

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN OCTOBER 11, 2015

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**PITA BAKING, THIS Saturday, October 17** at 9:00 am. We need to build the inventory. Everyone's help is welcome. Additional sessions are scheduled for Saturday, October 31 and Saturday, November 14. Assistance is needed with setting the hall, the pita making and baking, cleaning the hall and kitchen and then resetting the hall for church on Sunday. Plenty to do for bakers and non-bakers, alike, and all to support our church. It is very important that we know we will have the support necessary to continue this effort so please see or contact **Chris Toda** and let her know if you will be able to participate. *No experience necessary!*

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is **Friday, October 16th**. We'll need help cooking and serving. Prep help needed noon Thursday (3 persons); Prep help needed noon Friday (2 persons); Serving help needed 5:30pm Friday (5 persons). If you'd like to help or have questions, contact Fr. Nick.

**DETENTION POND WORK COMPLETED.** Dimitri Christo and his team worked, last Saturday and Sunday to plant a *rosa rugosa* border/barrier along the top of the detention pond. They did a great job and we thank them deeply!

### GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:

MARGARITE LANDRY,  
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL)

APOSTOLIC READING: GALATIANS 2:16-20 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 8:5-15

(THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

Also, thanks to all those who donated to cover the associated costs.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **Carol Fotos**.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**HOLY TRINITY'S 9TH FOOD AND WINE FEST** is **Thursday, October 15, 2015**. Tickets may be purchased from Irene Tsoules. Please support this important fundraiser for Holy Trinity!!

**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.

## UPCOMING

**CALLING ALL VENDORS!!! A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE** will once again be a part of our annual **Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 21st**. We are seeking **Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table**. If you or a ven-

dor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho**. We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Oct 15 Holy Trinity Food and Wine Fest  
Fri, Oct 16 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm  
Sat, Oct 17 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Sat, Oct 31 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Sat, Nov 7 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm  
Sun, Nov 8 Thanksgiving Orders Deadline  
Sat, Nov 14 Pita Baking, 9:00 am  
Sat, Nov 21 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon & Marketplace

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



## OUR TIME AND GOD'S TIME

Time is a precious thing. Unlike anything else in our lives we cannot make more of it, no matter how hard we try. God gives us the gift of the Liturgy as a small window into His eternity. We might chuckle a little when we think about how it is that we schedule an event that is “outside of time,” at a very specific time. Nevertheless, for our parish the Liturgy normally begins, every Sunday, at 10:00 am. And we normally conclude our celebration by 11:30 am.

Some of us, perhaps remembering the long services of our youth, have adopted the very bad habit of coming into Liturgy late; some later than others. However, at St. Nicholas we keep a rather punctual schedule. You can expect (give or take 5 minutes):

- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Begins
- 10:20 a.m. Epistle/Gospel Lessons
- 10:40 a.m. Great Entrance
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 11:30 a.m. Dismissal

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**YOU ALONE ARE THE JUDGE OF ALL HUMANITY, LORD,** and all your judgments are correct and right on the mark. Remind us constantly that we are not judges of anyone, and that we should refrain from making judgments, no matter how things look. Still, the mind is made for judging, so make us understand that refraining from judging others really means that we are not to treat them as if they had already been found guilty — as if that would be any of our business, in any case.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give you glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## NAMEDAYS

**October 18**

*The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke*

Fr. Luke Veronis

**October 20**

*The Great-martyr Artemius of Antioch*

Artemie Gavala

Artemis Gouvelis

**October 26**

*The Holy Great-martyr Dimitrios of Thessalonika*

Dimitri Soterios Apostola

Dhimitra Belica

Dimitri Daniel Christo

James L. Christo

James Demake

Dhimitri Disho

Dimitraq Lolo

Dimitraqi Lolo

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Moraitis

Dimitri Michael Saffron

James Seferi

James Evan Stamoulis

James Trakadas

James Vlamis



## FINANCIAL FACT

*“Burning the Mortgage”*

**We have over \$42,000 in our brokerage account and there are great tax advantages when donating your stock to the Church.**

## HOW FERTILE IS YOUR HEART?

**T**HE Lord oftentimes uses the art of story-telling in the form of parables to convey a greater truth to His listeners. Probably more than any other literary device the parable is able to help its hearers understand and retain a deep message. It paints a mental picture for us so that the words are then recalled and reinforced by the image. Jesus, in particular, often tells a story taken from examples out of everyday life, and then gives them new meaning. The advantage of a parable is that long after we've forgotten the words, the image painted in our minds remains for deeper reflection.

