

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 12, 2017 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE CHRISTMAS FAST begins this Tuesday, November 14th.

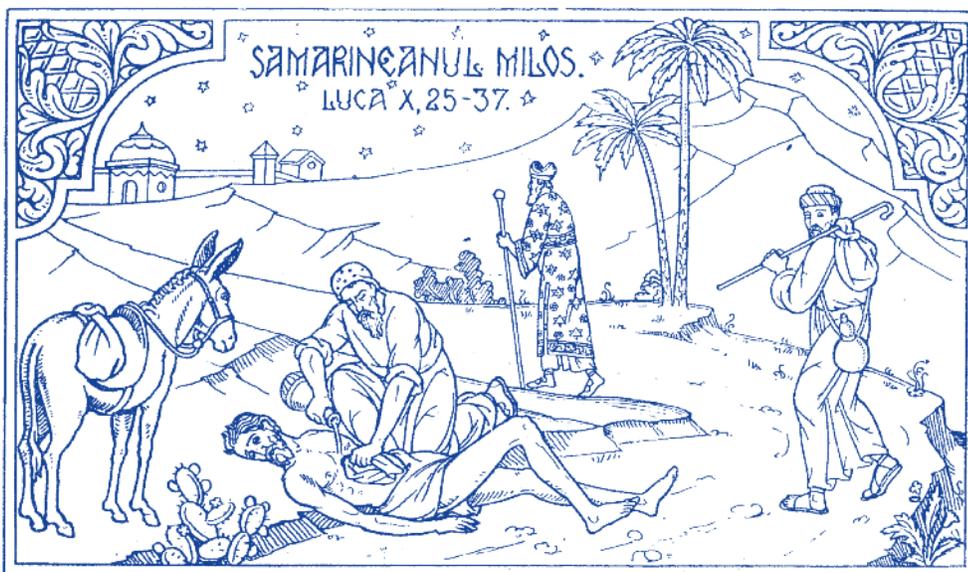
OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON AND MARKETPLACE is THIS COMING SATURDAY, November 18th.

- We need **some able-bodied help today after coffee hour** to set-up the hall for the Holiday Marketplace next weekend.
- Please let us know **what pastry you're donating!** Planning is important. See either: Betty or Chris.
- Check out the **detailed announcements below** for more information!

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.

THE TEEN IOCC PROJECT has been postponed until January. We'll be announcing the new date soon.

THANKS TO THE E-RECYCLING TEAM! Lead by **Gerry Belba**. They braved the cold and the wind for us!



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
APOSTOLIC READING: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ☩ **GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37**
(THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)
TONE 6 ☩ **MATINS GOSPEL 1**

God bless them!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Bill and Katina Cocavessis**.

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.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER earned the **Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Nursing Care Center Accreditation** in the spring of 2017 by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal of Approval is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to pro-

viding safe and effective patient and resident care. **Read more at www.htnr.net.**

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- Fri, Dec 22 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm
- Mon, Dec 25 Nativity of the Lord

GREETERS TEAM 5:
 DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850
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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

Questions please email Jane Lizotte: jlizotte2@gmail.com or Jim Heald: jamesheald71@gmail.com

THE WORCESTER COUNTY LIGHT OPERA is performing *“It’s A Wonderful Life, The Radio Play”* directed by our very own **Lisa Mielnicki**, December 1-10. For details, go to: www.wcloc.org. Questions, e-mail **Lisa** at: lamielnicki@gmail.com.



**THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR
MENAS
NOVEMBER 11**

The Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer and served in the Kotyaeion region of Phrygia under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier’s belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain,

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD OUR GOD, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to ‘them’ and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father’ Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer.

Once he happened to arrive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint’s accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested.

Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint’s former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel tortures, then he was beheaded. This occurred in the year 304. Christians gathered up the martyr’s relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were

NAMEDAYS

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

November 14

The Holy and All-praised

Apostle Philip

Philip Rucho
Phillip Sedares

November 16

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Scott Matthew Belba
Matthew Robert Clem
Matthew Collins
Matthew Soter

brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to Saint Menas southwest of Alexandria.

The saint received grace from God to work miracles, and to help those in need. Saint Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.

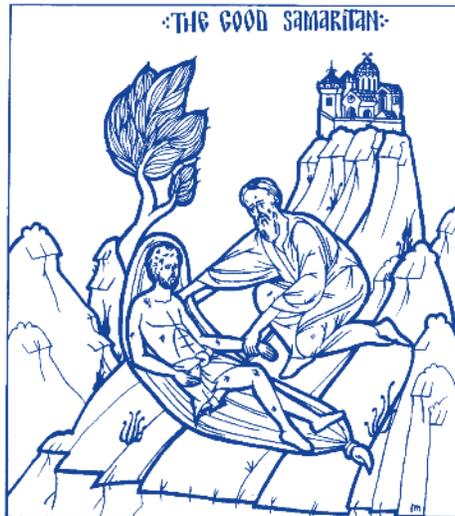
WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

THE Gospel lesson this week, taken from St. Luke (10:25-37), is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of a stranger, who out of complete sympathy and kindness saves the life of another, is so powerful that it has entered our common language. Christians and non-Christians alike speak of the “Good Samaritan” when a person helps someone in need for no other reason than it’s the right thing to do.

The story opens with a lawyer testing Jesus by asking a question about what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (v. 26). Jesus turns the question around and asks him what he reads in the Law. This lawyer then quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:34) saying: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself” (v. 27). In the Gospel of Matthew it is Jesus who speaks these words, but with a slight difference. He distinguishes between the two commandments, and then equates them. He says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” And then he says: “a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

By equating love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus draws both the lawyer and us into the story of a man beaten to near death by robbers and a traveling Samaritan who responds in love. Remember, the lawyer wanted to know: “who is my neighbor?” (v. 29). He wants to justify himself, and find the loophole in the Lord’s words that will ‘let him off the hook.’ However, the Lord gives him an answer that challenges him to re-think the question.

The Lord tells a story to illustrate his point. There is an unfortunate man who



is going from Jerusalem to Jericho and falls into the hands of robbers who leave him half dead. This should be something we can understand. As our world has become increasingly more violent we hear of and even see beatings and shootings; people are left for half dead on the street or in an alleyway. We are never very far from this scenario, especially those of us who live in cities, but even in small towns and rural areas.

The Lord continues: People come by and see the man in agony. These are not ignorant people. One is a Levite, the other is a priest. These are religious people who have studied the Scriptures and know what God asks of them, but nonetheless they cross the street, not wanting to get involved, going on their way.

The person who does stop is a Samaritan. For the people to whom Jesus was speaking this would be like saying an illegal alien, a persecuted minority, or some kind of outcast. Perhaps even more vividly, it would like an enemy, Taliban or terrorist. Jesus wants to get those people who felt comfortable in their “righteousness” to notice that it is the “outsider” or the “enemy” who is doing what God asks.

In order to help us understand the Samaritan’s generosity, let’s place the

story in a contemporary context. He doesn’t just drop off the wounded person at the Police station or the hospital emergency room. Rather he puts him in the back of his own car and takes him to the motel with him. He puts him up in his own bed, cleans his wounds, and nurses him. When he has to leave to make his next appointment, he does the equivalent of giving the innkeeper his credit card and telling him to continue to care for the person, on his tab, until he’s finished with his business and can return to take care of the man.

The Lord then asks the Lawyer: “Which of the three, do you think, was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” (v. 36) How can one not be overwhelmed by this story? There is only one way to answer the Lord’s question.

And so, we’re back to the question that started the story: What must I do to inherit eternal life? This powerful story of the Good Samaritan is given to us as a way to embrace the answer to that question. It provides a vivid image of the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The love of our neighbor is “just like” this first and greatest commandment.

So often we look for God in the sky but neglect to see Him in the suffering person next to us. We try to justify ourselves by finding the loophole in the Lord’s commandments that ‘lets us off the hook’ and allows us to think that God asks this of ‘the other guy, not me.’ So often we imagine salvation is found in fulfilling so many different rules and practices, when it is truly to be found in opening our hearts to feel compassion for those who need our help.

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)