

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, June 14, 2020

The First Sunday After Pentecost

The Sunday of All Saints

Apostolic Reading: Hebrews 11, 33-40; 12, 1-2

Gospel: Matthew 10, 32-33; 37-38 & 19, 27-30

Tone 8 • Matins Gospel 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARTICIPATING IN SERVICES. Last weekend we successfully and safely reopened the Church and were grateful to once again have the faithful present for the Divine Liturgy.

As a reminder, here are the [Guidelines](#) for attending Church services. Everyone **must wear a mask** while present, and for time being we will limit attendance to approximately **30 people**. Please follow the directions of Parish Council members at all times as they will ensure it is controlled and safe for all.

THE LIVE-STREAMING OF THE LITURGY WILL CONTINUE. For the indefinite future, you will still be able to access the live-stream of Divine Services. Go to: www.stnicholaschurch.org and click on "**Live Streaming of Services**"

- ***To view previous Services*** on our YouTube Channel, [click here](#).

ORTHODOX FOOD PANTRY UPDATE. The Food Pantry has reopened to serve the needs of our community. Volunteers will have PPE (masks and gloves) and there is a new plexi-glass screen at the check-in desk. **Additional help is needed now and in the coming weeks**

because many of the regular volunteers may not be in a position to return just yet. For more information, contact [Lisa Demake](#) or [Nicole Apostola](#).

SERIES ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY. The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America has worked with OCAMPR through the Mental Health Task Force to develop a series on Mental Health and Orthodox Faith. The first episode is titled, "[Understanding Mental Health.](#)" The relationship between science and faith has a long history in the Church, and is relevant to contemporary mental health theory and Orthodox theology and faith.

STEWARDSHIP. This is a difficult time for everyone, on so many levels. One is economic. But if you are able, please continue to send what stewardship offering that you feel you can afford. Keep in mind that **the Church is also in the same situation.** There are on-going expenses. You may mail any contributions to the Church address, or you may give on-line, at the parish website by [clicking here](#). God bless you and keep you safe!

WE HAVE A COVID FUND. There are people both in our parish and who come to the Church who are in need. There will very likely be even more as this situation continues. **If you need help,** whatever it might be, including financial assistance, please contact Fr. Nick. We'll find a way to assist you. **ALSO,** we are asking the faithful in our parish **WHO ARE ABLE,** to perhaps contribute toward this fund. We've set up a small committee, headed by Fr. Nick, to administer this fund, and distribute what we're able to give as equitably as possible. **May God keep us all!**

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER. You already know that Fr. Nick maintains a Parish Diptych. He remembers all of the members of the Parish, living and dead, as he prepares the Holy Offering at every Liturgy. But each one of us has a part in that prayer as well. Sometimes we bake a Prosphora and bring it, along with names of people who need our prayers, to be remembered during the Liturgy. Very often, when we enter the Church we light a candle, or two or three, as another kind of offering for people we love. The distancing imposed upon us has definitely put a crimp in these and other beautiful practices, but here's a suggestion. **Send the names of people you'd especially like to be remember** to Fr. Nick. He'll make sure they are prayed for during the Liturgy. If you'd like to have **candles lit as well,** make a note on the message that you send, and we'll make sure candles are offered. If you'd like to **make a donation,** that would be a help for our Parish. Either mail it to the Church address, or give on-line by [clicking here](#).

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE CHURCH. If you have information or a notice to share in the Church bulletin, please send that to Bulletin@stnicholaschurch.org. Likewise, questions or information for the Parish Council may be addressed to ParishCouncil@stnicholaschurch.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I hope this finds you and your families healthy. I have missed seeing you all on Sundays and am excited as we begin to re-open church services.

I met with all of the Sunday school teachers this week to discuss end of the year activities for our students. **We would like to have a final “end of the school year” meeting with the kids.** During this meeting, Father Nick will do the end of the year prayer and be able to talk to the kids before he leaves us this summer. We thought this would give the kids an opportunity to chat with Father and be together prior to their summer vacation.

End of the School Year Meeting

Date: Saturday, 6/27

Time: 12-1pm

Place: St. Nicholas Church (grass area & parking lot)

Please **RSVP** to Valarie at valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com or 617-803-3798.

We will be adhering by all the Covid 19 protocols during our meeting. Kids will need to bring a mask with them. We will be outside and maintain social distance. Hand sanitizer and bathrooms will be available for kids to clean their hands.

We plan to serve lunch during this time. If this is something you are not comfortable with, please feel free to bring your own food or feed your child prior to the meeting.

This will be a great opportunity for your kids to socialize with their Sunday school teachers and Father Nick. Any questions or concerns feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all on June 27.

God Bless,

Valarie

MUSTARD SEED MEALS

MUSTARD SEED MEALS. As we continue to move forward with re-opening St. Nicholas Church, we would like to restart our practice supporting The Mustard Seed in its mission to provide meals to those in need. However, like many things, there are changes to the way that they are meeting this need. **Rather than preparing a hot meal to be served at The Mustard Seed, all meals are being distributed “to go” only.** Therefore, The Mustard Seed is recommending we provide a “meal in a bag” to include a sandwich, fruit, and packaged snacks (such as chips, crackers, cookies, “go-gurts”) – with each meal assembled in a paper bag. The bags are to be dropped off at The Mustard Seed to be distributed by their regular staff of volunteers. Ideally they would like to have between 125 and 150 bagged meals to distribute.

With appropriate social distancing, hygiene and protective wear (masks and gloves) **we believe that we can safely prepare the sandwiches in the kitchen and assemble the bagged meals using the hall.** We especially think this would be a good opportunity for a household/family group to do together. We have volunteer shoppers ready to purchase all of the supplies for the meals to be assembled. **If you/your family would like to help with this, please call or contact Betty Anderson by email bettya16@verizon.net or by phone 508-353-9449.**

Donations to help defray the cost for the meals is also needed and greatly appreciated. **Donations can be made to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – online or by check.** Please note that the donation is for “The Mustard Seed meals”. We would like to be able to provide at least two meals this summer (July and August). Additional information will be forthcoming.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

A message from Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (6/4/20)

Holy Trinity In The News! - Please click [here](#) and read the FRONT PAGE story in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette about Holy Trinity

Update - There are currently 2 residents that are positive (not acquired at Holy Trinity), and 80 negative residents (53 are fully recovered, and 27 have always tested negative). We continue to have and use appropriate levels of PPE (personal protection equipment). This is a testament to the staff's tireless work and care to ensure that the facility is meeting all safety standards. Sadly, there have been 10 deaths attributable to Covid-19 at Holy Trinity since the beginning of March. Holy Trinity continues to admit all residents that need-long term care or short-term rehabilitation services, and care for them in the safest, and most caring manner possible no matter what their pre-existing condition.

Resident IN PERSON Visits - At this time, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health is allowing in-person, outside visits with residents, provided certain safety conditions are met. If you would like to schedule an in-person visit, window time, or video call please click [here](#) to complete a visit form. You will receive a follow up email and/or phone call with details about your scheduled visit. Please do not call the center to schedule a visit.

Staff Thank You Meals – Holy Trinity has made the tough decision to curtail the staff meals down to one day per weekday and one day per weekend. Everyone has been extremely generous with their contributions and we are continuing to take donations to fund these meals twice a week. Please visit our [website](#) to see the many generous friends who have supported Holy Trinity during this challenging time, and the many local restaurants that have contributed with meal deliveries. This week's meals were prepared by Garden Fresh Courthouse Café, New England Roast Beef, Thai and I, Bagel Inn, Ted's Pizza, Boomer's Subs and Deli (donated by The Son's of St. Mary's), and The Flying Rhino. We thank everyone who has put their time and effort into this undertaking!

Job Openings – Check out the open positions at Holy Trinity [here](#) to join a wonderful team!

Orthodox Links

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia](#) of the Americas

[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)

[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)

[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)

[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)

[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

Dates To Remember

June 15 thru 28 - Apostles' Fast

June 27 - Sunday School End of Year Meeting

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www.StNicholasChurch.org
Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am