

CHURCH BULLETIN	V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic, Parish Priest Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146 412.622.4714 (cell) 412.856.8166 (office) <a href="mailto:dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com">dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org">www.stnicholasmonroeville.org</a> <a href="mailto:stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com">stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com</a>	SUNDAY August 19, 2018
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### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### *Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ*

*Peter (1:10-19) Gospel: Matthew (17:1-9)*

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of man is risen from the dead."

#### TROPARION TONE III

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown might with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

#### KONTAKION TONE III

On this day You did rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### **Important Dates:**

**Tamburitzans** ó The 2018-2019 season of Tammies will be starting after Labor Day! Any child who is at least **6 years old** and in **first grade** is eligible to join. Rehearsals are Monday evenings in the hall.

Please contact Alexis Janiga at 412-965-5602 or at [djaniga872@comcast.net](mailto:djaniga872@comcast.net) if you are interested or have any questions. Your children will develop friendships that will last a lifetime!

**HELP NEEDED!** - On **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**, The Od Srce Committee will be hosting a benefit at our church hall for *The Tamburitzans* (formerly known as The Duquesne Tamburitzans). Currently, **five of our St. Nicholas kids** are members of this organization, and they need our support! The university no longer sponsors this incredibly talented group which means that they need to look elsewhere for donations to keep the group in existence. This group travels across the United States and promotes our culture! They need our help to ensure that people in every corner of our country know about our Serbian culture and heritage. **Please attend this event and consider baking an item for the reception at our hall.** Not a baker? Donate a bottle for the bar or a cash donation to offset the cost of the event. Please contact Alexis Janiga at 412-965-5602 or at [djaniga872@comcast.net](mailto:djaniga872@comcast.net) if you are willing to lend a hand.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** is the start of church school. The Outreach committee will host a potluck dinner that day after Liturgy.

#### REMINDERS

**Adult Bible Study** – Bible study will resume in September. More details to follow.

**Vespers** ó Saturday evening 6:00 p.m. Confession 6:30 p.m.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *The Transfiguration*

In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion, and also of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples, and so that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to show them a portion of His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and went by night to Mount Tabor, and was there transfigured before them: His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light (Matthew 17:2). Moses and Elias, the great Old Testament prophets, also appeared beside Him. Seeing this, His disciples were stunned. Peter said: Lord, it is good for us to be here: if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias (Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elias departed, and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples, and there came a voice from the cloud saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him (Matthew 17:5).

## TRANSFIGURATION CONTINUED...

Hearing the voice, the disciples fell face down on the ground as though dead, and remained that way, prostrate in fear, until the Lord came to them and said: Arise, and be not afraid (Matthew 17:7).

Why did the Lord take only three disciples onto Tabor, and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he would betray; and the Lord did not want to leave him alone at the foot of the mountain, so that the betrayer would not, because of this, justify his betrayal.

Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly thoughts – for climbing to the heights requires labor, and the heights themselves represent the elevation of our thoughts to the things of God.

Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because the night is more suitable than the day for prayer and godly thoughts; and the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth, and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens.

Why did Moses and Elias appear? In order to destroy the Jewish fallacy that Christ was one of the prophets – Elias or Jeremiah or some other. That is why He appeared as a King, above the prophets, and that is why Moses and Elias appeared as His servants. Until then, our Lord had manifested His divine power many times to the disciples; but on Mount Tabor He manifested His Divine Nature. This vision of His Divinity, and the hearing of the heavenly witness to His being the Son of God, must have served the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion – in the strengthening of a steadfast faith in Him and in His final victory.



