

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JUNE 15, 2014
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE MUSTARD SEED MEAL is scheduled for **THIS COMING Friday, June 20th.** The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **Help is needed Friday NOON** to cook and prepare food, and **at 5:00 on Friday evening** to transport and serve. There is a sign-up sheet on the Stewardship Board in the Hall or contact Deb Sedares if you can help with preparing the meal. Contact **Fr. Nick** if you have any questions.

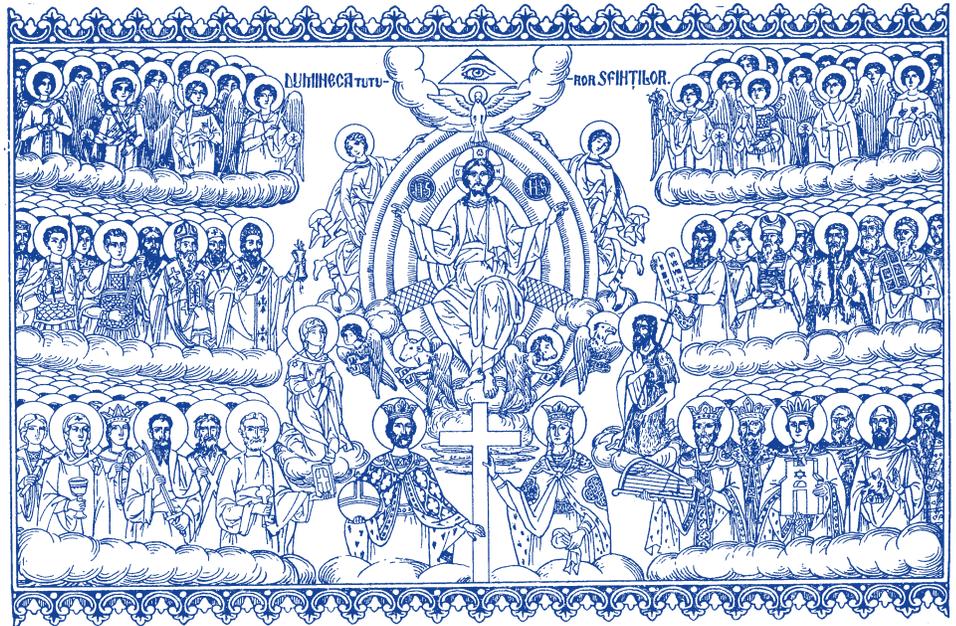
PITA BAKING, this Thursday, June 19th at 9:00 am. Everyone's help is welcome. Questions? Please see Chris Toda. No experience necessary!

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

TODAY, LORD, as we celebrate the memory of all your saints, help us to learn from them: Show us how to be compassionate and kind to one another. Show us how to be generous to all, just as you have been generous to us in Christ, for, like all your holy ones, we, too, must be like him. Inspire us with love, then, and make our love like that of your Christ when he gave himself for us as a fragrant sacrifice.

For you are one to have mercy on us and save us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

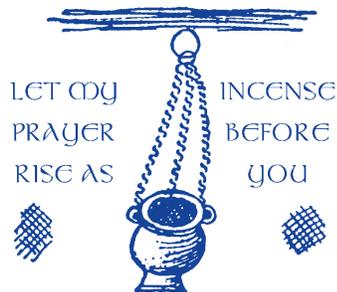


THE SUNDAY OF ALL THE SAINTS
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 11:33-40, 12:1-2
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10: 32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 1

NO LITURGY on Sunday, July 6th. Fr. Nick will be attending the Archdiocesan Congress in Chicago. Please plan on attending Liturgy at one of our sister parishes.

COFFEE HOUR will be going on summer vacation after June 29th. We'll pick it up again in the fall.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE is held today for the servants of God **Spiro and Victoria Tanacea. May their memory be eternal!** Today's Coffee Hour is also sponsored in their memory by their grandchildren Dimitri Saffron and Iliana Fahey.



GREETERS TEAM 2:
MARY ANNA DYMEK & MARGARITE LANDRY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:
PRIZIO FAMILY

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, June 19 Pita Baking, 9 am
Fri, June 20 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
Sat, July 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
July 4-6 Archdiocesan Congress
Sun, July 6 NO LITURGY
Sun, Sept 21 stART on the Street Festival

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY

GIVEN THE STEADY STREAM OF SCANDALS RECENTLY, it might seem that things are changing, for the worse. The truth is that scandals of every sort have been always plentiful and usually of the same type throughout human history. People are people, and sin, unfortunately, has an predictable sameness to it. What is different is the environment, the cultural backdrop. People seem to enjoy the scandals as a major source of entertainment.

As we cycle through one scandal after another the one question almost never asked is: What do we expect from this public personality? True, they usually have engaged in some obviously egregious act that offends basic morality, but the fundamental question — What does it mean to be a good person? — is never asked.

This question — What does it mean to be a good person? — sounds a little naïve and even quaint to us. Like every other aspect of our culture, morality has become individualized, a matter of personal opinion. This is more than what ethicists and philosophers call moral relativism. It privatizes ethics. We sum it up with the phrase: I'm free to do anything I want as long I don't harm anyone else. But, the consequences of our actions are rarely that confined. I'd be hard-pressed to name even one thing I might do that doesn't have some impact on another person.

Throughout most of human history public discourse was absorbed by the question of a "good life," a life well-lived. In ancient Greece and Rome whole schools of philosophy were devoted to various understandings of how a person should live their life. Opinions covered a wide spectrum, many of which we would easily recognize (human nature really hasn't changed very much). The difference today is that most people, and certainly most of the media, are not engaged in reflecting on

the meaning of life, they are interested in "success."

Just in the past weeks three major scandals have dominated the news. One is sexual, the other political corruption, and the third corporate financial misdeeds. Each is described as a personal moral failing, which it certainly is. Occasionally people will speak of systemic issues, cultures of corruption, for example. But, as the scandal unfolds one usually is hard-pressed to understand what the core issue is, or rather, the sinner is painted as someone who is different than us. We say to ourselves: this person, having achieved the success that most people dream of, has thrown it away because of a weakness in character. "What were they thinking?! They had everything!" Clearly they were not thinking. Apparently, they didn't have everything.

Now I don't believe that most people are morally indifferent. I do think they have a moral compass by which they judge their own actions and the actions of others. I'd even say, along with the whole spiritual tradition of the Church, we are born with an innate sense of right and wrong. We all make individual judgments about our own and other people's behavior, but society views these as private matters. What we value collectively is success and fame. That's why people are confused when a seemingly successful person falls as a result of a "mere" moral lapse.

This also helps to explain why debates on the moral issues of the day quickly turn acrimonious. We *do* hold important views on proper behavior, but we *do not* have any consensus on how one comes to decide these questions. If it is success that we value, and moral decision-making is a private matter, then it is nearly impossible to understand what someone might mean by living a good life.

Today we remember all of the holy

men and women who have struggled with this question of a life well-lived. These are people who by faithful perseverance have been examples of God's goodness and love. They did not consider it sufficient to simply do good. They took to heart the Lord's words, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). They desired to be holy.

Listen to the Liturgy. In every prayer and in every petition we are constantly being called to holiness. This is what it means to be human. When we lose sight of it we fall into the cares of this existence and lose our way. The allure of success blinds us to the true call of our existence.

When God rescued Israel from the captivity of Egypt He established them as a people apart. Gathering them before Mount Sinai, He revealed the Law to them through Moses. He told Moses: "Speak to the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

When we accepted Jesus as our Lord, we too became members of the new Israel of God. Speaking to the early Apostolic community, St. Peter, like Moses, reminds them that, "as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

When the next sensational "crisis" pushes its way to the front pages resist the temptation to be titillated by the scandal and then shocked by the moral lapse. Instead, know this is the way of a world where success and fame have replaced goodness and holiness as the virtues for which to strive. Remember your own high-calling. Look to Heaven. Look into your own heart. Love those around you. Be holy.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA