

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN APRIL 25, 2010

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

We want to deeply thank Lisa Mielnicki, and the others who help organize our **Parish Spring Dance, on Saturday**. It was a great success and we should keep in mind that these are the occasions that help bind us as a community in Christ. God bless all of you!

Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the **Orthodox Food Center on Saturday, May 1, from 9am-noon**. About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Nicole Peterson or Lisa Mielnicki**.

Our community is sponsoring a special **"Mother's Day Luncheon" after Church on Sunday, May 9, 2010**. Details are forthcoming, but plan on treating Mom to lunch on that day!

We want to know about any **High School or College graduates in our Parish this year**, so they can be recognized at the Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 13th. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

If you have not already done so, we ask you to consider your **Stewardship**

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



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC ⊕ THE EVANGELIST MARK

EPISTLE: ACTS 9:32-42 ⊕ GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3 - MATINS GOSPEL 5

Pledge offering prayerfully, fill out the pledge form, and submit it today. The 2010 Stewardship Pledge Form and other materials are available at the candle stand. For more information, contact Deb Sedares or Fr. Nick.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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.

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: david.day@holytrinityhospice.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.

The **General Assembly** of the Eastern Orthodox Management Corp.— **Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center and Holy Trinity Hospice** — will take

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, April 24 Spring Dance
Sunday May 9 Mother's Day Luncheon
Sunday, May 23 Pentecost
Monday, May 31 Memorial Day/Apostles Fast Begins
Sunday, June 13 Parish Picnic
Saturday, June 19 Electronic Recycle Day

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850
E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O GOD of truth and creator of all things! O you who are without beginning and without end! You brought about the death of death and made us immortal. When you finally come on that last day - not from the tomb, but from your throne of glory, O Saviour, at the sight of you we will rise up, O lover of mankind, for loving you is possessing you. Then, do not condemn us, Lord, for you rose from death not to punish us, but to redeem us.

For you are the king of peace and the saviour of our souls, 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.

place on **Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00pm at Holy Trinity**. The purpose of the meeting is to review our organization's performance for last year, both financial, operational, and our progress with new initiatives. Ethnic hors d'œuvres will be served! We need 10 people for our parish delegation, and interested candidates are needed to serve on the Board of Directors. For more information, please speak with Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares

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 hors d'œuvres, cash bar, and raffle. For tickets, contact: ShrewsburyGarden@gmail.com

The **St. Vladimir Seminary Men's Choir will be at St. George Cathedral on Saturday, May 1st for Great Vespers**. Everyone is invited to hear them chanting the service and to attend a "potluck dinner" following Great Vespers.

Mark your calendars: The **2010 Grecian Festival will be held this year on the weekend of June 4, 5, & 6**. For more information, visit the Grecian Festival web site: www.spyridoncathedral.org/grecianfestival/gfhome.asp

NAMEDAYS

April 21

The Holy Martyr Alexandra the Queen

Alexandra Dymek
Alexis George
Alexandra Mentis
Sandra Nedelescu
Alexandra Valoras

April 23

The Holy Great-martyr George the Wonderworker

George Belba
George M. Bourisk
George Demake
Gjergji Disho
Dr. George Elias
Gheorghe O. Galica
George Grniet
George Krassopoulos
George Photakis
George Soter
George Symock
George Tanacea
George Tonna
George James Trakadas

April 25

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

Rev. Fr. Mark Doku
Mark Soter
Mark Stamoulis

April 30

The Holy Apostle James, brother of John the Evangelist

James Collins

GOD'S POWER TO CONVINC

THIS is the fourth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's healing of the Paralytic Man (John 5:1-15). In the reading from Acts (9:32-42), we hear of a similar healing, as well as the miracle of a woman raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter. There is a common theme in the two readings: the power of God to persuade and convince even the most skeptical of people.

After St. Luke tells us the story of St. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus (in Acts 9:1ff), he returns again to the missionary work of St. Peter. As the community of believers in Jesus grew and spread, St. Peter felt it important to visit these new communities, some of which were Gentile missions. He travelled to the region of Sharon to a town called Lydda, about twenty eight miles northwest of Jerusalem and half way to Joppa. "There he found a man named Æneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, 'Æneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.' And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (Acts 9:33-35)

As with the Paralytic in today's Gospel reading, no profession of faith is asked of Æneas. St. John Chrysostom points out that when the Lord began his ministry he rarely asked for a sign of the person's faith. He simply healed them. In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord simply said to the Paralytic: "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:6) St. Peter tells Æneas: "Jesus Christ heals you." (v. 34) In both cases the general population did not know who either the Lord or St. Peter were. Their fame had not yet spread. It was the works themselves that would "get their attention." This is what the Lord means when he says: "Believe me that I am in

the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves." (John 14:11) The great signs done by the Lord and later by the Apostles in Jesus' name are the means by which people become engaged and receptive to listening to the larger message. We see this effect at work in St. Peter's healing of Æneas, because when he stood up, "all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord." (v. 35)

While Peter was at Lydda the disciples in Joppa, hearing he was there, sent two men to go and get him and bring him to Joppa. There was a disciple there named Tabitha who had gotten sick and died. St. Luke tells us that "she was full of good works and acts of charity." (v. 36) Tabitha is the Aramaic word for "gazelle." St. Luke translates her name into Greek: "Dorcas." St. John Chrysostom, using the meaning of the name, emphasizes that she was lively and quick, not only in acts of charity, but in every kind of good work. This is evident in the scene St. Peter found when he arrived. "All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them." (v. 39)

Each of us knows of good and faithful women in our communities, the kind who are always giving, ready to help in a humble way. These are the women who visit the sick and shut-ins, who bake a meal for a family in need, and who volunteer in any number of ways. This is the type of person Tabitha was. We can imagine the grief in the Joppa Church.

After she had died, the women had washed her body and laid her in the upper room. When Peter was brought into the grief-filled room he took stock of the situation and asked everyone to

leave. Then he knelt down and prayed. He looked at the body and said: "Tabitha rise!" She immediately sat up and he took her hand and presented her to the saints and widows alive. (v. 40-41)

This miracle has strong parallels with the raising of Jairus' daughter. (cf. Luke 8:49-56) Jesus too ordered that everyone leave, except for Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents. Jesus took her hand and called her back from the dead. But, there is one important difference. While Jesus told them not to say anything to anyone about what had happened, in Joppa it immediately became known throughout the whole city and "many believed in the Lord." (v. 42)

These two very powerful signs that we read about in today's lesson from Acts were meant to show the world that the Apostles were graced to carry on the work of the Lord Jesus. The power of miracles and signs was given to them and to the Church throughout the ages in order to open people's hearts to hear the words that lead to salvation. Sickness, suffering, and death are not unique to any time or place. They have always been with us. The Lord has given us these and similar signs, even in our own time, to encourage us and strength our resolve to believe in Him.

Sickness, debilitating illness, and even death itself do not have the final word; the life given us in our Lord Jesus does.

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA