

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

JUNE 3, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THE APOSTLES' FAST** begins tomorrow, June 4th and concludes with the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul on June 29th.

**THANKS TO THE E-RECYCLING TEAM**, Lead by **Gerry Belba!** *God bless them!*

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is **Friday, June 15th**. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed on Thursday (3 persons). **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** will start its summer break on **Sunday, June 17th**. We'll close this year's session with a prayer at the end of Liturgy.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Alexis and José Peña** on the birth of their daughter **Lucia Ana** on Tuesday, May 29th (8lbs 8oz and 21 inches long). *May our good and loving Lord grant her many years and bless them all!*

**LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES** in our Parish so they can be recognized.

### GREETERS TEAM 4:

DIMITRI SAFFRON AND SEAN FAHEY

### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:

KARADIMITRIU/KALPIDO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**THE SUNDAY OF ALL-THE-SAINTS**

**APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 11:33-12:2**

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:32-35; 37-38; 19: 27-30**

**TONE 8 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 1**

If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED** for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by the **Manescu family**.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**GRECIAN FESTIVAL** this weekend! St. Spyridon Cathedral, Worcester.



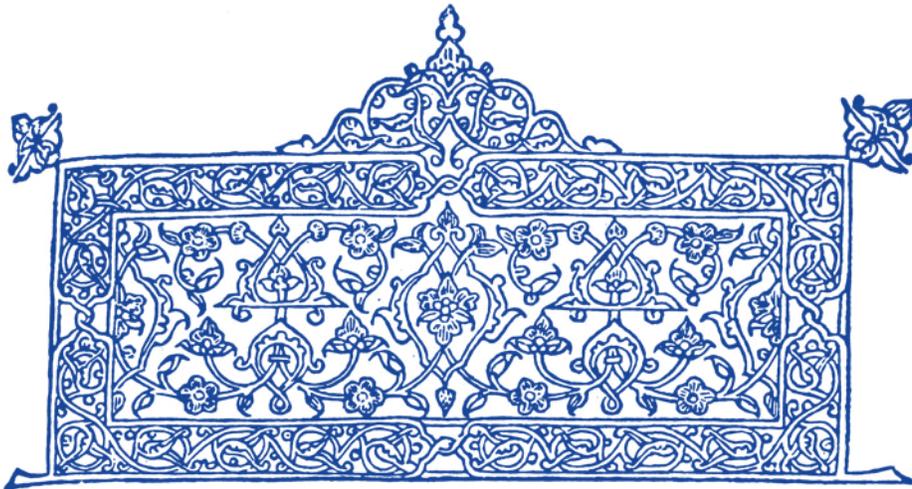
### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, June 2 e-Recycling 9am - 2pm  
No Food Pantry this Saturday
- Fri-Sat, Jun 1-3 Grecian Festival
- Mon, June 4 Apostles' Fast Begins
- Fri, June 15 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
- Sun, June 17 Last Sunday of Religious Ed
- Sat, July 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School

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



## 2018 GRADUATES

*“He has filled them with the spirit of God,  
with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft.”*  
(Exodus 35:31)

We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Rose Salerno** is graduated from Tahanto Regional High School and will attend the University of New Hampshire in the fall.

**Youssef Soliman** is graduated from Westborough High School and will attend Tufts University in the fall.

### COLLEGE

**Elias Christo** is graduated from Roger Williams University with a Bachelor of Science in architecture, and a minor in Business Management. He will be working in the field and attending graduate school in Bristol, RI.

**Peter Tsongalis** is graduated from Virginia Tech, *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering. He will be working for a software firm in Raleigh, NC.

*May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!*

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**E**TERNAL, SELF-SUBSISTENT  
GOD, FATHER, SON, AND  
HOLY SPIRIT: The entire creation that surrounds and includes us glorifies your ineffable divinity: The rustling of the leaves in the breeze and the buzz of insects in the fields, the warmth of the sun and the chill of the frost, the beauty of a smile and the anguished expression of those in pain. The genius of your wisdom and goodness whispers to us, no matter where we turn, gently telling us that this wondrous creation is the arena of our struggle for holiness and wholeness. And what is this struggle, if not coming to know, love, and serve you in all our brothers and sisters, if not becoming like you, servants and lovers of all! Today, as we celebrate the memory of all those who engaged in this struggle before us, we ask you to help us do the same, so that, with them, we, too, may one day enjoy your presence in the eternal kingdom.

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

# WHAT'S THE PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP?

This is the first Sunday after Pentecost, the Sunday when we remember all of those holy persons who have lived, from the beginning of time down through the present; people who lived the life in Christ with love and holiness, but may not have been formally recognized by the Church. These are the good men and women who, for the most part, lived their lives quietly, in an ordinary fashion, and willingly took on the Christian yoke and in so doing influenced and perhaps even changed many of those around them.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday begins with these powerful and even terrifying words: "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). The Lord is laying out in this passage what is expected of those of us who wish to follow him.

He expands the point. He says that he has not come to bring peace, but a sword, to set father against son, and daughter against mother. Finally he says: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 38). He is speaking of confrontation and even violence, not ideas we normally associate with Jesus.

The Lord is giving us an insight into what the price of discipleship is. He shows us the choice, leaving the decision to us. In telling us that a choice for God is more valuable than following the conventions of society, Jesus introduces a revolutionary shift in human history. He phrases it dramatically. When he speaks of the choices that we may have to make, he illustrates it by using family relationships as examples. Our family relationships are "hard-wired" on so



many levels. Even in our social context we would be hard-pressed to violate these relationships, but in the social and cultural context out of which the Lord is speaking, the boundaries of these relationships were almost never violated. A son wouldn't openly disobey his father. A daughter wouldn't openly disobey her mother. These sorts of things were simply not tolerated. And if they were violated, there was a heavy price to pay. Our Lord's words must have seemed unbelievable and even scandalous to those who first heard them.

If we can appreciate how revolutionary Jesus' words were to the first disciples, it will begin to make sense to us how He immediately turns to questions of life and death: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 38). In order to be worthy of him we are asked to put everything on the line. Suddenly, every choice we make takes on a life and death quality, or rather, by understanding the true significance of the choices we make, we appreciate how precious those around us are. We can appreciate how

precious we are to God. Following Christ and loving God and neighbor can and does change everything.

It is worth repeating, what the Lord was asking of his first followers was not an easy thing. If we see this as something radically hard, it was even harder for them. We who have been raised with a more individualist spirit might find it conceivable to leave family and friend, but still, choosing God over everything else that we hold dear, even those we love, even our very own life, is still not something one takes lightly.

However, most of us who have chosen to follow Christ will never be asked to make these great sacrifices. Most of us will have parents who also love God. Generally speaking, the society in which we live is receptive to Christians. It is not very likely that we will be asked to be martyrs. But, this *has* been asked of many, and this ultimate sacrifice *has* been made by some, even in our own time. Look at the world around us. If we were really prophetic, as Christ was prophetic, if we really lived our lives and interacted with others as He did, don't you think that people would be angry at us? And, while some might feel drawn to follow Christ's call, might not others hate us or even want to kill us?

Remember though, the transformation that our Lord asks of us is an internal one. Today, many who call themselves Christians demand transformations in others. Yet, our Lord tells us that we are to judge only ourselves. It is hard enough to change ourselves. However, if we change ourselves, the Lord promises, others will follow.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA