

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

stART on the Street

THE PASTRY CONCESSION AT "START ON THE STREET" is TODAY, Sunday, September 16th. We'll be selling our boxed pastries and promoting our pitas, and holiday platters. Help is needed:

- **TODAY** from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, to staff our Concession. It's a small space (only 2 people needed for any shift). Shift commitments are to 2-3 hours.
- **LATE AFTERNOON**, from 6:00 pm, to breakdown and transport. **George Demake** is coordinating. See him if you're able to help.

Betty Anderson and Chris Toda are coordinating the staffing schedule. Check with them if you're able to help and/or would like more information.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING event yesterday. The team coordinated by **Gerry Belba, and included: George Belba, Tom Fitzpatrick, and Chris Seith.** Thank you!

GREETERS TEAM 3:

EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:

HELP NEEDED

PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

APOSTOLIC READING: GALATIANS 2:16-20 ☩ GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-9:1

(TAKING UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOWING CHRIST)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 5

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL and our Youth are a central part of our parish. We need you! If you are interested in teaching or assisting with Church School this year and/or working with the Youth of our parish on activities and programs geared to them, please see **Valarie Stamoulis**. The first day of Church School is **Sunday, October 7th. Every child is welcomed!** **PARENTS:** please complete the **REGISTRATION FORM** found at the candle stand. If you would like more information, speak with Valarie. Providing vibrant and meaningful opportunities for our Youth to learn about their Orthodox Faith and traditions, and work and play together is key to ensuring that our Orthodox Faith and the community of St. Nicholas remains vital for generations to come.

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 CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL for the **brother of Ileana Nace** and departed members of the Nace family. **May their memory be eternal!**

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Ileana Nace** in memory of her beloved brother and other members of her family fallen asleep.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun, Sept 16 stART on Street booth
- Tues, Sept 18 Holy Trinity General Assembly, 7 pm
- Sat, Oct 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Sun, Oct 7 Religious Ed Classes begin
- Fri, Oct 19 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00 pm

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas

PARISH FESTIVALS

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

The **General Assembly for the Eastern Orthodox Management Corp. (EOMC)**, which operates Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at Holy Trinity, 300 Barber Ave., Worcester, MA. This meeting is open to CEOC parish members and all are encouraged to attend.

HOLY TRINITY HAS A NUMBER OF JOB OPENING. - **Director of Dietary Food Service.** A full-time salaried position that involves directing the over all operation of the Dietary Department. - **Licensed Social Worker (LSW).** A part-time (26 hrs) position. - **Also, RN, LPN, and C.N.As are always encouraged to apply.** For more information please contact: Michele Williamson, Director of Human Resources, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: mwilliamson@htnr.net.

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

September 5

St. Elizabeth the mother of St. John the Baptist

Elizabeth Anderson
Elizabeth Grace Cavanaugh
Elizabeth Florica Galeriu
Lisa Mielnicki
Karen Elizabeth Wilder

The Holy Prophet Zachariah, father of St. John

Zachary Spataro

September 8

The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Maria Apostola Mossaides

September 9

The Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna

Ann Marie Clem
Anna Maria Collins
Ann Trakadas

September 14

The Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross

Stavri Tanacea

September 17

The Holy Martyr Sophia of Rome

Sofia Apostol
Sophia Amyra Apostola
Carol Fotos

The Holy Martyr Faith, Daughter of St. Sophia

Faith Mayer



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

OCREATOR AND MAKER OF THIS HOUR: Another morning finds us here before you, celebrating the exaltation of the precious cross, that immortal and life-giving tree that bore the saviour's body in death. From barren wood and bitter death was that tree made, but its stark and naked limbs produced un-failing fruit and leaves that never fade. It was the very price that saved us from the law of old, a price paid not in gold or silver, but in the blood of that pure and spotless lamb. Enlighten us as we reflect on this mystery, O God and Father. Impress on our feeble minds how much we need to embrace the cross, in whose rough surface we see ourselves as we really are.

By the grace and mercy and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

HOW MUCH IS YOUR LIFE WORTH?

THE Gospel lesson for the Sunday following the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross adds the personal dimension to our understanding of what it means to call ourselves Christians. The Gospel lesson for the Sunday *before* the Feast of the Cross (taken from St. John, 3:13-17) spoke of what God, in the person of Jesus Christ, was doing for us through His sacrifice on the Cross. *This* Sunday's Gospel lesson found in St. Mark (8:34-9:1) speaks to how we should respond to God's great act of love.

The passage opens with an invitation. The Lord says: "If any want to become my followers ..." (v. 34). Even as we hear what it will mean to "become a follower," we shouldn't lose sight of this first important point: the Lord is *inviting* us. He doesn't command. He doesn't threaten. He asks. He says, "if."

The rest of the verse is where we find out what it means to follow Christ. It is a real challenge and often difficult to hear. The Lord tells us that if a person decides to accept His invitation, "... let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Usually we run through the verse quickly, treating it all as a single statement, but it actually contains three separate actions. Let's take a look at each, one at a time.

What does it mean to "deny" oneself? The Lord does not mean to simply refrain from doing something that we would like to do — although this may certainly be part of it. Jesus is talking about looking at ourselves in the same way we would look at another person whom we do not know at all. He is asking us to give ourselves the same sort of critique and spiritual scrutiny that we might give a perfect stranger as we look at them from a distance. The original Greek word that we translate as "deny" is actually much stronger. It has a mean-



ing closer to "renounce" oneself than "deny."

We need to develop a certain distance from ourselves if we want to grow spiritually. For example, often we can clearly discern the issue or problem that another person is facing, while it remains unapparent to them. This is true on both the physical and spiritual planes. When a parent wants to help their child get the best education possible, they will select the tutor who will push the child to his or her limits. We know that a physical therapist can push someone with an injury beyond what they thought they were capable of. Only someone with distance and spiritual insight can encourage you to recognize and confront such things. We need to regulate and train ourselves like a drill sergeant would. This is what the Lord means when he says we must deny ourselves.

The second action is to take up our

cross. We commonly describe some genuine difficulty or tragedy as our "cross," and properly so, because it is certainly a burden that we carry. However, here the Lord is talking about the cross that leads to death. In the passage just before this Jesus was talking to His disciples about His impending Crucifixion, but they didn't understand him. They wanted Him to save His own life. By speaking of the cross here He is explaining to His followers what the price of discipleship is. We must be prepared to die for the Gospel. We must be prepared to die to ourselves — to our passions, our self-interest, and our will. Sometimes this will also mean to offer our very life itself.

Finally, we are told to follow him. Even if we deny ourselves to the point of death, this alone will not "save our lives" if we do not follow Christ. Many misguided and perhaps evil people have lost themselves to a cause, even to the point of death. The self-denial and acceptance of one's cross, without following the ultimate truth, can lead to destruction. In our own day we have been afflicted with countless "suicide" terrorists who cause pain, suffering and death to innocent people, all the while considering themselves "martyrs." It is by following Christ, by learning from His example, that self-denial and the burden of the Cross find true meaning, become life-giving.

The Lord tells us to put our lives in proper and true perspective, and then to choose correctly. "What will it profit a person to gain the whole world and forfeit their life [soul]? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?" (v. 36-37) Our Lord invites us to walk the path of life; but ultimately, it remains our choice.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA