

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN APRIL 15, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**A VACATION WEEK FIELD TRIP** to the Museum of Russian Icons is being planned by our Religious Ed teachers along with Sts. Anagyroi for this **Wednesday, April 18th**. All children are encouraged to participate. If you have questions see **Valarie Stamoulis: valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com** or 617-803-3798.

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is **THIS** Friday, April 20th. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **We want to thank Joanne Prizio and family for underwriting the costs for the 200 meals we usually serve. God bless them!** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

**PITAS AND PASTRIES** are available for purchase! Talk to **Betty Anderson** or **Chris Toda**.

**ARCHBISHOP NICOLAE'S PASTORAL LETTER** at Pascha is available in English and Romanian at the candles.

The latest issue of the Archdiocesan quarterly **CREDINȚA / THE FAITH** is available at the candles. **Pick one up and take it home!**

**GREETERS TEAM 2:**  
ARTIC GAVALA AND V. GERALD BELBA

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:**  
**HELP NEEDED!**  
**CONSIDER LENDING A HAND.**  
**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



**ANTIPASCHA:**  
**ST. THOMAS SUNDAY**  
EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12-20  
GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

TONE 1 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 1

**THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. **Our next Saturday is May 5th.**

**THANKS TO THE E-RECYCLING TEAM!** Lead by **Gerry Belba**. It was another successful event. Our parish is able to help our local community and the environment. **God bless them!**



## A NOTE OF THANKS ...

We want to thank the members of our Parish who helped especially through this Paschal season: those who planned and prepared the wonderful food from the first Lenten meal, to the Palm Sunday Luncheon through the Paschal Agape Meal; the ushers, the altar servers; those who set-up and cleaned the facility; the baking crew, who produced pitas and pastries that brightened the holiday tables throughout the region; the religious education instructors and those who coordinated the Great Friday children's retreat; our chanters: Tim Rucho and George Demake. There are so many who always help and contribute in ways small and large. Take a moment next time you see an act of kindness and service and personally thank the individual.

*Christ is Risen!*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, April 14 e-Recycling, 9am - 2pm  
Wed, April 18 Icon Museum Field Trip  
Fri, April 20 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm  
Sat, May 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**E**TERNAL PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO YOU, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for this wondrous feast whereon you raised him to the glory of new life at your right! As we offer you our hymns and canticles in praise of his victory over death, we beseech you: Grant us the faith of the myrrhbearing women, but not their fright; the hope of the apostles, but not their fear; the straightforward attitude of Thomas, but not his hesitation; and the openness of the Samaritan woman, but not her weakness. At all times and in all things enable us to please you, so that your mercy and compassion may rest on us in this world and in the next.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

**T**hough the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testi-

mony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**THE ST. SPYRIDON GREEK LADIES PHILOP-TOCHOS** will be hosting a luncheon at Holy Trinity on **Thursday, April 19th** at 11:30 a.m.

**HOLY TRINITY IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS!** Share your talents and experience! While helping others, you will make new friends, learn new things and have a choice of assignments and have fun. Holy Trinity makes an effort to find or to create volunteer opportunities to match a person's interest. **Become a part of the volunteer team and make a difference!** Contact Serena at: 508-852-1000, ext. 350, or email

shields@htnr.net. **"You cannot change the world, but you can change someone's world."**

**Holy Trinity has job openings for Cooks** (10-20 hrs/wk), **Staff Nurses** (RN/LPN), **CNA's**, and **Unit Manager**. For a full detailed description of job requirements and responsibilities, go to the website at: [www.htnr.net/employment-opportunities](http://www.htnr.net/employment-opportunities), or contact **Michele Williamson** at: mwilliamson@htnr.net, or call 508-852-1000, ext. 218.

## NAMEDAYS

### April 1

#### *The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem*

Elodie Lauren Killick  
Florence Rucho  
Florica Tonna

### April 5

#### *The Holy Martyrs Victor and Victorin*

Victor Ioan Nedelescu  
Victoria Wilder

### April 13

#### *The Life-giving Fountain*

Zoica Nedelcu  
Zoitza Tsongalis

### April 15

#### *The Holy Apostle Thomas*

Thomas Cavanaugh  
Thomas Chachi  
Thomas Fitzpatrick  
Robert T. Sedares  
Thomas R. Sedares  
Thomas Spataro

### April 21

#### *The Holy Martyr Alexandra the Queen*

Alexandra Dymek  
Alexis George  
Alexandra Mentis  
Sandra Nedelescu  
Casie Soter

## PASS - OVER

**W**E'VE all had the experience of someone close dying. Perhaps they have even suffered greatly. We all know of people who are in deep pain, either physically, or more often emotionally. Suffering seems to be the natural course of life. We of course hit high points; there is joy in life, but even the moments of joy can become soured in the inevitability of pain and death. Watching the news, reading about national and international problems that seem to defy solution only tend to intensify the agony we feel around us. Despair, especially in these turbulent times, hangs in the air like smog, choking life and inhibiting growth.

*Christ is risen from the dead!* What powerful words, what joy. But they've become such a cliché. We exchange the greeting saying: "Truly He is risen!" yet its impact doesn't really find expression in our life. The words are charged with life. They have the power to electrify. But in a flash it's over and we are back to the routine.

Where do despair and depression come from? Their roots are in our feeling of helplessness, of drifting aimlessly. Our life can become an endless routine devoid of purpose. We go through the motions without any goal, or worse yet, with a bankrupt goal. We say to ourselves, "I'll put up with this so I can get a better job," or "We'll keep going like this just until the kids grow up." But if and when we reach the goal, there is little fulfillment, and an abundance of emptiness. Our life becomes meaningless because the things that we thought would give it meaning are only shadows.

*Christ is risen from the dead!* Now there is something with meaning. No matter how some have attempted to cheapen, to detract from, Christ's resurrection, the awesomeness of it continues to attract us. It has been almost 2,000 years, yet we still cling to it. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it were true, if He really



did come back from the dead? If He really did stop the interminable cycle of hopelessness? It is more than simply a "That's Incredible" fascination with us. It assumes life and death proportions.

But many of us, as we reflect on Christ's resurrection, find it hard to relate it to our present condition. The words are magnetic, the concept is electric, but its meaning in 21st century America escapes us. I personally do not think that it was any easier twenty centuries ago to understand Christ. He was as difficult to accept then as now, because what He asks us to believe is contrary to all the seeming laws and principles of this world.

*Christ is risen from the dead!* Perhaps the point is too obvious, but in His coming back from the dead, Christ has reversed the 'natural' order. He made the impossible a reality not only for Himself, but also for all those who believe in Him. He cuts through external forms, piercing the real meaning of things. Everyone was expecting the Messiah to be an earthly king. Even the disciples expected Christ to set up His rule upon His entry into Jerusalem. Who would have suspected that this same crowd that greeted Him with

palms would end up crucifying Him? But even more, who would have suspected that this dead Messiah would come back from the tomb and alter the course of nature?

What Christ did was to change the inner reality. He did establish His kingdom, but, as He said, it is within each one of us. He could have become the political King of Israel, inaugurating not only a revolt against the Romans, but also instituting all kinds of broad social programs. But He did not choose that road, because in the end that approach is bankrupt if there is no change in our internal condition, in our hearts. We change from the inside out. When we accept the truth of Christ it transforms us. And even though this truth stands in opposition to all we consider logical and normal, in the end it conquers, just as Christ, through His humiliating death, conquered Death.

*Christ is risen from the dead!* Christ who rose from the dead offers this same resurrection to each one of us. He offers to share the Life which He possesses with us. All our fears, all our greed, all our anger, all our envy, every evil which we perpetrate against our fellow humans melts in the warmth of Christ's love for us. We know that Christ is risen. We know that we too will rise. We know that no one in Christ dies.

Our belief in this Passover from death to Life is central. It is the primary life-event for the Church and for each one of us. It changes all our relationships. In the Resurrection we celebrate life, we celebrate hope, we celebrate the love of our God for us.

Christ is risen! Who can despair? Christ is risen! Who can fear death? Christ is risen! Who can hate their brother and sister? Christ is risen! And we are pulled up by Him. His hand is extended. Who can refuse it? Christ is risen!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA