

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 16, 2015

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**PITA BAKING** this coming Thursday, August 20th, 9:00 am, as well as the rest of Thursdays in August. **DOUGH ROLLING**, Saturday morning, August 29th, 9:00 am to noon. All help welcome. Questions? See Chris Toda.

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is **THIS** Friday, August 21st. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), 6pm Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

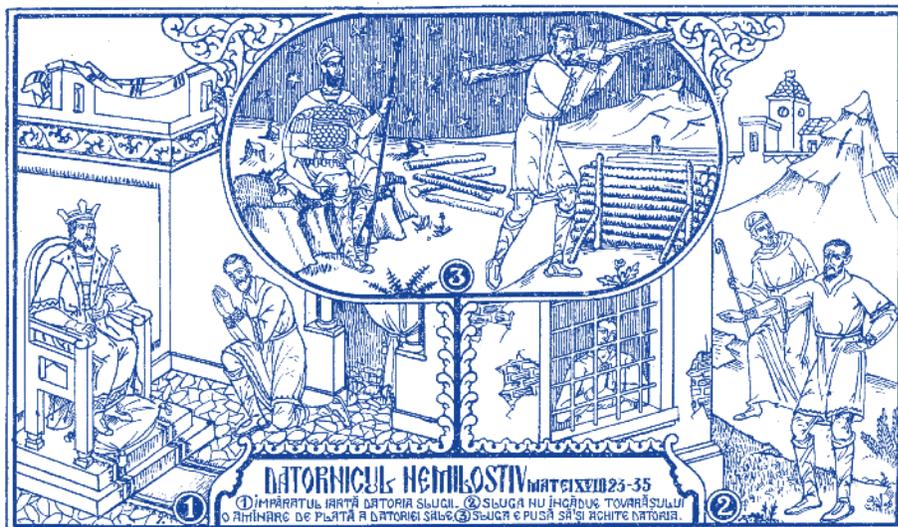
**ORTHODOX FOOD CENTER NEEDS BAGS**, both plastic and paper. We all have hundreds of these filling our pantries. This is your chance to save the Food Center some cash and do even more good by recycling. Please collect good, usable paper and plastic bags and bring them either to the Pantry on Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 12 noon (St. Spyridon Cathedral, side entrance), or to our parish and we'll have someone from here deliver them.

**A 40-DAY MEMORIAL** is celebrated today for **Louis Messier's mother Jeanne. May her memory be eternal!**

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
V. GERALD BELBA AND  
MARGARITE LANDRY

**COFFEE HOUR**  
ON RESPITE FOR THE SUMMER

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:2-12 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:23-35

(THE PARABLE OF THE UNGRATEFUL SERVANT)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 11

## UPCOMING

**AN ELECTRONICS/ WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING** day is set for **Saturday, August 29th**. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, August 31st at 6:30 pm**. Parish Council Members, please let Deb Sedares know if you are unable to attend.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**ST. MICHAEL** parish in Southbridge is holding their annual Picnic, **TODAY, Sunday August 16** on the Church grounds.

**SS. ANARGYROI PARISH IN MARLBOROUGH** will be holding its annual **Greek Festival, Labor Day weekend** (Saturday through Monday). For more information check their website: [www.stsanargyoi.org](http://www.stsanargyoi.org).

**HOLY TRINITY, FITCHBURG** is holding their Annual Greek Festival, **Saturday, September 19th**, 11 am - 10 pm. For more information: 978-342-1216.

**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION** Albanian Orthodox Church will be celebrating its **100th Anniversary the weekend of September 26-27**. There will be a Grand Banquet Saturday night, September 26, starting at 6:00 pm with a cocktail hour and dinner at 7:00 pm at St. George's Hall. Keep the date open. More details to follow.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun, Aug 16 St Michael Southbridge Picnic  
Thurs, Aug 20 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Fri, Aug 21 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm  
Thurs, Aug 28 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Sat, Aug 29 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm  
Dough Rolling, 9:00am-noon  
Mon, Aug 31 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Sat, Sept 5 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm  
Sun, Sept 20 stART on the Street

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

## 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.

**SAVE THE DATE!** October 15, 2015. Holy Trinity's 9th **FOOD and WINE FEST.** This year's event will be at St. Spyridon Cathedral. Look for more details soon!

## NAMEDAYS

### August 15

#### *The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Maria Blanchard  
Mary Cocaine  
Maria Dumitriu  
Monika Maria Durmillari  
Maria Kalpidou  
Maria Prelipcean  
Nancy Maria Tsongalis  
Mary Tsoules  
Marietta Zaruha

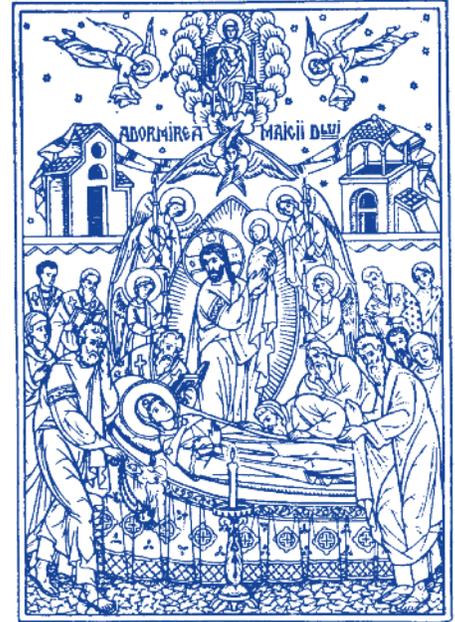
### August 26

#### *The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia*

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou  
Natasha Zhaka

## stART on the Street

**PITA & PASTRY CONCESSION AT "START ON THE STREET:"** Sunday, September 20th. (Rain Date – Sunday, September 27th). St. Nicholas is returning to this community art festival, held on Park Avenue in Worcester between Pleasant and Highland Streets, **which draws over 20,000 attendees each year.** Our Church will again be one of the vendors in the Food Court selling pita and pastry. This is a HUGE undertaking for us, and requires your "sweat stewardship" to realize the **fundraising potential of \$5,000.** Please watch the announcements and the Stewardship Bulletin Board in the Church Hall for additional information on how you can help with this event. Preparations for the event will be on Friday evening, September 18 and Saturday, September 19. And help will be needed as well as throughout the day on Sunday. Pita baking is also currently underway and help is needed with that part of the effort as well. The venue is established and presents a great opportunity to showcase our goods to the larger community. **The only variable is YOU!** St. Nicholas needs your commitment of time and effort to make this a success! The volunteering schedule needs will be posted on the Bulletin Board soon. **For more info, speak with Deb Sedares or Chris Toda.**



## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**YOUR WORKS ARE MANIFOLD INDEED, O LORD,** for in wisdom you wrought them all! Yet, your incomparable power and brilliant wisdom are nowhere so manifest as in the woman whom you chose to be the mother of your Son. As we celebrate her passing from this earthly life, we give you thanks for her readiness to accept your will, for she received your word with faith and kept it. Give us, also, such a readiness to perceive your will and fulfill it, that we may enjoy a glory like hers.

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

## FINANCIAL FACT

### *"Burning the Mortgage"*

**Our monthly mortgage payment is \$4,719.99.  
39% goes towards the principal.  
The remaining 61% is interest paid to the bank!**

# FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS ...

**T**HIS week's Gospel lesson is about sin, repentance, and forgiveness. The reading itself is the Parable of the Unforgiving (or Ungrateful) Servant (Matthew 18:23-35), but in order to fully understand the parable, we should look at the context in which the Lord related the story. Jesus is instructing his disciples (as well as us) on how to respond to sin and repentance both for ourselves and with regard to others. Immediately before he begins the parable, he speaks about the way in which a "brother" should be corrected (Matthew 18:15-20). He says that first you should speak to the person privately, and then if he doesn't listen take one or two others to help reason with him. Finally, if he still doesn't listen, it should be presented



before the whole body — in our context, the church. Once you've done all this, and if he still doesn't repent, then, and only then, should he be treated as an outsider, a non-believer.

In response to this Peter asks Jesus: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?" (v. 21) Peter thinks he is being generous by suggesting seven times. Jesus says, not seven, "but seventy times seven" (v. 22), which of course means without limit. It was at this point, in order to illustrate the principle, that Jesus tells them the parable that forms the Gospel lesson for the eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.

Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a king who wants to settle accounts with his servants. He finds one servant who owes him ten thousand talents (an astronomical amount of money). The

king summons him and when he finds out the servant cannot pay, he threatens to sell him into slavery along with his wife and children, and take everything that he owns in order to pay the debt. The servant falls down in front of him and begs him to simply give him time to find a way to pay the amount. The king takes pity on him and in an amazing act of generosity, forgives him the whole amount.

Fresh from this experience this servant comes upon a fellow servant, a co-worker, who happens to owe him one hundred denarii (a paltry sum). He grabs the man by the throat and demands that he pay the money. Using the same words this servant himself had used to plead with the king, the unlucky fellow asks for time to pay the debt. The man refuses and has him thrown into

prison until he pays the debt. When the other servants, their colleagues, found out what happened they reported it to the king. In a rage the king withdraws his generosity and orders this wicked servant, not only to be imprisoned, but also tortured until he pay the whole amount.

In this parable, the king is God and we are the debtor. Usually we give little regard to what we "owe" before God, but are all too quick to remember the miniscule "sum" other people owe us. Put differently, the minor offenses that we may suffer from our brothers and sisters cannot compare with the enormity of our sin toward God. He, like the king, is not only ready to give us time to repent, but if we ask and repent from the depth of our hearts, He will forgive everything. What he expects of

us in return, is that we also learn how to treat others by following His example.

By remembering God's generosity toward us, it then becomes easier to be generous toward others. This is the meaning of those words in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts (trespasses), as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us)." Forgiving others changes us. Being forgiven by God frees us. We have the courage to forgive others, because we know God's forgiveness. Our debts will be forgiven us, insofar as we forgive the debts owed us.

God calls us to be His children. He offers us examples to follow. He shares eternal love and life with us if we choose to open our hearts to His call.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA