

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, August 15, 2021

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost **The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

Apostolic Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22
(Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand)

Tone 7 • Resurrection Gospel 8

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, August 15th, is the Feast of the DORMITION OF THE FALLING-ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS. GREAT VESPERS for the Feast will be celebrated on **Saturday August 14th** at our sister Parish of [St. Mary's Assumption](#) on Salisbury Street starting at 6:00 pm. We will celebrate the Feast at our Parish on Sunday, at the usual time.

THE CDC HAS REVISED ITS MASKING GUIDELINES due to the increase in infections because of the highly contagious Delta variant. It recommends that **people vaccinated against the coronavirus resume wearing masks** in public indoor spaces and schools where the virus is surging, and that **unvaccinated persons seek a vaccine** as soon as possible. Following this recommendation, we are now asking that all persons attending the Divine Services wear masks until the numbers are more favorable.

WE WILL BE PROVIDING A MUSTARD SEED MEAL THIS Friday, August 20th. The team preparing the meal will gather at the Church at 1:00 pm. **We wish to thank Joanne Prizio for underwriting the cost of the meal. May God bless her and her family!** If you'd like to help with preparing the meal please contact **Deb Sedares** by [e-mail](#) or phone 508-509-6678.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 19th at 7:00 pm. Parish Council Members, please let [Chris Seith](#) know if you are unable to attend.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY HAS RECEIVED A DEFICIENCY-FREE SURVEY result from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). The deficiency-free rating is one of the top indicators of excellence for nursing and rehabilitation facilities. The state surveyed Holy Trinity this past week as part of a regular annual review for compliance with nursing care standards. They evaluated our facility for quality, safety, administration effectiveness, cleanliness, nursing care, activity programs, protection of resident rights, and food services. ***Congratulations to our staff who work tirelessly every day to serve our residents with the highest level of care, safety, quality, and comfort.***

NEW ADMISSIONS. See for yourself what makes Holy Trinity 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. Looking for a way to make the most of your free time or retirement? Make a meaningful connection with the residents at Holy Trinity. Those who are fully vaccinated may be considered as volunteers. 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, coffee social, or assisting with liturgy.

REHABILITATION. **You have the choice when it comes to short-term rehab.** We offer outstanding services in our extraordinary, Medicare-certified center, including physical, occupational, and speech therapies. For nearly a quarter century,

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 contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

JOB OPENINGS. 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 Hescok](#). 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. This week was a busy one for residents, who kept busy with activities including a painting class, baking, a men's club NASA presentation, and coffee and watermelon socials.

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

Your works are manifold indeed, O Lord, for in wisdom you wrought them all! Yet, your incomparable power and brilliant wisdom are nowhere so manifest as in the woman whom you chose to be the mother of your Son. As we gather here this evening to celebrate her passing from this earthly life, we give you thanks for her readiness to accept your will, for she received your word with faith and kept it. Give us, also, such a readiness to perceive your will and fulfill it, that we may enjoy a glory like hers.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

The Gospel lesson for this Sunday, the eighth after Pentecost, is St. Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand in the wilderness (Matthew 14:14-22). When Jesus learned from the disciples of John the Baptist that he had been beheaded by Herod, he decided to withdraw into a deserted place to be by himself and pray. He got into a boat, but the crowds followed him along the shore by foot. Eventually, this multitude of people, five thousand men, besides women and children (v. 21), who had completely focused themselves on following the Lord, found themselves in the wilderness.

The reaction of the Lord is one of gentleness and compassion. Seeing their faith and their need, he went ashore and, without having to be asked, he cured those who were sick (v. 14). Then the Lord prepared to feed them spiritually; and he did this by first nourishing their bodies.

It was only as evening approached that the disciples became anxious thinking of the needs of all these people now stranded in this lonely place. They would need food. Realizing they didn't have enough food, the disciples urged Jesus to send them away to buy some, but the Lord said: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat" (v. 16).

Let's stop here for a moment and reflect on the situation and what the Lord said. We know that the disciples have nothing more than five loaves and two fish. The Lord is asking the disciples to distribute out of their meagre resources food that would not have sufficed even for themselves, let alone ten thousand plus persons. This is what they understand the Lord to have said. But, the Lord is not testing the faith of the disciples. He has something greater in mind. He is preparing to teach them how God works, and how God will work through them. Rather than distribute the food himself, he engages the disciples into the center of this wonder.

In commenting on this passage, St. John Chrysostom draws our attention to the smallest of details. He notes that the Lord, rather than say: "I will feed them," turns to the disciples and says: "you feed them." How do the disciples respond? "We have

only five loaves and two fish." In spite of the fact that they had already seen so many wondrous things done by Jesus, even there in that very place among the multitude, their thinking remains narrow. Jesus tells them to bring the fish and bread to him and then orders the crowds to sit.

He takes the food and in front of everyone offers a prayer to his Father to show them—and us—that at all times, we need to stop and give thanks to the One who gives us our food. Then he breaks the loaves and gives the pieces to the disciples to distribute. He not only works this great miracle, he enlists the disciples to participate in and become witnesses to it as the food is multiplied in their very hands. The crowd which saw the five loaves and the two fish also see the disciples feeding everyone with it. Finally, not only is everyone fed and satisfied, but there is an abundance of food remaining.

Our God is compassionate. He heals our sicknesses. He feeds our stomachs. He nourishes our souls. He draws us to Heaven without ignoring our everyday earthly needs.

For our part, we are asked to follow him. Like these people who left everything simply to hear Jesus, we need to "lay aside all earthly cares" (as we sing in the Cherubim Hymn). And when we are about to take nourishment from the abundance he gives us, we should never forget to first stop and give thanks to the Giver of every good thing (cf. James 1:17).

— Fr. Nicholas Apostola

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat. Aug 14 **Dormition Vespers at St. Mary's 6 pm**
Sun, Aug 15 **Feast of the Dormition**
Thurs, Aug 19 **Parish Council 7 pm**
Fri, Aug 20 **Mustard Seed Meal**
Sat, Sept 4 **Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon**
Sept 4-6 **Marlboro Greek Festival**

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