

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 2, 2010

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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 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.

This Sunday we celebrate a Memorial

USHER TEAM 4:
DEAN VALORAS & EVAN SPARAGES
ALTAR TEAM B



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA JESUS'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE SAMARITAN WOMAN EPISTLE: ACTS 11:19-30 GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-42 TONE 4 - MATINS GOSPEL 7

Service for the servant of God, **Rita Chumbanis**, godmother of Lea Christo, fallen asleep 40 Days. *May she rest among the Saints and may her memory be eternal!*

Today's coffee Hour is sponsored by **Lea Christo** in memory of her godmother, **Rita Chumbanis**.

YOUTH NEWS

The **St. Nicholas Youth Group** will be meeting on **Friday, May 7th from 7:00 to 8:30 at the church**. Kids ages 12 and up are welcome. We will have Pizza and work on plans for activities through Spring and Summer 2010. Come eat some Pizza, hang out for awhile and bring some ideas for things you would like to do! **Please RSVP to tjrucho@verizon.net so we can get enough pizza!**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

more information, please speak with Fr. Nick or Deb Sedares

COMMUNITY NEWS

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



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

FATHER, O you whose arms are always extended to us in mercy and compassion, who receive us back no matter how many times we fall: We are only too well aware of our frailty, for we are made of the dust of this earth. Yet, just as we have worn the likeness of the human made of dust, so shall we wear the likeness of the human who is of heaven. Therefore, Lord, as we celebrate the resurrection of your Son while we are still in this life, help us to repent, so that we may be found worthy of sharing in the paschal mysteries in the life to come.

By the grace and mercy and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

2010 STEWARDSHIP

To date we have **32% participation** in the stewardship program meaning that **30 of the 95 households** have completed their commitment forms. We need 65 more commitment forms to achieve 100% participation.

The current Total Pledge amounts are:

Stewardship: \$23,000.00
MPG/Building Fund: \$12,000.00

WHO IS A FAITHFUL STEWARD OF THE CHURCH?

A faithful steward and member of the Orthodox Christian Church, who can receive or participate as a sponsor in any Sacraments of the church implies that the person:

- Is baptized and christmated an Orthodox Christian
- Comes to Church regularly
- Participates in the Life of the Church
- Participates in Holy Communion regularly
- Is a financial steward of the Church
- Goes to Holy Confession when necessary



NAMEDAYS

May 1

The Holy Prophet Jeremiah

Jeromy Grniet

May 5

The Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica

Irena Dorogi

Irene Tsoules

May 9

The Holy Martyr Christopher

Christopher Masterjohn

May 17

The Holy Apostle Andronicos of the Seventy

Androniki Cheverevski

Androniki Demake

May 21

The Holy Equals to the Apostles Constantine and Helen

Constantine Apostol

Elaine Apostola

Konstantin Charalambides

Presvytera Eleni Christakos

Amalia Helene Collins

Ilene Cosmas

Hannah Constance Datz

Elena Galeriu

Elaine Killick

Kostika Lico

Ileana A Nace

Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos

Constanța Papit

Constantine Pappas

Eleni Polymeros

Elena Prelipcean

Elaine Rocheford

Dina K. Salerno

Eleanor Sedares

Dean Valoras

Elena Marie Zekos

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

THE REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO LIFE

THIS is the fifth Sunday of Pascha. Today's Gospel lesson is the Lord's encounter with the Samaritan Woman at the well (John 4:5-42). The Apostolic reading for this day is from Acts (11:19-30). We read of the first steps of a missionary movement that will transform the fledgling Church from a small group of Jewish followers of Jesus Christ into a Spirit-filled force that will change the world.

There were two catalytic events that led to this development. The first was the persecution of Jesus' disciples following the stoning and martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:2 ff), especially in and around Jerusalem (v. 19). The second was the conversion and baptism of the Gentile centurion Cornelius by the Apostle Peter (Acts 10:1 ff).

Cornelius was a devout man. Like a number of non-Jews in this period of time, he was attracted to the God revealed to the Patriarch Abraham. He believed that this God was the one true God. He prayed regularly and constantly, asking for a sign.

At the same time, during his stay in Joppa (remember last week's reading) Peter also had a vision while at midday prayer. He fell into a trance and saw a large sheet lowered from heaven containing every kind of unclean animal. Then he heard a voice saying, "Kill and eat!" He protested that he had never eaten anything unclean. The reply came that what God has made clean, he had no right to call profane. The same vision came to him two more times.

Simultaneously, while at prayer in Caesaria, Cornelius had an angelic visitation saying his prayer had been answered and that he should send for Peter in Joppa. When Peter arrived, the meaning of his own vision became clear: he was to accept the Gentiles into the Church. He received a warm welcome by the growing Gentile community of Jesus' followers, who, like Cornelius and his family, were believers. This was a revolutionary moment.

The martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution that followed had the unintended effect of scattering the Apostles and other members of the Jerusalem community throughout the world. The opening verse of today's reading mentions Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. But, we know that the Apostles themselves eventually traveled throughout the known world, even as far as India. When arriving in a new city, usually they would go first to the local Jewish synagogue to preach Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah who had now come. Then they would reach out to others, often Gentile believers like Cornelius, and also proclaim to them the Good News of salvation. In today's reading from Acts we see how this missionary process actually worked.

Disciples from Cyprus and Cyrene (a city on the North African coast in present-day Libya) went to Antioch to preach. Antioch was a city on the Mediterranean coast located in present-day southern Turkey. It was a well-positioned place from which Christianity could spread. It had been the capital of the Seleucid Empire and was one of the major cities of the Roman world, rivaling Alexandria. It had a large Jewish community, as well as groups of other peoples from throughout the Empire. The disciples mentioned in today's reading began to preach not only to the local synagogue, but also to the Greeks, that is, the Gentile population, and they were enormously successful. St. Luke says, "The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord." (v. 21) News of this phenomenon reached the Apostles in Jerusalem and they decided to send Barnabas to investigate.

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch he was overwhelmed by what he saw. With his own eyes he witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit and rejoiced. St. Luke describes Barnabas as "a good

man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith," (v. 24) and we can see evidence of this in the next thing he does. After spending a little time with this new community, he goes to look for Saul (Paul) in Tarsus. His immediate instinct is to enlist the most skilled person for this mission. Once he finds him he brings him to Antioch and together they meet with the Church there, teaching, encouraging and converting many. It was the starting point of the Church's missionary effort.

With a small phrase St. Luke captures the importance of this moment in the Church's life: "It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians.'" (v. 26)

While Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch a number of prophets came from Jerusalem. One of them in particular, Agabus, full of the Holy Spirit, predicted that there would be a severe world-wide famine. The disciples in Antioch decided on the spot that they would send relief to the brethren in Judea (v. 29) through Paul and Barnabas. Paul made it his practice that in each place where he preached and established Churches, he would make this same act of charity — to assist the brothers and sisters in Judea — part of the mission of these new communities.

We see two fundamental duties we have as Christians in this passage from Acts: to share the Good News with everyone we meet, as well as being ready to always help those in need. These two principles are at the heart of the Life in Christ. Our faith came by way of people who took up this call, and shared their joy with us. It is our turn to share with those around us; to impart to them the words that many long to hear, the words of "the repentance that leads to life." (v. 18)

Christ is Risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA