

News from St. Nick's **Sunday, November 14, 2021**

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Apostolic Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37
(The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Tone 4 • Resurrection Gospel 10

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

(Click here for a PDF version of this week's news)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NATIVITY (CHRISTMAS) FAST begins tomorrow, **Monday, November 15th**.

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

THE PARISH COUNCIL will hold its regular meeting, Thursday, November 18th at 6:30 pm. Parish Council Members, please let [Chris Seith](#) know if you are unable to attend.

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish last Saturday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you'd like to help in this worthwhile ministry, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com. Our next Saturday is December 4th. So, if you're open to sharing a small part of your Saturday morning, contact her for more details.

WE HELD A KID'S RETREAT along with our sister parish of Sts. Anargyroi this past Thursday. It was a great day and over twenty children participated. A thanks to everyone who make it possible: the kids and the parents, and especially Presvytera Eleni Christakos and Valarie Stamoulis.

WE OBSERVE A 40-DAY MEMORIAL TODAY for the servant of God **Constantin Pană**, the grandfather of Ana Stefania Seith. ***May our Lord rest him 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 is order is lifted.

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

IT'S OFFICIAL. Holy Trinity has received one of the highest quality ratings from Medicare. We knew we were good – now national experts agree. Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is a **4 Star Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**.

- Zero deficiency for 2 years in a row.
- 8 months with no covid cases in the center.

Our Medicare-certified rehabilitation will get you back on your feet and thriving with care this good and a setting this accommodating. When rehabilitation is what the doctor ordered, Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center welcomes everyone.

GETTING YOU HOME – BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER.

We offer outstanding services in our extraordinary, Medicare-certified center, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. 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 get in touch with our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

STAY CONNECTED. Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

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 our God, the ways of society stress us on all sides, so much so, that we live lives that are not real. We were born in ignorance of who we really are, and our real self still lies hidden from us. We constantly live on edge, trying always to conform to 'them' and all their demands, while trying to function with some pride and self-possession. We need to free the deep mystery that is our true self, but we cannot do this without your help. Show us how, Lord.

For you alone can make us holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?

The Gospel lesson this week, taken from St. Luke (10:25-37), is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of a stranger, who out of complete sympathy and kindness saves the life of another, is so powerful that it has entered into our common language. Christians and non-Christians alike speak of the "Good Samaritan" when referring to a person who helps someone in need for no other reason than it's the right thing to do.

The story opens with a lawyer testing Jesus by asking a question about what he should do in order to inherit eternal life (v. 26). Jesus turns the question around and asks him what he reads in the Law. This lawyer then quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:34) saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself" (v. 27). In the Gospel of Matthew it is Jesus who speaks these words, but with a slight difference. He distinguishes between the two commandments, and then equates them. He says: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment." And then he says: "a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22: 37-40).

By equating love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus draws both the lawyer and us into the story of a man beaten to near death by robbers and a traveling Samaritan who responds to the situation with love. Remember, the lawyer wanted to know: "who is my neighbor?" (v. 29). He wants to justify himself, and hopes to find the loophole in the Lord's words that will 'let him off the hook.' However, the Lord gives him an answer that challenges him to rethink the question.

The Lord tells a story to illustrate his point. There is an unfortunate man who is going from Jerusalem to Jericho and falls into

the hands of robbers who leave him half dead. This should be something we can understand. As our world has become increasingly more violent we hear of and even see beatings and shootings; people are left for half dead on the street or in an alleyway. We are never very far from this scenario, especially those of us who live in cities, but even small towns and rural areas are not exempt.

The Lord continues: People come by and see the man in agony. These are not ignorant people. One is a Levite, the other is a priest. These are religious people who have studied the Scriptures and know what God asks of them, but nonetheless they cross the street, not wanting to get involved, going on their way.

The person who does stop is a Samaritan. For the people to whom Jesus was speaking this would be like saying an illegal alien, a persecuted minority, or some kind of outcast. Perhaps even more vividly, it would be like an enemy, Taliban or terrorist. Jesus wants to get those people who felt comfortable in their "righteousness" to notice that it is the "outsider" or the "enemy" who is doing what God asks.

In order to help us understand the Samaritan's generosity, let's place the story in a contemporary context. He doesn't just drop off the wounded person at the Police station or the hospital emergency room. Rather he puts him in the back of his own car and takes him to the motel with him. He puts him up in his own bed, cleans his wounds, and nurses him. When he has to leave to make his next appointment, he does the equivalent of giving the innkeeper his credit card and telling him to continue to care for the person, on his tab, until he's finished with his business and can return to take care of the man.

The Lord then asks the Lawyer: "Which of the three, do you think, was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" (v. 36) How can one not be overwhelmed by this story? There is only one way to answer the Lord's question.

And so, we're back to the question that started the story: What must I do to inherit eternal life? This powerful story of the Good Samaritan is given to us as a way to embrace the answer to that question. It provides a vivid image of the Great Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." The love of our neighbor is "just like" this first and greatest commandment.

So often we look for God in the sky, but neglect to see Him in the suffering person next to us. We try to justify ourselves by finding the loophole in the Lord's commandments that will 'let us off the hook' and allow us to think that God asks this of 'the other guy, not me'. So often we imagine salvation is found in fulfilling so many different rules and practices, when it is truly to be found in opening our hearts to feel compassion for those who need our help.

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Nov 13 eRecycling, 9am-2pm
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