

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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 **NEXT 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.

PITA BAKING. This **Wednesday, October 3rd, 9:00am until noon. Questions? Chris Toda.** Remember: There's a job for everyone! Tell **Chris or Betty** if you're able to come and help.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Dimitri Safiron and Maclynn Trojan!** The happy couple was married on Saturday, September 22nd here at St. Nicholas. **May**

GREETERS TEAM 5:

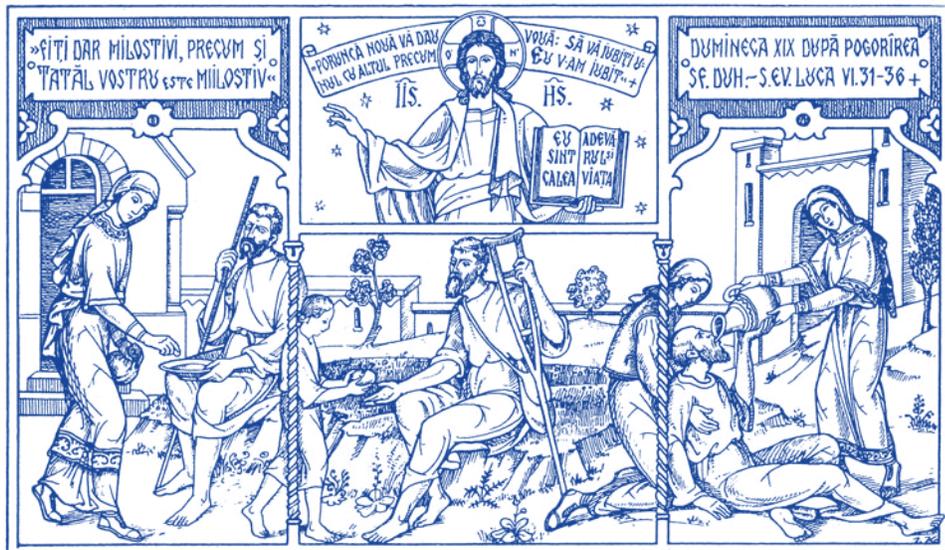
DEBORAH SEDARES & EVAN STAMOULIS

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:

HELP NEEDED

PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:31-12:9 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36

(JESUS TEACHES: LOVE OF OTHERS, LOVE OF ENEMIES)

TONE 1 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 7

our Loving Lord grant them many years!

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is Friday, October 19th. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), noon Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), 1:00pm Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **This month's meal is being sponsored by Maria Kalpidou and Kosmas Karadimitriou in memory of their parents and grandparents, fallen asleep.** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

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'S COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by **Carolina Ionete** in memory of **Mimi Gubavu.**

COMING-UP

CALLING ALL VENDORS!!! A HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE will once again be a part of our annual **Thanksgiving Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 17th.** We are seeking Vendors to rent table space. We would like to include a variety of vendors and ensure there is no duplication of products or services. If you or a vendor you know is interested in participating, please contact: **Tim Rucho.**

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY HELD ITS ANNUAL General Assembly meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. The Parish Dele-

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, Oct 3 Pita Baking, 9:00am-noon
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 Metropolia of the Americas

gates heard reports from Holy Trinity's administration and officers of the Board. **The General Assembly also voted the following as members of the Board:** Michael Dionis, Basil Tolos, and Hamid Mogagheh. Paul Proko and Fr Mark Doku were elected by Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Fr Nicholas Livingston was elected by the Clergy. Board membership terms are staggered in order to provide a continuity of leadership and experience.

SOME UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER that everyone is invited to attend. **On October 9 at 3:00pm there will be a Classical Music Concert** by two internationally recognized musicians: Hyun-ji Kwon and Sang Young Kim. **On Sunday, October 14th there is a book-signing** by one of our residents: Nancy Heck. She has published a collection of poems and reflection. Local cable channel 3 interviewed her. You may view the interview at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqJiFQlp-wXc.

DID YOU KNOW THAT: Although some of the variations in older people's health reflect their genetic inheritance, most are due to their physical and social environments, and the influence of these environments on their opportunities and health behavior.

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.

Thanks to the Bakers!

Usually, when we send out a "thank you" to the people who work very hard producing all of the baked goods we sell, it's a general, "to all those who helped with the baking." But every once in a while it's important to thank them by name. So here they are. Offer each one a personal "thank you" when you see them.

Ken Anderson
 Ted Belba
 Lillian Chachi
 Katina Cocavessis
 Maria Dumitriu
 Eileen Favata
 Phil Favata
 Mary Feeney
 Michael George
 Bessie Kyros
 Margarite Landry
 Vasia Lolo
 Lisa Mielnicki
 Maria Mossaides
 Sandra Nedelescu
 Florence Rucho
 Tim Rucho
 Janice Samara
 Deb Sedares
 Eleanor Sedares
 Carol Soter
 Maclynn Trojan
 Natasha Zhaka

And especially our baking superheroes:
Chris Toda
Betty Anderson

NAMEDAYS

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,

OTRIUNE GOD, ONE DIVINITY IN THREE PERSONS: How magnificent are your majesty and glory! Our humanity, limited and frail as it is, knows the truth of this simply by looking at the grandeur of ourselves, not to mention of your other creations. Teach us how to contemplate your glory while we live in this world amid all the beauty your hands fashioned. Let us learn, too, from the ugliness by which we have marred your creation in so many ways, and help us to change that insofar as we are able.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, and we give you glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD, EXPECT NOTHING

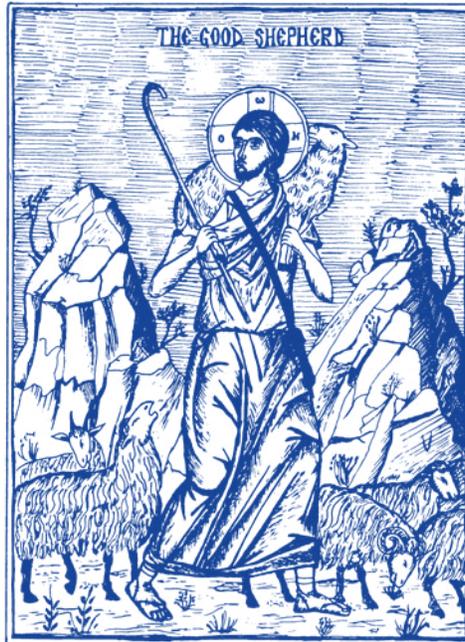
THERE comes a point in our growth from child to adult when we begin to understand that words are not just written and spoken ideas, but are meant to take concrete form as an object or an action. Since the time I was old enough to appreciate the importance of what Jesus was saying to us through his words and his deeds, I have struggled to put what he was telling us into practice. For me, this is what it means to be a Christian.

Today's Gospel lesson (Luke 6:31-36) is a portion of St. Luke's account of the Lord's Sermon on the Mount. The reading begins with what's commonly called the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (v. 31), and ends with the injunction: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (v. 36). In between those two familiar phrases he offers us the path to live our lives in an entirely a new way. He wants us to become a different kind of person. Actually, he wants us become the kind of person he intended us to be from the outset.

The center of Jesus' message is love. He speaks about it powerfully. Most people are instinctively drawn to it. He asks us to love even to those who would do us harm. But how?

When he began to preach, his way of speaking about both the Law of Moses and the sayings of the Prophets seemed to wipe away a cloud from the eyes of many of those who heard Him. The Scripture they had read and learned took on new meaning. People said, he spoke with "authority" (Luke 4:32). He changed the focus of "religion," as they had known and practiced it. God's law was not simply following rules, but listening to our conscience and following our heart, the place where our conscience resides. He said the Law is more than simple justice; it requires self-sacrificial love.

"If you love those who love you,



what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (v. 32). The standard is no longer simple parity: what is done to me, I will do to you. Rather, he asks us to change our thinking from the inside out; or turn it upside down: How I would like to be treated is how I should treat you. If I am going to follow Christ, then I need to deal with friend or stranger by thinking of them first, putting myself in their shoes, and then act accordingly.

Clearly, this is not easy. Often we try to find ways to avoid taking what the Lord said too seriously. We tell ourselves that these are simply pious wishes, not really meant to be put fully into practice. We see them as so difficult to achieve that we tell ourselves it is unrealistic to imagine anyone could actually accomplish what is asked.

Or, we think that the Lord was simply teaching a moral code of life, possibly a higher (more "spiritual" in today's language) way of life, but a code that doesn't carry the weight of being God's command; something good to do, but not really required.

However, we have the witness of what Jesus actually did. The Lord's life

and the way he lived it is testimony to the truth of what he said. His Death and Resurrection showed us the power it has to transform everything. The holy men and women who down through the centuries took Jesus' words seriously and lived by them show us that it is possible for us to do the same. We can see that the world becomes a different place when we live the Gospel. People around us can sense this, and come to treat each other with respect. It isn't just monks and nuns who are asked to follow Christ. The truth is that the most important "missionaries" are the good and faithful people of our parish communities who bring the life and light of the Gospel to home, and work, and the supermarket, to each and every place they go, each and every day. The Lord's words are not pious wishes. He lived by them. Christians for millennia have lived by them. We should live by them too.

Our Faith is not a moral code. It is a relationship with the living God. The Lord tells us to not simply *do* good, but rather to *be* perfect (cf. Matthew 5:48). This means that we are called first to a life of holiness and sanctification. Doing good springs from the desire to be like God, to be holy. People say that they don't need faith to be a good person — perhaps. But, how would we know to distinguish between good and evil except that our conscience convicts us? In making us in His image (Genesis 1:26), God made us good, to do good. When we distance ourselves from God, our hearts (conscience) darkens and we lose our way. Without God in our lives we might try to make our own way — but it is a way without grounding and direction, no map and no GPS.

So, take the Lord's words seriously. Live them. "Love your enemies, do good, lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High." (v. 35)

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA