

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 3, 2017 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

PITA BAKING. There will be a Pita Baking Session, **THIS COMING Thursday, September 7th, 9:00 am to noon.** Please mark your calendars. **Questions?** talk to **Chris Toda, 508-832-6271.** Also, let her know if you'll be coming. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

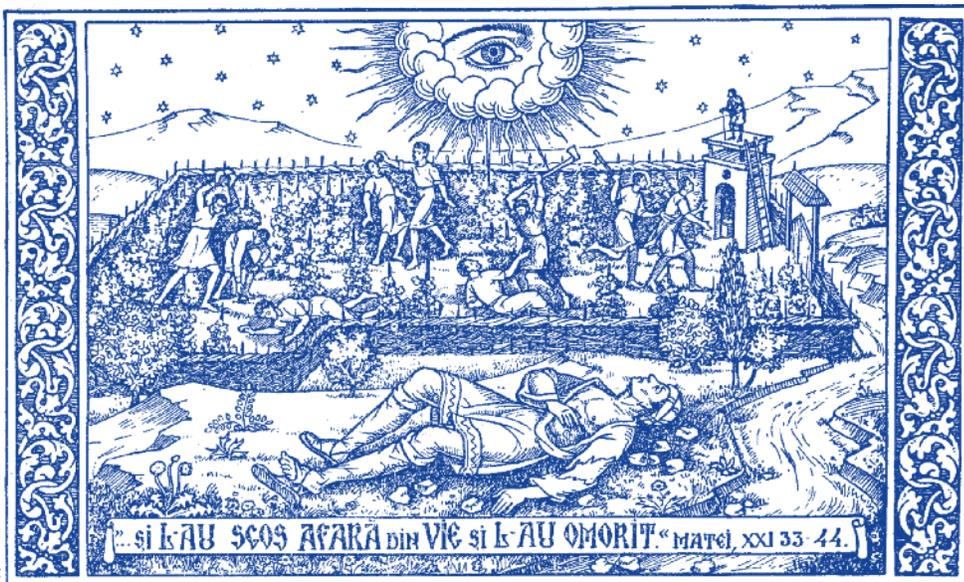
THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS is **THIS Friday, September 8th.** Our sister parish of Sts. Anargyroi will join us for Diving Liturgy here at St. Nicholas for the Feast. **Liturgy at 10:00am** with Matins preceding.

DONATIONS FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF may be directed to the International Orthodox Christian Charities at: www.iocc.org. The IOCC is one of the top ranked relief organizations in the world, especially noted for its low overhead, directing most of the donations toward those in need. Help those who are suffering through our Orthodox Christian relief organization!

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa

GREETERS TEAM 5:
DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

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

Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is October 7th.

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.

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.

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 holyltrinity.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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Sept 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Thurs, Sept 7 Pita Baking, 9:00 am
- Fri, Sept 8 Nativity of Theotokos, Lit 10 am St. Nick
- Thurs, Sept 14 Lit for Elevation of Cross, 10 am
Sts Anagyroi, Marlboro *Strict Fast Day*
- Tues, Sept 19 Holy Trinity Gen Assembly, 7:00 pm
- Sun, Sept 24 Religious Ed Classes begin

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

NAMEDAYS

September 5

St. Elizabeth,

mother of St. John the Baptist

Elizabeth Anderson

Elizabeth Grace Cavanaugh

Elizabeth Florica Galeriu

Lisa Mielnicki

Karen Elizabeth Wilder

The Holy Prophet Zachariah,

father of St. John the Baptist

Zachary Spataro

September 8

The Nativity of the

Most Holy Theotokos

Presvytera Maria Mossaides

September 9

The Holy Ancestors of God

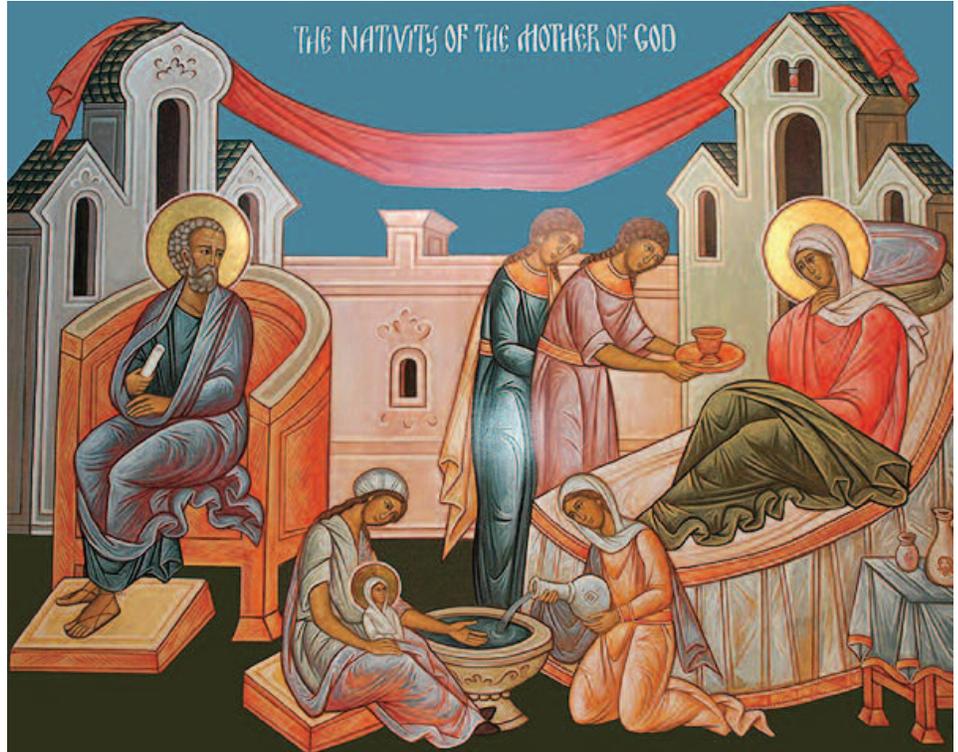
Joachim and Anna

Ann Marie Clem

Anna Maria Collins

Ann Trakadas

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.



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD OF ALL CREATION: we offer you praise and thanksgiving for all that you have done for us, from the creation of the universe and all its riches, to the brilliant salvation of our race that your Son accomplished in our very midst. As we come before you to celebrate his mother's birthday, an event that stands on the border where shadows yield to light, where the new dispels the old, where we are finally united to realities and not just to signs and figures. For the sake of this wondrous woman whom you so favor, we beseech you to look favorably on us: Enable us to give birth to her Son in the spirit, just as surely as she gave birth to him in the flesh

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



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 Cathedral. Watch for details to follow!

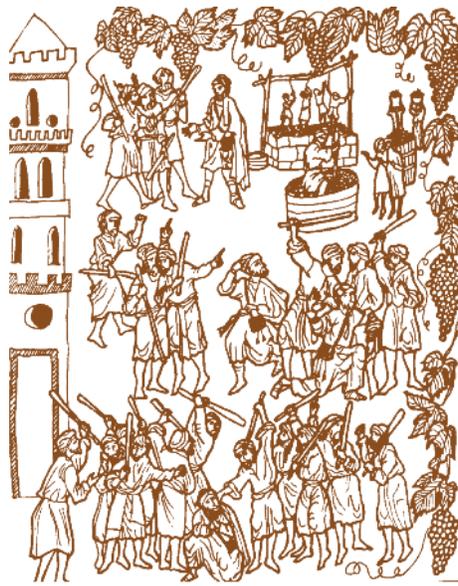
The latest issue of **Holy Trinity's "Guardian Angel Gazette"** is available on-line. It full of interesting information about our Nursing and Rehab Center. Check it out: www.htnr.net/blog/

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 a variety 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 this Parable we come to appreciate what God has given us perfect and complete. What He planted.

How He fortified it, setting up the hedges, and digging 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 it back in love.