

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 23, 2015 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA DOUGH ROLLING. As you know, thanks to a fruitful dough making effort in June and the faithfulness of our pita baking crew, we have been baking away all summer trying to rebuild our pita supplies for sales at the Worcester stART Fall event and the West Boylston. The good news is we are filling the freezers. The bad news is we have gone through our dough supplies and need to restock to keep going with the baking effort. As such, **we are scheduling a dough making session for Saturday, August 29 from 9 to 12:00** and very much need all hands to get a good dough making session going. There are many jobs (dough and no-dough) that need doing and **the more hands – the better the result.** Even if you have never participated – if you have an hour or two or three on Saturday morning – please let us know and come to the church **AND BRING A FRIEND!** As always – thank you for your support! **Questions? See Chris Toda.**

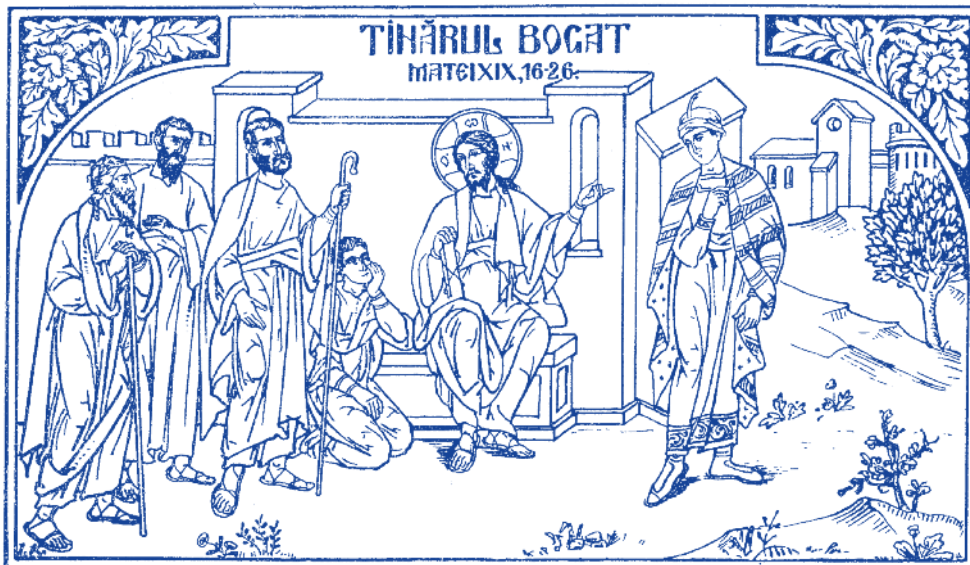
AN ELECTRONICS / WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **Saturday, August 29th.** If you're able and willing to help, please speak with Gerry Belba.

THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS! Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Fri-

GREETERS TEAM 2:
ARTIC GAVALA AND CĂLIN GALERIU

COFFEE HOUR
ON RESPITE FOR THE SUMMER

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 19:16-26

(THE RICH YOUNG MAN)

TONE 3 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 1

day! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Our next scheduled meal is **October 16th.** Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help.

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

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.

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 it's **100th**

Anniversary the weekend of September 26-27. There will be a Grand Banquet Saturday night, September 26: 6:00 pm cocktail hour; dinner at 7:00 pm at St. George's Hall. Keep the date open. More details to follow.

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!

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

NAMEDAYS

August 26

*The Holy Martyrs Adrian
and Natalia at Nicomedia*

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou

Natasha Zhaka

August 29

St. Theodora of Thessalonika

Gina Theodora Trakadas

August 30

*St. Alexander, Patriarch
of Constantinople*

Alexander Charalambides

Emilia Alexandra Galeriu

Dr. Alexander Gouvelis

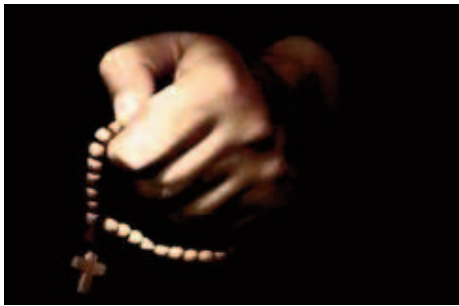
Alexandra Mazanitis

Alexandru Nace

Conner Alexander Polymeros

Alexanna Soter

Alexander James Trakadas



What would happen if we treated our Prayer Rope like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around with us, went through it several times a day, turned back to go get it if we forgot it, treated it like we couldn't live without it, gave it to kids as a gift, and taught them how to use it ... we don't have to worry about our Prayer Rope being disconnected — the bill has already been paid.

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,

O **ETERNAL FATHER,** we bless your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the splendor that shines forth from your very being. In the fulness of time, he came into this world, taking flesh of the holy virgin, that unique and blessed daughter of the house of David. As we celebrate her falling asleep, we beseech you to let the brilliance of your Son shine forth in our hearts, so that we may honor her during this festival as she deserves, in spirit joining his disciples who came from all over the world to assist at her deathbed.

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.

FINANCIAL FACT

"Burning the Mortgage"

**In 2014, we paid a total of
\$56,639.88 in interest to the bank!**

ONLY ONE IS GOOD

When my children were small I would play a little game with them. Whenever they would tell me that they were being “good,” I would quip back, “Only one is good.” At first I would get a confused look from them. Over time, when they began to understand the Gospel reference, I would get that special groan that children reserve for their parents. They knew I was teasing them, and enjoying it. They also knew that I was trying to teach them something, and perhaps not enjoying it.

This week’s Gospel lesson is the story of the Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:16-26) who comes to Jesus asking: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” (v. 16) Jesus responds by asking: “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good” (v. 17). This phrase sets the terms of the conversation between them. The young man comes to Jesus seeking knowledge about eternal life. Jesus gives him the answer he cannot bear to hear.

Some of the early Biblical commentators seemed to suggest that the young man might have been coming to test Jesus with the question, as had the Scribes, the Pharisees and the Lawyers. But St. John Chrysostom reflecting on the character of this person says that if he were coming to tempt Jesus he would not have left grieving over what he had heard. He had not come with an evil heart, but rather one that was too feeble. He did indeed desire life, but realized he was held captive by another stronger desire.

Let’s go back to the beginning of the story. The young man comes to Jesus asking what good deed he must do. He comes to him not understanding who Jesus really is but thinking him to be a “teacher.” He came for advice, albeit, spiritual advice, about the path to eter-

nal life.

Jesus answers him in a way that compels him to reexamine and contemplate the question he had just asked. Jesus draws the man’s attention to the premise of the question. “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good,” he says to him. The young man thinks he is close to the path. Perhaps he is, but too often we judge ourselves against other people and think “we’re not that bad,” or perhaps even “good,” in comparison to them. Jesus draws our attention to a different comparison, not with other people, but with God Himself.

Jesus tells him to obey the Commandments. The young man tells him that he’s followed them from his youth. St. Mark in his account then adds this powerful detail. He says: “Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me’” (Mark 10:21).

The young man was devastated. He had come to Jesus thinking he was close to perfection, and Jesus, like a skillful physician, diagnoses the illness and with love prescribes the remedy. Only this remedy was too much for the young man. He was held captive by his passion for the things of this world, and he knew it.

Today’s world thinks of things spiritual as “self-help guides.” The personal world of the young man is not so differ-



ent than ours in this regard. He’s asking the same question: what’s the formula for eternal life? He wants a quick fix; something he can do or buy. Jesus quickly disabuses him of this possibility. Salvation comes not from the deed, but from a change of heart. Without a doubt you will be a differently acting person once you repent, but the deed, without a changed heart, will not save.

Too many people in our world think that they are good, or perhaps worse, do not even ponder the question. Our Lord draws us heavenward to the Author of Good, the Father of lights (cf James 1:17). Like this young man we often ask ourselves (and as an afterthought, God), “What good deed must I do to inherit eternal life?” But are we prepared for the answer God will give us? More importantly, will we be grieved when we hear the answer?

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA