

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 20, 2017

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** Our next scheduled meal is **October 20th.** Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

**THANKS TO THE VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS!** We'll have pictures and more info next week, but it was a great time. There were over 20 children participating! **God bless them all!**

**FR. NICK IS STILL TAKING QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER SERMONS.** This is your chance to ask the question you've always wondered about. **There are forms at the candles or you may e-mail your suggestion to him.**

**WE HAVE TWO MEMORIALS THIS SUNDAY.**

☠ **George Soter, fallen asleep 2 years;**

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:**  
MARGARITE LANDRY,  
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

**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

☠ **Maria Albani**, grandmother of Maria Kalpidou, fallen asleep nine days. **May our good and loving Lord rest their souls with the righteous!**

**THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **the Soter family in memory of George.**

### UP-COMING

**CALLING ALL VENDORS!!! A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE** will once again be a part of our annual **Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 18th.** We are seeking Vendors to rent table space at a cost of \$25 per table. We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services. **If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please complete the registration form and return it to the Church.** For more information, **contact Tim Rucho.**

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**STS ANARGYROI PARISH IN MARLBOROUGH** will be holding its annual **Greek Festival, Labor Day weekend** (Saturday through Monday). For more information check their website: <http://stsanargyroi.org/>

**ST. MICHAEL IN SOUTHBRIDGE** will be holding its **10th Annual Romanian Golf Open on Saturday, September 23rd.** For more information and/or to register, call Luke Yanka at 508-958-4144 or e-mail: [lsyanka@yahoo.com](mailto:lsyanka@yahoo.com).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, Aug 18 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm  
Tues, Aug 29 Beheading of John the Baptist  
*Strict Fast Day*  
Sat, Sept 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon  
Tues, Sept 19 Holy Trinity Gen Assembly, 7:00 pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

**STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN IN WEBSTER** is holding its annual **Greek Festival on Saturday, September 9, 11:00-9:00pm and Sunday, September 10, 11:00am-5:00pm.** More information can be found at [www.schwebster.org](http://www.schwebster.org).

**HOLY TRINITY IN FITCHBURG** is holding its **Greek Festival, Friday/Saturday, September 15th and 16th.** Rain or Shine. The Church is at: 1319 Main St, Fitchburg. For info: 978-342-1216 or [holytrinity.ma.goarch.org/festival](http://holytrinity.ma.goarch.org/festival)

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

The **General Assembly for the Eastern Orthodox Management Corp. (EOMC)**, which operates Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at Holy Trinity, 300 Barber Ave., Worcester, MA. This meeting is open to CEOC parish members and all are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to review the organization's financial and operational performance the previous year, progress with new initiatives, results of annual Fundraising efforts, and to provide the supporting community with the opportunity to learn of the organization's strategic direction. In addition, the election for new Board Members, including Clergy, will also be held, and CEOC appointed Directors are also announced at this time. **Anyone interested in becoming an EOMC Board Member** should feel free to contact Tina Niedbala, President of EOMC at (508) 864-5509, or the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Basil Tolos 978-345-4036. For more information, please call Serena Shields at (508) 852-1000, ext. 204 or Jerry Shaffer at (508) 852-1000, ext. 205. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Holy Trinity's annual fundraiser, 11th Annual **Food and Wine Fest, Thursday, October 19, 2017, 5:30-8:30pm** at St. George Orthodox

## 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

**August 29**

*St. Theodora of Thessalonika*

Gina Theodora Trakadas

**August 30**

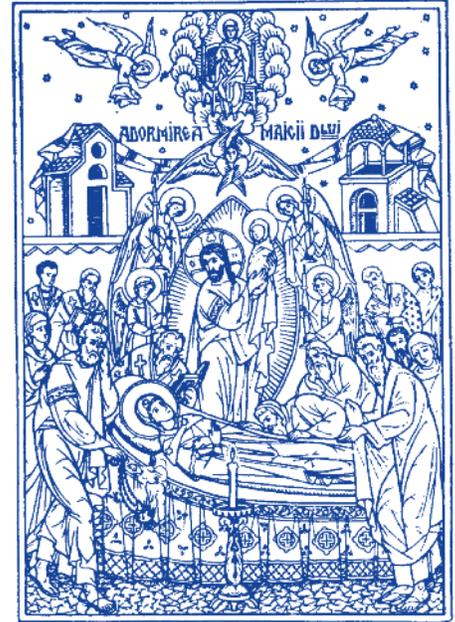
*St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Alexander Charalambides  
 Emilia Alexandra Galeriu  
 Dr. Alexander Gouvelis  
 Alexandra Mazanitis  
 Alexandru Nace  
 Conner Alexander Polymeros  
 Alexanna Soter  
 Alexander James Trakadas



Cathedral. Watch for details to follow!

The latest issue of **Holy Trinity's "Guardian Angel Gazette"** is available on-line. It full of interesting information about our Nursing and Rehab Center. Check it out: [www.htnr.net/blog/](http://www.htnr.net/blog/)



### 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.

# 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 Servant (Matthew 18:23-35), but we will get a better understanding of the parable if we place it in its context. Jesus is instructing his disciples on the nature of sin and how to respond when someone sins against us; the nature of repentance, and how we should cultivate it both in ourselves and in others. In the verses just before we hear this parable, Jesus talks to them about ways in which the community should correct a "brother" who has gone astray (cf. Matthew 18:15-20). He says that first the one who has been sin against should speak to the person privately. If he listens, then God be praised, he has been saved. But, if he doesn't listen then he should take one or two others to help reason with him. Finally, if he still doesn't listen, it should be presented before the whole 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.

Peter wants to explore just how many times one should forgive someone who has sinned. So he 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 is enough. But Jesus says, not seven, "but seventy times seven" (v. 22), which of course means without limit. It was at this point that Jesus decides to illustrate the principles he's trying to teach in the form of a parable. This parable is the Gospel lesson for this eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.

Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wants to settle accounts with his servants. He finds that one of



his servants 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 along with his wife and children into slavery, and take everything that he owns in order to pay the debt. The servant falls down at his feet 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 the 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 find out what happened they reported it to the king. In a rage the king withdraws his generosity and or-

ders this wicked servant to be tortured until he pay the whole amount of his debt.

Of course we understand that Jesus is using the parable to illustrate a deeper spiritual truth. Money is a metaphor for sin. The king is God and we are the debtor. More often than not we give little regard to what we "owe" God, but are very quick to remember the minuscule "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 before 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 does He expect of us in return? To learn compassion. To understand and appreciate His example. To treat others as He treats us.

When we call to mind and reflect on God's generosity toward us, it becomes easier to be generous toward others. Feeling the burden lifted off our shoulders, we can be empathetic toward our brothers and sisters who suffer under the same burden of sin.

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)." We become able to forgive because we know and experience God's forgiveness. Our debts will be forgiven us, insofar as we forgive the debts owed us. This is not only a great mystery, it is also a universal truth; an ever-present truth.

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.