

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 4, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR THANKSGIVING ORDERS is **TODAY, November 4th**. Make sure your orders are in! **Questions?** Betty Anderson or Chris Toda.

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is December 1st.

OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE is coming up! Please check the list of announcements on the last page. Especially review the one regarding the **Gift Basket Raffle, that has a deadline today**.

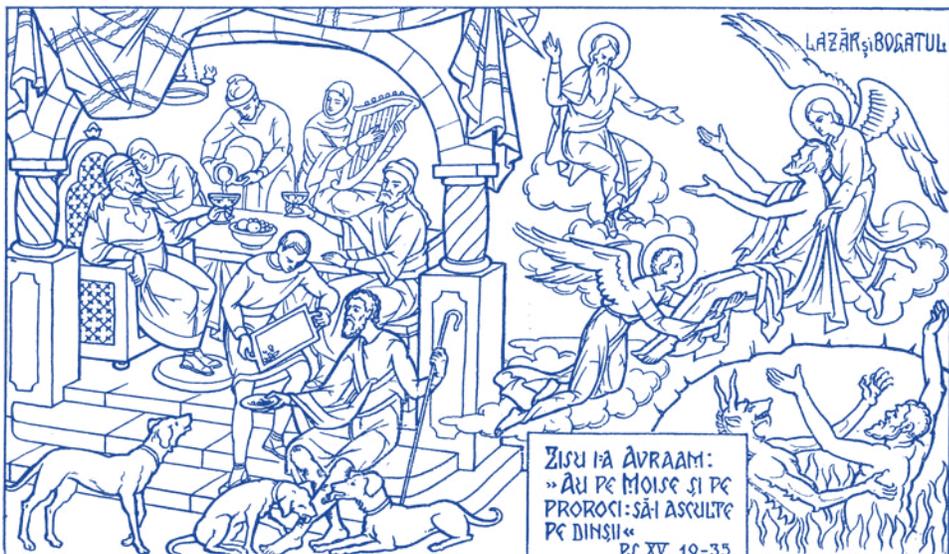
WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL TODAY for the servant of God, Neophytos, the uncle of Anthi Eleftheriou, as well as other members of Anthi and Sergis' family, fallen asleep. May their memory be eternal!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR is spon-

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 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

(THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS)

TONE 6 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 1

sored by **Anthi and Sergis Eleftheriou** in memory of the loved ones fallen asleep.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be hosted by **St. Spyridon Cathedral on Saturday, December 1st** from 9AM to 3PM. If you'd to donate some blood, you can schedule a time by accessing the link: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=saintspyridon (We have the address hyperlinked on the e-Bulletin version.)

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR HOLY TRINITY RESIDENTS. Each year Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehab gives the Orthodox community the opportunity to **provide Christmas Gifts for the facility's residents.** Our Parish is

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, Nov 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9 AM-NOON
- Wed, Nov 14 Christmas Fast begins
- Sat, Nov 17 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon, and Marketplace, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Sat, Nov 24 e-Recycling, 9 AM-2 PM
- Sat, Dec 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9 AM-NOON
- Sun, Dec 9 Feastday Celebration

34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-6238 ♦ VOICE: 508.845.0088 ♦ FAX: 508.845.8850

E-MAIL: FRNICK@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG ♦ WEB: WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

spoke of the great things happening at Holy Trinity. An occasional meeting held at Holy Trinity by parish organizations is a wonderful way to acquaint people with the loving care available through the generosity of our Churches for those in need in our wider community. **If you'd like to schedule such a meeting call: 508-852-1000.**

WISH-LIST ITEM: Holy Trinity is looking for **donations of portable CD players.** They could be new or used. Cash donations are also welcomed. If you're able and willing to help, please **contact: Dana Spinney,** Activities Director, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: dspinney@htnr.net

LOOKING AFTER OUR LOVED ONES. One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's is memory loss, especially forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events, asking for the same information over and over, increasingly needing to rely on memory aids (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own. **On the other hand, a typical age-related change** might be sometimes forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later. Being attentive to subtle changes early can help. If your looking for advice, contact Holy Trinity's Social Service department. They'll be happy to help

JOB OPENINGS: There are a number of employment opportunities available at Holy Trinity. For the latest postings, check out: www.htnr.net/careers.

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!

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

LORD, YOU WHO KNOW EVERYTHING: The eyes of our minds and hearts are not so perceptive as we would like to think. Therefore, enable us to recognize the subtleties of meaning in the various situations of life, applying, where possible, the appropriate response to the questions and problems that confront us daily. And give us wisdom and prudence, so that we may always do what is right in a manner that pleases you.

For yours is dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



NAMEDAYS

November 1

The Holy Martyrs Cosmas & Damian

Kosmas Karadimitriou

November 8

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Inva Gabriela Durmillari
Gabriela Gavala

The Holy Archangel Michael

Kenneth Michael Anderson
Michael Bourisk

Michael Walter Clem

Mihai Gavala

Michaela Ionete

Michael Keimig

Mikel Lolo

Corey Michael Maynard

Scott Michael Maynard

Tyler Michael Maynard

Michael Anthony Prizio

Michael Soter

Michael Spataro

Michael Peter Toda

The Holy Archangel Raphael

Raphaela Zaruha

The Holy Bodiless Hosts

Angeliki Soter

November 14

The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip

Philip Favata

Philip Rucho

Phillip Sedares

EVEN IF SOMEONE SHOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD

THE GOSPEL LESSON THIS WEEK is taken from St. Luke (16:19-31). It is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. This parable is unique in a number of ways. First, it appears only in the Gospel of Luke. Second, it gives us an important insight into the “next life,” and the judgment to come. And third, we learn something about names—how our very identity is captured in our name.

