

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, November 7, 2021

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

— REMEMBER: set Clocks BACK an Hour! —

Apostolic Reading: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

(Jesus Heals the Woman & Raises Jairus' Daughter)

Tone 3 • Resurrection Gospel 9

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PITA BAKING. THIS Saturday, November 6th at 9:00 am, and THIS COMING Tuesday, November 9th at 9:00 am. All help welcomed and needed. **Questions?** Contact: [Betty Anderson](#).

FOOD PANTRY THIS SATURDAY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center, **THIS Saturday, November 6th from 9 am - noon.** It is a great blessing to help those who could use the help. So, if you're open 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.

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

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 servants of God, members of the **Gavala family** fallen asleep, especially the father of **Cristina Gavala: Ioan**, and the parents of **Artic Gavala: Aurora and Mihai. May their memory be eternal!**

WE ALSO CELEBRATE A MEMORIAL for the servants of God, members of the **Eleftheriou family**, fallen asleep. **May our Lord rest them among the just!**

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.

REMEMBER THE YOUTH EVENTS THIS WEEK!

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. As we rapidly approach the holiday season, many of us are once again looking forward to larger holiday gatherings with family and friends, but may forget the stress that can result with a busier social calendar. Simple things you can do to prevent burnout include simplifying a get together (host appetizers and drinks instead of dinner or make a reservation at your favorite restaurant), forgoing a gift exchange, or simply saying "no" if you're too busy. If you're feeling overwhelmed, take a deep breath, a moment to relax, and focus on what's most important to you during the holidays.

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. Looking for a rewarding career making a difference in the lives of seniors? 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. 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

Bless us, Lord God of glory, as you blessed the Psalmist: Forgive us our sins and bring healing to all our ills and brokenness. Reveal your tenderness and mercy as you are accustomed to doing. Prevent us from being sucked into the hell to which our sins would condemn us, and at our death, welcome us into your kingdom, so that we may revel in your glory and beauty.

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

Giving to Each What is Needed for Salvation

The Gospel lesson this week is from St. Luke (8:41-56). He tells us of two miracles that while separate and distinct, they complement each another. They have an inner spiritual unity.

The story opens with the leader of a local synagogue, Jairus, coming to meet Jesus. Falling at His feet, he begs Jesus to come to his house because his twelve year old daughter was dying (v. 41-42). St. Matthew adds that he asked Jesus to “come and lay your hand on her, and she will live” (Matthew 9:18). This is an important detail.

At the same time, amidst the stifling thrust of the crowd, a woman who had been suffering for twelve years from constant hemorrhaging came up and touched the fringe of his garment (v. 43-44). According to ancient sources this woman was very wealthy. The Gospels say that she had spent a great deal of money on physicians who could not cure her. Her final hope was in Jesus whom she knew little about.

Jesus stops and asks: “Who touched me?” Peter and the other disciples respond by saying that the crowd is pressing on all sides, suggesting that He feels that push, not a deliberate contact. Jesus insists, because he’s noticed that power had gone out of him (v. 45-46). Then, the woman, embarrassed by her illness, falls down before Him trembling and admits in front of everyone why she had touched Him and how she had been healed. The Lord tells her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace” (v. 48).

Meanwhile, someone arrived from Jairus’ house to tell him not to bother imploring the Lord, because his daughter had died. When Jesus heard this He turned to him and said, “Do not fear. Only believe and she will be saved” (v. 50). When they got to the house Jesus would not allow anyone to enter with him except for Peter, John and James (the same three disciples who would be present at the Transfiguration), as well as the girl’s mother and father. As you might imagine, the house was filled with weeping and wailing, but Jesus told them all to stop because she was not dead, but sleeping. The mourners laughed in response. Suffering the unbearable pain of their loss, and knowing the finality of death, that claim seemed ridiculous. Paying no attention to them, He went to the place where she lay, took her hand and said: “Child, get up!” (v. 54) Her spirit returned to her. Then He told her parents to get her something to eat.

Now, let’s look at how the two incidences complement one another. Jairus comes to Jesus with a weak faith, but mostly out of desperation. He asks Jesus to not only come to his house but to lay His hand on his daughter. (Remember how in the Gospel lesson we heard just a few weeks ago (Matthew 8:5-13), the Centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant only with His word!) It was while Jairus was asking for Jesus’ help, that the woman with the hemorrhage secretly touches Jesus in order to be healed.

Jesus, by His question, forces the woman to reveal herself. There are a number of reasons for this. First, Jairus needed his faith strengthened. Remember, Jesus says to him, “Only believe, and she will be saved.” Moreover, Jairus needed a physical sign; he wanted Jesus to come and touch his daughter. Jesus shows how the silent and hidden faith of this woman effected her healing.

The woman needed something else. She touched Jesus surreptitiously, out of shame. He asks her to publicly acknowledge her healing not simply to strengthen the faith of Jairus, but also to comfort her tortured soul. If she had received her healing and gone home silently, would not she have felt as though she had “stolen” God’s grace? Jesus comforts her by prodding her to acknowledge the healing, and then telling her that it was her faith that made her well.

Unlike the woman, Jairus, made a public display of his grief and requested a physical sign of Jesus’ power. However, Jesus’ intent is for salvation as well as healing. He makes the secret request public, and the public display secret. He forces the woman to tell all of her healing. He tells Jairus and his wife to tell no one of the raising of their daughter.

What can we learn from this? Even when we are desperate, embarrassed, and ashamed, we can come to the Lord with our

pain and He will heal us. Even when we have so little faith that we need outward signs of God's presence, He will come to us, visit us, lay His hand on us and raise us from the dead. God meets us on our own level, even as He urges us upward, inviting us to meet Him on His.

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

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
Mon, Nov 15 Christmas Lent Begins
Thurs, Nov 18 Parish Council, 7pm
Sat, Dec 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Mon, Dec 6 St. Nicholas Feast

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
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www.StNicholasChurch.org
Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am