

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN APRIL 11, 2010

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We want to thank **the Parish Council, Sunday School Teachers, Altar Servers, those who baked and prepared food, those who cleaned, and everyone whose generous offerings of time, talent, and treasure**, contributed to the many events during Holy Week such as the Palm Sunday Luncheon, the Children's Retreat on Holy Friday, and the Agape Meal after the Resurrection Service. Your community appreciates and recognizes the gifts you share so freely.

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm. Please let **Deb Sedares** know if you are unable to attend.

We will be preparing food to serve the visitors at the **Mustard Seed on Friday, April 16th**. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. You can participate in this ministry in the following ways:

- Several people are needed to help with the preparation of the meal. Please contact Deb Sedares (dsedares@pinehills.com).
- Help **transport the meal** to the Mustard Seed (Meet at the Church at 5:00pm) please contact Fr. Nick
- Help **serve the meal** (promptly at 5:45). We especially encourage teens

USHER TEAM 1:  
GERRY BELBA & CALIN GALERIU  
ALTAR TEAM A



### THE LORD APPEARS TO THOMAS

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA

EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12-20

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

TONE 1 - MATINS GOSPEL 1

to participate in this ministry

- If you have committed to help serve, and are unable to do so, please let Fr. Nick know ASAP.
- We also invite **donations** to cover the \$250 cost of providing that meal.

**Volunteers are needed for a Spring Yard Clean-up here at the Church on Saturday, April 17th from 10 am until noon.** Specific tasks include weeding, raking out the rock garden beds, cleaning-out/redefining the water drainage trench and pruning the rosa rugosa around the detention pond. If you can help, please contact **Tim Rucho: tjrucho@verizon.net**

**Remember our Spring Dance on Saturday, April 24** to be held at the Church Hall. It begins at 7:00pm. There will be ethnic and popular music. Tickets are \$10.00 per adult or \$25 per family. There will be a Cash Bar and snacks and sweets will be pro-

vided. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and door prizes. **Bring a friend!**

### HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**Volunteers needed for Saturdays and Sundays** at Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehab Center, during the hours of 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Please call Catherine Sabatini at 508-852-1000 or e-mail csabatini@htnr.net

**Hospice Volunteers Needed:** Holy Trinity Hospice at Washburn House, 1183 Main Street in Worcester is seeking compassionate men and women from all walks of life who are ready to make a commitment and a positive difference to individuals and families coping with terminal illness. A comprehensive training will begin in May. You will receive ongoing support and education, and a schedule that fits your needs. **For more information please call David Day** at 508-791-8200 or email: davidday@holyltrinityhospice.org

**SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, May 15th – The annual **Louise Peters Memorial Walk-A-Thon at Holy Trinity** begins at 10:00am -- Great prizes! Pick up a pledge sheet or download one at www.htnr.net. **For more information, call Serena** at 508-752-4628 or shields@htnr.net.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Introducing a Sensory Experience brought to you by the **Shrewsbury Fragrant Garden for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Friday, April 30th, 6:30pm-8:30pm** at Veteran's Inc., 59 South St., Shrewsbury – Donation: \$10 per person which includes Hor's d' oeuvres, cash bar, and raffle. For tickets, contact: ShrewsburyGarden@gmail.com

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 11 Thomas Sunday  
Sat, April 24 Spring Dance  
Sunday, May 23 Pentecost  
Monday, May 31 Memorial Day/Apostles Fast Begins

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E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD, our sovereign God: Let us acquire the treasure of love, for it is a grace that only your unspeakable generosity can provide. Let us understand that it is not only an act, but a state of the will, an attitude of mind and heart, whereby we wish nothing but the very best for all others. In so doing, enable us also to perceive that emotions, the feelings we have for those we love, while all well and good, are not love, they very frequently accompany it. Help us, Lord, to understand a little more of life.

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

## NAMEDAYS

**April 5**

**The Holy Martyrs Victor & Victorin**

Victor Ioan Nedelescu

Victoria Wilder

**April 9**

**The Life-giving Fountain**

Zoica Nedelcu

Zoitza Tsongalis

**April 11**

**St. Calinic of Cernica**

Calin Galeriu

**The Holy Apostle Thomas**

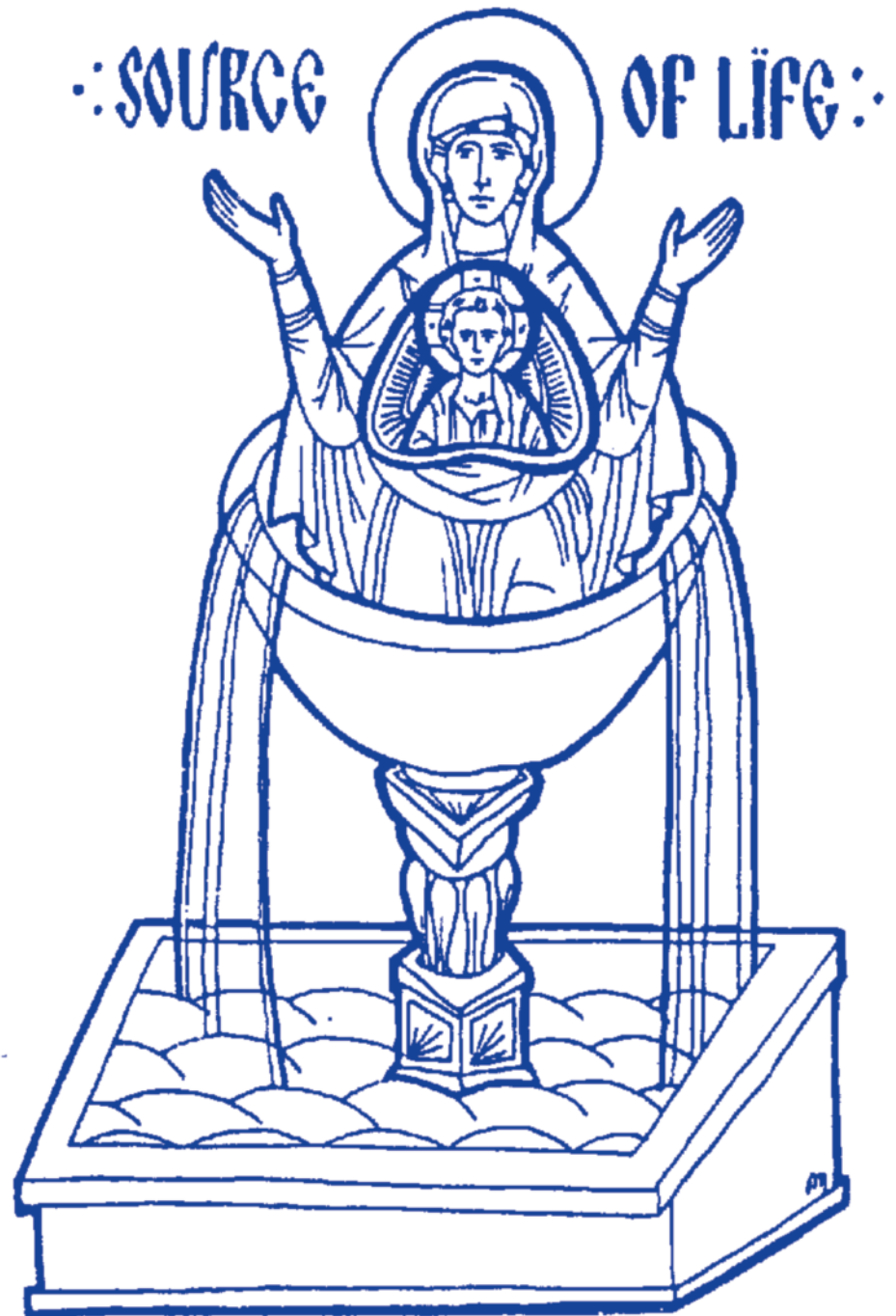
Thomas Chachi

Thomas Fitzpatrick

Robert T. Sedares

Thomas R. Sedares

Thomas Spataro



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

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

# THE WHOLE MESSAGE ABOUT THIS LIFE

**W**E are now in the Paschal Season, the period from Easter (Pascha) until the Lord's Ascension. The entire celebration culminates with the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles. At Pascha we also start the yearly cycle of Scripture readings. At the midnight Paschal Liturgy we hear the opening verses from both the Gospel of St. John and the Acts of the Apostles. For the coming year, starting today, the Second Sunday of Pascha, I will be focusing my weekly reflections on the Apostolic writings: The Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul and the other Apostles. Along with the Gospels, these Apostolic writings form the New Testament.

The Book of Acts has been called the fifth Gospel: the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. It was written by St. Luke. As we find out in the very first verses it is intended to be a continuation of the Gospel that bears his name. Luke wrote both to be a seamless whole. In Acts we see the Lord's disciples transformed by the Holy Spirit into His Apostles. In the Gospels the disciples are often confused, dull-witted, and even cowardly. In Acts and the Apostolic Letters (the Epistles) we see something else entirely. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they confidently and courageously preach the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Much has already happened in the life of the early Christian community by the time we come to the events described in this week's reading (Acts 5:12-20). Immediately after the Lord's Ascension, the Apostles chose a person to fill the empty twelfth place that had been vacated by Judas. When the Apostles cast lots to determine God's will, Matthias was chosen (Acts 1:26). Then on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after Passover/Pascha), the promised Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire (Acts 2:3). Filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles

address the great crowd from many nations that had gathered in Jerusalem for the Festival of Pentecost. Each person heard what Peter said to them in their own language (cf. v. 2:7). Thousands were added to the followers of Jesus that day.

The Apostles continued to pray each day in the Temple. On one of those occasions Peter and John passed a crippled beggar asking for alms. Instead of money they gave him the ability to walk again, in the name of Jesus (cf. v. 3:6ff). This caused such a commotion that Peter and John were arrested and called before Sanhedrin to explain what they had done (v. 4:3). Peter and John testified to the power of Jesus of Nazareth. The High Priest and the other members of the Sanhedrin threatened them both against preaching about Jesus, but decide to let them go.

In the meantime the early community continued to grow. These early Christians decide to hold all things in common and voluntarily give over their own possessions for the benefit of the whole community (cf. v. 4:34). Among these early believers were a husband and wife — Ananias and Sapphira — who decided to sell a piece of property and give it to the community, except that they secretly held a portion of the proceeds back for themselves. When they were separately confronted with their deception they were struck dead by the Holy Spirit (cf. v. 5:1-11) because of their lie. It is a powerful lesson of God's desire for honesty and truth from each of us.

This is the background for today's reading: Acts 5:12-20. The community continues to grow, and word of the Apostles' power to heal spreads. Signs and wonders were done among the people (v. 12). "They even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by" (v. 15).

The High Priest and others in authority were not going to allow this to continue. They arrested the Apostles outright and imprisoned them in the public prison. "But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the Temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.'" (v. 19-20)

This is where the selected reading ends. It is worthwhile for us to contemplate the Angel's words: "tell the people the whole message about this life." The lives of the Apostles (and this group includes more than just the twelve) and the other followers of Jesus had changed forever. They not only saw with their own eyes the life and work of Jesus, they are now filled with the Holy Spirit to proclaim it. They are not simply called to be witnesses to Christ's coming; they are now preachers of the new life that God gives us through Him. They will suffer, but continue to teach the Word and confess to the change in their own lives. As Peter and the other Apostles said to the Temple leadership: "We must obey God rather than any human authority." (v. 5:29)

Those of us who have heard the Word and believed in Jesus are heirs to this same responsibility. Through the centuries people have witnessed to God's truth in their lives and through their works. We have come to believe through them. The Apostles speak to us through these good and holy people, our parents and our teachers. We must embrace this responsibility to live the Life in Christ, grounded in the Good News they shared with us. We too are called to be witnesses, that through our witness many others may believe.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA