

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 17, 2018

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will end for the Summer today, **Sunday, June 17th**. We'll close this year's session with a prayer at the end of Liturgy.

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! *Vacation Church School this summer will be August 6-8 (for ages K-8)*. We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when scheduling other summer activities for your children. **Questions?** see or e-mail: Valarie Stamoulis (valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com); cell: 617-803-3798.

THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS! Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! Thanks also to Joanne Prizio for underwriting the costs. The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the August meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** Our next scheduled meal is **August 17th**. Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

GREETERS TEAM 1:

V. GERALD BELBA AND MARGARITE LANDRY

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW D:

ILIANA & SEAN FAHEY,
DIMITRI SAFFRON & MACLYNN TROJAN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: ROMANS 5:1-10 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:22-33

(CONCERNING THE CARES OF LIFE)

TONE 2 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 3

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICK JOHNSON who has been drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the 21st round in the MLB Draft. He's headed for rookie baseball camp to start his career. **Our best wishes and prayers are with him.**

THE APOSTLES' FAST began on June 4th and concludes with the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul on June 29th.

NO LITURGY on Sunday, July 1st. Fr. Nick will be attending the Archdiocesan Congress in Chicago. Please plan on attending Liturgy at one of our sister parishes.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED! We have no sponsors for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

WE WILL CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL TODAY for the

servant of God **Judith Rucho**, fallen asleep 40 days. May her memory be eternal!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Florence Rucho** in memory of Judy Rucho.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon, June 4 Apostles' Fast Began
Sun, June 17 Last Sunday of Religious Ed
Sun, July 1 NO LITURGY, Archdiocesan Congress
Sat, July 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Sun, July 29 St. Michael Southbridge Festival
Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School
Fri, Aug 17 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL reading is taken from St. Matthew (6:22-33). It is toward the end of the Evangelist's account of the Sermon on the Mount. I find there to be no more beautiful and tranquil passage in all of the Gospels than this one. With but a few sentences and images, the Lord manages to challenge us to live up to our divine potential, even as he points out how obvious and easy the path is — that is if our heart is open to following it.

The whole of Sermon on the Mount is remarkable, especially as told us by St. Matthew. Some have likened the Lord's Sermon on the Mount to Moses when he descended Mount Sinai and presented the Law to the children of Israel. Here, on this Mount, the Lord gives his people a new Law — or perhaps more accurately—the fullness and completion of the Law he first gave to his people.

This selection from the Sermon on the Mount begins with the Lord talking about the eye (v. 22). He says that if our eye is sound then our body will be filled with light, and if it is unhealthy we will be filled with darkness. As we know from our own experience, everything depends on how we look at things: the “sights” we allow into our minds and our hearts; the things we allow our gaze to dwell on; the perspectives we allow to harden in our souls. The lens through which we look at things colors our outlook, and eventually our salvation.

He tells us that no one can serve two masters (v. 24). We have to choose between following God, or the wealth and power of this world (mammon). He reminds us that we shouldn't try to fool ourselves, because over time we will either love the one and hate the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. These words are no less true today as when the Lord first spoke them. Perhaps

they are even more true today than then. We can feel the temptations that draw us to put the desire for wealth and fame above our love for God. They are real and dangerous. We've seen countless examples where the desire for wealth and fame has overshadow even love for family and friends; where these passions have brought even good people, and those around them, to ruin. The headlines shout this out to us every day. The Lord gently reminds us in a very simple and direct way: we will have to chose. We can't have it both ways.

The root cause of these temptations is the fear of not having enough to eat and clothing necessary to keep us warm. Of course, like every passion, there is never 'enough.' But it begins with a simple worry. The Lord admonishes us not to be anxious about even the most basic necessities of life: food, drink, clothing (v. 25). He wants us to keep everything in perspective. While we know that life is more than food and our bodies are more than clothing, we get consumed by our fear and our greed. But he points out the obvious. Look to the birds of the air, he says, who take no care for these things yet our heavenly Father feeds them all. And then there are the lilies of the field, 'weeds' that grow so abundantly they take over every available space, which God has made more splendid than Solomon in all his glory. Remember: if our Father values the birds of the air and the lilies of the field in such a fashion, how much more does He value us? We need to stop worrying about the day-to-day things. We need to keep our mind and our heart on the important things. We need to trust ... God.

This is where I find my comfort. The Lord asks us to look around at the creation and marvel at God's loving care for even the grasses of the field. He reminds

us that God is our loving Father. He teaches us to call him Abba — “Daddy.” He says that our Father knows all the things that we need and He will give them us, so we should stop being anxious about them. All we need to do is trust.

So where do we find this trust? “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,” the Lord challenges us, “and all of these things shall be yours as well” (v. 33).

This choice is before us each and every day. Recognize it. Commit to it each morning. When we see a bird perching on a tree, or the wild flowers growing through cracks in the pavement, we can remind ourselves of our Father's love for us, breathe a sigh of relief, and be comforted.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LET WISDOM lift our hearts, O God of wisdom, and let prudence purify them. The workings of your divine providence, your just judgments, and the reasons for them defy our abilities to understand. Grant us, therefore, that we may learn self-discipline and arrive at some wisdom in this short life of ours.

For you can enable us to do what we must, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.