.romarch.org I would urge you to organize a special collection in each parish of our Archdiocese for the **Haiti Relief of IOCC**. It is our duty as Christians to fulfill the Lord's commandment to look after those who are *hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or sick, or strangers* (Matthew 25, 35).

Please offer your donation to your

local Church, and all gifts will be forwarded to the IOCC through the Archdiocese.

May God help our brothers and sisters in Haiti!

† Archbishop NICOLAE

The Archdiocese has launched a new **monthly e-bulletin** with news from within the Archdiocese and throughout the world. We have printed copies available.



NAMEDAYS

January 17

St. Anthony the Great

Anthony Theodore Christo
Scott Anthony Maynard
Anthony Rucho
Anthony Rucho
Tony Nicholas Trakadas

January 18

St. Athanasios Patriarch of Alexandria

Thanas Lolo
Arthur Peterson

January 22

the Holy Apostle Timothy

Timothy Rucho

January 25

St. Gregory the Theologian

Gregory Chachi
Rev. Fr. Gregory Christakos
Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

January 28

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH

THE liturgical cycle is now directing us toward preparation for Great Lent and Pascha. This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of the repentance of Zacchæus the taxcollector. The Epistle reading is from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, 4:9-15. St. Paul's Pastoral Letters — First and Second Timothy, and Titus — were addressed personally to the leader of a local church. He offered them advice on how to deal with organizational and pastoral matters within their communities. When writing to Timothy, he especially spoke of the qualifications for holding leadership positions within the Church; how the local bishop or presbyter, and deacons should comport themselves for the well-being of the community. These letters are often cited during ordinations.

Even though the advice is directed primarily toward those with spiritual responsibilities in the community, much of the advice still can be helpful to all of us. The reading begins with this affirmation: "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." (v. 9-10) St. Paul is speaking especially of the difficulties of ministry. Keep in mind all of the sufferings that Paul and the other Apostles endured: imprisonment, floggings, exile, shipwreck; and many had a terrible death. They were abused even by members of their own communities. It is out of this experience that St. Paul tells Timothy to maintain his focus. "We toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God." The impulse to preach the Gospel is not grounded in human ambition and pride. It is based on the hope and faith we have in God, and the desire to share this hope with others.

God is "Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." This is a beautiful expression of a proper Chris-

tian attitude to evangelism. It embodies both God's desire that "everyone be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), and the particular comfort those have who answer God's call, having faith and trust in Him.

St. Paul tells Timothy: "Command and teach these things." (v. 11) St. John Chrysostom offers an helpful explanation of why St. Paul says both "command and teach." He observes that depending on the circumstance a person in authority, such as a bishop or presbyter, or a parent or teacher, might have to 'command,' that is, to be unequivocal or directive. In other cases teaching is required. If you do one when you should do the other, you'll look silly. For example, when there is a clear moral imperative — 'don't take that, it doesn't belong to you' — teaching is not the appropriate stance. An authoritative voice is required. In other circumstances, when the issue is a matter of subtle choices, or where a person is inexperienced or ill-informed, shouting a command would not only be inappropriate, but probably offensive and hurtful. Gentle words of instruction are what is called for.

St. Paul is giving this advice because Timothy was relatively young for the responsibility that was laid on him. When St. Paul was writing to him, Timothy was about thirty five. He had been with St. Paul since he was around seventeen — eighteen years. So, he tells him, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (v. 12) He isn't saying that Timothy is not capable; 'up to the job.' Just that he should recognize that some people might be uncomfortable because of his relative youth. A little later on, in Chapter 5, he offers specific advice on how to relate to persons older and younger than he, both men and women. In this particular verse he focuses on the central aspect: Timothy's

own behavior. He tells Timothy that he needs to be the example. This is good advice for every bishop and presbyter. It is also good advice for each one of us. If we presume to teach or lead, we need first and foremost to show how it is done through our own life: our words, and especially our deeds, actions and thoughts.

"Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching." (v. 13) The early Christian communities were organized much like the Jewish synagogues out of which they grew; as part of their service, in addition to the eucharist, there were readings of scripture, preaching (that is an explanation of the scripture), and teaching (namely the practical application). We do much the same today.

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you." (v. 14) In St. Paul's time ordination was by an Apostle, but the council of presbyters (elders/priests) consenting by laying their hands on the candidate, along with the Apostle. By "prophetic utterance" St. Paul is referring to those spiritually gifted persons who pointed out the unique and charismatic qualities of Timothy himself. Paul doesn't want Timothy to forget the gifts that God has given him.

"Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress." (v. 15) One of the ways that we can see God at work in the world is in the progress each of us makes in the spiritual life. When we practice what we have been taught and devote ourselves to the life in Christ, not only do we ourselves benefit, but we also encourage others. They see the change in us and grow in hope.

This is St. Paul's advice to Timothy. It is his advice to us as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA