

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 26, 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 next part of the Anaphora — from just before the Lord's Prayer to the reception of Communion. If you have any questions about the Liturgy — why we do what we do — please give them to or e-mail: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org.

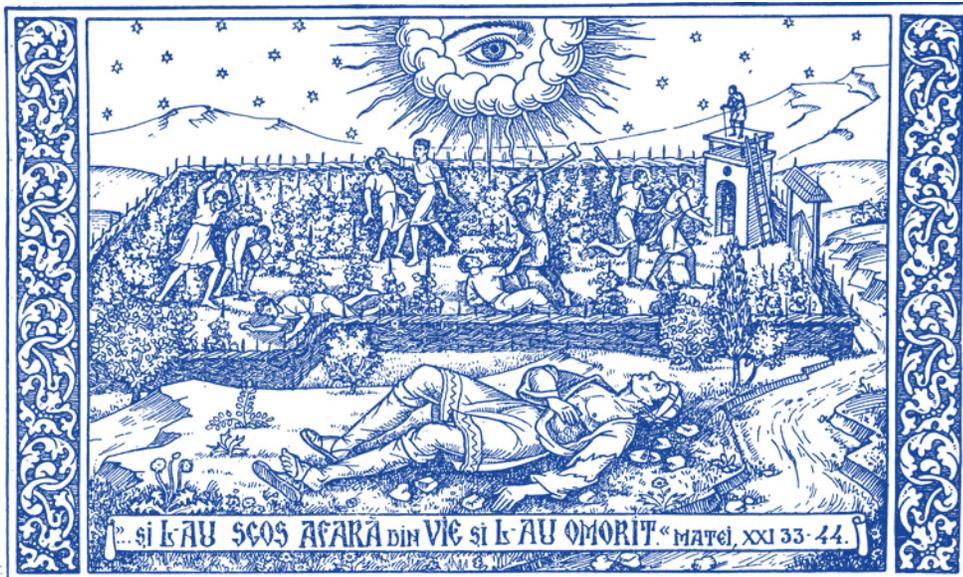
A PITA BAKING session, is planned for **THIS Thursday, August 30th**, 9:00 am to noon. Please mark your calendars. **Questions?** talk to Chris Toda, 508-832-6271. Also, let her know if you'll be coming. **Remember: There's a job for everyone!**

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, September 1st, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Lisa Mielnicki** or **Nicole Apostola**.

GREETERS TEAM 5:
DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

APOSTOLIC READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-24 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-44

(THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS)

TONE 4 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS are needed in the coming weeks. If you and your family would like to sponsor one, please check the Calendar and speak with Presvytera Maria.

TODAY WE ARE CELEBRATING A 2-YEAR MEMORIAL for the servant of God **Kaliopi Demma**. *May her memory be eternal!*

THIS SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the family of **Dimitraq Lolo** in his memory. *May God rest him with the just!*

PARISH FESTIVALS

STs. ANARGYROI PARISH IN MARLBOROUGH will be holding its annual **Greek Festival, Labor Day weekend** (Saturday through Monday, Sept 1-3). For more information: stsanargyroi.org/greek-festival-2018.

STs CONSTANTINE & HELEN IN WEBSTER, will be holding its annual Greek Festival, Saturday and Sunday, September 8-9. More information: schwebster.org

HOLY TRINITY, FITCHBURG is holding their Annual Greek Festival, Friday-Saturday, **September 14-15**. For more information: www.holytrinity.ma.goarch.org

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY'S VOLUNTEER TEAM IS GROWING. Holy Trinity's volunteer program is designed to meet a variety of our residents' needs. The

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, Aug 29	Behheading of St. John Baptist (Strict Fast), Lit at Holy Trinity
Thurs, Aug 30	Pita Baking, 9 am - noon
Sat, Sept 1	Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Sat, Sept 15	e-Recycling, 9 am-2 pm
Sun, Sept 16	stART on Street booth

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

Activities Staff take great pride in carefully matching a volunteer's talents with one or more of our resident's needs. **Dana Spinney, Activity's Director**, has doubled the ranks of our volunteers in just five months. If you would like to join Dana's growing "Army of Volunteers", please contact her at: 508-852-1000, or e-mail her at: dspinney@htnr.net.

WHEN WE SEE PEOPLE WHOM WE LOVE AGING, it may be difficult to figure out what's just normal for anyone as they get older, and what may be signs that your loved one needs more assistance at home or even more. Here are some things you might be noticing: 1. They just can't seem to get organized; 2. They may be letting their hygiene slip; 3. They're declining physically; 4. You are burning out as a caregiver. Holy Trinity's Social Service staff is available as a resource. Give a call and set up a time to get some advice. They are there to help. Call **Christie Sullivan, the Director of Social Service**, at 508-852-1000, or e-mail her at: csullivan@htnr.net. She or one of the other staff will happy to meet with you.

DIVINE LITURGY is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30am. And please always keep Holy Trinity Nursing Home, it's staff, directors, residents, and families in your prayers. And remember: you can always visit!

NEVER FORGET: 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.

