

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 5, 2018
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TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Corinthians (4:9-16) Gospel: Matthew (17:14-23)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

TROPARION TONE I

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body; You did rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The power of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who loves mankind.

KONTAKION TONE I

As God, You did rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to You: You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates:

Saturday, August 11th – The Saint Nicholas Maintenance Committee is sponsoring an "Oldies Concert/Dinner Dance". The proceeds will be used to purchase a storage shed. A basket auction will be available with the following themes: Golf, Pittsburgh sports, lottery tickets, Bath & Body Works, gift cards, wine, liquor/bourbon, and scrapbooking. Additionally, a small freezer of meat will be raffled! The Maintenance Committee will purchase all items and assemble baskets. We are asking all auxiliary organizations, committees, and parishioners for a monetary donation to offset the costs. We are suggesting a minimum donation of \$10 per person. Money may be given to: Sondra Deaunovich, Natalia Petrucci, or Susan Glenn. Thank you for your help!

Tuesday, August 14th – Dormition fast begins

Thursday, August 16th ó 6:30 P.M. Church board meeting

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!

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.

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *Why Do We Go To Church?* By: Rev. Andrew Demotses

I recently read a fascinating article about church attendance in places like Florida, Arizona, and California that are heavily frequented by tourists and by long-term visitors from colder climates. Most such people were found to attend church with greater regularity while away than they did at home. When questioned about this, most sheepishly admitted that, while away, church attendance was seen as an opportunity to socialize, to make and meet friends, and to create a network of acquaintances in a new place. At home, established family and social constellations made this unnecessary, and church attendance, therefore, was less frequent.

This reminded me of Francois Fenelon who was the official preacher for King Louis XIV of France in the 17th century. One Sunday when the king arrived with his retinue for regular chapel services, he was startled to discover that no one else was there except the preacher. King Louis asked, "What does this mean?" Fenelon replied, "I had published in the royal register that you would not come to church today, in order that Your Majesty might see for himself what members of the court serve God in truth and who come merely to impress the king."

This current study, and the historic precedent, although separated by centuries, both point us in the direction of much-needed introspection. Many of us do not attend church at all, or do so very infrequently. We live by the time-worn excuse that "you don't have to go to church to be a good Christian." While that might be true in the absolute sense, I would nonetheless point out that Christ Himself, though He was without sin, thought it important to attend and participate in weekly worship. By what standard of measurement do we feel that we are entitled to do less?

At the same time, those who attend church need to remember that they must do the right things for the right reasons if they are to have any value. When we gather as God's people, let us not do so in order to be seen, to see others, or to nourish feelings of unjustified self-righteousness; rather let us be united, as the Liturgy says "with one heart and one mind" and thus keep Christ pre-eminent. Let us approach God's holy altar with the only gift He seeks - a thankful and contrite heart.

