

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 16, 2010

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Saturday, May 22, is the Saturday of the Souls celebrated the day before the Feast of Pentecost. Divine Liturgy will be held at 10 am followed by a Memorial Service for the departed.

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.

PLANNING AHEAD

On **Memorial Day, Monday, May 31**, a Trisagion Service for all those fallen asleep in the Lord will be held at **12 noon at the altar in the Orthodox Section of Hope Cemetery**, Worcester. Fr. Nick will be available from 10:00 am prior to the service, to bless individual graves at Hope Cemetery. If you would like to make arrangements to visit a grave in another cemetery, please speak with him.

USHER TEAM 1:
GERRY BELBA &
CĂLIN GALERIU
ALTAR TEAM B



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 1ST ŒCUMENICAL SYNOD
EPISTLE: ACTS 20:16-18;28-36 ⊕ GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-13
TONE 6 ⊕ MATINS GOSPEL 10

Teen Meeting / Pizza Night, **Friday, June 4th**, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Church.

On **Sunday, June 13th**, we will host a **Parish Picnic** to celebrate **Godparents and Grandparents Sunday**, the end of the Sunday School Year, and to honor our graduates. The picnic luncheon will be held on the Church grounds after the Divine Liturgy. **Reservations are required**, and must be received by Sunday, June 6th. To make a reservation, speak with Eleanor Sedares during coffee hour, call the Church: 508-845-0088 or e-mail: Fr Nick.

We will prepare food and serve the visitors at the **Mustard Seed on Friday, June 18th**. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Help is needed during the day to cook and prepare food, and at 5:00 on Friday evening to trans-

port and serve. Please contact Fr. Nick if you can help with this ministry.

Another popular **“E-Waste Recycling Day”** will also be held in conjunction with a car wash **Saturday, June 19th from 9-3** here at the Church. You can get rid of unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and protect the environment too! More details are

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, May 22	Saturday of the Souls, Liturgy 10 am
Sunday, May 23	Pentecost
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day/Apostles Fast Begins
Saturday, June 12	Picnic Prep, 8 - noon
Sunday, June 13	Parish Picnic
Friday, June 18	Mustard Seed Meal
Saturday, June 19	Electronic Recycle Day/ Car Wash
Sunday, June 20	Treasurer's Mid Year Update
Sunday, July 4	No Liturgy at St. Nick's
Sunday 7/11 - 9/5	Summer Hours, Liturgy 9:30 am
Friday, July 23	Parish Cookout / Bonfire

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

forthcoming.

On **Sunday, June 20**, there will be a brief mid-year **Treasurer's Update** immediately following the Divine Liturgy. If you have any particular questions you would like addressed, please speak with **Evan Stamoulis**.

There will be **NO Divine Liturgy at our Church on Sunday, July 4**, because Fr. Nick will be attending the bi-annual Archdiocese Congress in Chicago.

From **Sunday, July 11 through Sunday, September 5** we will be on **"Summer Hours."** Divine Liturgy will **begin at 9:30 AM, and should be finished by 11:00 AM**. Coffee Hour will also be suspended for these summer weeks, so the faithful crew of coffee-hour workers gets some time off from that responsibility.

Save the Date — On Friday evening, July 23, we will have a Parish cookout, bonfire, and talent show here on the Church grounds.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

The annual **Louise Peters Memorial Walk-A-Thon** at Holy Trinity begins at 10:00am on **Saturday, May 15th**— A team from our Church will be walking and seeks your pledges. You may make a pledge to **Elias or Dimitri Christo** in coffee hour, or download one at www.htnr.net. For more information, call Serena at 508-752-4628 or shields@htnr.net.

Did you Know? If you are a Fallon Community Health Plan member, you are able to go to Holy Trinity for your rehabilitation if you let the case manager know as soon as possible that you are a member of the Orthodox Community. They will make the referral to Holy Trinity, and we will do the rest!

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

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@holytrinityhospice.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ladies (Reuniunea Femeilor) of sister parish of **St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, RI** is holding "Romanian Feast" **this Sunday, May 16**, in the Parish Social Hall following the Divine Liturgy. Enjoy a large variety of Romanian traditional meals. Adults: \$15.00, Children: \$ 7.00, and those under 5 free.

