

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

## **Sunday, August 22, 2021**

### **The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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**Apostolic Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17**  
**Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34**  
**(Jesus Walks on the Sea and Calms the Storm)**

**Tone 8 • Resurrection Gospel 9**

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

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE CDC HAS REVISED ITS MASKING GUIDELINES** due to the increase in infections because of the highly contagious Delta variant. It recommends that **people vaccinated against the coronavirus resume wearing masks** in public indoor spaces and schools where the virus is surging, and that **unvaccinated persons seek a vaccine** as soon as possible. Following this recommendation, we are now asking that all persons attending the Divine Services wear masks until the numbers are more favorable.

**THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS!** who shopped for and prepared the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 100 people in need each day. We want to thank **Joanne Prizio** for underwriting the costs for this month's meal! God bless the volunteers and the sponsors! Our next scheduled meal is October 15th. Please contact **Deb Sedares** by [e-mail](#) or phone 508-509-6678 if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**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](#), or the **Worcester TV** Roku app.

**STS. ANARGYROI** in Marlborough will be holding their annual Greek Festival, Labor Day weekend: September 4th-6th. For more information check out their [website](#).

**STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN** in Webster will be holding their annual Greek Festival, Saturday and Sunday, September 11th-12th. For more information check out their [website](#).

## **HOLY TRINITY NEWS**

**COVID UPDATE.** Per the new DPH guidelines, all visitors to the building will continue to be screened and offered a rapid Covid test. If a visitor is fully vaccinated and their loved one is fully vaccinated, as well as their roommate, you may visit in the room. Masks must be worn at all times, regardless of vaccination status. If you are not vaccinated, you may visit outside or in a designated space. We also continue to offer virtual and electronic communication. All Holy Trinity employees will be fully vaccinated by October 10th in accordance with the state mandate.

**NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS.** Holy Trinity is excited to welcome Karen Barry as its new Director of Admissions. Karen graduated from Quinnipiac University with a B.S. in Health Science and an A.S. in Physical Therapist Assistant from Massachusetts Bay Community College. She has been a Licensed PTA for 24 years, with a primary focus on Rehab in Skilled Nursing settings as both a staff PTA and an Assistant Director of Rehab at Marian Ann Morse in Natick, and Bethany Skilled Nursing and Carlyle House in Framingham. Her other experiences include acute hospital setting, homecare, outpatient

physical therapy, and education. Since beginning work at Holy Trinity in June 2020, she has developed relationships with both residents and staff that have become invaluable and expects that her past work experiences will be helpful in her new role. To inquire about admissions or to schedule a tour, please e-mail Karen or call (508) 852-1000, ext. 213.

**[HOLY TRINITY IS SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS](#)** as we have a few terms ending in September. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunity to volunteer for one of these positions, as we guide Holy Trinity into the future, please email Board Chair, Steve Fotos.

**[REHABILITATION. You have the choice when it comes to short-term rehab.](#)** We offer outstanding services in our extraordinary, Medicare-certified center, including physical, occupational, and speech therapies. For nearly 25 years we've been helping patients restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit physical disabilities from injuries or disease. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, Heather Walsh.

**[JOB OPENINGS.](#)** Looking to begin a new career in healthcare, but not sure how to get started? While we are always in need of experienced Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), we also offer training for those interested in the field. An essential role in the care of our residents, CNAs follow care plans to help facilitate daily living and healthcare needs. Our ideal candidate is compassionate, team-oriented, and has strong attention to detail. [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. The highlights of this week's activities were an ice cream truck social sponsored by the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society and a coffee social with St. Mary's Church. If your parish, social group, or family may be interested in sponsoring an activity or funding a specific need for our residents, please contact our Director of Development & Communications, [Mackenzie Koch](#).

**[HOLY TRINITY HAS RECEIVED A DEFICIENCY-FREE SURVEY](#)** result from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). The deficiency-free rating is one of the top indicators of excellence for nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

## 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*

**O understanding and compassionate God:** Never let us gloat over the misfortunes of others; never permit our secret hearts to take pleasure in the troubles that befall them. Rather, urge us on to assist them when we can, and in all cases truly empathizing with them, remembering the golden rule that we must grant others what we seek for ourselves.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## Why Did You Doubt?

**This Sunday's Gospel lesson** (Matthew 14:23-34), the ninth after Pentecost, is a direct continuation of last week's reading. It is the account of Jesus walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee to meet the disciples' storm-tossed ship. You will recall that the Lord, after he had fed the multitude with the loaves and fish, had the disciples get into their boat while he dismissed the people. He then went alone into the wilderness to pray. At the same time, the disciples being far off from shore, got caught in a storm. This storm was not unlike the one they had encountered earlier when Jesus was with them, but asleep in the boat (Matthew 8:24-27). However, this time he was not with them, and they were frightened.

As you reflect on this Gospel passage, I would suggest three things for you to focus on. First, notice how often the Lord retreats for prayer, and how it is always in some solitary place. Second, Peter features prominently in this story, but he's a

complicated figure. He has a deep faith and ardor, but also has an impetuous nature. Lastly, see how the Lord is gradually leading his disciples to a greater faith and understanding of who he really is. Let's take these one by one.

**The Lord and prayer.** As you read the Gospels you will notice how many times Jesus "withdraws," not only from the people who are pressing in on him, but also from the disciples themselves. He goes into the wilderness where he finds solitude and quiet, often spending the whole night in prayer. Again, before his passion, he goes deep into the garden to pray. This is a fundamental spiritual principle. In order to pray we need to withdraw to a quiet place. We need to have a certain tranquility and peace. At the beginning of every service, we hear: "In peace let us pray to the Lord." Noise, distractions, and disquiet do not lend themselves to speaking with God. Elijah did not find God in the wind or fire, but in stillness and quiet (cf. 1 Kings 19:11ff). Our Lord Jesus teaches us this by his own profound example.

**Peter's faith.** We know Peter to be the first among the disciples, even though he was far from being the most articulate or polished. What he did have was a deep fervor, a longing for the Lord. He was the first one to call Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). He was the one who told Jesus that he would stay by him even if everyone else deserted him (Matthew 26:32). He also was the one who, after the Resurrection, jumped out of his boat to run to the Lord who was on shore (John 21:7). But these same qualities also led him to be impulsive. So, he didn't know himself well enough to realize that he might deny Jesus when under pressure (Matthew 27:75).

In the middle of the storm when the other disciples were terrified and thought Jesus was a ghost, Peter, recognizing Jesus' voice, says: "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water" (v. 28). The Lord tells him to: "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water toward Jesus, but begins to sink when the rush of the wind frightened him. Jesus reaches out his hand and saves him.

Have you ever noticed that it is not the big things that "trip you up," but the little ones? Peter wasn't thinking about the storm, the waves, or even walking on the water. It was that gust of wind that frightened him. He impulsively jumped out of the boat without considering that his faith might not measure up to his zeal. Yet it was his emotions, his fear, that undermined his faith.

**Leading the disciples.** Finally, we see how the Lord is slowly showing His disciples who he is. In the first storm the Lord was with them, albeit sleeping. In this storm he allows them to be buffeted by the waves and wind before coming to them. The first time he quiets the wind. This time he reveals who he is even while the storm rages. In the earlier episode the disciples wonder: "What sort of man is this?" This time they worship him: "Truly you are the Son of God" (v. 33).

And so, when we think about this story, let's not just marvel at the Lord's ability to walk on water. Rather, let us take as our prayer rule, his example of prayer. Let us be encouraged by Peter's faith and willingness to follow the Lord, but with a clear understanding of the weaknesses each of us bears. And, let us look at how God continually guides us as we grow in our faith and understanding, leading us from one glory to another.

May our loving Lord always extend his saving hand to us when the winds of life catch us unaware. But even more, may we have the faith to take hold of it.

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Fri, Aug 20** Mustard Seed Meal  
**Sat, Sept 4** Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon  
**Sept 4-6** Marlboro Greek Festival  
**Setp 11-12** Webster Greek Festival

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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