

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

## **Sunday, June 27, 2021**

### **The Sunday of All the Saints** **(The First Sunday after Pentecost)**

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**Apostolic Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2**  
**Gospel: Matthew 10:32-35; 37-38; 19: 27-30**

**Tone 8 • Resurrection Gospel 1**

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

**([Click here for a PDF version of this week's news](#))**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS WILL PRESENT A PASCHA PAGEANT** that they have been working very hard on, at the end of Liturgy **TODAY, Sunday, June 27th. Please plan on attending. It will be something you'll remember!** Also, we'll have a prayer and a blessing as we conclude the Religious Education school year.

**THE FAST OF Ss PETER & PAUL** begins tomorrow, Monday June 28th and ends with the Feast on June 29th. It is a one-day fast this year.

**IN KEEPING WITH CDC GUIDELINES**, masks are required for people who have **NOT** been fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated, mask-wearing is optional. Hand-washing and physical distancing are strongly encouraged. We all need to remember the goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible and encourage each one of us to feel comfortable attending Liturgy.

**FOOD PANTRY.** Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center, **THIS COMING Saturday, July 3rd from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. Help is also needed during the week for shopping and stocking the Pantry. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at [nicole.apostola@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.apostola@gmail.com).

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING** is **Saturday, July 10th** from 9 am to 2 pm. Gerry Belba is coordinating, and we need about 3 people to help with traffic and coordination. Please contact him: [vgbelba@msn.com](mailto:vgbelba@msn.com).

**ALL THINGS ORTHODOX** is a weekly show hosted by Fr. Christopher Stamas of St. Spyridon Cathedral. Fr. Chris interviews people active in the life of the Church on questions of faith and action. It is aired on the **Worcester Cable channel 194** on **Mondays** at 7 pm, **Saturdays** at 8 pm and **Sundays** at 9 pm. Also look for it on the Cable website: [wccatv.com](http://wccatv.com), or the **Worcester TV** Roku app.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS NEEDS YOUR INPUT!** The **Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Assembly's Mental Health Task Forces, takes only 15 minutes and consists of approximately 30 questions. All information you provide is completely anonymous and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in your community. [Click here](#) to go directly to the web page to complete the survey.

## **UPCOMING**

**PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE!** Vacation Church School this summer will be **August 4-6.** We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when scheduling other summer activities for your children. Details will be forthcoming.

## **HOLY TRINITY NEWS**

**HOLY TRINITY ANNOUNCES NEW CEO/ADMINISTRATOR.** Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is pleased to announce that Rodolfo Parra will be joining the organization as the permanent CEO and Administrator. Mr. Parra will provide leadership in the management of the day-to-day operations of the facility and will also serve as the primary liaison for residents, families, community parishes and the general public. He has been a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator for about 12 years and has experience working in privately owned facilities, large for-profit companies, as well as non-profit communities. Mr. Parra holds a bachelor's degree from Lake Forest College and a long-term health care management graduate certificate from the University of Connecticut, School of Business. Mr. Parra's official start date is July 6, and he will be working with interim CEO Dan Burns to ensure a smooth transition.

**NEW ADMISSIONS.** As many skilled nursing facilities in MA are facing closure, Holy Trinity remains a top choice for both long-term care and short-term rehab. To inquire about admissions or to schedule a tour, please call (508) 852-1000.

**VOLUNTEERS.** We are especially excited to invite back our church groups who may be interested in hosting a luncheon or coffee social or assisting with liturgy. We also are looking for someone who is interested in leading a Men's Group (card games, sports, model cars), assisting with Greek Club, or lending their artistic talents in the areas of painting, sewing, knitting, etc. Those who are fully vaccinated may be considered to volunteer. Please call [Donna](#) with the Activities department at (508) 852-1000 to discuss one of the many ways you can lend a helping hand.

**REHABILITATION.** Are you noticing changes in your loved one's physical or cognitive abilities? Are you unsure if it's just normal aging or something that needs to be addressed? At Holy Trinity, our talented short-term rehabilitation team works with both the patient and the family to provide individualized assessments and treatment plans. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

**JOB OPENINGS.** Come join the amazing team at Holy Trinity! We have openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts, including sign on bonuses and great benefits. [Click here](#) for a full listing with detailed job descriptions. If you have questions, please contact the Human Resources Generalist, [Kimberly Hescocock](#). Recent grads and people familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

**DIVINE LITURGY** continues in-person for residents on Wednesday mornings. We welcome volunteers and visitors who would like to be involved.

**STAY CONNECTED.** Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos. Residents have been busy enjoying a full schedule of activities, including a Father's Day social, gardening, baking club, and a Hawaiian luau barbeque.

## 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)

## A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

*Let us pray to the Lord*

**Eternal, self-subsistent God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:** The entire creation that surrounds and includes us glorifies your ineffable divinity: The rustling of the leaves in the breeze and the buzz of insects in the fields, the warmth of the sun and the chill of the frost, the beauty of a smile and the anguished expression of those in pain. The genius of your wisdom and goodness whispers to us, no matter where we turn, gently telling us that this wondrous creation is the arena of our struggle for holiness and wholeness. And what is this struggle, if not coming to know, love, and serve you in all our brothers and sisters, if not becoming like you, servants and lovers of all! Today, as we celebrate the memory of all those who engaged in this struggle before us, we ask you to help us do the same, so that, with them, we, too, may one day enjoy your presence in the eternal kingdom.

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

## The Cloud of Witnesses

**This 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. They 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 trailblazer, 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.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Sun, June 27** Religious Ed, Pascha Pageant  
**Mon, June 28** Apostles Fast Begins  
**Tues, June 29** Feast of Ss Peter and Paul  
**Sat, July 3** Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon  
**Sat, July 10** e-Recycling and more 9am-2pm  
**Aug 4-6** Vacation Church School  
**Sat, Aug 7** Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon

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*Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am*