

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 9, 2019

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**SATURDAY OF THE SOULS** before Pentecost is this coming **Saturday, June 15th**. Liturgy will be at 10:00 am. Next Sunday is the Feast of **PENTECOST**, the Descent of the Holy Spirit! Please make an extra effort to attend.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL** will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, June 20th at 6:30PM**. Parish Council Members, please let George Demake know if you are unable to attend.

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is Friday, June 21st. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), **NOON** Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), **NOON** Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), **5:30PM** Friday. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

**DOUGH ROLLING** Saturday, June 29th, **9:00AM to NOON**. We need 12-15 people, so that the work is evenly distributed and we can finish with prep and clean-up in 3 hours. All help appreciated. No experience necessary — there's a job for everyone. If you'd like to participate, contact Chris Toda at: [thetodas@msn.com](mailto:thetodas@msn.com), or 508-832-6271.

**RELIGIOUS ED WILL TAKE A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER** with a

**GREETERS TEAM 1:**  
MACLYNN AND DIMITRI SAFFRON

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

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 20:16-18; 28-36 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-13 TONE 6 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 10

prayer and a blessing on **Sunday, June 23RD**. The students will be offering an Ice Cream Sundae Social to **benefit the IOCC** during Coffee Hour. **A beautiful way to start the summer!**

**GREETER AND COFFEE HOUR TEAMS** are being organized. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board, or you can talk to **Chris Seith**: 978-257-2765 or email: [cbseith@gmail.com](mailto:cbseith@gmail.com). This is a great opportunity to contribute to welcoming parishioners in our St. Nicholas parish.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by Sandra and Nicholas Mazanitis.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

A Middle East Festival is being held this weekend, June 7-9, by St. George Cathedral, Anna St, Worcester. For times and more information:

[www.worcestermiddleeasternfest.com](http://www.worcestermiddleeasternfest.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, June 15 Saturday of Souls, Liturgy, 10:00AM
- Sun, June 16 PENTECOST
- Thurs, June 20 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30PM
- Fri, June 21 Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00PM
- Sun, June 23 Last Day of Religious Ed  
Ice Cream Sundae Social - benefit IOCC
- Mon, June 24 Apostles Fast Begins
- Sat, June 29 Pita Dough Rolling, 9AM-NOON
- Aug 5-7 Vacation Church School



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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*

## UPCOMING

**PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE!** Vacation Church School this summer will be August 5-7. We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when schedule other summer activities for your children. Questions? see or e-mail: Valarie Stamoulis: valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com; cell: 617-803-3798.

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY

**SAVE THE DATE:** The weekend of December 7 – 8, 2019 our Parish Feast Day will have special significance as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a church community.

A few people are needed to serve on a committee to plan for the 70th Anniversary Festivities. Please speak with Tim if you have it in your heart to help plan that celebration.



### A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**P**RAISE TO YOU, ETERNAL, LOVING GOD AND FATHER, O you who loved us before we were even conceived: Today, the gates of heaven, the eternal portals, are lifted high, because your only Son, the king of glory, enters in. As we celebrate his glorious return to the right of your majesty, we pray that you will draw us ever closer to him, so that, faithful to him at all times, we may rise above the difficulties of this earthly life to enjoy the glory of eternal life. Receive our spiritual worship, and prepare us for the descent of your All-holy Spirit in the days to come.

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

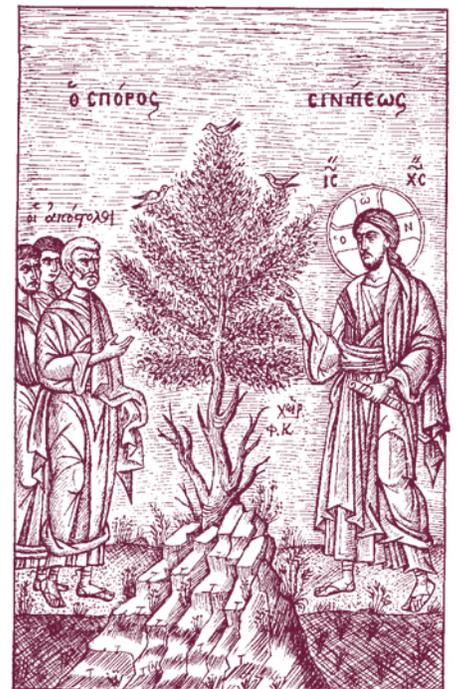
## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**THE LATEST ISSUE** of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available for download. Click the link: [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net) to view it. And don't forget to 'like' Holy Trinity on Facebook and Twitter!

**SAVE THE DATE** for Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center **25TH Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2019** at St. George Cathedral Anna St., Worcester.

**HOLY TRINITY** is a non-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center and a project of the Council of Orthodox Churches of Central MA. Please keep Holy Trinity in your prayers and in your charitable plans. Contributions to the Treasured Generations Annual Fund can be made at [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net) and volunteers are welcome to be a part of Holy Trinity by contacting: **Dana Spinney**, Activities Director, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: [dspinney@htnr.net](mailto:dspinney@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.



# IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

**T**HIS is the seventh Sunday of Pascha. We remember the Fathers of the First Œcumenical Synod held at Nicæa in the year 325 ad. We also find ourselves in the days between the Lord's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Today's lesson from the Book of Acts (20:16-18; 28-36) reads like a farewell speech, a final admonition, from St. Paul to the elders of the Church at Ephesus, but its message speaks to us as well. St. Paul is on his way to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. He says (in verses not included in today's reading), "I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me" (Acts 20:22-23). The authorities in Jerusalem have wanted to imprison and even kill St. Paul since his acceptance of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah. He believes he will never see the Church of Ephesus again. He is correct; he never does.

He is primarily concerned for the future well-being of the Church. He directs his remarks specifically to the "elders" of the Church — that is, the episcopi or "overseers." (In part this explains why this lesson is chosen for today when we remember the Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council.) He tells the "episcopi" to, "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of the Lord that he obtained with his own blood" (v. 28).

There are two aspects to this "oversight." The first is that if you are given leadership in the Church you need to "keep watch over yourself." You should keep yourself right with the Lord. You have to be self-disciplined and resolute. St. Paul says something similar to St. Timothy: "Pay close attention to your-

self and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers" (1 Timothy 4:16). When following God's call to shepherd Christ's Church, one's first duty is to be watchful over one's own person.

The second important duty is to "Keep watch ... over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [guardians]" (v. 28). We do not set ourselves up as "leaders" in the Church. People do not (or should not) take this responsibility on themselves. The Holy Spirit chooses; He is the one who anoints leaders in God's Church. The one chosen is to behave as shepherd, guarding and protecting the flock. It is God's flock. It is God's Church. We have been enlisted into the Lord's service for His people, "that He obtained with his own blood."

The objective is to remain firmly planted in God's truth. Each Christian generation has faced its particular challenges. The Apostles had theirs. The Church of the fourth century had Arius and his heresy, whom the Synod of Nicæa confronted directly. We have ours, a perhaps even more difficult challenge: indifference and secularism. Surrounded by material comforts, we ignore and resist God who is the only one who can truly comfort us.

Today's reading highlights the question of leadership in the Church, and of course, in the parish. In America, we 'elect' parish councils and diocesan congresses to provide assistance and direction to the Church's leadership. Sometimes, but not always, the lay representatives find themselves in conflict with the ordained leadership, the bishops and presbyters, as well as the deacons and the other clergy. Each member of Christ's Body needs to remember that the Holy Spirit is the one who calls us for service. No one should

serve him or her self; each one of us should serve God.

When you read this passage take special note of the closing verses. St. Paul admonishes the Ephesians with tears and kisses. He prays with them and over them. He grieves for the words he has spoken, particularly that he would not see them again. He commends them "to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build [them] up and to give [them] the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (v. 32). By his love he shows how it is God's Word that we need to keep close to our hearts; this is what will build us up.

Finally, he gives us a saying of the Lord that appears nowhere else in the New Testament, not the Gospels nor the other Apostolic writings: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (v. 35). This phrase is so often quoted because of the simple way it captures so much of what Lord taught us. Its truth resonates in our hearts. It also reminds us that not everything the Lord said and did was written down. As the Evangelist John says: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31). This simple truth, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," should guide our lives. As God is generous, so should we be. Following this simple command will strengthen our faith, even as it will certainly change our lives.

Christ has Ascended! ...

He has Ascended in Glory!

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA



## 2019 GRADUATES

*“He has filled them with the spirit of God,  
with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft.”*

(Exodus 35:31)

We want to acknowledge and recognize the achievements of the members of our parish community who are celebrating a graduation.

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Natalia Karadimitriou**, daughter of Kosmas Karadimitriou and Maria Kalpidou, was graduated from Shrewsbury High School. She received the 2019 President’s Education Award and the Shrewsbury High School Achievement Medal and is a member of the National Honors Society. Natalia will be attending Boston University to study Marine Science and Environmental Analysis and Policy.

**William Rucho**, son of Chris & Julie, grandson of Florence Rucho, was graduated from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in the field of plumbing and has been employed by Andrew A. Beardsley Plumbing Company.

**Nicholas Soter**, son of Paul & Kiki, grandson of Carol Soter, was graduated from Doherty Memorial High School and will attend Worcester State University to pursue a degree in Education.

**Kylee Soter**, daughter of Matt and Kate, granddaughter of Carol Soter, was graduated from David Prouty High School and will attend Merrimac College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

**Louis Stamoulis**, son of Evan & Valarie, grandson of Jim & Argie Vlamis, was graduated from Algonquin Regional High School and will attend Elon College in North Carolina to pursue a degree in Exercise Science.

### COLLEGE

**Nicholas Johnson** was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology of athletic training from the University of Rhode Island.

**Matthew Moore**, son of Sharon & Charles, grandson of Janet Samara, was graduated, *cum laude*, from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth with a degree in Bio-medical Engineering and a fellowship from NASA. He will pursue a Master’s Degree.

**Gabrielle Sedares**, daughter of Peter, granddaughter of Eleanor Sedares, was graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Health-care Administration from Arcadia University in PA.

**Eric Soter**, son of Mark & Stacey, grandson of Carol Soter, was graduated with honors from Bryant University with a degree in Accounting. He will pursue a Master’s Degree.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Sarah Bourisk**, daughter of Diane and George, great-niece of Lillian Chachi was graduated from the University of New Haven with a Master’s Degree in Forensic Science.

*May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!*