

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 23, 2019

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**THE APOSTLE'S FAST** begins tomorrow, June 24th and ends on June 29th. A spiritual opportunity to start the summer!

**RELIGIOUS ED WILL CONCLUDE FOR THE SUMMER** with a prayer and a blessing **TODAY, 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!*

**DOUGH ROLLING: THIS COMING 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.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR PLASTIC BAGS.** Our Orthodox Food Pantry is in serious need of plastic shopping bags used to package food given to the visitors every Saturday. (They could use paper bags as well.) Please gather up your supply of extra bags and bring them to Church. The Food Pantry volunteers from our parish will get them to

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
SEAN FAHEY AND MARGARITE LANDRY

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

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINT

APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 11:33-40; 12:1-2

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

TONE 8 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 1

the Pantry located at St. Spyridon Cathedral. *God Bless You!*

**JAMES STAMOULIS** is taking part in a **Project Mexico** team building houses in northern Mexico. He's asking for donations to help with the project. There's a flier attached to the Bulletin. *Questions?* talk to or e-mail him: [jamesstamoulis@icloud.com](mailto:jamesstamoulis@icloud.com)

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** Our next scheduled meal is **August 16th.** Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals

or underwrite the costs.

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS** are needed for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you are interested in sponsoring one.

## 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 scheduling other summer

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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*

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.



## NAMEDAYS

**June 23**

**The Sunday of All the Saints**

Amalia Polymeros

**June 27**

**The Holy Myrrh-bearer Joanna**

Joanne V. Prizio

**June 29**

**The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

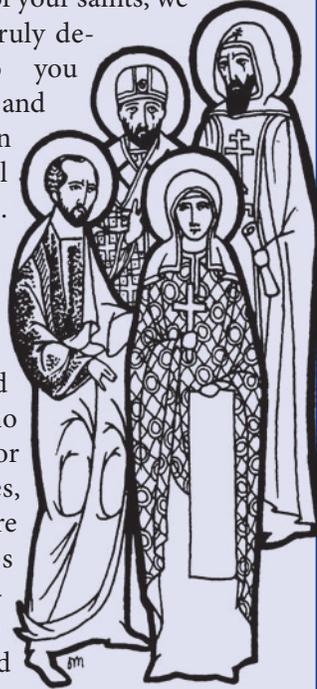
Peter Demetri Tsongalis

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O HOLY TRINITY, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT:** As

we think of your saints, we see how truly devoted to you these men and women were at all times. Filled with the light of your wisdom, and with no thought for themselves, they were always turned toward others, toward all your



creatures. They were friendly to all, compassionate and tender, even-tempered and ready to forgive everyone without exception. Nothing could undo their peace and inner calm, nor could anger or fear or any emotion gain control over them. Free of all vain expectations, they remained intent only on reaching you. Always animated by a deep love for you, they worked solely for your glory in purity of heart. Today, as we honor them, we beseech you to keep the image of their holiness alive in our minds and hearts, so that we, too, may ever live to please you.

For you alone are God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

### FIRST COOKOUT FOR THIS SUMMER!

Thursday June 27th at 11:30 AM. Our Residents and their families look forward to these happy and joyful events held outdoors on the grounds of Holy Trinity. We would like to have 2 cookouts per month this Summer. If you would like to sponsor a cookout event or donate towards the cost, call Malka at Holy Trinity Nursing 508-852-1000. We do accept all major credit cards. The cost of a cookout event is \$1000. Making our residents happy is our first priority!

We will have **Board Member Elections in September**, if anyone is interested in becoming part of the Board of Holy Trinity please contact **Carol Fotos** at [carol.fotos.47@gmail.com](mailto:carol.fotos.47@gmail.com)

**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.

**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.

## THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

**T**HIS IS THE SUNDAY OF “ALL SAINTS” when we remember every holy man and woman who with faith and love followed God. Some of these are honored specifically on particular days during the Church year. Most are known only to God and those people who directly experienced their holy lives. This Sunday closes the Paschal cycle that began four months ago with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee. We are reminded that God’s love for us, expressed in the death and resurrection of His Son, is meant to call each of us to a similar life of faithfulness and holiness.

The Apostolic reading for this day is taken from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2). These verses were chosen because they conclude a long list of people who St. Paul uses as examples of faith and trust in God. In this Letter he is trying to convince his fellow Jews that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He wants to convince them that the entire Hebrew people have been waiting for this moment. He begins his argument with this famous definition of ‘faith’: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible” (11:1-3). He then cites many examples of people who lived and acted by faith: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab.

Today’s reading begins: “For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets” (v. 32) who through their faith worked wonders. He tells of their victories in battle, their power over forces of nature and wild animals, and their ability to raise the dead. He also speaks of the sacrifices and sufferings they endured. Some were tortured; others were mocked and flogged, chained and imprisoned. Still others were stoned

to death or run through by a sword. Many of the prophets went around dressed in animal skins, wandering in deserts and mountains, living in caves and holes in the ground (v. 35-38). Then St. Paul adds, “of whom the world was not worthy.”

The examples he offers illustrate a balanced perspective on a life of Faith. He speaks both of the extraordinary things that God did through and with these people of faith, but he also shows us the great sacrifices these people made. Most importantly, he tells us of their desire to follow God, in whom they have placed all of their trust, with full assurance of the reality of things hoped for.

He concludes this recounting of exceptional people and amazing deeds with this remarkable statement: “Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect” (v. 39-40). These people lived their lives awaiting us! The “something better” is our participation in God’s plan of salvation, God’s plan for us and the whole of creation. The wait, along with the God who, “desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

One of the central truths that God reveals to us is that all of humanity, indeed all of creation, is connected and bound together. There are two ancient Christian sayings that are intended to help us remember this. They are: ‘one Christian is no Christian,’ and ‘we are saved with others but we perish alone.’ The first tells us that you cannot be a Christian in isolation; we all need each other. The second tells us that we work out our salvation with one another; when we go it alone we perish. St. Paul gives these saying an added dimension. He speaks not only of people we know and live with. He says that God has also

connected us to those who came before us and those who will come after.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (v. 12:1). It is in the example of faith in this “cloud of witnesses” that we find the encouragement and courage to run the race before us. Oftentimes we find ourselves tired and discouraged, or beset by temptations and sinful distractions, this is precisely when we need to call on our ‘friends’ for help.

In the Holy Scriptures we read of the sufferings and temptations of those who went before us. In their example we find encouragement. In their lives we find people not unlike ourselves who struggled with the same life difficulties as us. They model the way of hope, firmly believing in “things not seen.”

St. Paul tells us to look to “Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (v. 12:2) who is our ultimate example. He is ‘pioneer’ both because he’s the trail-blazer, and also because he leads us. He shows us the way. He perfects and completes our faith; he brings to fulfillment that inward desire we have to be everything God intends us to be.

And in order that we not become demoralized and dispirited by our own struggles, St. Paul reminds us that “for the sake of the joy that was set before him, [Jesus] endured the cross, disregarding its shame” (v. 2).

In the saints—the ones on the Church calendar, and those whom only God knows; the ones who went before us, and the ones present in our midst—we find people like ourselves. We find brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, who can and will encourage us to finish the race.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA