

CHURCH BULLETIN	V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic, Parish Priest Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146 412.622.4714 (cell) 412.856.8166 (office) dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com	SUNDAY August 26, 2018
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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Corinthians (16:13-24) Gospel: Matthew (21:33-42)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance." So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

TROPARION TONE IV

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

KONTAKION TONE IV

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

TROPARION - TRANSFIGURATION

You were transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Your everlasting light shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos; O Giver of Light, Glory to You!

TROPARION – FOREFEAST OF THE FALLING ASLEEP OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Come forward, O you people, and receive the glad tidings, clapping your hands together. Gather together today anxiously and joyfully, and shout you all in joy; for the Theotokos is about to rise in glory from the earth to the heavens. Let us ever glorify her with praises; for she is the Theotokos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight – Pomen services for +Nikola ðNickö Veselinovic at 7:00 p.m. Alfieri's Funeral Home.

Monday, August 27th – Funeral service for +Nikola ðNickö Veselinovic at 11:00 a.m. in church. Vjecnaja Pamjat. Memory Eternal.

Tuesday, August 28th – There will be no liturgy served at our church. His Grace Bishop Irinej will be serving liturgy at Holy Trinity Church in Youngstown, Ohio for the Federation KSS Slava. Plan to attend!

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 if you are interested or have any questions. Your children will develop friendships that will last a lifetime!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today: There will be a Sunday School teacher's meeting (following Divine Liturgy) for teachers and those interested in teaching.

September 4th: Church Board meeting 6:30 PM

September 9th: First Day of Sunday School & Picnic (Potluck)

September 15th: Klub Karadjordje's Golf outing - ***Please see insert for more information!**

September 29th: Choir Concert

September 30th: Quarterly Parish update

October 14th: Triple B Farm field trip for Church School

October 20th: Tamburitzans concert, dinner and dance *Details to follow

October 28th: Kolo Srpskih Sestara Slava celebration of Sveta Petka

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 Whole Mystery of the Economy*” (meaning *God’s plan for the human race’s salvation*)

The readings from Genesis, Ezekial, and Proverbs present us with a series of images, all with the reference to the Theotokos. She is the ladder ascending from earth to heaven, beheld by the patriarch Jacob in a vision (Gen. 28:12). She is Beth-el, God’s house, and the gate of heaven (Gen. 28:17). She is the east gate of the Temple sanctuary, which remains shut ó virginal: no man enters, öfor the Lord, the God of Israel has entered through it,ö as Ezekial prophesies (Ez. 44:2). She is wisdom, or the house of wisdom, of which king Solomon speaks (Prov. 9:1).

These readings- from Genesis, Ezekial, and Proverbs- represent the 3 divisions of the Jewish Bible: the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. Together they comprise a öbouquetö representing the whole of what we call the Old Covenant. It is as if to say: Mary is the sum towards which the whole history of Israel was pointing all along. She is the daughter of Zion, the hinge of salvation history. In her is the beginning of the New Covenant.

In the words of St. John of Damascus, öin the name Theotokos is contained the whole mystery of the economy.ö Economy ó *oikonomia*, as we often hear in our hymns ó refers to God’s ordering of his öhousehold,ö his governance of creation and history according to his plan for our salvation and glorification. There is an *order* to God’s plan and a unity of meaning. This unity is revealed in the person of the Holy Virgin.

Mary’s role in this economy, her identity as öMother,ö does not end with giving birth or rearing her child. We see her not only at the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus, but also at his first miracle in Cana, at the foot of the Cross, and with the Church at Pentecost. As St. John of Damascus said, öthe whole mystery of the economy.ö

In the festal cycle of our liturgical year, which begins September 1, the first great feast is the birth of the Theotokos, on Sept. 8. The last great feast is today, her falling asleep and bodily assumption into heaven. Our liturgical remembrance of Christ’s work of salvation begins and ends with Mary. We begin with her birth, we end with her glorification. öIn the name Theotokos is contained the whole mystery of the economy.ö

A Woman Clothed with the Sun

At the end of his life, in exile on the island of Patmos, the Apostle John had a vision. öA great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head: (Rev. 12:1). Most commentators take this image from the book of Apocalypse to be referring to the church, or the remnant Israel. Some, however, see here an image of Mary,

especially as she is the daughter of Zion, and she typifies the Church. Some even see an image of her bodily assumption.

öA great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sunö (Rev. 12:1). In the bodily ötranslationö of the Virgin, the Church recognizes a ögreat sign.ö A prophetic sign, that speaks to us of our destiny, of the meaning of death, of bodies, of human relations. This sign tells us: death is not the final end of the human being. We are not lastly, as the philosopher Heidegger thought, only öbeing-unto-death.ö Finite time and death are not our ultimate horizon. The mother of Jesus was ötranslated unto life.ö

This sign tells us: a öheavenö of pure spirits is not our last estate. Christians are not Platonists! The body is not the soul’s prison, a cocoon to be sloughed off for the ötrue selfö to emerge like a butterfly. Plato was wrong: our true person, as God intended it, is not just soul, but also body. Salvation of the person means salvation of the body.

This sign tells us: through the resurrection of Jesus, each one of us will rise again in our body, restored, as we were also once conceived in our mother’s womb: as male or female. And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun (Rev. 12:1). Risen to glory, Mary is still *Woman*.

Certain ancient heretics, called Gnostics, believed that here was something to be overcome: in the kingdom of heaven, there would be no male and female, or perhaps women would become like men (Gospel of Thomas, logion 114). These Gnostics scorned marriage, and especially procreation. They sought liberation from the bonds of nature.

We still have our Gnostics today. Our Gnostics would like us to think of man and woman, mother and father, as interchangeable, shifting identities: not the Creator’s good and lasting design, but inventions of society, or plastic self-constructions.

But today the Church holds out to us a different vision. It is a sign to our age, öa sign of contradictionö (Lk. 2:34). öYou were translated to life, O Mother of Life.ö This sign says: risen to glory, Mary is still *Mother*. In the bodily glorification of Mary, we are given an image, a pre-installment, of the glory of the Kingdom which we hope to inherit. It is fully *embodied* glory, wherein the beauty of created difference is preserved. A glory in which natural bonds of love will not be dissolved. A glory in which each of us will remain mother or father, and son or daughter, to someone. And to everyone who, like the beloved disciple, has rested a head upon the Lord’s bosom, or stood by his Cross in prayer, Christ will say: öSon, behold thy Motherö (Jn. 19:27).

There is no human person more exalted than the Virgin Mary, the Panagia. And there is no greater title for her in our theological glossary than öMother.ö This should tell us something. This word, *mother*, extends far beyond physical childbearing. It names an all-encompassing human concern, a spiritual bond, a calling from God. This spiritual maternity, beyond blood offspring, is the gift and calling of every woman: married or unmarried; bearer of many, one or none. It is a gift, of which every one of us ó all humanity ó is the blessed beneficiary. This is the good gift of our Creator ó not our fashioning. And as today’s feast reminds us, it does not end in death.

HELP NEEDED! - On **Saturday, September 8th**, 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 if you are willing to lend a hand.