The Gospel lesson this week is such a parable. It is the story of a farmer sowing seeds in his field (Luke 8:5-15). While this sort of scene is not so much a common part of our experience today, for the people who were listening to Jesus it was a part of everyday life and essential for their survival. They themselves had either sown a field, or they would have seen it being done hundreds of times. They didn't need too many details.

There are three important "players" in this parable: the Sower, the Seed, and the Place where the seed lands. The Sower throws his seed carefully — he's not going to squander it — but he's generous as well. He doesn't discriminate; he wants as much of his field as possible to produce a bountiful crop.

Certainly the quality of the seed matters. The Sower picks and prepares the best seed, but this is not a precise art. If in this parable the seed is likened to the Word of God, the Preacher recognizes how important it is to preach the Word well. But, in spite of the Sower's best efforts the Seed will often land where it wills. Neither the Sower's skill nor the Seed's quality are the determin-



ing factors. Where the seed lands is probably the most critical piece, as anyone who's tried to seed a new lawn knows.

The Lord gives us these very real examples. He said that some seed fell on a trodden path and were eaten by birds; some fell on rocky soil and withered for lack of water; some fell among thorns and weeds and were choked out; and some fell on good soil where they produced abundantly (v. 5-8).

Fortunately we have the advantage of not only having heard the parable before, but also of having had it explained to us. However, the Lord's disciples were a little at a loss, so he provided them with a clear explanation of the parable. He said: "The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they

go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance." (v. 11-15).

The Lord is talking about "receptivity;" our willingness to really listen to what God is saying to us, and to put the 'seed' deep within our hearts so that it might take root and grow. This kind of receptivity is what leads to change in a person's heart.

Look again at the story. The Sower is throwing the seed generously and even somewhat indiscriminately. God is constantly trying to reach us. He speaks to everyone. He doesn't play favorites. If a person doesn't read the Scriptures, all that he or she would have to do is to look up in the sky and behold the wonder of the universe. Or, gaze at the smallest creature and marvel at its beauty.

And, lest anyone think that by giving examples of rocky ground or weeds and thorns the Lord is saying that certain people are incapable of hearing and keeping the Word, ask any farmer or gardener what they do to enhance and maintain the fertility of their soil. Do we not also need to be constantly cultivating and fertilizing the soil of our hearts? Shouldn't we remove the rocks and thorns from our hearts?

The Lord wants us to properly prepare the soil of our hearts — the receptivity of our souls — so that He might find a place for His Word to grow. Let us open our hearts to God's Word. Let it take root in us and in this way bear fruit a hundredfold.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



## *HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE*

**Saturday, November 21**

**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

### ***BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON***

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church during the day on Friday, Nov. 20
- **We also need volunteers to help with set up and packaging of items for sale on Friday, Nov 20** and with the sale and luncheon on Saturday, Nov 21. If you have questions please speak to or email: Chris Toda or Deb Sedares.
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

### ***PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES***

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** of pitas and pastries here at the Church and for help with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson.**
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**

- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by November 8, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 21 & 22.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by December 7, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 19 & 20. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. ***Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.***
- **You may download flyers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

### ***HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:***

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact **Tim Rucho.** We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services.



Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center *and*  
Holy Trinity Hospice



# 9th Annual FOOD & WINE FEST



**Thursday**  
**October 15, 2015**  
**5:30pm - 8:30pm**  
**St. Spyridon Cathedral**  
**102 Russell St.,**  
**Worcester, MA**  
**Ample Free Parking!**

**GREAT RESTAURANTS & BAKERIES**

**SPECIAL WINES & MICRO BREWS**



**WINE & BEER Participants**  
*arranged by*  
**O'HARA's WINES & LIQUORS** *by*  
**The famous Jim Vasiliadis**



**BOURBON & TEQUILA**  
**Tasting!**

**FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS** by Vendors

**DOOR PRIZE & RAFFLE PRIZES!**

**LIVE MUSIC** by ED Hyder's Park Avenue Band

**For tickets & more information**

**CALL 508 425-7650**

**or**

**foodandwinefest@htnr.net**

**\$35/pp; \$65/for 2; \$40 at door**

***This year's participants:***

- Basil & Spice
- Caravan Coffee
- Castle Restaurant
- Ciao Bella
- Creedon Catering
- Crown Bakery
- Culpepper's Bakery & Café
- Eller's Restaurant
- El Patron
- Flying Rhino
- George's Bakery
- George's Coney Island
- Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab
- Kalamos Greek & Med. Market
- Livia's Dish
- Manor & Draught House
- Meze Greek Tapas Bar & Grille
- Park Grill & Spirits
- Polar Beverages
- Sonoma of Princeton
- The Auburn Town Pizza
- The Twisted Fork
- Zorba's Taverna