

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 21, 2015

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**GODPARENTS & GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY.** Today, **Sunday, June 21st**, together with the closing ceremonies for Religious Education, we will host "Godparents and Grandparents Sunday." Children (and adults) are encouraged to invite their godparent or grandparent to join them at Divine Liturgy, after which a special prayer will be offered to affirm those relationships. We will also be honoring graduates from our parish. A Parish Cookout will follow on the Church Grounds (rain or shine) to kick off the summer with hot dogs, burgers, and all the fixings. Lawn chairs and bats, balls, and other back yard games are welcomed. **If you would like to contribute to sponsoring the event, please see or contact Deb Sedares.** Adults: \$15.00 — Children: \$5.00. **Dimitri Saffron** is organizing the cookout.

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. The next meal is schedule for Friday, August 21st. Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help.

**SUMMER BREAK FOR COFFEE HOUR** beginning on **Sunday, July 5 through September 6.** Regular coffee hour will not be held during the summer months to give our regular coffee hour crews a respite. If a family would like to host a coffee hour for a memorial during the summer months, please contact Fr. Nick or Maria. Please note that during the summer, families who are sponsoring a coffee hour will be asked to assist with cleaning following the coffee hour.

**A 40-DAY MEMORIAL** is celebrated today for the servant of God **Florika Spaho.**



### THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: ROMANS 5:1-10

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:22-33

(CONCERNING LIFE'S CARES)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 3

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN.** St. George Orthodox Cathedral is hosting a MobilePack event where **500 volunteers will come together on June 27th to pack 100,000 life-saving meals** for starving children in developing countries.

**GREETERS TEAM 4:**  
DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

**PARISH COOKOUT:**  
ALL HANDS ON DECK

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**

*"The question that must guide all organizing activity in a parish is not how to keep people busy, but how to keep them from being so busy that they can no longer hear the voice of God who speaks in silence."*  
— Henri J.M. Nouwen

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon, June 8 Apostles' Fast Began  
Sun, June 21 Godparents/Grandparents Sunday  
Parish Cookout  
Sat, July 4 NO Orthodox Food Pantry  
Sun, July 12 NO Liturgy at St. Nick's  
Sun, Sept 20 stART on the Street

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

This will be the only location in the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts to host this event. The goal is to raise \$22,000. Adults and children as young as 5 years of age will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags, and prepare boxes for shipping. Registration will be live beginning May 16th; go to the website to register. You may **donate online** at [www.stgeorgeworcester.org](http://www.stgeorgeworcester.org) or mail your check to: Feed My Starving Children; ATTN: MobilePack #1506-99AU; 401 93rd Avenue NW; Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Checks should be payable to: FMSC, memo line MobilePack #1506-99AU. We are trying to organize a group from St. Nicholas to help with this. If you are interested in participating please see or contact Deb Sedares.

**FREE FUN FRIDAYS ARE BACK FOR THE SUMMER!** Free Fun Fridays is the annual summer program that opens doors at no cost to visitors to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. Free Fun Fridays shines a spotlight on the broad and diverse art and cultural offerings across Massachusetts. Whether you live in Boston or the Berkshires, Worcester or Cape Cod, the North Shore or the South Coast, you can take advantage of this free program. This year, 70 museums and cultural venues will participate in the program. Beginning June 26th through August 28th, seven cultural venues will be open free-of-charge every Friday for 10 weeks this summer. Keeping young people intellectually and socially engaged in the summer is very important — whether the children are in pre-school or all the way through high school. This is a great program for families to take advantage of this summer. To see the whole program, and the sites that available each Friday, go to: [highlandstreet.org/freefunfridays.htm](http://highlandstreet.org/freefunfridays.htm) or pick up a hard copy flier at the Church. Free Fun Fridays are organized by the Highland Street Foundation

## FINANCIAL FACT

### “Burning the Mortgage”

**Our mortgage began in October 2002  
with a principal balance of \$794,500.  
As of April 2015 our balance is \$513,015**

and a number of other prominent organizations.

## 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.

### WHO IS THIS FR. LAURENCE?

Every once in a while I get asked, “Who is this Fr. Laurence?” Simply put, he was the founding abbot of New Skete Monastery in Cambridge, New York. He fell asleep in the Lord a few years ago. He was personally known to many members of our community, but we all know him best through the prayers and hymns that he either translated or composed, many of which we use on a regular basis in our Liturgy at St. Nicholas. Fr. Laurence was truly gifted and inspired in many ways, but it is perhaps his gift of language, his ability to capture the longings of our hearts for God in word and song, that is the greatest.

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O**LORD, in whose eternal hand are the past, present and future of each of us: Teach us how to live in the present moment. Do not permit us to brood over the past or to be anxious about the future. Let us learn from the past only to avoid the mistakes we made then, to gain some wisdom from understanding what happened in the past, and to make the present a richer life, more pleasing to you and more profitable for us.

For you are 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.

## CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD

**T**HE selection for this week's Gospel reading is taken from St. Matthew (6:22-33). It is toward the end of the Evangelist's account of the Sermon on the Mount. For me there is no more beautiful and tranquil passage in all of the Gospels than this one. In a few sentences and images, the Lord manages to challenge us to live up our divine potential, even as he points out how obvious and easy the path is — if your heart is open to following it, that is.

The whole of Sermon on the Mount is remarkable, especially as related to us by St. Matthew. Some have likened the Lord's Sermon on the Mount to Moses when he descended Mount Sinai and presented the Law to the children of Israel. Here, on this Mount, the Lord gives his people a new Law — or perhaps more accurately—the fullness and completion of the Law he first gave to his people.

This small selection from the Sermon on the Mount begins with the Lord talking about the eye (v. 22). He says that if our eye is sound then our body will be filled with light, and if it is unhealthy we will be filled with darkness. As we know from our own experience, everything depends on how we look at things: the “sights” we allow into our minds and our hearts; the things we allow our gaze to dwell on; the perspectives we allow to harden in our souls. The lens through which we look at things colors our outlook, and eventually our salvation.

He tells us that no one can serve two masters (v. 24). We have to choose between following God, or the wealth and power of this world (mammon). We shouldn't fool ourselves, because either we'll love the one and hate the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other, he reminds us. These words are as true today as when the Lord first spoke

them. The temptation that draws us to put the desire for wealth and fame above our love for God is as real today as it was then. We could go further. We could say that the desire for wealth and fame can often overshadow even our love for our family and friends. We see it every day. He says, very simply, we will have to choose; we can't have it both ways.

Then he addresses the root cause of this temptation: the fear of not having enough to eat and the clothes necessary to keep us warm. The Lord admonishes us not to be anxious about even the most basic necessities of life: food, drink, clothing (v. 25). He wants us to keep things in perspective. Life is more than food and our bodies are more than clothing. He points to the birds of the air who take no care for these things yet our heavenly Father feeds them all, as well as the lilies which God has made more splendid than Solomon is all his glory. He asks us to consider: if our Father values the birds of the air and the lilies of the field in such a fashion, how much more does He value us? We need to stop worrying about the day-to-day things; we need to trust.

This is where I find my comfort. The Lord asks us to look around at the creation and marvel at God's loving care for even the grasses of the field. He reminds us that God is our loving Father. He teaches us to call him Abba — “Daddy.” He says that our Father knows all the things that we need and He will give them us, so we should stop being anxious about them. All we need to do is trust.

So where do we find this trust? “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,” the Lord challenges us, “and all of these things shall be yours as well” (v. 33).

This choice is before us each and

every day. Recognize it. Commit to it each morning. When we see the birds perching on a tree or the wild flowers growing through cracks in the pavement, we can remind ourselves of our Father's love for us, and breathe a sigh of relief even as we are comforted.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



### NAMEDAYS

**June 7**

*The Sunday of All the Saints*

Amalia Polymeros

**June 8**

*The Holy Martyr Kalliopi*

Kaliopi Demma

**June 27**

*The Holy Myrrh-bearer Joanna*

Joanne V. Prizio

**June 29**

*The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Rev. Fr. Peter Michael Preble

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

Peter Demetri Tsongalis