Very few places in the whole of the Bible tell us so clearly of the judgment to come, and the nature of Heaven and Hell, as does this parable. While there are many places in the Gospels where the Lord urges us to be virtuous and speaks to us of the importance of choosing correctly between the comforts of this life and the rewards of the world to come, here we clearly see the consequences of our choices. Lazarus rests in the bosom of Abraham with the righteous. The Rich Man is tormented in Hades.

It is interesting that we never learn the Rich Man’s name. He is only referred to by his “class.” On the other hand, we learn the poor beggar’s name at the very outset. We live in a culture where names are given and used freely. We address people we hardly know by their first name, where once this privilege was reserved for only our most cherished relatives and friends. To know a person’s name is to know them intimately. When Moses encounters God in the burning bush and God gives him the mission to free the children of Israel from Pharaoh’s bondage, the first thing he asks of God is, “What is your name?” (Exodus 3:13) To know His name is to know something about Him. In fact the name that God gives Moses — “I AM” — reveals a great deal about Himself. He is the Existing One.

The Lord gives us Lazarus’ name so that we might know him. Because we



know his name he becomes a real person to us. The Rich Man has no name. In his greed and selfishness we know him only by these character traits; he is and not worthy of a name. Lazarus sat begging every day outside of the Rich Man’s house. While there is no way he could not have noticed him, still Lazarus was invisible to him. Now, without a name, the Rich Man is “invisible” to us.

How many people do we see on the streets who look to us for kindness, and yet they remain invisible to us? And while we live in a society where there are various forms of institutional assistance, if we have learned anything from our work at the Orthodox Food Pantry or at the Mustard Seed, it is that it’s not only the destitute who are hungry, but also working people who cannot make ends meet on their wages. Even a middle class family can be thrown into the situation of Lazarus by a devastating illness for which they have no medical coverage, the sudden loss of a job, or by a crisis in the economy. In a very real way we all could easily become Lazarus.

Finally, we learn about the nature of repentance. In the picture that the Lord gives us of Heaven and Hell, the one

thing that has always fascinated me is that there is an ability to communicate between the two realms. Each could see and talk to the other. Each knew of the other’s condition. And yet, when the Rich Man asks of Abraham that he send Lazarus to comfort him, we learn of a “gulf” or “chasm” between the two places which cannot be crossed. They could communicate, but no one could pass from one realm to the other. There would be no comfort given to the Rich Man by water on the finger of Lazarus. This is a symbol of the unalterable destiny between the saved and the lost.

Yet even in this situation the Rich Man has not lost his arrogance. He asks to have Lazarus sent to his brothers so that they might repent before suffering a similar fate. Abraham explains that repentance does not spring from witnessing miracles, but from a true change of heart. He tells him: “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” When the Rich Man protests, Abraham replies further, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (v. 29, 31). Miracles alone will not convince any one of us to believe if our heart is not willing to receive the Word.

A more subtle point that we should note is that the Rich Man, even while he is suffering torment because of his sin, because of his neglect of Lazarus who lay before him all those years, never actually addresses Lazarus, never calls him by name. He speaks to Abraham and through him wants to order poor Lazarus around as though he is nothing. Even in his punishment, the “poor” Rich Man has learned nothing.

May God save us from this fate!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 17
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON

- **We are asking for donations of home baked goods to sell.** We need to know in advance what you are bringing, and it must be brought to the church by Thursday November 15th. People will be there all day Thursday.
- **We also need volunteers to help on Thursday, November 15 with set up and packaging of items for sale,** and with staffing on Saturday, Nov 17. If you have questions please contact: Chris Toda (thetodas@msn.com) or Betty Anderson (bettya16@verizon.net).
- **There is a sign up sheet** on the bulletin board and at the candle stand for donations and for volunteers to help with set up and with the sale.

PITA & PASTRY HOLIDAY ORDER DEADLINES

- **Help is needed with the ongoing baking effort** with pitas and pastries here at the Church and also with packaging pastries — For specifics, see **Chris Toda** (thetodas@msn.com) and **Betty Anderson** (Bettya16@verizon.net).
- **We need everyone's to help to sell our pastries and pitas** to our family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of — for more information, see **Betty Anderson.**

- **Thanksgiving Orders** need to be in by **November 4th**, for pick-up Sat/Sun November 17 & 18.
- **Christmas Orders** must be in by **December 2nd**, for pick-up Sat/Sun December 15 & 16. We are only able to make a certain quantity of pitas and pastries. To ensure that we will be able to fill your orders do not wait until the last minute to get your orders in. **Absolutely no orders will be accepted after the order deadline.**
- **You may download fliers** using the links in the e-mail Bulletin or pick up hard copies here.

HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE:

- **A Holiday Market Place** will once again, be part of our annual Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We have a record number of Vendors this year that will greatly enhance this event.

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:

- **A GIFT BASKET RAFFLE** will be part of our **Holiday Bake Sale & Luncheon on November 17th.** We are asking for donations of new items all centered on a theme to be assembled into gift baskets. Cash donations are also welcomed. We want to give parishioners the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets prior to the event so **all items/donations must be received by October 28th.** **Questions?** e-mail: tjruch@gmail.com