

News from St. Nick's **Sunday, July 11, 2021**

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Apostolic Reading: Romans 5:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33
(Concerning the Cares of Life)

Tone 2 • Resurrection Gospel 3

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is **THIS 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.

BAKING. We have decided to gently ease into baking. This will mean a measured approach to baking teams and dates. We have to keep in mind that we don't have the same amount of working space. And we are need to reconfirm our pool of baking volunteers. **If you are willing and able to help with the baking,** please either [e-mail](#), or call (508-756-4848) **Betty Anderson.**

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS. Every first Saturday of the month a group of volunteers works the Food Pantry to distribute groceries and other goods to people in need. They are not only doing God's work, they are also representing us. Each of the four Worcester area Orthodox parishes similarly commit to work their particular Saturday. **We need more volunteer help from our parish.** It's not a large time commitment, but it has huge spiritual benefits. If you'd like to share a small part of yourself, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com. She can give you more details.

A CORRECTION. Somehow we misreported the name of Alexis and José Peña's son. We're really sorry. He is **Gabriel Antonio Peña. May God bless him and his whole family!**

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.

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 WELCOMES NEW CEO / ADMINISTRATOR. This week, Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center welcomed Rodolfo Parra as the permanent CEO and Administrator. Mr. Parra is providing leadership in the management of the day-to-

day operations of the facility and is serving 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.

NEW ADMISSIONS. 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. Could you lead a Men's Group (card games, sports, model cars), assist with Greek Club, or share a special interest or talent with our residents? If you've been fully vaccinated you may be a prime candidate for becoming a volunteer. Interested? 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, coffee social, or assisting with liturgy.

REHABILITATION. Up to 70% of nursing home residents experience difficulty swallowing, or dysphagia, which also puts them at greater risk for respiratory issues and infections. At Holy Trinity, our talented short-term rehabilitation team, including our full-time speech therapist, works with both the patient and the family to provide individualized treatment plans to help prevent larger issues and hospitalization. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

JOB OPENINGS. A rewarding job in healthcare is just one click away! 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

Let wisdom lift our hearts, O God of wisdom, and let prudence purify them. The workings of your divine providence, your just judgments, and the reasons for them defy our abilities to understand. Grant us, therefore, that we may learn self-discipline and arrive at some wisdom in this short life of ours.

For you can enable us to do what we must, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Consider the Lilies of the Field

This week's Gospel reading is taken from St. Matthew (6:22-33). It is toward the end of the Evangelist's account of the Sermon on the Mount. I find there to be no more beautiful and tranquil passage in all of the Gospels than this one. With but a few sentences and images, the Lord manages to challenge us to live up to our divine potential, even as he points out how obvious and easy the path is — that is if our heart is open to following it.

The whole of Sermon on the Mount is remarkable, especially as told us by St. Matthew. Some have likened the Lord's Sermon on the Mount to Moses when he descended Mount Sinai and presented the Law to the children of Israel. Here, on this Mount, the Lord gives his people a new Law — or perhaps more accurately—the fullness and completion of the Law he first gave to his people.

This selection from the Sermon on the Mount begins with the Lord talking about the eye (v. 22). He says that if our eye is sound then our body will be filled with light, and if it is unhealthy, we will be filled with darkness. We know this out of our own experience. Everything depends on the way we look at things: the "sights" we allow into our minds and our hearts; the things we allow our gaze to dwell on; the perspectives we allow to harden in our souls. The lens through which we look at things colors our outlook, and eventually our salvation.

He tells us that no one can serve two masters (v. 24). We have to choose between following God, or the wealth and power of this world (mammon). He reminds us that we shouldn't try to fool ourselves, because over time we will either love the one and hate the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. These words are no less true today than when the Lord first spoke them. Perhaps they are even more true today than then. We can feel the temptations that draw us to put the desire for wealth and fame above our love for God. They are real and dangerous. We've seen countless examples where the desire for wealth and fame has overshadowed even love for family and friends; where these passions have brought even good people, and those around them, to ruin. The headlines shout this out to us every day. The Lord gently reminds us in a very simple and direct way: we will have to choose. We can't have it both ways.

The root cause of these temptations is the fear of not having enough to eat and clothing necessary to keep us warm. Of course, like every passion, there is never 'enough.' But it begins with a simple worry. The Lord admonishes us not to be anxious about even the most basic necessities of life: food, drink, clothing (v. 25). He wants us to keep everything in perspective. While we know that life is more than food and our bodies are more than clothing, we get consumed by our fear and our greed. But he points out the obvious. Look to the birds of the air, he says, who take no care for these things yet our heavenly Father feeds them all. And then there are the lilies of the field, 'weeds' that grow so abundantly they take over every available space, which God has made more splendid than Solomon in all his glory. Remember: if our Father values the birds of the air and the lilies of the field in such a fashion, how much more does He value us? We need to stop worrying about the day-to-day things. We need to keep our mind and our heart on the important things. We need to trust ... God.

This is where I find my comfort. The Lord asks us to look around at the creation and marvel at God's loving care for even the grasses of the field. He reminds us that God is our loving Father. He teaches us to call him Abba — "Daddy." He says that our Father knows all the things that we need and He will give them us, so we should stop being anxious about them. All we need to do is trust.

So where do we find this trust? "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness," the Lord challenges us, "and all of these things shall be yours as well" (v. 33).

This choice is before us each and every day. Recognize it. Commit to it each morning. When we see a bird perching on a tree, or the wild flowers growing through cracks in the pavement, we can remind ourselves of our Father's love for us, breathe a sigh of relief, and be comforted.

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, July 10 e-Recycling and more 9am-2pm
Aug 4-6 Vacation Church School
Sat, Aug 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon

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