

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN AUGUST 4, 2019

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL starts tomorrow (August 5-7). **PARENTS**, if you haven't signed up yet, please be sure to talk to or e-mail Valarie Stamoulis: valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com; cell: 617-803-3798.

OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL is Friday, August 16th. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), **NOON** Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), **1PM** Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), **5:30PM** Friday. We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **Saturday, August 17th**. This is an opportunity for our parish to help our local community while helping the environment. If you're able and willing to help, please speak with **Gerry Belba**.

GOT A QUESTION? Fr. Nick is looking for **Summer Sermon Topics**. Perhaps you've wondered what a particular practice or prayer means? Or how it developed? There's no question too small. If you've been wondering, be assured others have as well. **Send your questions or**

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 AFTER PENTECOST

† APOSTOLIC READING: ROMANS 15:1-7 † GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:27-35

(JESUS HEALS TWO BLIND AND ONE MUTE IN CAPERNAUM)

† TONE 6 † MATINS GOSPEL 7

ideas along to him at: FrNick@StNicholasChurch.org, or write it down and give it to him on Sunday.

WE'VE COMMISSIONED A PROSKINITARION for the Relics and Icon of St. Nicholas that our parish received from the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy through His Grace Bishop Siluan, and Fr. Daniel Ene. Fr. Nicolae Simion of Wakefield is sculpting this wood-carved Icon stand which we hope to be ready for the Feastday. The cost is \$3,000 and we are asking for donations to cover the cost. If you have any questions, and/or would like to donate toward it, speak with Fr. Nick or Tim.

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish yesterday. Our regular com-

mitment 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 September 7th.

COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY is sponsored by **Janice Samara**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thurs, Aug 1 Dormition Fast Began
- Sat, Aug 3 Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON
- Aug 5-7 Vacation Church School
- Tues, Aug 6 Transfiguration, Lit - Marlboro 8:30 AM
Supplication Service, 6:30 PM
- Thurs, Aug 8 Supplication Service, 6:30 PM
- Tues, Aug 13 Supplication Service, 6:30 PM
- Wed, Aug 14 Dormition Vespers, St. Mary's 6:00 PM
- Thurs, Aug 15 Dormition Lit, St. Mary's - 8:00 AM
- Fri, Aug 16 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 PM
- Sat, Sept 7 Staff Food Pantry, 9AM-NOON
- December 7-8 70TH Anniversary celebration

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

COMMUNITY NEWS

STS. ANARGYROI in Marlborough will be holding their annual Festival, Labor Day weekend: Aug 31-Sept 2.

NAMEDAYS

August 8

The Holy New

Martyr Triandaphyllos

Rose Armida Salerno

August 15

The Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos

Maria Blanchard

Mary Cocaine

Maria Dumitriu

Monika Maria Durmillari

Maria Kalpidou

Maria Prelipcean

Nancy Maria Tsongalis

Marietta Zaruha

AUGUST LENTEN SERVICES

Dormition Fast Period (Aug 1-15)

- ❖ **Divine Liturgy** for Transfiguration at St. Anargyroi, Tuesday, August 6, 8:30 AM
- ❖ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 PM
- ❖ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Thursday, August 8, 6:30 PM
- ❖ **Supplication Service** to the Theotokos at St. Nick's, Tuesday, August 13, 6:30 PM
- ❖ **Dormition Vespers** — St. Mary's, Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 PM
- ❖ **Divine Liturgy** at St. St. Mary's, Thursday, August 15, 8:00 am

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

THE LATEST ISSUE of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available at www.htnr.net.

SAVE THE DATE for Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center **25TH Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2019** at St. George Cathedral, 30 Anna St., Worcester. To Reserve for the Dinner Dance Event, purchase an ad in our program book and to purchase Raffle Tickets call or e-mail: kmironidis@htnr.net for more information. 508-852-1000

Holy Trinity provides a comprehensive **rehabilitation program of Physical, Occupational and Speech/Language Therapies**. Call 508-852-1000 for more information.

JOB OPENING: Part-time (12 hours) activities, must be flexible and able to work every other weekend. Call Dana Spinney, Activities Director, 508-852-1000

Holy Trinity will be hosting a presentation regarding **Home Health Care Benefits for Veterans. Wednesday, August 7th, 2019** at 5:45pm.

We will have **Board Member Elections in September**, if anyone is interested in serving on the Board of Holy Trinity please contact **Carol Fotos** at carol.fotos.47@gmail.com

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.



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

SOURCE AND ORIGIN of the sun and the moon and the stars, of heaven and earth and all that is, O designer and creator of all things, visible and tangible, as well as hidden from our mind and our senses: Your wisdom and love inspire your church to celebrate the feast of the transfiguration of your Son. On Tabor, in a wondrous and unfathomable way, he gave his friends an insight into who he really is. Now, during this feast, we entreat you to open our minds and our hearts to the mystery of his person, that, by ever contemplating his passion, death, and resurrection, we may portray this understanding in our lives and abide in a lasting fellowship with him and with each other.

By the grace and mercies and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

THIS Sunday, the seventh after Pentecost, we conclude reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. Today's selection — Romans 15:1-7 — are his final words of encouragement to the Roman Christians. There is an epilogue that follows in which he tells them of his future travel plans and his intention to visit Rome, as well as greetings to a number of people whom he knows in Rome, but the verses that we read today close his spiritual and theological advice to them.

In the opening line he uses a rhetorical device to win them over, to open their hearts to listen to what will follow. He tells them, "We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (v. 1). In this one phrase, "we who are strong," he compliments them by both calling them 'strong' and also identifying them with himself.

He tells them that the strong need to 'bear' or 'put up with' the failings of the weak. The one Greek word (βαστάζειν) he uses holds both of these meanings, and each one applies equally as well to the context. The strong 'ought' (this is an ethical imperative) to both endure and carry the failings of weaker brothers and sisters and put aside their own comfort, but with a purpose.

"Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor" (v. 2). Whether we either 'put up with' or 'carry' the weaknesses of our brother or sister, it is toward a specific end: their edification. The Greek word St. Paul uses, 'oikodomen' (οικοδομήν) is similar to the English word 'edify' in the sense that at the root of both is the word 'house' or 'building.' Whatever we do as Christians should also have a social dimension. This phrase resonates with other images that St. Paul uses — for example, the Church as Christ's Body (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12ff; Romans 12:4ff) — to explain this responsibility we have as individual Christians to the whole body. So, when

we build up our neighbor, our objective is also to strengthen the whole 'structure' of Christ's Body.

He then directs us to look at our Lord's example: "For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me' (Psalm 69:10)" (v. 3). In one sense, all of St. Paul's argumentation in the Letter have been leading to this point. He offers us the example of Christ, and then invites us to meditate on it and then follow Him.

In his Letter to the Philippians St. Paul says of Christ that "He emptied Himself" (2:7). But here he wants us to focus not simply on the Incarnation — that He became human for us. Rather, he wants us see the full extent to which He 'bore' our failings. Jesus not only became human, but He was ill-treated, became a person of ill-repute, was seen as someone weak and of no account, all for our sake. In a word: He suffered. His 'not pleasing Himself' meant a real sacrifice on His part. It will require the same from us.

In order that we might not lose heart, St. Paul tells us that our Lord gave us His example in order to strengthen and encourage us. In quoting from Psalm 69, he wants us to understand that Christ's sacrifice is part of God's whole plan for us. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (v.4)

It is not an easy thing to bear one another's burdens. This is why St. Paul reminds us of what exactly might be required of us by offering the example of Christ. Regardless of how 'strong' we might think ourselves, without God's help we will find it impossible to accomplish.

St. Paul directs us to the Scriptures — where the history of God's engagement with humanity is recorded — for instruction and encouragement. By

using the tools offered us in the Sacred Writings, our steadfast commitment to follow the Lord will be filled with hope. Without this hope we will find it impossible to take up the kind of life to which God calls not only us, but all of humanity.

He then bestows a blessing on the Roman Christians. "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (v. 6-7). Many of the blessings that we use in the Services of our Church, especially those offered during the Diving Liturgy, echo this blessing. It asks that God our Father grant us the strength to persevere so that we might be able to live together in peace and harmony.

Harmony is a wonderful word to express the unity of life to which we strive. Those who have sung in a choir or played in an orchestra know that each musician offers their particular note and rhythm. When each one is doing exactly as they are supposed to the outcome is magnificent. The whole becomes much more than the sum of the parts. The result is a peaceful beauty that uplifts. On the other hand, if even one person is 'off key' the result is a sourness that can be like the scratching of nails on a blackboard.

In order to realize this harmony, we must "welcome one another ... just as Christ has welcomed [us], for the glory of God." (v. 7) Last week I spoke about the virtue of hospitality. What is asked of us here is more than hospitality. It is the opening of our hearts and the offering of ourselves to one another, just as Christ has opened His heart toward us. It is not only the emptying of ourselves, but the filling of ourselves with love for our neighbor, bearing their burdens in order to build them up.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA