

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 19, 2017 THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON AND MARKET-PLACE** held yesterday was a wonderful success! Lots of people worked very hard. Special thanks go to **Chris Toda and Betty Anderson** for their leadership and dedication. *God bless them!*

**THIS TUESDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE.** We'll celebrate Liturgy at 10:00 am, with Matins at 9:00 am.

**THE CHRISTMAS FAST** began this past Wednesday, November 15th. **FASTING IS THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS!** In addition to fasting from food, you may want to consider fasting from shopping as well — or at least choosing when and how much to shop. Don't shop on Thanksgiving. Use it as a family day. Don't shop on Sundays. Instead, relax with your friends. We *can* do things that will feed our souls, while perhaps striking a note for a saner society as well.

**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

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
V. GERALD BELBA AND MARGARITE LANDRY

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:**  
KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



**THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
EPISTLE: **EPHESIANS 5:8-19** ☩ GOSPEL: **LUKE 12:16-21**  
*(THE PARABLE OF THE FOOLISH RICH MAN)*  
TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

those who got them by mail. **Questions? George Demake** for tickets and ways to help: [gdemake@charter.net](mailto:gdemake@charter.net) or 774-535-2821.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** will be an extension of our Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We're all invited to purchase from all of the wonderful baked goods prepared for the Thanksgiving holiday. Make sure you take home enough for your family and friends!.

## 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

Each year Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehab gives the Orthodox community the opportunity to **provide Christmas Gifts for the facility's residents**. Our Parish is responsible for providing some of these gifts. You will be asked to purchase and wrap the gift, and bring it to the Church on Sunday, December 17th. **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 AND REHAB CENTER WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION.** A national health care organization recently

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, Nov 15 Christmas Fast started  
Tues, Nov 21 Entrance of Theotokos, Liturgy 10:00 am  
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

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*



recognized Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as a Center of Excellence in Wound Management. The award, bestowed by the Vohra Centers of Excellence for Wound Management, is presented to facilities that meet criteria such as the presence of wound-certified nursing staff and a less than one percent wound-related hospitalization rate. For more information, visit [htnr.net](http://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.

### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**B**E BLEST FOREVER, LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, for this yearly festival whereby you lead us to a better realization and appreciation of all your gifts. As we celebrate this holiday with the rest of our countrymen, we offer you, once again, the sacrifice of our lives. Let it be as an aromatic fragrance, ascending before your glory, bearing our gratitude for all the riches we enjoy, whether of matter or of spirit. Forgive us all our wrongdoings as individuals and as a nation. Bring us to acknowledge you publicly as well as privately. Enlighten our inward eyes to see the hopes to which you summon us and the ineffable glory that is the inheritance of all who do your will.

For you are our God, a God of mercy and compassion, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**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](http://www.wcloc.org). Questions, **e-mail Lisa** at: [lamielnicki@gmail.com](mailto:lamielnicki@gmail.com).



## 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

### November 25

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

Katina Vanthia Christo  
Katina Cocavessis  
Kathy Lynn Evangelos  
Kathryn Eleanor Sedares  
Katherine Sonobol  
Katina Spataro  
Katherine Stamoulis  
Emily Katherine Valoras

## STORING UP OUR TREASURE

**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. The teachings of this parable are aimed at these very points.

In order to better understand the parable, we should 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). This is the context in which the Lord tells them story of the Foolish Rich Man.

The parable itself is rather straightforward, even predictable. A certain wealthy 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 the bumper crop. This would be his retirement income.

The Lord tells us that he then said to himself: “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 now will be able to live off of it for a long time. And this is a reasonable expectation, except that he doesn’t consider his own mortality.



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) Jesus concludes the story 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 wealth of one’s soul is measured in good deeds, not in material possessions. Even more, what we give to others can never be lost or stolen. The generosity of the gift remains forever.

And as we reflect on this parable 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)

Soon we will be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the coming Thanksgiving holiday. We should ask ourselves: Where is our heart? That is to say, what do we value more than anything else? 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 stood before the Judge, which way would the scale tip?

The spiritual life — the Life in Christ — is about keeping the things of this early life 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 so many go hungry around us. We try to make ourselves comfortable with the fading things of this life, while so many live in squalor. If we have been given much, then we need to share. If we share, Thanksgiving will truly fill our hearts. We will be rich, in God’s eyes, and in our own as well.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA