

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, June 18, 2023

All Saints of America

Tone 1. Epistle, Rom. 2:10-16; Gospel, Matt. 4:18-23

Martyr Leontius and His Companions

SERVICES

SATURDAY 6 p.m. Vespers (Holy Resurrection Church, Belle Vernon)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR will be held today following the Divine Liturgy.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING will be held next Sunday, June 25 following the Divine Liturgy. The Petro family will sponsor a light luncheon before the meeting.

VIGIL OFFERINGS – Sunday, June 18, 2023

MARY BEHANNA (Virgin Mary Kiot) – In memory of parents, Andy and Patrina Gernat (2)
GINNY and DAVE CASCIANI – For health of son, Eric
SANDY KLIZAS – In memory of Stephen and Helen Drake (2) / In memory of Frank and June Drake (2) / For health of Betsy Chambers
DONNA BUCCI – For health of family
PROTODEACON RODION and MAT. SANDY – For health of Protodeacon Rodion, Nicholas, and Christina / For health of Luke Zewe / God's blessings upon St. Nicholas families
GERALDINE ROZIK – For health of brother, Gerald / In memory of parents, Joseph and Helen Rozik / For health and welfare of our Church
DR. DIMITRI and PAULINE PETRO – For birthday of son-in-law, Adam / For son, Tom on Father's Day / For son Ted, on Father's Day / For son-in-law, Nick on Father's Day / For son-in-law, Rob on Father's Day / For son-in-law, Adam on Father's Day / In loving memory of fathers, Michael Petro and William Drahushak on Father's Day / For health of grandson, Luke / In memory of Father Igor
PAULINE PETRO – For husband, Dimitri on Father's Day
SANDY CARROLL – Special intentions
SANDY AITKEN – In memory of father, Lee / In memory of grandfathers, Michael Dran and Robert Aitken / In memory of godfather, John Prystash / In memory of Fr. Igor / For health of mother, Pauline / Birthday blessings for goddaughter, Paige
INA PRYSTASH – In memory of husband, Ralph / For health of family
M/M TERRY RUGH – In memory of dad, Ralph / For health of family

RODNEY PRYSTASH – In memory of dad / For health of mom, Jacque, and Dianna

M/M NICK MILCHOVICH – Happy Father's Day for dad, Dr. Dimitri Petro / In memory of grandfathers

CHRISTINE MILCHOVICH – Happy Father's Day for husband, Nick

NICHOLAS and ALEXANDRA MILCHOVICH – Happy Father's Day for dad

MARK SOROKA – Father's Day remembrance of father, Fr. Igor / In blessed memory of mother, Matushka Irene / Father's Day remembrance of grandfathers, Fr. Gregory Soroka and Michael Hrenyo

Spiritual Aspects of Fatherhood

More than anything else in the world, children need a loving family and parents who support each other. Christ challenges us to love one another, and that challenge becomes even more compelling within our own families. Even in the best of families, there is brokenness. And that is why the man's call to fatherhood is so important. Fathers are called to show their families strong, manly love and forgiveness, virtues modeled powerfully in the father of the prodigal son. (Lk 11:32)

This father is stable, loving, and generous. In his fairness, he avoids violating the freedom of either of his sons. When the prodigal demands his inheritance and decides to leave, the father does not attempt to withhold the money. He does not pressure the son to stay by trying to make him feel guilty. And the father is wise enough not to send care packages to relieve the son's distress. The father allows both of his adult sons to make their own mistakes and to learn from their failures, an appropriate form of discipline for older adolescents and young adults.

The prodigal's father demonstrates manly leadership by taking loving initiatives, and he takes many such initiatives. He maintains a thriving business to provide the generous inheritance. He creates and supports a loving family for the prodigal to run from and for the older son to remain with. And there is his last generous, joyful initiative as he runs out to embrace the returning son, kiss him, and put on him the best robe, ring, and shoes. He celebrates the return of his son with a feast. And in a scene all of us fathers can recognize, he opens up the conversation with the sulking older son.

The father takes the initiative in bringing about forgiveness and reconciliation in the whole family. He is a model for us in responding to our call to follow the Spirit of Jesus in taking many initiatives in our families, especially that of boundless forgiveness for our children. When a father takes responsibility for his own spiritual life, for the way he prays, goes to church, and practices virtue in the family, he gives a good example. Then his leadership in the family is authentic, based on his own solid relationship with God, and he is less likely to be concerned about any resistance his children may give him.