

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 5, 2017 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR THANKSGIVING ORDERS is TODAY, November 5th. Make sure your orders are in! **Questions?** Betty Anderson or Chris Toda.

GIFT BASKET DONATIONS are due TODAY, November 5th. **Questions?** Tim Rucho.

THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE TICKETS have been mailed. We still need our own parishioners to promote the Raffle by selling tickets and/or following up with those who got them by mail. **Questions?** **George Demake** for tickets and ways to help: gdemake@charter.net or 774-535-2821.

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ... Want to help with hurricane relief? We are joining with Sts. Anargyroi Church to assist the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in their Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria response. We will be creating "clean up buckets" to assist those in need. These buckets will be used to help the IOCC replenish their supply of buckets to respond as quickly and effectively to areas of need as they arise. **Join us Friday,**

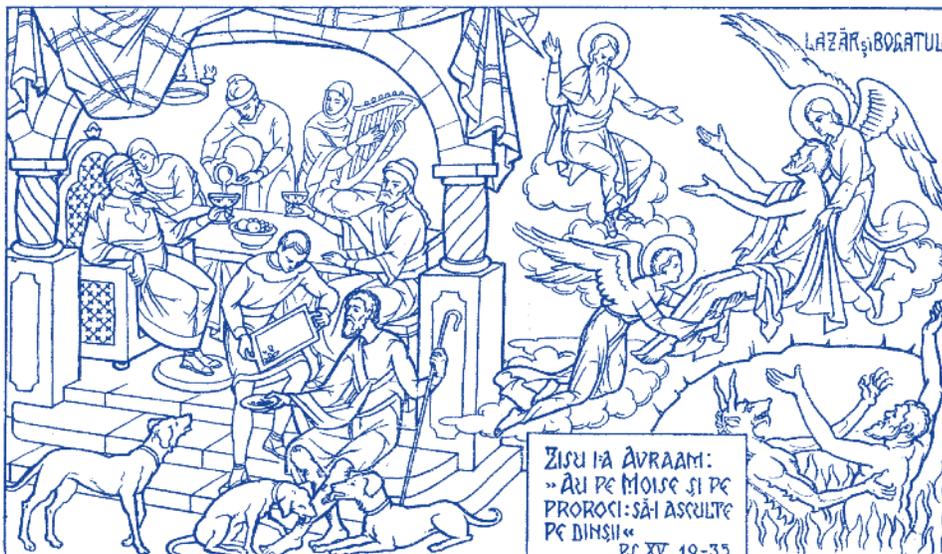
GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW D

ILIANA & SEAN FAHEY,
DIMITRI SAFFRON & MACLYNN TROJAN
CHRISTOS & SPIRO SPYROU

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

(THE RICH MAN AND LAZAROS)

TONE 5 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 11

November 10 at 6:30pm at St. Nicholas Church for pizza and discussion about this service project. Please RSVP to Valarie Stamoulis at Valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com, 617-803-3798; or Deb Sedares at dsedares@pinehills.com, 508-509-6678.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON AND MARKETPLACE: Please let us know what pastry you're donating! Planning is important. See either: Betty or Chris.

ANOTHER ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **THIS COMING Saturday, November 11th.** If you're able and willing to help, please speak with **Gerry Belba.**

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 Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is December 2nd.

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON AND MARKETPLACE is coming up on November 18th. Check out the detailed announcements below!

WE CELEBRATE TWO MEMORIALS today. For the servant of God **Tudorița 'Dorina' (Dumitriu) Kazangian**, fallen asleep one year. And for the **members**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, Nov 10 Teen IOCC Hurricane Project, 6:30 pm
Sat, Nov 11 e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
Tues, Nov 14 Christmas Fast begins
Sat, Nov 18 Holiday Marketplace, etc!
Sat, Dec 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Sun, Dec 3 Feastday Celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

of the Eleftheriou Family. *May their memory be eternal!*

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Eleftheriou and Kazanjian/Dumitriu families** in memory of their loved ones.

UP-COMING

OUR ANNUAL FEASTDAY CELEBRATION will be held on **Sunday, December 3rd**. A parishioner has graciously offered to donate the cost of the meal! *May God bless them!* Reservation forms for the dinner will soon be in the mail. Please be on the look-out for them.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MICHAEL SOUTHBRIDGE will be celebrating its **Feastday with Great Vespers on Saturday, November 4th** (6:00 pm), and **Liturgy and a Dinner on Sunday, November 5th**, with **His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae** celebrating. Please mark your calendars!

VENERINI ACADEMY is holding its **Fall Open House**, Thursday, November 9th from 9:00-11:00 am. For information: www.veneriniacademy.com.

THE 7TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT FOR THE MEMORY. Start your Thanksgiving Day with a 2 mile walk or a 5 mile run to support the Alzheimer's Association. The fun all begins 8 AM on Thursday, November 23rd on the town common in Shrewsbury Center. Register online at www.turkeytrotforthememory.org. Questions please email Jane Lizotte: jlizotte2@gmail.com or Jim Heald: jamesheald71@gmail.com

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS ELECTED HOLY TRINITY TRUSTEES. Two members of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church community recently joined the Eastern Orthodox Management Corp. Board of

Trustees, which oversees Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Worcester. **Stephen Fotos, Jr., and Thomas Fitzpatrick** were elected to the board, and Stephen Fotos, who served on Holy Trinity's Finance Committee, was elected trustee chairman. Read more at www.htnr.net/in-the-news.html.

REMEMBER: Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is an Orthodox Charity and relies on your donations to continue its mission of providing the best care possible.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD, YOU WHO KNOW EVERYTHING: The eyes of our minds and hearts are not so perceptive as we would like to think. Therefore, enable us to recognize the subtleties of meaning in the various situations of life, applying, where possible, the appropriate response to the questions and problems that confront us daily. And give us wisdom and prudence, so that we may always do what is right in a manner that pleases you.

For yours is dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



NAMEDAYS

November 1

The Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian

Kosmas Karadimitriou

November 8

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Inva Gabriela Durmillari
Gabriela Gavala

The Holy Archangel Michael

Kenneth Michael Anderson
Michael Bourisk
Michael Walter Clem
Mihai Gavala
Michaela Ionete
Michael Keimig
Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard
Scott Michael Maynard
Tyler Michael Maynard
Michael Anthony Prizio
Michael Soter
Michael Spataro
Michael Peter Toda

The Holy Archangel Raphael

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angeliki Soter

EVEN IF SOMEONE SHOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD

THE GOSPEL LESSON THIS WEEK is taken from St. Luke (16:19-31). It is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. This parable is unique in a number of ways. First, it appears only in the Gospel of Luke. Second, it gives us an important insight into the “next life,” and the judgment to come. And third, we learn something about names—how our very identity is captured in our name.

Very few places in the whole of the Bible tell us so clearly of the judgment to come, and the nature of Heaven and Hell, as does this parable. While there are many places in the Gospels where the Lord urges us to be virtuous and speaks to us of the importance of choosing correctly between the comforts of this life and the rewards of the world to come, here we clearly see the consequences of our choices. Lazarus rests in the bosom of Abraham with the righteous. The Rich Man is tormented in Hades.

It is interesting that we never learn the Rich Man’s name. He is only referred to by his “class.” On the other hand, we learn the poor beggar’s name at the very outset. We live in a culture where names are given and used freely. We address people we hardly know by their first name, where once this privilege was reserved for only our most cherished relatives and friends. To know a person’s name is to know them intimately. When Moses encounters God in the burning bush and God gives him the mission to free the children of Israel from Pharaoh’s bondage, the first thing he asks of God is, “What is your name?” (Exodus 3:13) To know His name is to know something about Him. In fact the name that God gives Moses — “I AM” — reveals a great deal about Himself. He is the Existing One.

The Lord gives us Lazarus’ name so that we might know him. Because we



know his name he becomes a real person to us. The Rich Man has no name. In his greed and selfishness we know him only by these character traits; he is and not worthy of a name. Lazarus sat begging every day outside of the Rich Man’s house. While there is no way he could not have noticed him, still Lazarus was invisible to him. Now, without a name, the Rich Man is “invisible” to us.

How many people do we see on the streets who look to us for kindness, and yet they remain invisible to us? And while we live in a society where there are various forms of institutional assistance, if we have learned anything from our work at the Orthodox Food Pantry or at the Mustard Seed, it is that it’s not only the destitute who are hungry, but also working people who cannot make ends meet on their wages. Even a middle class family can be thrown into the situation of Lazarus by a devastating illness for which they have no medical coverage, the sudden loss of a job, or by a crisis in the economy. In a very real way we all could easily become Lazarus.

Finally, we learn about the nature of repentance. In the picture that the Lord gives us of Heaven and Hell, the one

thing that has always fascinated me is that there is an ability to communicate between the two realms. Each could see and talk to the other. Each knew of the other’s condition. And yet, when the Rich Man asks of Abraham that he send Lazarus to comfort him, we learn of a “gulf” or “chasm” between the two places which cannot be crossed. They could communicate, but no one could pass from one realm to the other. There would be no comfort given to the Rich Man by water on the finger of Lazarus. This is a symbol of the unalterable destiny between the saved and the lost.

Yet even in this situation the Rich Man has not lost his arrogance. He asks to have Lazarus sent to his brothers so that they might repent before suffering a similar fate. Abraham explains that repentance does not spring from witnessing miracles, but from a true change of heart. He tells him: “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” When the Rich Man protests, Abraham replies further, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (v. 29, 31). Miracles alone will not convince any one of us to believe if our heart is not willing to receive the Word.

A more subtle point that we should note is that the Rich Man, even while he is suffering torment because of his sin, because of his neglect of Lazarus who lay before him all those years, never actually addresses Lazarus, never calls him by name. He speaks to Abraham and through him wants to order poor Lazarus around as though he is nothing. Even in his punishment, the “poor” Rich Man has learned nothing.

May God save us from this fate!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 18
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. People will be there setting up all day Thursday (Nov. 16) and Friday (Nov. 17).
- **We also need volunteers to help on Friday, Nov 17 with set up and packaging of items for sale** and with staffing on Saturday, Nov 18. If you have questions please contact: Chris Toda (thetodas@msn.com) or Betty Anderson (bettya16@verizon.net).
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board and at the candle stand 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** with pitas and pastries here at the Church and also with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda** (thetodas@msn.com) and **Betty Anderson** (Bettya16@verizon.net).
- **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 5th**, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 18 & 19.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by **December 3rd**, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 16 & 17. 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 fliers** 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 have a record number of Vendors this year that will greatly enhance this event.

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:

- **Gift-Basket Raffle: As part of our Holiday Marketplace** we will again hold a gift basket raffle. If you have a creative flair, put together a gift basket based on a favorite theme! We are also seeking donations of **NEW** items to be assembled into gift baskets or cash donations are always welcome, but **all donations are needed by November 5th** because baskets must be assembled in advance. **Questions?** contact **Tim Rucho** (tjruch@verizon.net)