NAMEDAYS

August 15

The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos

Maria Blanchard
 Mary Cocaine
 Maria Dumitriu
 Monika Maria Durmillari
 Maria Kalpidou
 Maria Prelipcean
 Nancy Maria Tsongalis
 Marietta Zaruha

August 26

The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalia at Nicomedia

Natalia Dimitra Karadimitriou
 Natasha Zhaka

August 29

St. Theodora of Thessalonika

Gina Theodora Trakadas

August 30

St. Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople

Alexander Charalambides
 Emilia Alexandra Galeriu
 Dr. Alexander Gouvelis
 Alexandra Mazanitis
 Alexandru Nace
 Conner Alexander Polymeros
 Alexanna Soter
 Alexander James Trakadas



What would happen if we treated our Prayer Rope like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around with us, went through it several times a day, turned back to go get it if we forgot it, treated it like we couldn't live without it, gave it to kids as a gift, and taught them how to use it ... we don't have to worry about our Prayer Rope being disconnected — the bill has already been paid.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

TRIUNE LORD AND GOD: Being good Christians is not easy. We lack so much comprehension and determination, and society does not help us to grow in spiritual life and understanding. Give us a better grasp of the mysteries of our liturgy and the prayers it encompasses, that it may shape our daily life in Christ. Teach us how to participate fully in this common worship of the church, allowing its power to fuel our efforts to live authentically good lives.

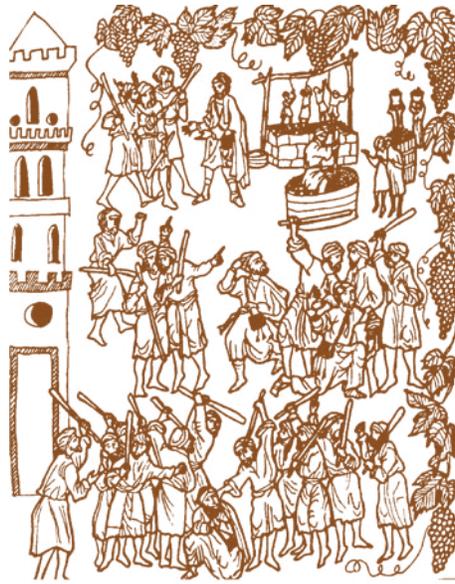
So that ever wiser by your instruction, we may give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THIS week's Gospel lesson is the Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-44). St. Matthew places the telling of this Parable in the days after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), and after he had cleansed the Temple of money changers and people selling animals for sacrifice. Each of the Gospels tell us that Jesus spent the days before his arrest teaching in the Temple complex. This was something common. The Temple complex was huge, and besides worship, there were many other activities including various schools. Many spiritual teachers taught their disciple there. Also, when Jesus said to those who arrested him, "I was with you daily in the Temple," (cf. Luke 22:53) this is what he was referring to. They could easily have arrested him at any time.

This week's Gospel reading is one of the parables he was teaching during those days before his arrest. It is a powerful and pointed story. It was directed at the religious leaders of the day: the chief priests and the elders of the people. The Parable speaks about their abuse of the spiritual authority entrusted to them. Our Lord tells them, in the form of a story, that he knows they intend to kill him. But more importantly, he is telling them they have failed to understand God's message for His people and for the world.

The outline of the story is this. There is a landowner who plants a vineyard, preparing it with a hedge, a wine press, and a watchtower. In other words, all the real work is done. He leases it out to tenants and goes away. Their task is to tend this vineyard. So, when it was time for the harvest he sent his slaves to collect his portion of the produce. These tenants beat and killed the slaves. The landowner then sent other slaves, more than the first. These were given the same treatment. Finally he sent his son, thinking, "They will respect my son." But when these tenants saw the son, they say: "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vine-

FRUITS IN DUE SEASON



yard, and killed him" (v. 38-39).

When he had finished the story, Jesus asked these religious leaders, "Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They answered: "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time" (v. 41).

He turned to them, quoting Psalm 118, and said, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it" (v. 42-43). It was at that point that they understood that Jesus had been talking about them directly.

Equally as important, the Parable is intended to give us a way to understand the responsibility that has been entrusted to us: to nurture and proclaim God's Good News. The vineyard is God's revelation — the Holy Scriptures, and the fullness of God's Reign.

Through the Parable we come to appreciate what God has given us, perfect and complete. What He planted. How

He fortified it, set up the hedges, and dug the wine press. We've been entrusted with taking care of it, of nurturing it, of ensuring its fruitfulness, and finally, returning the fruits in due season to the owner. The fruits are good works, that is to say, the evidence that we understand and appreciate what God has done for us; a way of life that testifies to God's presence in the world; a joy that we share with those around us while we help to lift their burdens and cares.

When a priest is ordained, after the Bread has been changed into the Lord's Body, the bishop takes It and places It in the hands of the newly ordained, and says: "Receive this Divine Trust (παράκαταθήκη), and guard it until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, at which time He will demand It from you." And so, the priest holds It in his hands, praying and meditating, until the time of communion.

The same should be true for each of us. We have all been entrusted with guarding, and also sharing, this Divine Trust. And we know It will be demanded back from us at the Judgment.

But there is a danger here as well. Through this Parable we see how even educated and pious people can so misunderstand God's message for us that they will even persecute His messengers; how they can become so consumed with preserving what they think they have that they will even kill for it. Unfortunately, we see vivid evidence of this mindset especially in our own time.

Brothers and sisters, we need to be ever mindful of the great responsibility given us. We need to welcome Christ in our midst—in the person of the weak, those in need, those without a friend — so that when God's servants come asking for what is owed Him, we will have what is asked of us and be prepared to offer it back in love.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA