

## ***News from St. Nick's***

**Sunday, November 1, 2020**

**Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost**

***The Holy Doctors Cosmas and Damian***

***Apostolic Reading: Galatians 6:11-18***

***Gospel: Luke 16:19-31***

***(The Rich Man and Lazaros)***

***Tone 4 • Matins Gospel 10***

➔ For COVID Guidelines, [click here](#)

➔ For Live Streaming Link, [click here](#)

**— Remember to set clocks *BACK* an hour! —**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NICOLAE*** has recommended for consideration by the parish ***Rev. Fr. Vasile Aileni to be the next parish priest for St. Nicholas.*** Fr. Vasile is currently serving a parish in the Toronto area under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Canada. The parish council has met with him several times over the last few weeks, via Zoom. Fr. Vasile has agreed, along with his family, to accept this proposal. We will be setting up an opportunity in the next weeks for him to speak directly with the parish with the possibility of questions and answers. Unfortunately, because of the border restrictions during the pandemic, he will not be able to visit the parish until he and his family receive the proper visa.

Before His Eminence formally appoints Fr. Vasile to the position at St. Nicholas, a number of procedures and approvals will be necessary. The parish council will have to give its assent. Fr. Vasile has been accepted into the Archdiocese, but for appointment to another parish. His Eminence will need to change the appointment, now to St. Nicholas, after consultation with the Archdiocesan Council. In addition, a formal request to the USCIS (Immigration) will have to be filed for an R-1 visa. While the Church process is relatively straight forward, the delays with USCIS can take some time. We will keep all of you regularly updated.

**WE ARE SADDENED TO LEARN** of the *falling-asleep of Fr. Solon S. Tsandikos* this past Tuesday. Fr. Solon was pastor for many years of St. Spyridon Cathedral, and also served the parishes in Fitchburg and Clinton. His funeral is Saturday, at St. Spyridon. For the full obituary and more information, [click here](#). **May his memory be eternal!**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR HOLY TRINITY RESIDENTS.** Each year the Orthodox Community has the blessed opportunity to give Christmas Gifts to the residents of Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation. Our Parish is responsible for providing 15 gifts, such as throws and slippers. Eleanor Sedares and Deb Sedares are coordinating the effort, and have a list of items residents would like to receive. Please contact Eleanor or Deb if you would like to participate. We ask that you purchase and wrap the gift and bring it to the Church no later than Sunday, December 6. Call Eleanor Sedares: 508-753-3106, Deb Sedares: 508-509-6678 or [dsedares@pinehills.com](mailto:dsedares@pinehills.com).

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SERVICES.** You may attend Liturgy on Sundays at church. **Of course the usual COVID rules apply.** Here are the [Guidelines](#) for attending Church services. Please follow the directions of ushers for everyone's safety.

**WE ARE LIVE-STREAMING THE LITURGY.** If you can not physically attend church, you may access the live-stream of Divine Services. Go to: [www.stnicholaschurch.org](http://www.stnicholaschurch.org) and click on "**Live Streaming of Services**". To view previous Services on our YouTube Channel, [click here](#).

**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 in the larger community who are in need during this time. **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!**

## **HOLY TRINITY NEWS**

**HOLY TRINITY HAS RECEIVED A 4-STAR RATING** from CMS (The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) which is **part of the Department of Health and Human Services**. This rating recognizes our commitment to the safety and quality healthcare of the residents. **Kudos to the staff who deserve our thanks. We are extremely proud of them.**

**ON THE COVID-19 FRONT**–Holy Trinity continues biweekly testing of 50% of staff per state directives, and continues to have deficiency-free infection control state surveys.

**THERE ARE JOB OPENINGS AVAILABLE AT HOLY TRINITY**, such as: Director of Advancement; Certified Nurse Assistant; Dietary Aides; and more. [Click here](#) for a full listing with detailed job descriptions. People familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

**FAMILY COUNCIL'S** next meeting will be on **Saturday, November 14 at 1 pm**. Each monthly meeting is hosted by the Administrator and one member of the Management team. Keep an eye out for the invitation by either text or e-mail.

**VISITATIONS ARE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED**, following the COVID-19 guidelines! These visits must be scheduled, and may be held outside (weather permitting) or in the three designated indoor locations. Compassionate visits may also be scheduled. Facetime and phone calls are encouraged for all residents. Item drop-offs are welcome as well. To schedule a visit, contact the Activities Staff through the main number: 508-852-1000. Please check the [COVID-19 page \(click here\)](#) for more information. Protocols are constantly changing.

**RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ARE ON-GOING**. Weather permitting, outside entertainment continues and residents can enjoy music via their windows. **Pumpkin decorating** was successful, and three winners were chosen on October 28. Similarly, **National Chocolate Day** was celebrated on October 28th with a surprise chocolate treat. **National Donut Day** will be celebrated on November 5th. The main dining room and unit dining rooms are open for meals as well. And, the Hairdresser is back by appointment.

**DIVINE LITURGY** is celebrated every Wednesday at 9:30a.m.

## **A Prayer of Fr. Laurence**

[Let us pray to the Lord,](#)

**Lord, you who know everything:** The eyes of our minds and hearts are not so perceptive as we would like to think. Therefore, enable us to recognize the subtleties of meaning in the various situations of life, applying, where possible, the appropriate response to the questions and problems that confront us daily. And give us wisdom and prudence, so that we may always do what is right in a manner that pleases you.

For yours is dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Even if Someone Should Rise from the Dead**

**The Gospel lesson this week is taken from St. Luke (16:19-31).** It is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazaros. This parable is unique in a number of ways. First, it appears only in the Gospel of Luke. Second, it gives us an important insight into the “next life,” and the judgment to come. And third, we learn something about names—how our very identity is captured in our name.

Very few places in the whole of the Bible tell us so clearly of the judgment to come, and the nature of Heaven and Hell, as does this parable. While there are many places in the Gospels where the Lord urges us to be virtuous and speaks to us of the importance of choosing correctly between the comforts of this life and the rewards of the world to come, here we clearly see the consequences of our choices. Lazaros rests in the bosom of Abraham with the righteous. The Rich Man is tormented in Hades.

It is interesting that we never learn the Rich Man’s name. He is only referred to by his “class.” On the other hand, we learn the poor beggar’s name at the very outset. We live in a culture where names are given and used freely. We address people we hardly know by their first name, where once this privilege was reserved for only one’s most cherished relatives and friends. To know a person’s name is to know them intimately. When Moses encounters God in the burning bush and God gives him the mission to free the children of Israel from Pharaoh’s bondage, the first thing he asks of God is, “What is your name?” (Exodus 3:13) To know His name is to know something about Him. In fact the name that God gives Moses — “I AM” — reveals a great deal about Himself. He is the Existing One.

And so, the Lord gives us Lazaros’ name so that we might know him. Because we know his name he becomes a real person to us. The Rich Man has no name. In his greed and selfishness we know him only by these character traits; he is not worthy of a name. Lazaros sat begging every day outside of the Rich Man’s house. While there is no way he could not have noticed him, still Lazaros was invisible to him. Now, without a name, the Rich Man is “invisible” to us.

How many people do we see on the streets who look to us for kindness, and yet they remain invisible to us? And while we live in a society where there are various forms of institutional assistance, if we have learned anything from our work at the Orthodox Food Pantry or at the Mustard Seed, it is that it’s not only the destitute who are hungry, but also working people who cannot make ends meet on their wages. Even a middle-class family can be thrown into the situation of Lazaros by a devastating illness for which they have no medical coverage, the sudden loss of a job, or by a crisis in the economy. We have now been seized by a pandemic that has shaken the very foundations of our social order. People become deathly ill by a virus that has come seemingly from no where. The economy that was slowly recovering is now frayed. Very little is certain and we’ve come to expect the impossible. In a very real way we all feel as though we could easily become Lazaros.

Finally, we learn about the nature of repentance. In the picture that the Lord gives us of Heaven and Hell, the one thing that has always fascinated me is that there is an ability to communicate

between the two realms. Each can see and talk to the other. Each knows of the other's condition. And yet, when the Rich Man asks of Abraham that he send Lazaros to comfort him, we learn of a "gulf" or "chasm" between the two places which cannot be crossed. They could communicate, but no one could pass from one realm to the other. There would be no comfort given to the Rich Man by water on the fingertips of Lazaros. This is a symbol of the unalterable destiny between the saved and the lost.

Yet even in this situation the Rich Man has not lost his arrogance. He asks to have Lazaros sent to his brothers so that they might repent before suffering a similar fate. Abraham explains that repentance does not spring from witnessing miracles, but from a true change of heart. He tells him: "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." When the Rich Man protests, Abraham replies further, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (v. 29, 31). Miracles alone will not convince any one of us to believe if our heart is not willing to receive the Word.

A more subtle point that we should note is that the Rich Man, even while he is suffering torment because of his sin, because of his neglect of Lazaros who lay before him all those years, never actually addresses Lazaros, never calls him by name. He speaks only to Abraham and through him wants to order poor Lazaros around as though he is nothing. Even in his punishment, the "poor" Rich Man has learned nothing.

May God save us from this fate!

Fr. Nicholas Apostola

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## 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)

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## Dates To Remember

Saturday, Nov 7 - Food Pantry (9 AM - NOON)

Friday, December 18 - Mustard Seed Meal Prep (1:30 PM - 3:30 PM)

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[www.StNicholasChurch.org](http://www.StNicholasChurch.org)  
*Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am*