

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 16, 2014
THE HOLY EVANGELIST MATTHEW
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

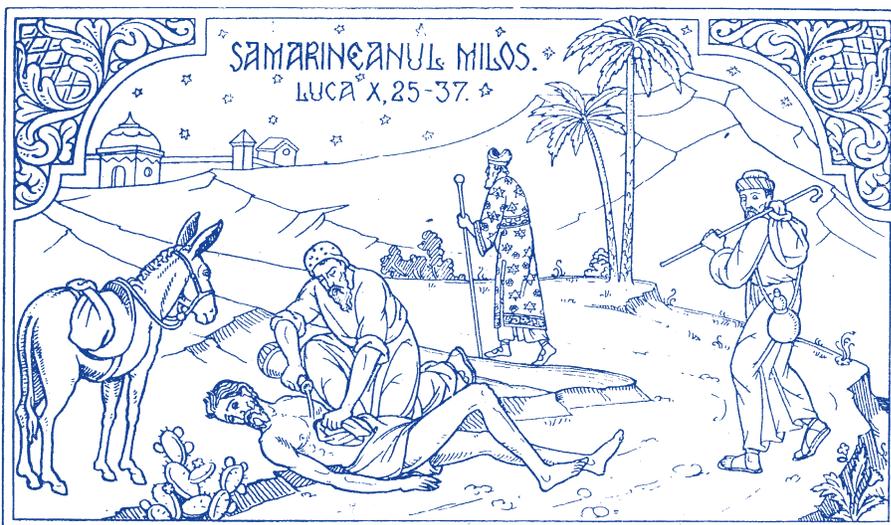
THE ANNUAL WINTER COAT DRIVE, run out of the Food Pantry, is underway. If any of you have gently used coats that are no longer being worn and are just sitting in your closet, taking up space, consider donating them to those in need. Lisa will be happy to pick them up at your convenience. We can use coats, hats, gloves, scarves for adults and children as we serve many families. Whatever you have that is no longer of use to you can mean a world of difference to someone else. Contact Lisa at lamielnicki@gmail.com or text her at 508-340-1547, to arrange a pick-up, or just bring them to Church.

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY & 65TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12:30pm following Divine Liturgy. A traditional baked fish dinner will be served as well as a children's meal (and an optional adult meal for folks with allergies to gluten or fish). A flyer with the details and the form for making reservations is on its way to you in the mail. Copies are also available at the candle stand and you can leave your reservation with any of the ushers. Thanks to the generosity of the Tanacea, Saffron, Fahey and Sh-

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:
PRIZIO FAMILY

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37
(THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)
TONE 6 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 1

pira Family, who are sponsoring our Feast Day Luncheon celebration, all proceeds from the luncheon will go to benefit St. Nicholas Church. May God Bless them! If you have any questions concerning the luncheon, please see Deb Sedares during coffee hour or e-mail her.

THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE IS UNDERWAY. In addition to those tickets that have been mailed, we still must sell more tickets as well to meet our goal. Dean Valoras is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

A NEW PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED IN JANUARY, (the two-year term of the Parish Council expires this year). Please consider offering a stewardship of your time in this important ministry. We also are asking for people to serve on other Parish committees, if you like to focus your efforts in just one area. However you'd like to serve, please speak with **Fr. Nick**.

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEK is sponsored by **Randy & Janice Samara**.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AN ECUMENICAL THANKGIVING SERVICE, sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy Association will be held on Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The Offering will go to St. Anne's Human Services. Also, in-kind offerings of canned non-perishable goods are welcome.

A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE is being organized by **Fr. Timothy Lowe**. The dates are **April 23 to May 10, 2015**. If you are interested, speak with **Fr. Nick** for more details.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, Nov 14 Nativity Lent Begins
Sat, Nov 22 Thanksgiving Bake Sale/Holiday Mktpls
Sun, Nov 23 Ecu Thanksgiving Service
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 7pm
Sat, Dec 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
Dec 6-7 Feastday Celebration
Sat, Dec 20 Pageant Rehearsal
Sun, Dec 21 Children's Christmas Pageant

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

NAMEDAYS

November 8

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Inva Gabriela Durmillari
Gabriela Gavala

The Holy Archangel Michael

Kenneth Michael Anderson
Michael Bourisk
Michael Walter Clem
Mihai Gavala
Michaela Ionete
Michael Keimig
Mikel Lolo
Corey Michael Maynard
Scott Michael Maynard
Tyler Michael Maynard
Michael Anthony Prizio
Michael Soter
Michael Spataro
Michael Peter Toda

The Holy Archangel Raphael

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angela Demake
Angeliki Soter
Angelina Zonia

November 14

The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip

Philip Rucho
Phillip Sedares

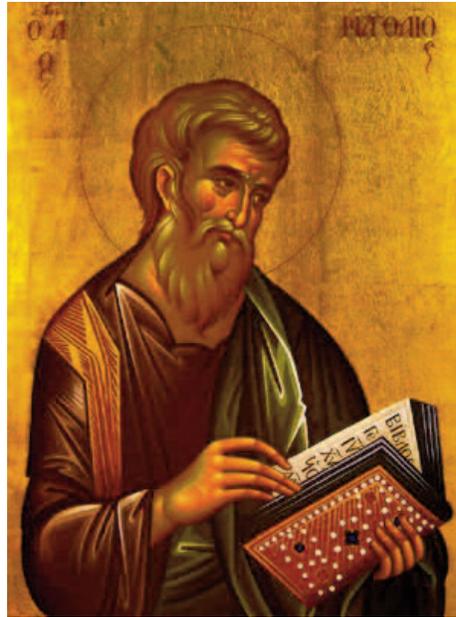
November 16

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Scott Matthew Belba
Matthew Robert Clem
Matthew Collins
Matthew Soter

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.



THE HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MATTHEW

NOVEMBER 16

This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Saviour's Incarnation.

Apolytikion of Apostle and Evangelist Matthew in the Third Tone

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

BLEST BE YOUR NAME, O LORD,
NOW AND FOREVERMORE!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be your holy name! And to whom, O Lord our God, shall we offer our grateful praise, if not to you? You are the first and foremost benefactor of our lives. You are the one who bestowed on us all the good that we are and have. You gave us the riches of this world, and in unspeakable wisdom and insight, you revealed to us the mystery of your unfathomable will. Therefore, Lord, as we ready ourselves for the annual day of thanksgiving, grant that we may always perceive and appreciate the wonders of your creation and accept them from your hand as we should, conscious of your goodness, responsive to your love, and humbled by your generosity.

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.

Kontakion of Apostle and Evangelist Matthew in the Fourth Tone

When thou didst cast away the publicans balance and wast united to the yoke of uprightness, then didst thou prove a merchant of great excellence, one that gathered in the wealth of the wisdom of Heaven; for this cause, the word of truth thou didst herald, O Matthew, and didst arouse the souls of sluggish men by signifying the dread day of reckoning.

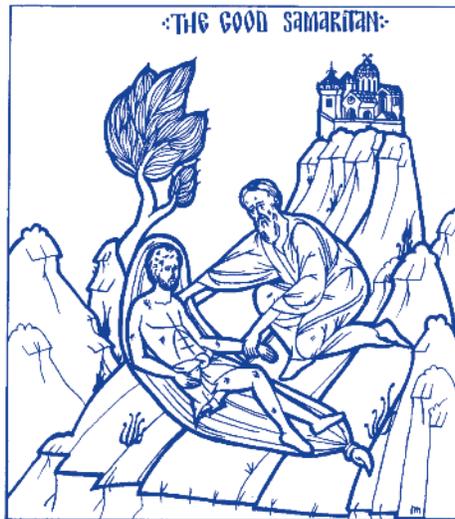
WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

THE Gospel lesson this week, taken from St. Luke (10:25-37), is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of a stranger, who out of complete sympathy and kindness saves the life of another, is so powerful that it has entered our common language. Christians and non-Christians alike speak of the “Good Samaritan” when a person helps someone in need for no other reason than it’s the right thing to do.

The story opens with a lawyer testing Jesus by asking a question about what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (v. 26). Jesus turns the question around and asks him what he reads in the Law. This lawyer then quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:34) saying: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself” (v 27). In the Gospel of Matthew it is Jesus who speaks these words, but with a slight difference. He distinguishes between the two commandments, and then equates them. He says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” And then he says: “a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

By equating love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus draws both the lawyer and us into the story of a man beaten to near death by robbers and a traveling Samaritan who responds in love. Remember, the lawyer wanted to know: “who is my neighbor?” (v. 29). He wants to justify himself, and find the loophole in the Lord’s words that will “let him off the hook.” The Lord gives him an answer that challenges him to rethink the question.

The Lord begins the story: This un-



fortunate man is going from Jerusalem to Jericho and falls into the hands of robbers who leave him half dead. This should be something we can understand. As our world has become increasingly more violent we hear of and even see beatings and shootings; people are left for half dead on the street or in an alleyway. We are never very far from this scenario, especially those of us who live in cities.

The Lord continues: People come by and see the man in agony. These are not ignorant people. One is a Levite, the other is a priest. These are religious people who have studied the Scriptures and know what God asks of them, but they cross the street, not wanting to get involved, and go on their way.

The person who does stop is a Samaritan. For the people to whom Jesus was speaking this would be like saying an illegal alien, a persecuted minority, or some kind of outcast. Perhaps even more vividly, it would like an enemy, Taliban or terrorist. Jesus wants to get those people who felt comfortable in their “righteousness” to notice that it is the “outsider” or the “enemy” who is doing what God asks.

In order to help us understand the Samaritan’s generosity, let’s place the

story in a contemporary context. He doesn’t just drop off the wounded person at the Police station or the hospital emergency room. Rather he puts him in the back of his own car and takes him to the motel with him. He puts him up in his own bed, cleans his wounds, and nurses him. When he has to leave to make his next appointment, he does the equivalent of giving the innkeeper his credit card and telling him to continue to care for the person, on his tab, until he’s finished with his business and can return to take care of the man.

The Lord then asks the Lawyer: “Which of the three, do you think, was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” (v. 36) How can one not be overwhelmed by this story? There is only one way to answer the Lord’s question.

And don’t forget the question that started the story: What must I do to inherit eternal life? This powerful story of the Good Samaritan is given to us as a way to embrace the answer to that question. It provides a vivid image of the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The love of our neighbor is “just like” this first and greatest commandment.

So often we look for God in the sky but neglect to see Him in the suffering person next to us. We try to justify ourselves by finding the loophole in the Lord’s commandments that “lets us off the hook” and allows us to think that God asks this of “the other guy, not me”. So often we think salvation is found in fulfilling so many different rules, when it is truly to be found in opening our hearts to feel compassion for those who need our help.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



*HOLIDAY BAKE SALE,
LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE*
Saturday, November 22
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church during the day on Friday, Nov. 21
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 21** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 22. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson.**
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pits** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**
- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 9, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 22 & 23.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 7, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 20 & 21. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To

ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***

- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho.** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.

PAPOU'S ATTIC:

- As part of the Holiday Marketplace and Bake Sale on November 22nd, we will sell unique "antique shop" type items for the benefit of the Church. **We are seeking donations of new and gently used giftware, knick-knacks, and ornaments.** (To be clear, we are **NOT** looking for the usual "yard-sale" fare, but specialty items.) All things must be dropped off at the Church no later than Sunday, November 16th. For more information, contact Tim Rucho.