

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, October 31, 2021

The Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

Apostolic Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

(The Rich Man and Lazarus)

Tone 2 • Resurrection Gospel 8

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VESPERS FOR STS. ANAGYROI, MARLBOROUGH FEASTDAY will be held **tonight, Sunday, October 31st** at 7:00 pm. Fr. Robert Archon will be offering the homily.

PITA BAKING. THIS **Tuesday, November 2nd at 9:00 am.** All help welcomed and needed. **Questions?** Contact: [Betty Anderson.](#)

ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for **Saturday, November 13th.** If you're able and willing to help, please [e-mail](#) or **call** (508-868-1569) **Gerry Belba.**

THE KIDS' PUMPKIN CARVING AND PAINTING afternoon last Saturday was a real joy. Lots of kids and lots of pumpkins, and the weather was beautiful. Thanks to **Gina Skaff and Cristina Iusco** for making this possible!

The July-September issue of the **FAITH / CREDINȚA** magazine of our Metropolia is available, and may be [downloaded here.](#) It is filled with a news from the Archdiocese and the parishes, as well as articles reflecting on the spiritual life. Please get a copy. You'll enjoy reading it.

WE CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL TODAY for the servant of God, **Nița Dumitriu,** fallen asleep forty days. His wife Maria and the Dumitriu family is sponsoring the coffee hours. **May his memory be eternal!**

The Town of Shrewsbury has revised its masking order. Wearing masks is required in all indoor spaces, including Churches. We are now asking that all persons attending the Divine Services wear masks until its order is lifted.

YOUTH EVENTS UPDATE

ATTENTION: Young Adults, Teens, Tweens, and younger; (and, of course, parents)

We're planning a few events for this fall: get-togethers, retreats, and more.
Please take a look at the list below and save the time and dates on your calendar!

A TEEN RETREAT for grades 6-12 on "Opening our Hearts to God and our Neighbor" with Steve Christoforou of "Be the Bee" fame. Teens from around Central Mass are all invited. Place: [Sts. Constantine and Helen](#) in Webster. Steve's youtube videos have literally been seen by tens of thousands of people. He has an excited day retreat planned for November 6 from 9:00am-3:30pm. [Click here for the flier.](#)

Then in the evening of Nov 6 from 7:00-9:00 we will have a young adult "Coffee House" or "Theology on Tap" depending on whether you want to drink coffee or beer! Steve will be discussing "What Makes It Hard to Be an Orthodox Christian Today." [Click here for the flier.](#)

If you are planning to attend, please let [Fr. Nick](#) know so we can send them a rough number of attendees so they can

prepare food accordingly.

A FALL RETREAT is planned for **Thursday, November 11th** (Veteran's Day — it's a school holiday). The theme is: *"Who Is The Holy Spirit."* **DETAILS:** 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at [Sts. Anagyroi](#) in Marlboro. Lunch will be served. Please let [Valarie Stamoulis](#) know if you're coming!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING (as the saying goes). We're going to dedicate a couple of the **Saturdays in December to PAGEANT REHEARSALS** and some more enjoyable activities for the kids. Dates and times will be forthcoming.

COMMUNITY NEWS

10th Annual Shrewsbury Turkey Trot for the Memory will be held on Thanksgiving Day, on the Common. It's a 5-mile run and 2-mile fun run/walk to support Alzheimer's disease research. **Questions:** [James Heald](#) or [Jane Lizotte](#). **To register:** www.turkeytrotforthememory.org.

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

REHABILITATION. When it comes to short-term rehabilitation, choose the experts in the field. 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 get in touch with our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

TIP OF THE WEEK. With the end of Daylight Saving just around the corner (Sunday, November 7th), now is the time to prepare your body before we "fall back". Begin adjusting sleep and meal schedules 10-15 minutes later each day – then, when the time changes, you'll be back on track with your regular schedule. Daily exposure to natural sunlight, whether outdoors or indoors, will also help your body adjust its circadian rhythm during the time change.

ADMISSIONS. Our census continues to climb, and we have limited long-term care beds available. 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. A rewarding career in healthcare is just one click away! We have openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts, human resources manager, receptionist, and physical therapy assistant, including competitive pay and great benefits. [Click here](#) for a full listing of our openings with detailed job descriptions, including including HR, rehab, nursing, reception, and dietary. Recent grads and people familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

STAY CONNECTED. Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos. We are currently seeking donations for our monthly prize auction. If you would like to donate new items for our residents, including stuffed animals, accessories, and room décor, please contact our Director of Activities, [Donna Benard](#), to see what is most needed.

You can now find us at www.holytrinityrehab.org!

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

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 Lazarus. 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. Lazarus 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 our 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.

The Lord gives us Lazarus’ 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 and not worthy of a name. Lazarus sat begging every day outside of the Rich Man’s house. While there is no way he could not have noticed him, still Lazarus 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 Lazarus by a devastating illness for which they have no medical coverage, the sudden loss of a job, or by a crisis in the economy. In a very real way we all could easily become Lazarus.

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 could see and talk to the other. Each knew of the other’s condition. And yet, when the Rich Man asks of Abraham that he send Lazarus 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 finger of Lazarus. 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 Lazarus 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 Lazarus who lay before him all those years, never actually addresses Lazarus, never calls him by name. He speaks to Abraham and through him wants to order poor Lazarus around as though he is nothing. Even in his punishment, the “poor” Rich Man has learned nothing.

May God save us from this fate!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tues, Nov 2 Pita Baking, 9am-noon
Sat, Nov 6 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
[Teen Retreat](#)
[Young Adult Coffee House](#)
Thurs, Nov 11 Children's Retreat
Sat, Nov 13 eRecycling

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