Our sister parish of **St. Parascheva in Wakefield** will be holding a **Summer Picnic on Sunday, May 30**, after the Divine Liturgy on the Church grounds. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved by e-mailing: **Beatrice Zaharian Yokoyama** at: bea1993@comcast.net.

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



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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

THIS is the seventh Sunday of Pascha. We remember the Fathers of the First Œcumenical Synod held at Nicæa in the year 325 AD. We also find ourselves in the days between the Lord's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Today's lesson from the Book of Acts (20:16-18; 28-36) reads like a farewell speech, a final admonition, from St. Paul to the elders of the Church at Ephesus, but its message speaks to us as well. St. Paul is on his way to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. He says (in verses not included in this reading), "I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me." (Acts 20:22-23) The authorities in Jerusalem have wanted to imprison and even kill St. Paul since his acceptance of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah. He believes he will never see the Church of Ephesus again. He is correct; he never does.

He is primarily concerned for the future well-being of the Church. He directs his remarks specifically to the "elders" of the Church — that is, the *episcopi* or "overseers." (In part this explains why this lesson is chosen for today when we remember the Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council.) He tells the "*episcopi*" to, "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of the Lord that he obtained with his own blood." (v. 28)

There are two aspects to this "oversight." The first is that if you are given leadership in the Church you need to "keep watch over yourself." You should keep yourself right with the Lord. You have to be self-disciplined and resolute. St. Paul says something similar to St. Timothy: "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will

save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16) When following God's call to shepherd Christ's Church, our first duty is to be watchful over ourselves.

The second important duty is to "Keep watch ... over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [guardians]." (v. 28) We do not set ourselves up as "leaders" in the Church. People do not (or should not) take this responsibility on themselves. The Holy Spirit chooses; He is the one who anoints leaders in God's Church. We are to behave as shepherds, guarding and protecting the flock. It is God's flock. It is God's Church. We have been enlisted into the Lord's service for His people, "that He obtained with his own blood."

Keeping with this image of shepherd and sheep, St. Paul says, "I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them." (v. 29-30) Anyone with experience in the Church knows the truth of what St. Paul is forewarning. The Evil One is constantly working to divide the Church, to divide the parish. Each of us needs to be vigilant. We need to strive to discern the source of our thoughts, feelings, and actions, and sometimes help our brothers and sisters to do the same.

The objective is to remain firmly planted in God's truth. Each Christian generation has faced its particular challenges. The Apostles had theirs. The Church of the fourth century had Arius, whom the Synod of Nicæa confronted directly. We have ours, perhaps an even more difficult challenge: indifference and secularism. Surrounded by material comforts, we resist God who can truly comfort us.

This reading highlights the question of leadership in the Church, and of course, in the parish. In America, we

'elect' parish councils and diocesan congresses to provide assistance and direction to the Church's leadership. Sometimes, but not always, the lay representatives find themselves in conflict with the ordained leadership, the bishops and presbyters, as well as the deacons and the other clergy. Each member of Christ's Body needs to remember that the Holy Spirit is the one who calls us for service. No one should serve him or her self; each of us should serve God.

When you read this passage take special note of the closing verses. St. Paul admonishes them with tears and kisses. He prays with them and over them. He grieves for the words he has spoken, particularly that he would not see them again. He commends them "to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build [them] up and to give [them] the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (v. 32) By his love he shows how it is God's Word that we need to keep close to our hearts; this is what will build us up.

Finally, he gives us a saying of the Lord that appears nowhere else in the New Testament, not the Gospels nor the other Apostolic writings: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (v. 35) It is often quoted because the Lord's truth resonates in our hearts. It also reminds us that not everything the Lord said and did was written down. As the Evangelist John says: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31) The simple truth, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," can guide our lives as it strengthens our faith.

Christ has Ascended! ... He has Ascended in Glory!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O SKILLFUL AND INGENIOUS ARTISAN OF LIFE: We come before you to thank you for raising your Son from death to the glory of new life at your right. As we celebrate his victory over death, we beseech you to remove the burdens that weigh heavily on our hearts. Dry our tears, and clothe us in the vesture of immortality, in that raiment that reflects the light of your glory. As we stand before you, prepare us for the joy of the eternal kingdom by directing our lives along the path of righteousness. Finally, at the end of our days, let us — together with all our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, our teachers, and all those who have gone before us — receive the incorruptible crown in the fellowship of the kingdom on high.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy 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 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

