

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, July 4, 2021

The Sunday of All the Saints of North America and Romania (The Second Sunday after Pentecost)

Apostolic Reading: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-20

Tone 1 • Resurrection Gospel 2

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center, **TOMORROW, Saturday, July 3rd from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. Help is also needed during the week for shopping and stocking the Pantry. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is **NEXT Saturday, July 10th** from 9 am to 2 pm. **Gerry Belba** is coordinating. About 3 people are needed to help with traffic management. If you'd like to help, please contact him at: vgbelba@msn.com.

RELIGIOUS ED STARTED ITS SUMMER BREAK last Sunday. To mark the occasion, the students presented a very well done "lesson" for the congregation. They enacted a series of Gospel Parables that were answers to questions the students had been asking during their classes. It was a clever idea, the product of their hard work. We want to especially thank the Religious Ed teachers: Fadi Girgis, Gina Skaff, and Cristina Iusco. There will also be learning and fun opportunities during the summer. And, we look forward to the new school year in September.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Alexis and José Peña** on the birth of their son **Miguel Antonio Peña** this past Sunday, July 27th! Together with his parents he's embraced by his big sisters Isabella Rose and Lucia Ana. This is also joy for his great grandmother Joanne Prizio. **May our loving Lord shower them with every blessing!**

IN KEEPING WITH CDC GUIDELINES, masks are required for people who have **NOT** been fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated, mask-wearing is optional. Hand-washing and physical distancing are strongly encouraged. We all need to remember the goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible so that each one of us feels comfortable attending Liturgy.

THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS NEEDS YOUR INPUT! The **Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Assembly's Mental Health Task Forces, takes only 15 minutes and consists of approximately 30 questions. All information you provide is completely anonymous and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in your community. [Click here](#) to go directly to the web page to complete the survey.

UPCOMING

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! Vacation Church School this summer will be **August 4-6.** We will again be holding it in conjunction with Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when scheduling other summer activities for your children. Details will be forthcoming.

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

HOLY TRINITY ANNOUNCES NEW CEO/ADMINISTRATOR. Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is pleased to announce that Rodolfo Parra will be joining the organization as the permanent CEO and Administrator. Mr. Parra will provide leadership in the management of the day-to-day operations of the facility and will also serve as the primary liaison for residents, families, community parishes and the general public. He has been a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator for about 12 years and has experience working in privately owned facilities, large for-profit companies, as well as non-profit communities. Mr. Parra holds a bachelor's degree from Lake Forest College and a long-term health care management graduate certificate from the University of Connecticut, School of Business. Mr. Parra's official start date is July 6, and he will be working with interim CEO Dan Burns to ensure a smooth transition.

NEW ADMISSIONS. As many skilled nursing facilities in MA are facing closure, Holy Trinity remains a top choice for both long-term care and short-term rehab. To inquire about admissions or to schedule a tour, please call (508) 852-1000.

VOLUNTEERS. Do you have a skill or talent you're willing to share with our residents? Those who are fully vaccinated may be considered to volunteer. Please call [Donna Benard](#), with the Activities department, at 508-852-1000, or [e-mail her](#) to discuss one of the many ways you may lend a helping hand. We are especially excited to invite back our church groups who may be interested in hosting a luncheon or coffee social or assisting with liturgy.

REHABILITATION. Did you know you have a choice when it comes to short-term rehab, regardless of a hospital or doctor's recommendation? At Holy Trinity, our talented short-term rehabilitation team works with both the patient and the family to provide individualized assessments and treatment plans. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

JOB OPENINGS. Looking for a rewarding career that makes a difference in people's lives every day? We have openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts, including sign on bonuses and great benefits. [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. Residents have been busy enjoying activities including baking club, trivia, a prize auction, and ice tea socials and look forward to celebrating Independence Day.

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

Almighty, everlasting God, who commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves: As we honor the memory of all your saints, do not ignore the love they hold for us. Rather, when they plead for our salvation before your throne, send down upon us your generous mercy. In your love for us, and for their sake, fill us with awe and reverence for you, so that always aware of the magnificence of your divine glory, we may serve you without guile, strengthened in all things by our hope in your promises. Be pleased to accept our hymns of praise as we join these holy men and women, and all your creatures, in glorifying your wondrous name.

For all the powers of heaven praise you, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

They Went Fishing

The Church calendar's cycle really begins with Pentecost. Pascha — our Lord's death and resurrection — in many ways completes this cycle, even as it prepares us for the Holy Spirit's coming and dwelling in our hearts. The order in which we choose to read the Scriptures reflects this. From Pascha through Pentecost we read from St. John's Gospel (the last of the four), and the Apostolic readings are taken from the Book of Acts — what some have called the "fifth" Gospel, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. Following Pentecost we begin with St. Matthew's Gospel — the first of the four, and the Apostolic Letters of St. Paul starting with Romans. This Sunday we hear the Lord call the first disciples, the brothers Andrew and Peter, and then two other brothers, James and John. With but a word they, fishermen all, left their nets and followed him (Matthew 4:18-23). And so, set out on their journey.

St. John Chrysostom, with his characteristic wisdom, makes some important observations from the text. The first thing he points out is that clearly this account in Matthew is a second call. They had met Jesus before and knew him. For example, he notes that Simon is already referred to as Peter. He also comments on how quickly and readily they obeyed Jesus' call to follow him. He then directs our attention to the Gospel of John (1:38ff) where we can see an earlier encounter of Jesus with these and other disciples.

The Evangelist John tells us that Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, and it was John who pointed out Jesus to Andrew. Andrew then went and spoke to his brother Simon (Peter) and brought him to Jesus. They spent a few days with Jesus and then returned to their livelihood — fishing.

Chrysostom employs the fact that these future disciples were fishermen. Through the example of their life's work he directs us to a deeper truth. The art of fishing opens a spiritual perspective for us. He explains that it was certainly a natural thing for them to go back to their work, especially after John the Baptist had been thrown into prison, and the Lord had retired to the desert. But, in fact, the Lord hadn't entirely let go of them. Keeping in mind the technique a fisherman uses, he says that Jesus "slacked the line before reeling them in." The Lord gave them time to reflect on that first encounter, an encounter that would eventually compel a response from them. This, Chrysostom says, explains how they easily left everything with but a word.

We see a similar thing happen to them after the Lord's Resurrection. The disciples, feeling a little lost and disoriented, and not knowing quite what they should do next, decided to go fishing (cf. John 21:3). Fishing was something they knew how to do. We can imagine that it would give them a sense of security, grounding in their sense of disquiet. The Lord comes to them again, there on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias. John says it was the third time that he had appeared to them after the Resurrection. Jesus invites them once again to "follow me." His words are directed especially to Peter, but he is calling each of them. He is sharing with them the great mission he intends for them.

He uses this same fishing metaphor as a way to explain what is in store for them, what the plan is. Do you remember how, in the Evangelist Luke's account of the disciples' call (cf. Luke 5:1ff), Jesus enters their boat, and bids them to set out on the lake? They had fished all night and caught nothing, but they did as he asked and then caught a miraculous shoal of fish. They were astounded. They fell down and worshiped. They believed and followed. Jesus expands on the metaphor. He tells them that they were fishermen, but from now on they would also be fishers of men, "catching people," if you will. We hear echoes of this in the Troparion of Pentecost when we sing: "You made wise men out of fishermen by Your Holy Spirit. And through them You caught the whole world in Your net."

It shouldn't surprise us that imagery of fish, fishing, and fishermen runs throughout the New Testament and the hymnography of the Church. Many of the first disciples were fishermen. The Lord often used examples from the everyday lives of the people he was talking to. It helped them understand spiritual truths through things that they knew, that were very accessible.

This is why we should never forget the dedication of these disciples who left everything to follow Jesus. They were ordinary people who likely could not even imagine the true sacrifice they would be eventually making when they took those first steps. But they had the courage and the love for God to follow when asked. And, through them their world and ours has been and continues to be changed forever.

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, July 3 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Sat, July 10 e-Recycling and more 9am-2pm
Aug 4-6 Vacation Church School

Sat, Aug 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
34 Gold St | Shrewsbury MA 01545-6238
508-845-0088 | fax: 508-845-8850 | email: info@StNicholasChurch.org
www.StNicholasChurch.org
Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am