

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 11, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THE CHRISTMAS FAST** begins this Wednesday, November 14th.

**OUR HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, LUNCHEON & MARKETPLACE** is **NEXT SATURDAY!** Please check the list of announcements on the last page.

**THE ANNUAL WINTER COAT DRIVE** organized by our Orthodox Food Pantry is underway. We're looking for **coats, hats, scarves and gloves clean and in good condition.** Lisa Mielnicki will be collecting them. November 25th is the deadline. Lisa will be available every Sunday after Liturgy and all day Saturday, November 17th.

**THE FEASTDAY RAFFLE TICKETS** have been mailed. We still need our own parishioners to promote the Raffle by selling tickets and/or following up with those who got them by mail. **Questions? Tom Fitzpatrick** for tickets and ways to help: Tom.l.fitzpatrick1006@gmail.com or 508-887-1896 **OR George Demake:** gdemake@charter.net or 774-535-2821.

**AN ECUMENICAL THANKGIVING SERVICE,** sponsored by the Shrewsbury Clergy Association will be held on **Sunday, November 18th at 7:00 pm** at Trinity Episcopal, Main Street, Shrews-

### GREETERS TEAM 1:

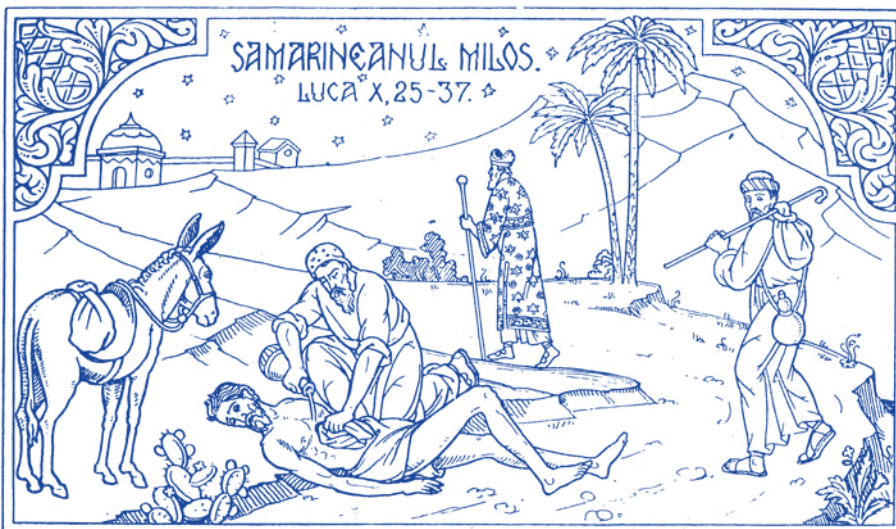
V. GERALD BELBA & MARGARITE LANDRY

### COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:

HELP NEEDED

PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



### THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-7 ☩ GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

(THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)

TONE 7 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL: 2

bury. Fr. Nick will be preaching.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Mike Soter** on his election this past Tuesday to represent the 8th Worcester District in the General Court!

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to **Cristina Gavala**, whose father fell asleep in the Lord this past Thursday. **May the Lord rest his soul with the just!**

**WE ALSO CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL TODAY** for the servant of God, **Daniela Gatej**, fallen asleep 40-days. **May her memory be eternal!**

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by the **Gavala family**, as well as **Sorana and Dorian Gatej in memory of their both in memory of their departed loved ones.**

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**HOLY TRINITY** is kicking off its **Annual Appeal**, and a couple of representatives will be making a short presentation to the parish on **Sunday, No-**

**vember 25th.** They will also be available during coffee hour to answer any questions. Next year is the 25th Anniversary of Holy Trinity's opening and we're getting ready for that celebration as well!

**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 responsible for providing some of these gifts. You will be asked to purchase and wrap the gift, and bring it to the Church, Sunday, December 16th. **Eleanor Sedares (508-753-3106)** is coordinating this effort for our parish and can offer sugges-

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed, Nov 14 Christmas Fast begins
- Sat, Nov 17 Holiday Bake Sale, Luncheon, and Marketpace, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Sun, Nov 18 Shrewsbury Ecu Thanksgiving Service Trinity Episcopal, 7:00pm
- Sat, Nov 24 e-Recycling, 9 AM-2 PM
- Sat, Dec 1 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9 AM-NOON
- Sun, Dec 9 Feastday Celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD OUR GOD, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to 'them' and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

tions if you need ideas of what to get.

**HOLY TRINITY IS GETTING READY FOR A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION.** As in past years Holy Trinity is inviting family and friends of our residents to share the holiday meal with them on Thanksgiving Day. **Space is limited and reservations are a must (by November 16).** There is also a nominal fee for the meal. If you have questions or would like to make a reservation, see the receptionist or call: 508-852-1000.

**WISH-LIST ITEM:** Holy Trinity is looking for donations of **Greek and Albanian music CD's, as well as DVDs.** 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](mailto:dspinney@htnr.net)

**LOOKING AFTER OUR LOVED ONES.** When looking for early signs of Alzheimer's sometimes is shows up as **challenges in planning or solving problems.** Some people may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of

monthly bills. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before. **But what might a typical age-related change look like?** Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook. Being attentive to subtle changes early can help. If you're looking for advice, contact Holy Trinity's Social Service department at 508-852-1000. 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](http://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!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**"Addictions and the Passions: Helping Young Adults Live Healthy & Balanced Lives,"** is the theme of a special presentation being offered by **Fr Dimitri Moraitis** at St. Spyridon Cathedral (Tonna Room), on Friday, November 16th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

## NAMEDAYS

### 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

### November 16

#### *The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew*

Scott Matthew Belba  
Matthew Robert Clem  
Matthew Collins  
Matthew Soter

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**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](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=saintspyridon) (We have the address hyperlinked on the e-Bulletin version.)

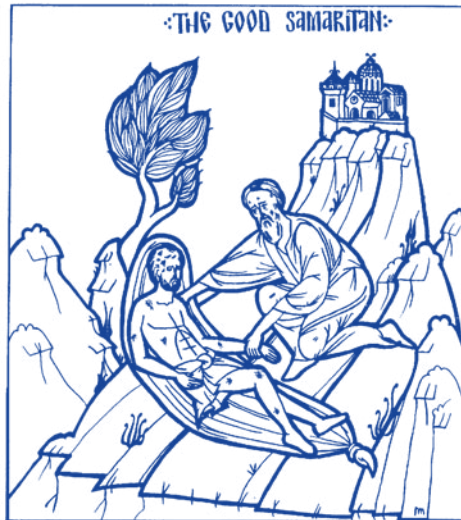
# WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

**T**HE Gospel lesson this week, taken from St. Luke (10:25-37), is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of a stranger, who out of complete sympathy and kindness saves the life of another, is so powerful that it has entered our common language. Christians and non-Christians alike speak of the “Good Samaritan” when a person helps someone in need for no other reason than it’s the right thing to do.

The story opens with a lawyer testing Jesus by asking a question about what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (v. 26). Jesus turns the question around and asks him what he reads in the Law. This lawyer then quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:34) saying: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself” (v. 27). In the Gospel of Matthew it is Jesus who speaks these words, but with a slight difference. He distinguishes between the two commandments, and then equates them. He says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” And then he says: “a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

By equating love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus draws both the lawyer and us into the story of a man beaten to near death by robbers and a traveling Samaritan who responds in love. Remember, the lawyer wanted to know: “who is my neighbor?” (v. 29). He wants to justify himself, and find the loophole in the Lord’s words that will ‘let him off the hook.’ However, the Lord gives him an answer that challenges him to re-think the question.

The Lord tells a story to illustrate his point. There is an unfortunate man who



is going from Jerusalem to Jericho and falls into the hands of robbers who leave him half dead. This should be something we can understand. As our world has become increasingly more violent we hear of and even see beatings and shootings; people are left for half dead on the street or in an alleyway. We are never very far from this scenario, especially those of us who live in cities, but even in small towns and rural areas.

The Lord continues: People come by and see the man in agony. These are not ignorant people. One is a Levite, the other is a priest. These are religious people who have studied the Scriptures and know what God asks of them, but nonetheless they cross the street, not wanting to get involved, going on their way.

The person who does stop is a Samaritan. For the people to whom Jesus was speaking this would be like saying an illegal alien, a persecuted minority, or some kind of outcast. Perhaps even more vividly, it would like an enemy, Taliban or terrorist. Jesus wants to get those people who felt comfortable in their “righteousness” to notice that it is the “outsider” or the “enemy” who is doing what God asks.

In order to help us understand the Samaritan’s generosity, let’s place the

story in a contemporary context. He doesn’t just drop off the wounded person at the Police station or the hospital emergency room. Rather he puts him in the back of his own car and takes him to the motel with him. He puts him up in his own bed, cleans his wounds, and nurses him. When he has to leave to make his next appointment, he does the equivalent of giving the innkeeper his credit card and telling him to continue to care for the person, on his tab, until he’s finished with his business and can return to take care of the man.

The Lord then asks the Lawyer: “Which of the three, do you think, was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” (v. 36) How can one not be overwhelmed by this story? There is only one way to answer the Lord’s question.

And so, we’re back to the question that started the story: What must I do to inherit eternal life? This powerful story of the Good Samaritan is given to us as a way to embrace the answer to that question. It provides a vivid image of the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The love of our neighbor is “just like” this first and greatest commandment.

So often we look for God in the sky but neglect to see Him in the suffering person next to us. We try to justify ourselves by finding the loophole in the Lord’s commandments that ‘lets us off the hook’ and allows us to think that God asks this of ‘the other guy, not me.’ So often we imagine salvation is found in fulfilling so many different rules and practices, when it is truly to be found in opening our hearts to feel compassion for those who need our help.

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.

### ***GIFT BASKET RAFFLE:***

- **The Gift Basket Raffle** will be available this Sunday for ticket sales in advance of next Saturday's Holiday Marketplace when the drawing will occur.