

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

THE HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW,
THE FIRST-CALLED
ST. ANDREI ȘAGUNA,
METROPOLITAN OF TRANSYLVANIA

THIS WEEK'S NEWS ST. NICHOLAS FEASTDAY & 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Our *Parish Feastday Celebration* will be held on the weekend of **December 5th - 7th** to honor the patron Saint of our Community, the holy Bishop St. Nicholas.

- **On Friday, December 5,** we will have **Great Vespers at 6:00 pm.** Please make every effort to attend, so that our Church will be full to greet our guests from the larger Orthodox community.
- **On Saturday, December 6,** we will celebrate the **Divine Liturgy for the Feast at 10:00 am.** **HELP TO SET UP** the hall for the luncheon is needed immediately following the Liturgy, as well as Sunday morning for food prep. Contact Deb Sedares to let her know you are available.
- **On Sunday, December 7,** we will continue the festivities, with **Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am.** After the Divine Liturgy, there will be a luncheon. A traditional baked fish dinner will be served as well as a children's meal

GREETERS TEAM 1:

V. GERALD BELBA & CĂLIN GALERIU

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:

MARGARITE LANDRY, FLAVIA GURAN,
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN &
KATINA COCAVESSIS

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:12-16 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18-27

(THE PARABLE OF THE FOOLISH RICH MAN)

TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 3

(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. **Luncheon Reservations need to be in by today, Sunday, November 30th.**

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. **The**

drawing will be held at our St. Nicholas Feastday Luncheon.

A VISIT TO THE LIVING NATIVITY in Acton, Mass. is being planned as a Youth Fellowship by Valarie Stamoulis and Deb Sedares. It is an amazing walk through journey of the events in Bethlehem that is a beautiful experience for all. It includes the website if you have any questions. **We are asking everyone to meet in Acton on Saturday, December 6, at 5pm** and we will follow it with pizza on the way home for further fellowship. Any questions feel free to contact Valarie at 617-803-3798 or e-mail her at valarie@stamoulis.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri, Nov 14 Nativity Lent Begins
- Fri, Dec 5 Vespers for St. Nicholas, 6pm
- Sat, Dec 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
Liturgy for Feast, 10 am
Living Nativity, 5pm
- Sun, Dec 7 Feastday Celebration, Luncheon
- 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 ♦ 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,

LORD, OUR GOD: OUR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION makes us reflect on the riches of life. All too often, we take them for granted! We presume — if we really think about it at all! — that what we are and have is somehow all our own doing. As we celebrate during these days, help us reach a better understanding of how things really are. Enable our minds and hearts to find inspiration and renewal by pondering the marvels life affords us at every turn. Show us how to receive everything and, indeed, every moment of life, as a gift. Cleanse our minds and hearts of the cynical and perverse desire to believe we simply have a right to everything that comes our way. Show us, rather, how indebted we are to everyone, beginning with you, and in all things lead us to yourself.

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

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **this Saturday, December 6th 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 Apostola or Lisa Mielnicki.

ALSO, 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.

THANKS TO THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

Through the efforts of all of those who baked, staffed, set-up and cleaned up for the the Bazaar last Saturday, our parish realized over \$3,000! **God bless all of you for your hard work.**

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.**

A MEMORIAL WILL BE HELD TODAY for the servant of God **Melika Mossaides**, fallen asleep two years. **May her memory be eternal!**

COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEK is sponsored by the **Mossaides family** in Melika's memory.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS ON GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND! Tuesday, December 2nd is Giving Tuesday. On behalf of those who have yet to be reached with the Christian Faith, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) prayerfully asks that you make a gift in support of Orthodox missions on Giving Tuesday! **Donate online at www.ocmc.org or by phone at 1-877-463-6784!**

NAMEDAYS

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



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.

INHERITING ETERNAL LIFE

THIS week's Gospel lesson (Luke 18:18-27) is the story of the Rich Ruler who asks Jesus, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 19). It is St. Luke's account of the same story we heard earlier in the Liturgical year from St. Matthew (19:16-26), only he is identified there as the Rich Young Man. St. Mark (10:17-27) also tells us the same story, adding some informative details. When I commented on St. Matthew's account I focused on the phrase: "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone." (v. 19) Here, I would like to talk about question of wealth, because, at least on the surface, this seems to be at the heart of the story.

Clement of Alexandria, a Church father born around the year 150AD, wrote a commentary on this Gospel story entitled: "Who is the Rich Man that shall be Saved?" The first thing you might notice is how Clement invites us to think about the question differently. We can sense the way in which he will cause us to shift our preconceptions about the story even from the title of his treatise.

When we listen to the Evangelists' accounts we come away with the impression that it is impossible for someone with wealth to be saved. Isn't that what we usually presuppose when we hear the Lord say that "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God"? (v. 25) Clement asks us to focus on the next thing the Lord says: "What is impossible with men is possible with God." (v. 27)

What is central to this story is neither wealth nor poverty, but the pull these have on our hearts. We are being asked to examine where our priorities lay. Remember how the Lord says: "Where your treasure is, there you heart



will be also." (Luke 12:34) It is attachment to the things of this earthly existence that is the subject of the story. A wealthy person who views his or her possessions with detachment, using his or her resources for good, is better off spiritually than a poor person who clings in a greedy fashion to what little he or she might have.

The primary challenge of this Gospel story is to remain focused on this question of attachment to the things of this world, because when most of us hear the word "rich" we immediately exclude ourselves. I think that it fair to say that even given the current economic situation, most of us Americans are as wealthy as was this Rich Ruler. We more than likely are better housed, with more conveniences, than most very wealthy people in the ancient world.

This is not to minimize the reality of poverty here and in our own time — more and more people are barely making it, if even that. Volunteers at our Food Pantry or those who serve meals at the Mustard Seed get to see the growing numbers of "working poor." Yet even the poor of our country are wealthy in comparison to the very poor in most of

the world. Those of us who live an even modest middle-class existence are likely to be on a par with the Rich Ruler who is the subject of this story.

I offer you this spiritual principle: the "thing" is always in the middle. It is how we use it that makes it "good" or "bad." It is not the amount of possessions we might have, but our attachment to them.

What do we do with our wealth? Do we consider it as our own, for our own comfort? Or, do we see this as God's gift that we need to share with others? In the imagery that the Lord gives us, we could say that the attachment to the things of this world are "the camel." We need to decide what we are willing to let go of in order to fit through the "needle's eye," that is to say, the high-calling we have received from the Lord.

Our society has become not only materialistic, but also selfish. This was not always the case. America was known throughout the world for its altruism. Our nation was founded on the principle of caring for the "weakest among us." We see this principle at work during times of disasters and catastrophes, when charitable donations and acts of kindness abound. The challenge is to make this care for the other the normal everyday rule, not the exception.

Certainly our Orthodox Christian faith has always taught that we should value the love of the other — be it God or our neighbor — above all things. The Lord says that love of our neighbor is the very icon of love of God. He equates them. So, when the Rich Ruler asks Jesus "what must I do to inherit eternal life?," Jesus points him in the right direction. The Lord also invites us to follow this same path. May we find the courage to do so.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA