

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 24, 2010

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

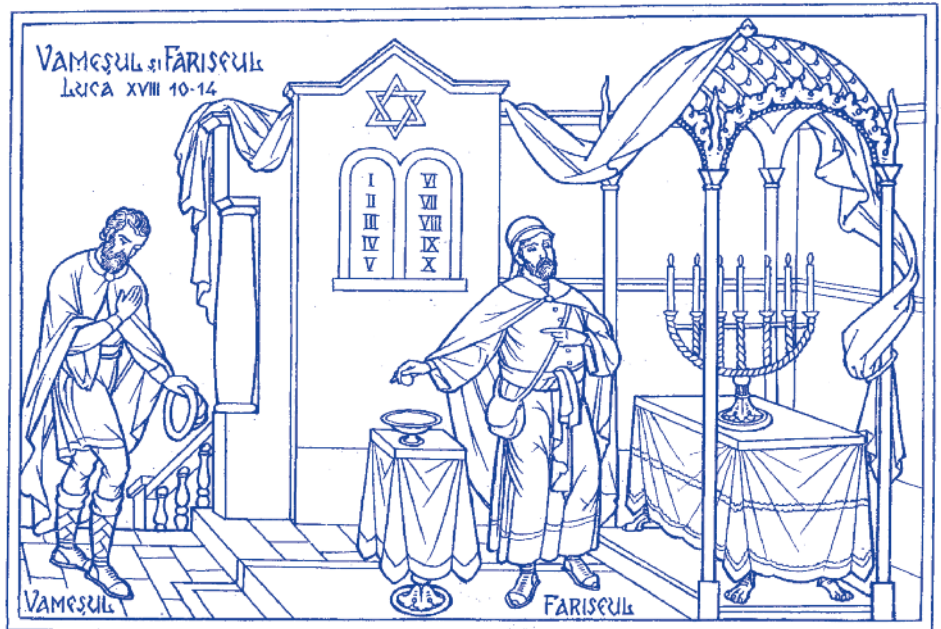
This Sunday, January 24th, we will hold the **Annual General Assembly** of our Parish. It is very important that all of you remain and participate in this important act of stewardship of your Church. Please get a cup of coffee and we will begin promptly.

We want to thank everyone who helped with the **pita dough-making session** on Saturday. As always, your efforts are valued and appreciated

The next two **Saturdays, January 30th and February 6th** are both our responsibility to staff the Orthodox Food Center. 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 speak with **Nicole Peterson or Lisa Mielnicki**.

The Hierarchs of **SCOBA** encourage you to "Share the Light" by supporting the ministry of the **Orthodox Christian Network (OCN)**. The OCN is producing weekly radio programs syndicated all over the country. It operates **three full time Internet radio stations**: The Ark, The Rudder, and now The Anchor, an all-talk radio station with an Orthodox Christian perspective. Our faithful and interested seekers can hear not only contemporary Orthodox music, but also the beauty of the hymns of the Church from around

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



### THE THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-15

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:10-14 (THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE)

TONE 8 — RESURRECTION GOSPEL 11

the world. OCN's programming educates, and evangelizes with the life-giving Good News of Orthodox Christianity. To learn more about the programs and offer support, visit: [www.myocn.net](http://www.myocn.net)

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

Today's coffee hour is sponsored by **the Manescu family** in memory of **Maria and Constatin Gropsean**.

### PARISH FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

We are hosting a **Parish Fellowship**

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, Jan 24 General Assembly, after Liturgy
- Sat, Jan 30 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry  
Parish Council Meeting
- 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
- Fri, Feb 19 Mustard Seed Meal
- 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,

**T**HOUGH WE constantly provoke you, Lord God, in your boundless mercy you never abandon us. In your own mysterious ways, you ease the burdens of our life, giving us the strength to bear them, and you answer us, again in your own way, when we cry out to you in distress. Still, though we seldom hear or understand your response, by faith we try to remember that you are there and that you hear us. Teach us to live as you wish us to, and, in your loving kindness, increase and confirm our faith.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

**Luncheon on Sunday, February 7**, directly after Liturgy. The menu will be a roast chicken dinner served family style, including roasted potatoes, vegetables and salad. The price will be \$15.00 per adults and \$5.00 for the child's meal of homemade macaroni & cheese and French fries. To make a reservation, speak with Eleanor Sedares during coffee hour; call the Church, 508-845-0088 or e-mail [info@StNicholasChurch.org](mailto:info@StNicholasChurch.org)

We also ask you to **consider a contribution towards the expenses of the luncheon** which will enable the Church to realize a greater profit. If you have it in your heart to be a "luncheon sponsor" please speak to Deb Sedares or Fr Nick

**Lastly, your help is needed** on the day of the luncheon to serve and clean as

well as on the day before for food preparations. Please visit the volunteer bulleting board during coffee hour and sign-up for times you can help. Thank you!

## 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](http://www.spyridon-cathedral.org/parishadmin/nurseryschool.html)

**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](mailto: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@stmarysalbanianchurch.org](mailto:info@stmarysalbanianchurch.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.shepherdofsouls.com](http://www.shepherdofsouls.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.

## 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 [csabatini@htnr.net](mailto:csabatini@htnr.net)

*Did you know?* Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities and rely on your donations to continue its mission of providing the best care possible.

## 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](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

## CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND FIRMLY BELIEVED

**T**HIS week we begin the Triodion, the Church's hymn book for Great Lent leading to Pascha. While Lent is still a few weeks off, the Fathers decided to help us get ready for it by focusing our attention through Scripture readings and hymns. Today's Gospel lesson is the parable of the the Publican (tax collector) and the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14). The Epistle reading is from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, 3:10-15.

The selected reading comes out of a portion of the Letter concerned with the End-Times, that is, the Second Coming of Jesus. St. Paul is predicting what will happen to people as the time for the Lord's arrival draws near. He is particularly trying to encourage and strengthen his beloved disciple Timothy, who we learn from St. Paul's letters and in Acts, is a quiet and retiring person, not the kind of strong personality that St. Paul himself is.

The first thing that St. Paul offers Timothy is his own example. He has done this in other situations as well, for example when he tells the Corinthians that they might have many teachers but not many fathers (1 Cor 4:15); or when he tells them to "be imitators of me as I am of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1). So, in a more gentle way, he says to Timothy: "You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them." (v. 10-11) St. Paul had suffered in many places, but in this passage he only mentions those places that Timothy would personally remember, especially Lystra, where St. Timothy was born, raised, and first met St. Paul.

He then tells Timothy a sobering reality: "All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (v. 12) He is speaking first and foremost

out of his own personal experience. While a committed disciple of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem, he persecuted the followers of Christ mercilessly. When Jesus appeared to him and he then became a follower of Jesus, he himself became the one persecuted. In our own time Christian believers are being firebombed and killed even in their own Churches, in Nigeria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and Indonesia — only to mention a few places. For them and others a choice to openly confess their faith in Jesus Christ may very well mean a choice to suffer and die. Not so many years ago the same was true in all of the Eastern Bloc.

This is not to say that people of other faiths do not also suffer persecution — sometimes at the hands of 'Christians' — but suffering because of one's faith in the person and teachings of Jesus the Christ has distinguished His followers throughout the centuries. Most of us have grown up in a political environment where we have never had to choose between our lives and our faith; throughout the centuries, many Christians have. Even still, it is never easy to be Christian. While we might not be asked by others to put our lives on the lines, we are still asked by the Lord Himself to die to ourselves in order to truly live, in Christ.

The second point, a corollary, is that: "wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived." (v. 13) One of the titles of the devil is the "Deceiver." It was by his deception that Eve took the fruit in the Garden. It was she who naïvely deceived Adam to share in it. (cf. Genesis 3:1ff) St. Paul speaks of a cycle of evil and wickedness. One feeds on the other. It becomes difficult, if not impossible, to stop. Only with God is it possible to break this cycle. (cf. Matthew 19:25-26)

St. Paul offers this instruction to Timothy, both to strengthen his resolve in the face of persecution as well

as to prepare him to face the wickedness of the world. "Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (v. 14-15)

Timothy's mother was a pious Jewish woman married to pagan. Theirs was what we might call today a "mixed marriage." Nevertheless, she educated Timothy according to Jewish tradition; beginning from age five all children were to be instructed in the Sacred Writings. Even while recommending the study of Scripture, St. Paul also emphasizes the role of the people who taught him. We can presume that he meant his mother. Just as he had offered himself as an example to follow, so too is he now reminding Timothy of his mother's example of faith. As parents we are the primary example our children look to for everything, but especially regarding our faith; the way we integrate and manifest what we say we believe with how we actually behave is what our children will remember.

Finally he reiterates the power of Scripture to "instruct for salvation." Until recently it was common for children to memorize Scripture, and especially the Psalms. One requirement for ordination to the episcopacy is to be able to recite the entire Books of Psalms by heart. Verses of the Sacred Text that are engraved on our hearts come to our aid when we are struggling and in need of consolation. "Through our faith in Christ Jesus" the comfortable words inspired by the Holy Spirit bring peace to our hearts and salvation to our souls.

Maranatha! ("Lord, come!")

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

## 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](http://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.