

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 22, 2015 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THANKS** to all who helped set up, prepare, cook, and served at the Holiday Market Place, Bake Sale and Luncheon yesterday. It was a great success! We are still selling baked goods for your Thanksgiving celebration in Coffee Hour today.

**TODAY IS IOCC SUNDAY — A Day of Sharing.** The International Orthodox Christian Charities is *the* major charitable arm of the Orthodox Church. Based in the United States, it brings relief to people in need throughout the world. **To donate go to the website: [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org), or call: (877) 803 IOCC (4622).**

**THE NATIVITY FAST** began this past Sunday. Let us use this time to withdraw from the noise of the “Christmas Season,” in order to reflect on the great mystery of Emmanuel: God-with-us!

**THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE** is in the works. The mailed tickets are arriving at people's homes. We also have tickets for you to sell, apart from the mailing. Dean Valoras is heading up this effort, please see him in Coffee Hour.

**THE 2016 CHURCH CALENDARS** in both English and Romanian are available at the Candles. Please consider

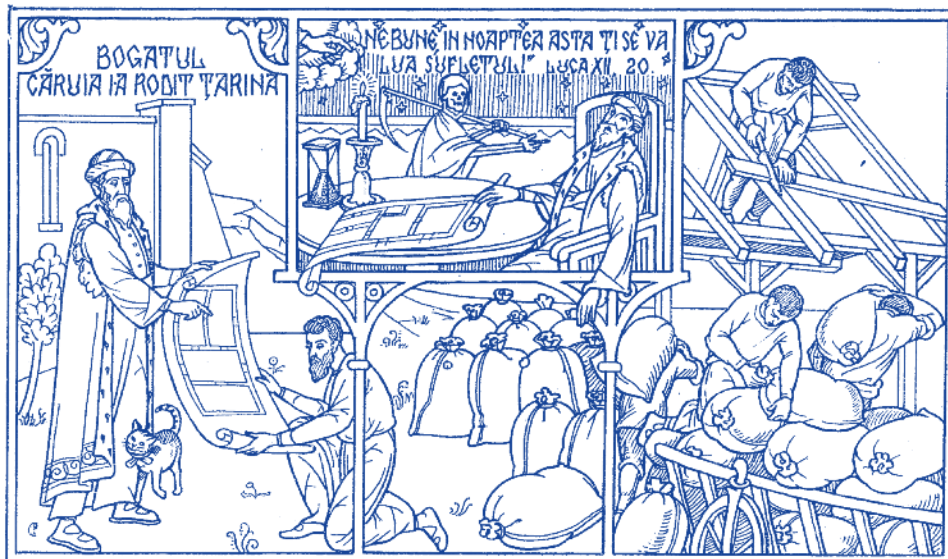
#### GREETERS TEAM 5:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

#### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:

DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



## THE TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 5:8:19 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 12:16-21

(THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN'S BARNS)

TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 3

making a donation to cover the costs!

**THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD** is happening once again this year! The parish Christmas card is mailed to the entire membership of our St. Nicholas Family. The Christmas Card flier is available at the Church. If you'd like more information, please contact Tom FitzPatrick or Evans Tsoules in Coffee Hour or by e-mail, to tell us how to place your name. We don't want anyone who wants to be a part of this Christmas greeting to miss the opportunity.

#### THERE ARE THREE MEMORIALS TODAY:

We are remembering **Ann Marie Chachi**, fallen asleep 40-days;

**Guchia Tandili**, fallen asleep 1 year.

And, **Mary Louise Vercauteren**, fallen asleep 1 year.

*May the Lord rest their souls among the just!*

**COFFEE HOUR** this week is sponsored by **both the Chachi**

**and Tandili families**, in memory of their departed loved ones.

## UPCOMING

**FEASTDAY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCHEON**, Sunday December 6th after Liturgy. Before we plunge into the frenzy of the holidays, let's pause for a moment and gather for a few hours to enjoy a relaxing potluck luncheon in honor of our Patron Saint Nicholas. This year's theme is: "Our Christmas Village ... Where All Gather As One." Please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Chris Toda, who are organizing this luncheon, to find out what lenten specialty you might bring.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, Nov 22 Shrewsbury Ecu Thanksgiving Service  
St. Mary RC Church, 7:00pm
- Sat, Dec 5 Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-12pm
- Sun, Dec 6 St. Nicholas Feastday Celebration
- Fri, Dec 18 Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
- Sun, Dec 20 Christmas Pageant

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**AN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**, sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy Association will be held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**A \$2.8 MILLION BEQUEST WAS RECEIVED** by Holy Trinity as part of a nearly \$29 million total left to five Worcester-area organizations more than 60 years after the death of the benefactor, a local entrepreneur and industrialist. Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation is extremely grateful to have received this bequest. As is usual in these kinds of bequests, the principal funds are permanently restricted by the donor, with only the interest able to be used to continue providing services to the elderly.

**A GRANT OF \$49,500** was received by Holy Trinity to enable it to implement an electronic medical records system! Holy Trinity applied for this grant from MeHI (Massachusetts eHealth Institute) and its implementation will help to improve the efficiency of care it provides.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM THE ORTHODOX COMMUNITY** are provided each year to each one of the residents of Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehab. Our Parish is responsible for providing some of those gifts. You will be asked to purchase and wrap the gift, and bring it to the Church on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. **Eleanor Sedares (508-753-3106)** is coordinating this effort for our parish and can offer suggestions if you need ideas of what to get.

**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.

## NAMEDAYS

**November 14**

***The Holy Apostle Philip***

Philip Rucho  
Phillip Sedares

**November 16**

***Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew***

Scott Matthew Belba  
Matthew Robert Clem  
Matthew Collins  
Matthew Soter

**November 25**

***The Great-martyr Katherine of Alexandria***

Katina Vanthia Christo  
Katherine Victoria Fahey  
Kathryn Eleanor Sedares  
Katina Spataro  
Katherine Stamoulis  
Emily Katherine Valoras

**November 26**

***St. Stylianos of Paphlagonia***

Steliana Naumescu

**November 30**

***The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called***

Andrew Cavanaugh  
Andrew John Demake  
Andrew Opio  
Andrew Tanacea



### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD, OUR GOD: our Thanksgiving celebration makes us reflect on the riches of life. All too often, we take them for granted! We presume — if we really think about it at all! — that what we are and have is somehow all our own doing. As we prepare for the coming feast, help us to reach a better understanding of how things really are. Enable our minds and hearts to find inspiration and renewal by pondering the marvels life affords us at every turn. Show us how to receive everything and, indeed, every moment of life, as a gift. Cleanse our minds and hearts of the cynical and perverse desire to believe we simply have a right to everything that comes our way. Show us, rather, how indebted we are to everyone, beginning with you, and in all things lead us to yourself.

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

## FINANCIAL FACT

***“Burning the Mortgage”***

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

# EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY?

**T**HE GOSPEL LESSON THIS WEEK, is the parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21). In the lectionary schedule of our Church, this parable is usually read near Thanksgiving, which proves to be quite appropriate. Thanksgiving is first and foremost about keeping the things of this life in perspective, and learning how to give thanks always, and for everything.

In order to understand the parable, we need to look at a few of the preceding verses. St. Luke tells us that while Jesus was teaching to a large gathering, someone from among the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me” (v. 13). Jesus responds with a question, asking why he (Jesus) should be the arbiter. Then the Lord says to him: “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (v. 15). It is in this context that the Lord tells them parable of the Foolish Rich Man.

The story itself is rather straightforward, even predictable. A certain rich person, presumably after a life’s worth of work, finally had the kind of harvest that would set him up for his retirement. Not having the possibility of a 401K, he decided to build bigger barns in order to store this bumper crop. This would be his retirement income.

The Lord tells us that he then said to his soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry” (v. 19). He simply wants to be comfortable. He thinks that this is his due. He has accumulated all of this wealth, and will be able to live off of it for a long time.

God says to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you And the things you have prepared whose will they be?” (v. 20) He



concludes with this admonition: “So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God” (v. 21).

At first we are struck by the most obvious point of the parable, our own mortality and the unpredictability of death. But if we look a little more closely we can see that the Lord is saying much more than just “you can’t take it with you.” He is saying that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” There is more to life — our life — than what we might accumulate, or at least there should be.

Listen again to the last verse: “So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” It is greed and selfishness that the Lord is warning us against. This man was thinking only of himself, not of others. He was not intending to share the

wealth he had accumulated. He says to his soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” However, the soul’s wealth is measured in good deeds, not material possessions.

We are reminded of another of Jesus’ sayings: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

When we gather with family and friends to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this coming Thursday, we should ask ourselves where our heart is. Our tables may be laden down with all good things, but are we rich in the eyes of God? If our lives were required of us this very night, and we were to stand before the Judge, which way would the scales tip?

The spiritual life — the Life in Christ — is about keeping the things of this earthly existence in proper perspective. The old adage is true: you cannot buy happiness. The happy person is the one with a generous and gentle heart.

We live in a land of abundance, but many go hungry around us. We try to make ourselves comfortable with the fading things of this life, while many live in squalor. If we have been given much, we need to share. If we share then Thanksgiving will truly fill our hearts. We will be rich, in God’s eyes and in our own as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

# Your Support Makes a Difference!

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

*An International Humanitarian Organization of Orthodox Christians*

110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 • Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • Online: [iocc.org](http://iocc.org) • E-mail: [relief@iocc.org](mailto:relief@iocc.org)

## FOR \$100 OR LESS YOU CAN:\*

- \$15**..... Buy seeds, tools or fertilizer for village farmers in Serbia
- \$25**..... Provide a school uniform and school supply kit for an Iraqi refugee in Syria
- \$35**..... Supply new books and educational classroom aids for impoverished children in Lebanon, Serbia, and the Holy Land
- \$40**..... Help increase and improve livestock production in Georgia
- \$50**..... Provide marketable skills training workshops for women and youth in the Holy Land
- \$100**..... Purchase a winter clothing set for a child
- \$100**..... Send enough school kits abroad to supply an entire class with supplies
- \$100**..... Provide mobility to youth with disabilities in Zimbabwe and Greece

## FOR \$250 OR MORE YOU CAN:\*

- \$250**..... Train a young person in computer literacy
- \$250**..... Provide more than \$10,000 worth of medical supplies, medicines and other life-saving equipment
- \$300**..... Help build a new home on the U.S. Gulf Coast
- \$500**..... Deliver critical medical supplies to clinics and hospitals
- \$500**..... Assist in the repair of primary schools and the provision of school supplies in Serbia and Syria
- \$1,000**..... Finance loans which enable families to start small businesses, creating lasting employment and income in Serbia and Montenegro
- \$5,000**..... Send a shipment of pharmaceuticals worth \$60,000 to Africa
- \$10,000**..... Send a container of hygiene kits or quilts worth over \$200,000 overseas
- \$20,000**..... Send a container of medical supplies worth \$500,000 overseas



\*The above examples are for illustration purposes; your donation will be used where it can make the most difference.