

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, September 26, 2021

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rest of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

Apostolic Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11
(The Miraculous Catch)

Tone 5 • Resurrection Gospel 3

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held this **Thursday, September 30th at 6pm**. We are asking for delegates from our parish to attend. The meeting will be held via Zoom. If you are interested, please speak with either [Fr. Nick](#) or [Chris Seith](#), and they will provide you with the logon information.

FOOD PANTRY THIS COMING SATURDAY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center, **THIS Saturday, October 2nd from 9 am - noon**. It is a great blessing to help those who could use the help. So, if you're open like to sharing a small part of your Saturday morning, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com. She can give you more details. You'll see what a difference it makes.

MUSTARD SEED MEAL. We are providing a meal for the Mustard Seed on **Friday, October 15th** for 80 people. Given the virus, the meals are now pre-packaged and dropped off, ready to be distributed by their regular staff of volunteers. We are also looking for persons or families to sponsor the meal this month (around \$400). If you or your family would like to sponsor the meal or help with meal preparations, please contact [Deb Sedares](#) — by e-mail or phone 508-509-6678.

DONATE TO THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING! The news is filled with reports of people throughout the world who are suffering from the effects of all kinds of natural disasters and calamities. You can help. The International Orthodox Christian Charities is working in places across the globe. Check out the website, at: www.iocc.org. The IOCC is one of the top ranked relief organizations in the world, especially noted for its low overhead, directing most of the donations toward those in need. **Help those who are in need through our Orthodox Christian relief organization!**

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.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family of **Artemis Gouvelis** who fell asleep in the Lord this past Wednesday. Artemis was the wife of Alexander Gouvelis. **May our Loving Lord rest her soul among the righteous.**

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is also extended to the family of **Nița Dumitriu**, who fell asleep in the Lord this past Saturday. He leaves his beloved wife Maria Florea Dumitriu and his daughter Roxana Herzog and his son Cristian Dumitriu. **May his memory be eternal!**

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.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED. The General Assembly for the Eastern Orthodox Management Corporation, which operates Holy Trinity, is scheduled for **Thursday, September 30th at 6:00 pm**. It will be held virtually, and is open to all CEOC parish members, who are encouraged to attend. Please [click here](#) for details, or e-mail [Steve Fotos](#) with any questions.

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 e-mail Board Chair, [Steve Fotos](#).

REHABILITATION. Our short-term rehabilitation and post-hospital care includes orthopedic, cardiovascular, neurological, and post-surgical recovery and rehabilitation, to name a few. Our ultimate goal is to safely return patients to their homes, or other appropriate levels of care. We offer physical, occupational and speech therapies, with a commitment to the highest level of quality care, a focus on customer service and providing a nurturing environment for both patients and families. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

WELLNESS TIP OF THE WEEK. As we transition from summer to fall, it's the ideal time to put your health first. Getting your yearly checkup and flu shot along with staying hydrated, maintaining your Vitamin D intake, and eating nutritious seasonal foods will all help boost your immune system, which is particularly important this season.

ADMISSIONS. If you are choosing from a group of nursing centers, we encourage you to review the ratings of each facility for potential short term rehabilitative care or long-term placement. We are happy to answer any questions you have along the way and would welcome the opportunity to give you a tour of our nursing center. Please contact Director of Admissions [Karen Barry](#) or call (508) 852-1000, ext. 213.

JOB OPENINGS. Our team is growing! [Click here](#) for a full listing of our openings with detailed job descriptions, including nursing, reception, and dietary. 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. This week residents enjoyed making candy apples, Greek Club, and a bake sale. They were also excited to celebrate the first birthday of our pet therapy dog, Nova! If your parish, social group, or family is interested in sponsoring an activity or funding a specific need for our residents, please contact our Director of Development & Communications, [Mackenzie Koch](#).

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.

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

Our feeble minds, Lord, cannot even begin to grasp your greatness, your divinity — or anything about you! The magnificence of your glory and might, the tenderness of your love and mercy, and all the rest that we think we know about you really miss the mark! Besides this, we do not even really know what 'praising' you means! Yet, grant that, in any case, we may praise you

because you deserve it, because you have told us to do so, and because we wish to obey you always and everywhere.

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

Sow Bountifully, Reap Bountifully

Following the Feast of the Precious Cross, we begin a new cycle of Scriptural readings in our Sunday Worship. The Gospel lessons are taken from St. Luke and the Epistle readings from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. The Ecclesiastical Year begins in September (as does the Jewish New Year), and in so many ways September is a more appropriate time for new beginnings than the icy days of January. Children start the new school year. The crisp days of fall invigorate us for hard work after the lazy days of summer. So, we begin anew studying God's saving words for us.

Today's reading is 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. St. Paul is writing to the Corinthians to inspire them to contribute to the fund he is raising from the newly formed Gentile Churches. The purpose is to offer a gift to the needy brothers and sisters in Jerusalem and all of Palestine. The Holy Land was never a very wealthy place. During the time of St. Paul's missions a great famine had broken out over the whole region. Everyone there was in great need. St. Paul saw a gift from these newly formed communities to the brethren there as a way to tighten the bond between Christian believers, especially between Jewish and Gentile Christians. This is the background for today's reading.

Even though his words were written with a very specific intent, St. Paul has left generations of Christians a number of important guidelines to live by when considering giving and generosity. This section begins, "The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (v. 6). The first thing we might notice is that he uses an agricultural (organic) image, not a monetary one. He speaks of sowing and reaping, not of investing and return on investment, although this could be inferred. He wants us first to enter into the relationship of the farmer with the land, and then the farmer, his land, and God (and of course, the rhythm of nature and weather). In many ways it is not unlike the calculation an investor makes in a start-up company or in the stock market. But as anyone who has planted a crop (even a backyard garden) knows, the variables of nature are much harder to predict than those of the marketplace. One plants a crop with faith and many prayers, while all the time hoping. It is the same whenever we give something to charity, perhaps to someone we know who is in need; it requires from us hope, faith and trust in God that what we give will bear fruit.

Also, sowing bountifully requires a certain amount of boldness and courage. The one who sows "sparingly," even if she or he has faith, is expressing a reserve or reticence when asked to put that faith into practice. Sowing bountifully calls us to really put our complete faith in God. We're giving up a part of our own resources.

At the same time, no one forces us. St. Paul tells us, "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (v. 7). Most of the modern translations use the word "mind" as the place where this decision is made, but the Greek word St. Paul uses is "heart." For St. Paul and the Church Fathers it is the heart that is the center of spiritual discernment, the noetic faculty. Today we think of the heart as the center of emotion and passion — the opposite of rational decision-making — so in this way the translation makes sense, but still something is lost. Our decision to sow bountifully and cheerfully is not just a rational calculation. It is a decision that is shaped and tempered by our trust in God. It should be a spiritually wise decision.

We all have fears when we give away some portion of our possessions. For this reason, St. Paul addresses these fears directly: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever'" (Psalm 112:9) (v. 8-9). If a person grounds their decision to be generous simply in his or her mind, the rational part will say, "the more you give, the less you will have for yourself." St. Paul is telling them (and us) to trust in God's generosity. He is saying that the rational calculus is not the whole story; that generosity, not selfishness, is the fundamental principle at work in creation. God's rules are different than what on the surface might seem to be true. God's rules require faith and trust in Him in order to become evident.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness" (v. 10). God wants us to understand the correlation between material generosity and a spiritual harvest. He wants us to recognize how He sustains us in every way, and that the way to repay Him is by helping others who need our help. This is the real economic principle, a principle that rarely shows up on the nightly 'Business Report.'

We take as our comfort and inspiration this blessing that St. Paul bestows on us: "You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (v. 11). When we are generous we not only provide material relief to the person in need, we also strengthen their hope and faith in God. We are the instruments of God's mercy. He gives to each of us the means and the power to act, comfort, and gladden those around us. Let us use this gift, not sparingly, but bountifully; not grudgingly, but cheerfully. So that together we might thank and glorify our Heavenly Father who loves us.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs, Sept 30 Holy Trinity Gen Assembly, 6pm
Sat, Oct 2 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Pita Dough Rolling 9am
Fri, Oct 15 Mustard Seed Meal
Thurs, Oct 21 Parish Council 7pm
Sat, Oct 23 Children's Retreat
Sat, Nov 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
[Be the Bee](#) Teen Retreat
Thurs, Nov 11 Children's Retreat

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