

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 25, 2010

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

On Friday evening, July 30, at 6:30pm we will have a Parish cookout, campfire, and talent show here on the Church grounds. Whether you're a musician, vocalist, comic, actor, gymnast, or whatever, show us what you got! This will be a fun night for our entire Parish, family, and friends. Anyone is welcome to perform their talent for all to enjoy, but entertainers are limited to one performance and the order of performances will be arranged in advance. **To be in the talent show, you must register by providing the following information to Tim Rucho.** Your name, talent and title of performance, e-mail and phone contacts, and what (if any) technical support will you need? (ie: microphone, electrical outlet, etc.)

This Sunday we celebrate a Memorial Service for the servants of God, **Maria and Alexandru** the parents of Constanța Papit. *May they rest among the saints, and may their memory be eternal!*

Our parish community also mourns the passing of **Androniki Demake**, the loving wife of Nicholas Demake. *May her memory be eternal!*

USHER TEAM 5:
BRYAN DONABED &
GEORGE DEMAKE

ALL ALTAR BOYS MAY SERVE
OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE FALLING ASLEEP OF ST. ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS
JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA AND CALMS THE STORM
EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17 ⊕ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:22-34
TONE 8 ⊕ MATINS GOSPEL 9

LOOKING AHEAD

Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the **Orthodox Food Center on Saturday, August 7th, from 9 am - 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.

There will be a **Parish Council meeting on Monday, August 9th at 6:30 pm.** Please confirm with Deb Sedares that you will attend.

We will prepare food and serve the visitors at the **Mustard Seed on Friday, August 20th.** 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

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

Join us for a spectacular evening of comedy, music and fun, as our community sponsors a fundraising event at the luxurious new **Hanover Theater!** **On Saturday, October 2,** guests will enjoy a **pre-show pastry reception** at the Hanover followed by the outrageous new show **Monty Python's Spamalot**, winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical. This event will be the main fundraiser of our community for the Fall season. Tickets are \$100 per person, and reservations must be made

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 7/11 - 9/5 Summer Hours, Liturgy 9:30 am
Friday, July 30 Parish Cookout / Campfire
Saturday, Aug 7 Orthodox Food Pantry
Monday, Aug 9 Parish Council Meeting
Friday, Aug 20 Mustard Seed
Sunday, Sept 12 September Picnic
Saturday, Oct 2 Hanover Theater Fundraiser

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

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

PRESERVE us from rashness, Lord God of gentleness, that we may not be taken captive by ignorance, and show us how to nourish gentleness of spirit that we may attain knowledge, for you love the gentle but the rash you banish from your presence. Show us how to flee irascibility so that we may live in gentleness and without fear.

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

well in advance. For more information, speak with **Tim Rucho**.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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

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!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The community of **St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church** on 501 East School Street, Woonsocket, RI invites you to attend their **"Old Style Family Church Picnic" on Saturday, July 24, 4 PM to Dusk and Sunday, July 25, 12 Noon to Dusk**. They will feature Lamb Shish-Ke-Bob, Roman-

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

St. Panteleimon

◆ Vespers at St. Spyridon, Monday, July 26 at 6:00 pm

Transfiguration (August 6)

◆ Vespers at St. Nick's, Thursday, August 5, 6:00 pm

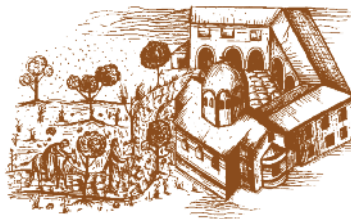
Dormition Fast Period (Aug 1-15)

◆ Supplication Service to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Tuesday, August 10, 6:00 pm

◆ Supplication Service to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Thursday, August 12, 6:00 pm

◆ Feast-Day Vespers at St. Mary's, Saturday, August 14, 7:00 pm

◆ Divine Liturgy at St. Nick's, Sunday, August 15, 9:30 am



ian Sausage (Mititei), Stuffed Cabbage, Schnitzel, Home baked Ethnic pastries, and Delicious sweets, Cozonac (Sweet bread), Spinach and Cheese "Pita", Baklava, apple strudel and much more! Free Admission / Rain or Shine / Ethnic Dancing and Music.

On **Sunday, August 15th**, the Feastday of **St. Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church**, there will be a **Barbeque Chicken Dinner** after the Liturgy. The cost is \$15.00 for Adults, and \$10.00 for children 12 & under. To make a reservation, please contact Lisa Gregory, at 508-756-1690 or info@stmarysalbanianchurch.org

NAMEDAYS

July 7

The Holy Martyr Kyriaki

Kyri Sedares

July 11

The Blessed Olga, Princess of Russia

Olga Lolo

Olga Thanas

July 12

St. Veronica, the woman healed by our Lord Jesus

Veronica Pandaru

July 16

The Holy Martyr Julia of Carthage

Julia Donabed

July 17

The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia

Margareta Gikas

Margaret Koyanu

Lindsey Marina Sparages

Marina Sparages

July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah

Louis P. Belba

Elias James Christo

Irli Ilie Durmillari

Louis P. Messier

Louis Rucho

Louis Evan Stamoulis

July 24

The Holy Great Martyr Christina

Christine Masterjohn

July 27

The Holy Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon

Rev. Fr. Panteleimon Fatsis

Pandeli Gity

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

BY WEB OR PODCAST: WWW.RECEIVE.ORG

YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

THIS is the ninth Sunday after Pentecost, and we continue reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. This week the selection is 3:9-17. St. Paul is dealing with reports of scandal and division (including some immoral behavior) within the Corinthian Church. In last week's reading we listened to him directly address the attitudes that were fostering factionalism. In the verses that followed (v. 1:18-3:5) he severely reprimands them for their childish behavior. He knows that they see themselves as "spiritually mature" because some in the community have been graced with the charismatic gifts of the Spirit, yet he sees them as spiritually immature, even as children.

He says, "I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?" (v. 3:1-3) He uses two metaphors, to help them understand the path to spiritual growth. The first is an agricultural image: Paul plants, Apollos waters, and God gives the growth (cf. 3:6). The second is the image of constructing a building. This is where today's reading begins, as St. Paul moves from the first metaphor to the second.

In order to soften the edge of his rebuke, St. Paul invites the Corinthians to see the spiritual project of the Church as a building on which we all work collaboratively, as God's servants, according to our talents and the grace given us. He says: "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has

been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (v. 3:10-11)

Paul is saying three things here: First, as Apostle and founder of the community—the master builder—he provided them with the spiritual foundation on which to build. Second, this foundation not only provides support for the building to be built upon it, but also determines its shape and parameters. And three, the foundation for the Church is Christ Himself; one must be careful if something or someone else is being preached.

He continues, "Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done." (v. 12-13) There are two possible interpretations as to whom St. Paul is referring. The "anyone" in verse 12 could refer to other preachers or ministers; people responsible for building up the community through teaching and example. Or, he could be referring to us, the members of the Church. St. John Chrysostom leans toward the second understanding.

St. John Chrysostom says that clearly Paul is not speaking of a physical building, because people do not use gold, silver and precious stones for this purpose. Rather these "building materials" represent the quality of our actions. The way in which we internalize and then incorporate the Gospel reflected by our deeds and habits become like spiritual gold or wood or straw. Our works will become visible on the Day, that is, the Day of the Lord when He comes in judgment. Everything will be revealed—tested—by fire.

Fire has this quality: it can either consume or it can purify. Materials such as wood, hay and straw are consumed, leaving only blackened ash.

Gold and silver, on the other hand, are purified and made more brilliant.

And so, "If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire." (v. 14-15) For the person whose works are like precious metals and stones, the fire on the Day of Judgment is a refining fire. For the person whose works cannot withstand the fires of judgment, they will escape with their lives, but with nothing to show for it. Like someone standing on the street watching all of their life's work and memories being reduced to smoldering ash, so will it be for us if we are not willing and ready to put into practice the Good News that we've heard.

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (v. 16-17) This is the heart of St. Paul's argument. We are the "building" with which he is concerned. We are God's dwelling place. St. Paul echoes the Lord's words when he said: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (John 14:23)

By the way we live we either build up or destroy God's temple. Even in this secular age people are still outraged when a holy place—church, synagogue, or mosque—is desecrated. To the Corinthians these words were even more powerful. Whether you were a pagan or a Jew the desecration of a temple invited God's wrath. This is St. Paul's admonishment for us, to remember that we are responsible for God's dwelling place, our very selves.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA