

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 30, 2015

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THANKS TO THE PITA DOUGH ROLLERS! We are scheduling baking session and any and all help is welcome. **Questions? See Chris Toda.**

THANKS TO THE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING WORKERS: Gerry Belba and the other volunteers. This event is a great service to the whole community and a benefit to our parish.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, September 5th, 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 **Lisa Mielnicki** or **Nicole Apostola.**

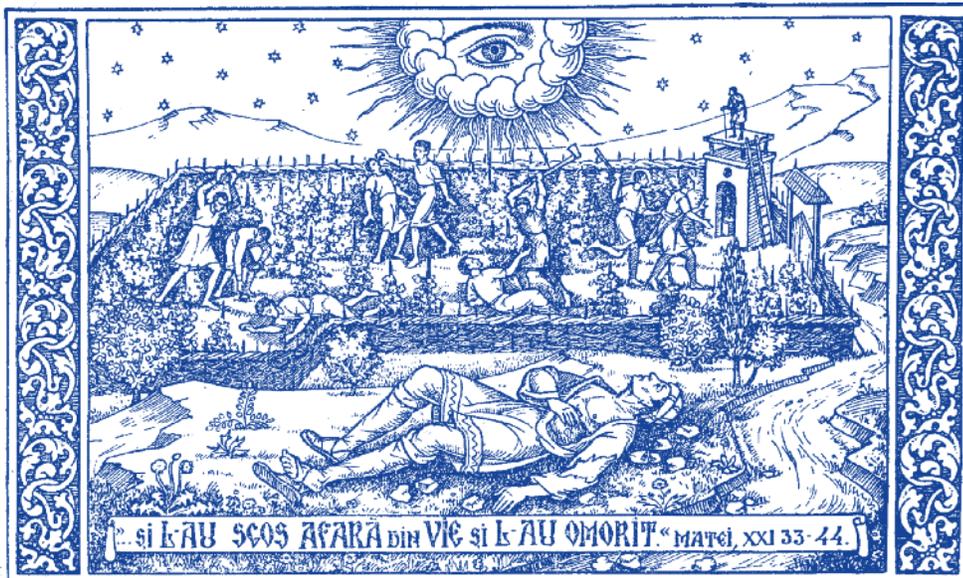
THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, August 31st at 6:30 pm.** Parish Council Members, please let Deb Sedares know if you are unable to attend.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL is a vital part of our parish. **We need you!** If you are interested in helping or teaching with Church School this year, please see **Deb Sedares** or **Preoteasa Maria.** The first day of Church School is planned for **Sunday, September 13th.**

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR
ON RESPITE FOR THE SUMMER

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-24 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-44

(THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS)

TONE 4 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

We need your help!

lsyanka@yahoo.com.

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.stsanargyroi.org.

SS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN, Webster will hold its Greek Festival on **September 12** from 11am-10pm and **September 13** from 11am-5pm. Enjoy delicious Greek food and pastries, watch traditional dancers and have great fun!!! <http://schwebster.org>

8TH ANNUAL ROMANIAN GOLF CLASSIC will be hosted by St Michael

Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge. It will be held on **Saturday September 12, 2015** at 1pm and played at Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge. For more information, download the flier. **Questions?** contact Luke Yanka: 508-958-4144 or

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: 6:00 pm cocktail hour; dinner at 7:00 pm at St. George's Hall. Keep the date open. More details to follow.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon, Aug 31 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sat, Sept 5 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
Sun, Sept 13 Religious Ed Classes Begin
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

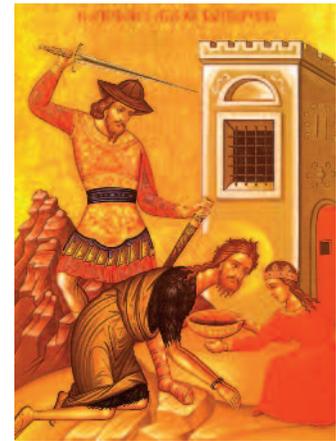
PITA & PASTRY CONCESSION AT "START ON THE STREET:" Sunday, September 20th. (Rain Date – Sunday, September 27th). St. Nicholas is returning to this community art festival, held on Park Avenue in Worcester between Pleasant and Highland Streets, **which draws over 20,000 attendees each year.**

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.**

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!



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

TRIUNE LORD AND GOD: Being good Christians is not easy. We lack so much comprehension and determination, and society does not help us to grow in spiritual life and understanding. Give us a better grasp of the mysteries of our liturgy and the prayers it encompasses, that it may shape our daily life in Christ. Teach us how to participate fully in this common worship of the church, allowing its power to fuel our efforts to live authentically good lives.

So that ever wiser by your instruction, we may give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

FINANCIAL FACT

"Burning the Mortgage"

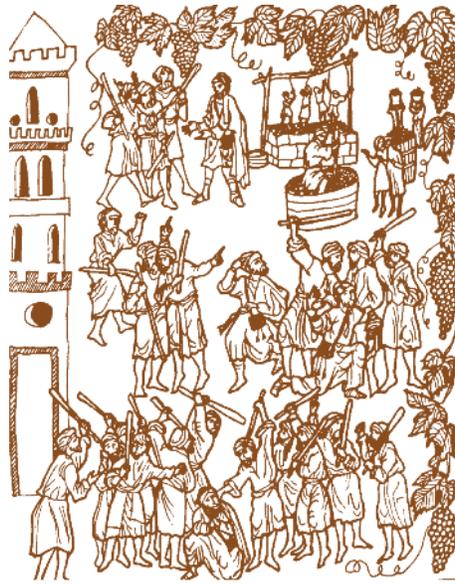
**In 2014, we paid a total of
\$56,639.88 in interest to the bank!**

THIS week's Gospel lesson is the Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-44). St. Matthew places the telling of this Parable in the days after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), and after he had cleansed the Temple of money changers and people selling animals for sacrifice. Each of the Gospels tell us that Jesus spent the days before his arrest teaching in the Temple complex. This was something common. The Temple complex was huge, and besides worship, there were many other activities including various schools. Many spiritual teachers taught their disciple there. Also, when Jesus said to those who arrested him, "I was with you daily in the Temple," (cf Luke 22:53) this is what he was referring to. They could easily have arrested him at any time.

This week's Gospel reading is one of the parables he was teaching during those days before his arrest. It is a powerful and pointed story. It was directed at the religious leaders of the day: the chief priests and the elders of the people. The Parable speaks about their abuse of the spiritual authority entrusted to them. Our Lord tells them, in the form of a story, that he knows they intend to kill him. But more importantly, he is telling them they have failed to understand God's message for His people and for the world.

The outline of the story is this. There is a landowner who plants a vineyard, preparing it with a hedge, a wine press, and a watchtower. In other words, all the real work is done. He leased it out to tenants and went away. Their task was to tend this vineyard. When it was time for the harvest he sent his slaves to collect his portion of the produce. These tenants beat and killed the slaves. The landowner then sent other slaves, more than the first. These were given the same treatment. Finally he sent his son, thinking, "They will respect my son." But when these tenants saw the son, they said: "'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vine-

FRUITS IN DUE SEASON



yard, and killed him" (v. 38-39).

When he had finished the story, Jesus asked these religious leaders, "Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They answered: "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time" (v. 41).

He turned to them, quoting Psalm 118, and said, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it'" (v. 42-43). It was at that point that they understood that Jesus was talking about them directly.

Equally as important, the Parable is intended to give us a way to understand the responsibility that has been entrusted to us: to nurture and proclaim God's Good News. The vineyard is God's revelation — the Holy Scriptures, and the fullness of God's Reign.

Through the Parable we come to appreciate what God has given us perfect and complete. What He planted. How

He fortified it, set up the hedges, and dug the wine press. We've been entrusted with taking care of it, of nurturing it, of ensuring its fruitfulness, and finally, returning the fruits in due season to the owner. The fruits are good works, that is to say, the evidence that we understand and appreciate what God has done for us; a way of life that testifies to God's presence in the world; a joy that we share with those around us while we help to lift their burdens and cares.

When a priest is ordained, after the Bread has been changed into the Lord's Body, the bishop takes It and places It in the hands of the newly ordained, and says: "Receive this Divine Trust (παράκαταθήκη), and guard it until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, at which time He will demand It from you." And so, the priest holds It in his hands, praying and meditating, until the time of communion.

The same should be true for each of us. We have all been entrusted with guarding, and also sharing, this Divine Trust. And we know It will be demanded back from us at the Judgment.

But there is a danger here as well. Through this Parable we see how even educated and pious people can so misunderstand God's message for us that they will even persecute His messengers; how they can become so consumed with preserving what they think they have that they will even kill for it. Unfortunately, we see vivid evidence of this mindset especially in our own time.

Brothers and sisters, we need to be ever mindful of the great responsibility given us. We need to welcome Christ in our midst—the weak, those in need, those without a friend — so that when God's servants come asking for what is owed Him, we will have what is asked of us and offer back it in love.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA