



**Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury Massachusetts**  
**Biserica Ortodoxă Română Sfântul Nicolae Shrewsbury Massachusetts**

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545

**Parish Priest Vasile Aileni**

<http://www.stnicholaschurch.org/> || tell (508) 320 0645



**WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**Sunday February 11, 2024**



***This Week's News***

**ICON AUCTION** – Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> our parish hosted an important event called “Take an Icon Home”. We had a great time and we raised money for our church. Thank you to the Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary and to all of you that contributed to the success of the event! See pictures below.

**AIMEE McCLUNE** - Director of Community Outreach/Clinical Screener for Admissions will be attending Liturgy this Sunday from Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 300 Barber Avenue Worcester. Aimee will be attending coffee hour after liturgy and would love to meet our parish members. She will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding short term rehabilitative care and any suggestions on being active within our community.

**MUSTARD SEED MEAL** – We need a sponsor for our next Mustard Seed Meal on **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**. We could use this way of giving in memory of our loved ones, for the someone's health, but beyond that is because we want to feed our hungry neighbors. If you have it in your heart to contribute, please contact Betty Anderson (508) 353-9449.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**-The blessing of homes at Theophany will begin the week of January 6, 2020, and continue until all homes are blessed. As in the past, we will be setting times when we will be coming to bless your home. If there is a specific time that is more convenient for you, please call Fr. Vasile to arrange it 508.320.0645 or [fr.vasileaileni@gmail.com](mailto:fr.vasileaileni@gmail.com)

**MEMORY ETERNAL** Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> Carmen Finn's family will sponsor the coffee in loving memory of her parents Ioana & Vasile. May God make their memory be eternal!

**Retreat with Mother/Gerontissa/ Staretsa Gabriella (Ursache) from Holy Dormition Monastery, MI.** at St. Michael Church in Southbridge. See info in bellow flyers.



***Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost***  
***Apostolic Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10***  
***Gospel: Matthew 25, 14-30***  
***(The Parable of the Talents)***  
***Tone 3 † Resurrection Gospel 3***

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. BLAISE**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Blaise. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEODORA THE EMPRESS**

As a right worthy namesake of gifts bestowed of God, and a divinely-wrought image of holy wisdom and faith, thou didst make the Church to shine with godly piety; for thou didst demonstrate to all that the Saints in every age have shown honor to the icons, O Theodora, thou righteous and fair adornment of the Orthodox.



"We are all saved in the community, in the Church of Christ and each one is responsible for the other. If someone is weak, take his load and carry it yourself. If you are weak, ask someone to carry your load. In this way, united in prayer and good deeds, we will reach the glorious Resurrection of the Savior, so that we can come with Him and see the heavenly light."

Father Gheoghe Calciu-Dumitreasa

1925 - 2006



**Happy Birthday! God Grant You  
Many More Years!**

Feb 7 - Evan Sparages  
Feb 13 – Serghei Cebotari  
Feb 18 – James Trakadas

**Let us Pray for the good health  
of:**

Andrei, Mark, Irene - Ekaterina, Psa  
Aza, Betty Ekaterina, Psa Ileana,  
Luiza, Andrew, Margareta, Marius-  
Nicolae, Loredana-Anca, Teodora,  
Joanne, Deborah-Ann, Rebeka, Fr.  
George, Fr. Stefan and his son Andrei  
for their helath and for their salvation!  
Amin!

**Dates to remember:**

**February 2** - The Presentation of Our Lord  
and Savior in the Temple  
**February 4** - Icon Auction  
**February 16** - Mustard Seed Meal  
**February 25** - Triodion Begins  
**March 10** - Meatfare Sunday  
**March 17** - Forgiveness Sunday  
(Cheesefare)

***A Prayer of Fr. Laurence***

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: When your divine Son was brought into the temple, carried along with the offerings to be sacrificed, the blessed Simeon received him from the arms of his mother. The elder's joy, however, was tempered by apprehension, for, with the eyes of the spirit, he saw the powers of heaven in attendance, glorifying the infant Saviour with great awe and reverence. Just as the divinity of your Son did not consume the elder, do not let it consume us, either, though we deserve it for our indifferent, careless, and fickle way of living. Rather, as we prepare for the night that quickly approaches, grant us forgiveness of our sins, and let peace and tranquility restore our tired souls and bodies!



**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

Day	Date	Time	Service Type
Feb-24			
Friday	2-Feb	9:30 AM	Akathist
		10:00 AM	(†) The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple
Sunday	4-Feb	7:30 AM	Matins
		8:00 AM	The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (The Greatest Commandment of the Law)
Sunday	11-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost (The Parable of the Talents)
Sunday	18-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (The Canaanite Woman)
Sunday	25-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Thirty-Third Sunday after Pentecost (The Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee) Triodion Begins



ST. THEODORA THE EMPRESS





Holy Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (829-842), but she did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, Saint Theodora governed the realm because her son Michael was a minor. She convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. Saint Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. Saint Theodora did much for Holy Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael.

When Michael came of age, she was retired from governing and spent eight years in the monastery of Saint Euphrosynē, where she devoted herself to ascetic struggles, and reading books that nourished her soul. A copy of the Gospels, copied in her own hand, is known to exist. She died peacefully around the year 867. In 1460, her relics were given by the Turks to the people of Kerkyra (Corfu).

Kontakion

We sing thy praises as the gem and fairness of the Church, and as a diadem and pattern of all Christian queens, O all-lauded and divinely-crowned Theodora; for in bringing back the icons to their rightful place, thou didst cast usurping heresy out of the Church. Hence, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O Sovereign most venerable.



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## Women Retreat

Friday, March 29th

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Registration  
5:30 pm - 6:15 pm - Dinner  
6:15 pm - 7:15 pm - The image of the Mother of God in the Church and family  
7:15 pm - 7:30 pm - Break  
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Q&A Session

## Open Retreat

Saturday, March 30th

8:30 am - 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
9:30 am - 10:30 am - Breakfast  
10:30 am - 11:30 am - 1st Conference: "Home as church - Prayer as the door to Joy"  
Break: 15 minutes  
11:45 am - 12:30 pm - Q&A Session  
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - 2nd Conference: "Climbing the Ladder of the Virtues"  
Break: 15 minutes  
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm - Q&A Session  
5:00 pm - Vespers

## Open Retreat

Sunday, March 31st

9:00 am - Matins  
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Mother Gabriella will deliver an encouraging sermon after Liturgy.)

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Financial help will be available on request

## Pricing for Retreat

Friday, March 29th - Sunday, March 31st

### Friday only:

- **\$45** - One Conference, one Q&A session, and one meal

### Friday & Saturday:

- **\$100** - 3 Conferences, 3 Q&A sessions, and 3 meals

### Saturday only:

- **\$65** - includes two conferences, two Q&A sessions, and 2 meals

### Family Package:

- **\$125**
  - Women and Open Retreat for husband, wife, and children between 0-12 years old.
  - Each teenager (13-18 years old) - **\$25**
  - 3 Conferences, 3 Q&A sessions, and 3 meals
  - Men and children only Saturday

### Early registration:

January 22nd - February 29th - 10% discount!

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**Holy Archangel Michael Romanian Orthodox Church**  
16 Romanian Ave, Southbridge MA 01550

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# The Life of

## ABBESS MOTHER GABRIELLA URSACHE

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Mother Gabriella (Ursache) is the Abbess (Gerontissa - Greek, Stareța -Romanian) of the Holy Dormition Monastery , MI, since 1989. She was tonsured as a nun in 1977 in Varatec Monastery (Romania). In 1978 Mother Gabriella joined The Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Elwood City, PA, the monastery founded by Princess Ileana of Romania, later Mother Alexandra.

In 1987 Mother Gabriella together with sister Apolinaria and their spiritual mother, Schimonahy Benedicta (Great Schema Nun), got the blessing to build a new monastery in Northern part of the US. In 1989 Fr Roman Braga (member of the movement Burning Bush from Antim Monastery, Bucharest, was imprisoned by the communist authorities, together with all members of this movement in 1952) moved from Elwood City and joined the nuns at Rives Junction, MI.

After Elder Benedicta retired from the public leadership of the Monastery in 1989 she passed the herald onto Mother Gabriella, who was installed as the new and second Abbess of the monastery by His Grace Bishop Nathaniel on the Feast Day of the Dormition, same year.

Mother Gabriella was a devoted spiritual daughter of Fr. Roman Braga, and she inherited his joy and love for people. She generously and humble shares her spiritual experience and wisdom being invited as the quest speaker to conduct spiritual retreats for adults and youth groups to the parishes around the United States and Canada.



## **HOLY TRINITY NEWS**

### **February 11, 2024**

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**The month of February has so many events to celebrate!**

**Today, Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> our residents will gather to watch the Super Bowl 2024 with snacks and excitement!**



**Valentine's Day is this Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating with our residents, and every resident will receive a little valentine gift bag.**

**On Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> is National Caregiver Day we will be having a self-care day for our staff in appreciation for all they do! We have self-care activities planned throughout the day! Mini Manicures provided by Worcester Public School's Technical Cosmetology Students, Chair Yoga, Chair Massage, Healthy Food, Gift Bags and Raffles. Taking care of our staff is just as important as taking care of our residents. Holy Trinity strives for excellence, and we know feeling appreciated is especially important for our staff along with our residents.**

**We are also celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week. You will see decorative boxes around the facility asking to write down an act of kindness you received or even one you accomplished. This is for our residents along with our staff. We feel it is important to acknowledge all acts of kindness given and received.**

**So much to look forward to this week! Stop in anytime we would love to see you!**

***REMEMBER, DIVINE LITURGY*** celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am.  
***STAY CONNECTED.*** Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.













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