

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JULY 22, 2018

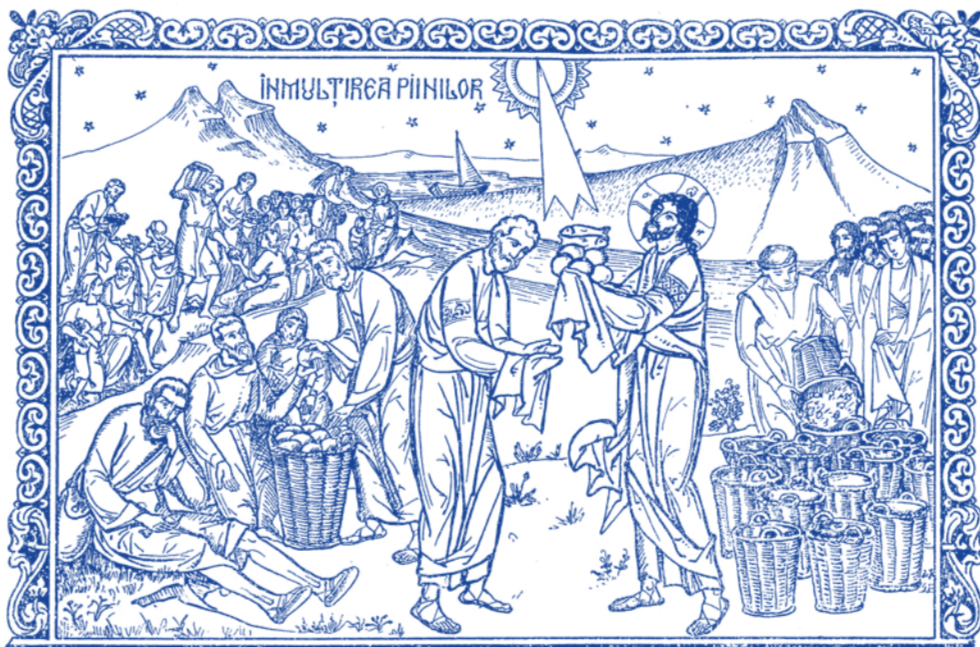
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY SERMONS. Fr. Nick's is continuing his summer sermon series on the Divine Liturgy. This Sunday he'll be talking about the Cherubim Hymn and the Great Entrance. If you have any questions about the Liturgy — why we do what we do — please write them down and either hand them in or e-mail him at: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org.

A PITA DOUGH ROLLING session, is planned for this coming Saturday, July 28th, 9:00 am to noon. Please mark your calendars. **Questions?** talk to Chris Toda, 508-832-6271. Also, let her know if you'll be coming. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set also for this Saturday, July 28th. This is an opportunity for our parish to help our local community while helping the environment. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with **Gerry Belba**.

THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the **Sedares family**.



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:14-22

(JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MICHAEL SOUTHBRIDGE ANNUAL FESTIVAL will be held next Sunday, July 29th on the parish grounds. Food, music, dancing, and kids' games.

www.stmichaelorthodox.com

UP-COMING

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! Vacation Church School this summer will be August 6-8. We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when you schedule other summer activities for your children. **Questions?** see: Valarie Stamoulis (valarie@focused-intention.com); cell: 617-803-3798. Flier available at the candles.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

THE SECOND COOKOUT OF THE SUMMER will be held Thursday July 26, 2018 at 11:30am. More good food and entertainment by guitarist, Paul Bonneau. If you missed our first cookout be sure to attend this one. Everyone is invited. If you would like to attend, just let us know by leaving your name with our receptionist at the front desk.

NOTES FROM OUR RESIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: A long-term resident wrote a little note to our staff

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, July 28 Pita Dough Rolling, 9am-noon
e-Recycling, 9am-2pm
- Sun, July 29 St. Michael Southbridge Festival
- Sat, Aug 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School
- Fri, Aug 17 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm

GREETERS TEAM 5:
DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:
HELP NEEDED
PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

telling them: *“You people are terrific the way you handle your work. God bless you all!! Keep up the good work”*. — L.K.

And from a family member of a recently discharged resident: *“Staff is respectful and loving to patients. Care was excellent. Progress of patient was amazing.”*

HOLY TRINITY RECEIVES MASS HIWAY AWARD. In 2012 the Commonwealth launched a statewide health information exchange initiative called Mass HIway. The goal is to integrate physicians’ offices, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, skilled nursing facilities and other healthcare organizations into a system that allows vital medical

data to be transmitted electronically. **Thanks to Holy Trinity’s tech specialist, Yanni Mironidis,** Holy Trinity is one of three nursing facilities to receive this Award for IT excellence. The Award comes with a \$6,000 grant directed toward this effort.

DIVINE LITURGY is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome. Come and spend some time with the residents; they would really appreciate it!

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.



Saint Mary Magdalene, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles, (July 22), was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord’s day they came

very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, “Touch Me not.” After the Lord’s Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the “sinful woman” of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman.

NAMEDAYS

July 11

The Blessed Olga, Princess of Russia
Olga Lolo

July 12

St. Veronica, the woman healed by our Lord Jesus
Veronica Pandaru

July 17

The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margareta) of Antioch in Pisidia
Margarite Landry

July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah
Elias James Christo
Irli Ilie Durmillari
Louis Evan Stamoulis

July 24

The Holy Great Martyr Christina
Christine Masterjohn

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

ALMIGHTY LORD AND GOD: We desire to be true disciples of yours, not only in words, but in our actions, that in our own person we may glorify your divine grace. We realize that this implies, first and foremost, the practice of fraternal charity in every-day living. Yet, our weakness and stubbornness frequently prevent us from achieving this, and, without your help, our efforts are fruitless. In your love for us, enable us to love each other truly, no matter — and this is the core of the problem! — who the other is.

For you alone can do all things, and for this we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

THE Gospel lesson for this Sunday, the eighth after Pentecost, is St. Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand in the wilderness (Matthew 14:14-22). When Jesus learned from the disciples of John the Baptist that he had been beheaded by Herod, he decided to withdraw into a deserted place to be by himself and pray. He got into a boat, but the crowds followed him along the shore by foot. Eventually, this multitude of people, five thousand men, besides women and children (v. 21), who had completely focused themselves on following the Lord — found themselves in the wilderness.

The reaction of the Lord is one of gentleness and compassion. Seeing their faith and their need, he went ashore and, without having to be asked, he cured those who were sick (v. 14). Then the Lord prepared to feed them spiritually; and he did this by first nourishing their bodies.

It was only as evening approached that the disciples became anxious thinking of the needs of all these people now stranded in this lonely place. They would need food. Realizing they didn't have enough food, the disciples urged Jesus to send them away to buy some, but the Lord said: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat" (v. 16).

Let's stop here for a moment and reflect on the situation and what the Lord said. We know that the disciples have nothing more than five loaves and two fish. The Lord is asking the disciples to distribute out of their meagre resources food that would not have sufficed even for themselves, let alone ten thousand plus persons. This is what they understand the Lord to have said. But, the



Lord is not testing the faith of the disciples. He has something greater in mind. He is preparing to teach them how God works, and how God will work through them. Rather than distribute the food himself, he draws the disciples into the center of this wonder.

In commenting on this passage, St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the smallest of details. He notes that the Lord, rather than say: "I will feed them," turns to the disciples and says: "you feed

them." How do the disciples respond? "We have only five loaves and two fish." In spite of the fact that they had already seen so many wondrous things done by Jesus, even there in that very place among the multitude, their thinking remains narrow. Jesus tells them to bring the fish and bread to him and then orders the crowds to sit.

He takes the food and in front of everyone offers a prayer to his Father to show them—and us—that at all times, we need to stop and give thanks to the One who gives us our food. Then he breaks the loaves and gives the pieces to the disciples to distribute. He not only works this great miracle, he enlists the disciples to participate in and become witnesses to it as the food is

multiplied in their very hands. The crowd which saw the five loaves and the two fish also see the disciples feeding everyone with it. Finally, not only is everyone fed and satisfied, but there is an abundance of food remaining.

Our God is compassionate. He heals our sicknesses. He feeds our stomachs. He nourishes our souls. He draws us to Heaven without ignoring our everyday earthly needs.

For our part, we are asked to follow him. Like these people who left everything simply to hear Jesus, we need to "lay aside all earthly cares" (as we sing in the Cherubim Hymn). And when we are about to take nourishment from the abundance he gives us, we should never forget to first stop and give thanks to the Giver of every good thing (cf. James 1:17).



...WITH 5 LOAVES + 2 FISH
OVER 5,000 WERE FED...

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA