

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 23, 2014

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**TODAY IS IOCC SUNDAY — A Day of Sharing.** The International Orthodox Christian Charities is *the* major charitable arm of the Orthodox Church. Based in the United States, it brings relief to people in need throughout the world. Currently there is a \$100,000 matching opportunity underway. All donations received up until December 31st will be matched up to \$100,000. **To donate go to the website: [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org), or call: (877) 803 IOCC (4622).**

**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](mailto: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

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW C:**  
PRIZIO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: **EPHESIANS 5:8-19** ☩ GOSPEL: **LUKE 12:16-21**

(*THE PARABLE OF THE FOOLISH RICH MAN*)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

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 Shpira 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 your 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 the **Saffron and Spiro families**.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**AN ECUMENICAL THANKGIVING SERVICE**, sponsored by the Shrews-

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri, Nov 14 Nativity Lent Begins
- 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
- Fri, Dec 19 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
- 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](mailto:FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG) ♦ WEB: [WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG)

*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**B**E BLESSED FOREVER, LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, for this yearly festival whereby you lead us to a better realization and appreciation of all your gifts. As we celebrate this holiday with the rest of our countrymen, we offer you, once again, the sacrifice of our lives. Let it be as an aromatic fragrance, ascending before your glory, bearing our gratitude for all the riches we enjoy, whether of matter or of spirit. Forgive us all our wrongdoings as individuals and as a nation. Bring us to acknowledge you publicly as well as privately. Enlighten our inward eyes to see the hopes to which you summon us and the ineffable glory that is the inheritance of all who do your will.

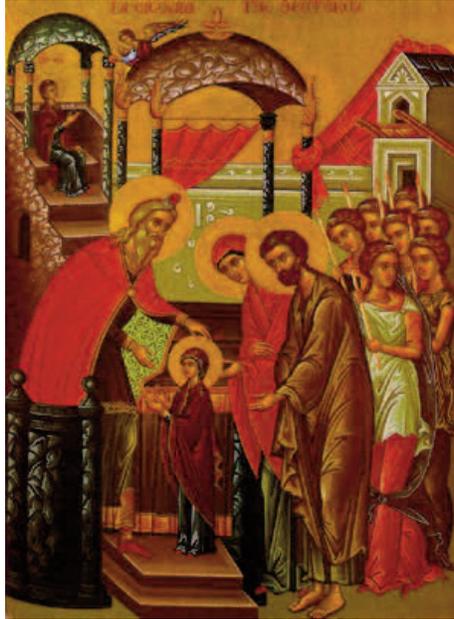
For you are our God, a God of mercy and compassion, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.

bury 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.

## 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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

NOVEMBER 21

**A**ccording to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

### *Apolytikion of Entry of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone*

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

## NAMEDAYS

### November 14

#### *The Holy Apostle Philip*

Philip Rucho  
Phillip Sedares

### November 16

#### *The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew*

Scott Matthew Belba  
Matthew Robert Clem  
Matthew Collins  
Matthew Soter

### November 25

#### *The Great-martyr Katherine of Alexandria*

Katrina Banks-Binici  
Katina Vanthia Christo  
Kathryn Eleanor Sedares  
Katina Spataro  
Katherine Stamoulis  
Emily Katherine Valoras

### November 26

#### *St. Stylianos of Paphlagonia*

Steliana Naumescu

### Steliana Predoiu

### November 30

#### *The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called*

Andrew Cavanaugh  
Andrew John Demake  
Andrew Opio

### *Kontakion of Entry of the*

#### *Theotokos in the Fourth Tone*

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

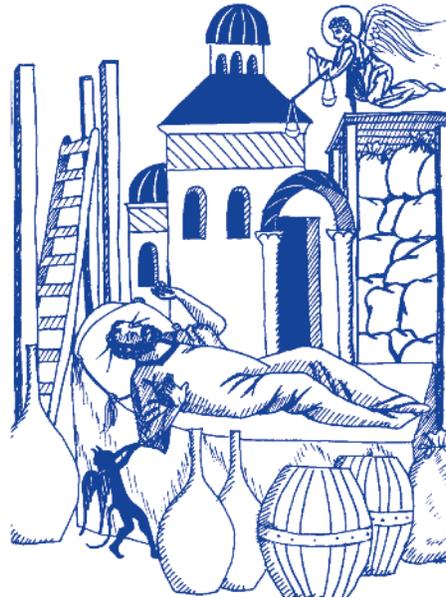
## STORING OUR TREASURE

**T**HE Gospel lesson this week is the parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21). In the lectionary schedule of our Church, this parable is usually read near Thanksgiving, which proves to be quite appropriate. Thanksgiving is first and foremost about keeping the things of this life in perspective, and learning how to give thanks always, and for everything. The teaching of this parable is aimed at these very points.

In order to better understand the parable, we should look at a few of the preceding verses. St. Luke tells us that while Jesus was teaching to a large gathering, someone from among the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me” (v. 13). Jesus responds with a question, asking why he (Jesus) should be the arbiter. Then the Lord says to him: “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (v. 15). This is the context in which the Lord tells them the story of the Foolish Rich Man.

The parable itself is rather straightforward, even predictable. A certain wealthy person, presumably after a life’s worth of work, finally had the kind of harvest that would set him up for his retirement. Not having the possibility of a 401k, he decided to build bigger barns in order to store the bumper crop. This would be his retirement income.

The Lord tells us that he then said to himself: “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry” (v. 19). He simply wants to be comfortable. He thinks that this is his due. He has accumulated all of this wealth, and now will be able to live off of it for a long time. And this is a reasonable expectation, except that he doesn’t consider his own mortality.



God says to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” (v. 20) Jesus concludes the story with this admonition: “So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God” (v. 21).

At first we are struck by the most obvious point of the parable, our own mortality and the unpredictability of death. But if we look a little more closely we can see that the Lord is saying much more than just “you can’t take it with you.” He is saying that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” There is more to life — our life — than what we might accumulate, or at least there should be.

Listen again to the last verse: “So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” It is greed and selfishness that the Lord is warning us against. This man was thinking only of himself, not of others. He was not intending to share the wealth he had accumulated. He says to his soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink,

be merry.” However, the wealth of one’s soul is measured in good deeds, not in material possessions. Even more, what we give to others can never be lost or stolen. The generosity of the gift remains forever.

And as we reflect on this parable we are reminded of another of Jesus’ sayings: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Soon we will be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the coming Thanksgiving holiday. We should ask ourselves: Where is our heart? That is to say, what do we value more than anything else? Our tables may be laden down with all good things, but are we rich in the eyes of God? If our lives were required of us this very night, and we stood before the Judge, which way would the scales tip?

The spiritual life — the Life in Christ — is about keeping the things of this early life in proper perspective. The old adage is true: you cannot buy happiness. The happy person is the one with a generous and gentle heart.

We live in a land of abundance, but so many go hungry around us. We try to make ourselves comfortable with the fading things of this life, while so many live in squalor. If we have been given much, then we need to share. If we share then Thanksgiving will truly fill our hearts. We will be rich, in God’s eyes, and in our own as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

# Your Support Makes a Difference!

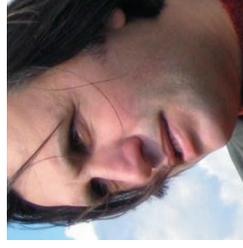
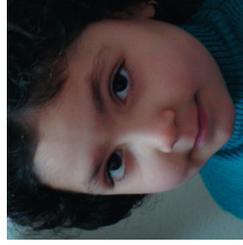
## INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

An International Humanitarian Organization of Orthodox Christians

110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 0 • Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • www.iocc.org • E-mail: relief@iocc.org

### FOR \$100 OR LESS YOU CAN:\*

- \$15** ..... Buy seeds, tools or fertilizer for village farmers in Serbia
- \$25** ..... Provide a school uniform and school supply kit for an Iraqi refugee in Syria
- \$35** ..... Supply new books and educational classroom aids for impoverished children in Lebanon, Serbia, and the Holy Land
- \$40** ..... Help increase and improve livestock production in Georgia
- \$50** ..... Provide marketable skills training workshops for women and youth in the Holy Land
- \$100** ..... Purchase a winter clothing set for a child
- \$100** ..... Send enough school kits abroad to supply an entire class with supplies
- \$100** ..... Provide mobility to youth with disabilities in Zimbabwe and Greece



### FOR \$250 OR MORE YOU CAN:\*

- \$250** ..... Train a young person in computer literacy
- \$250** ..... Provide more than \$10,000 worth of medical supplies, medicines and other life-saving equipment
- \$300** ..... Help build a new home on the U.S. Gulf Coast
- \$500** ..... Deliver critical medical supplies to clinics and hospitals
- \$500** ..... Assist in the repair of primary schools and the provision of school supplies in Serbia and Syria
- \$1,000** ..... Finance loans which enable families to start small businesses, creating lasting employment and income in Serbia and Montenegro
- \$5,000** ..... Send a shipment of pharmaceuticals worth \$60,000 to Africa
- \$10,000** ..... Send a container of hygiene kits or quilts worth over \$200,000 overseas
- \$20,000** ..... Send a container of medical supplies worth \$500,000 overseas

\*The above examples are for illustration purposes; your donation will be used where it can make the most difference.