

<p>CHURCH BULLETIN</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>SUNDAY December 2, 2018</p>
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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Ephesians (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breast-plate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel: Luke (13:10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And he laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—ó for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

TROPARION TONE II

When You did descend to death, O Life immortal, You did slay hell with the splendor of Your godhead! And when from the depths You did raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDERWORKER

TROPARION TONE IV

The day of the joyous celebration has come; the city of Bari rejoices and with it the whole universe leaps from joy, singing the spiritual songs and psalms. For today, the holy feast, on

the occasion of the transfer of the honorable and exceedingly healing relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, has shone forth with the radiant rays, like the sun that does not set, driving away the darkness of temptations and calamities from those who faithfully exclaim to thee: "Save us, as our protector, O great Nicholas!"

KONTAKION TONE II

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You! And the world, O my Savior, praises You forever.

KONTAKION TONE III

TRANSFER OF THE HOLY RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDERWORKER

Your relics, O Saint Nicholas, came out as a star from the east to the west. The sea was sanctified by your journey, and the city of Bari, through you, has received the grace. For working for us, you have appeared as an excellent, wonderful and merciful Wonderworker.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOTOKOS - TONE VI

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator: do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you do always protect those who honor you.

SAINTS WE COMMEMORATE TODAY – *Holy Prophet Obadiah; Venerable Fathers Barlaam and Joasaph*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A World War I display, titled "Tamo Daleko: 1918-2018/ Over There; So Far Away" is set-up in the hall. This is the 100 year centennial celebration of Serbia and America in World War I. Please stay and view this beautiful exhibit and learn about our ancestor's involvement in this great cause.

Today – A Sveta Petka Kolo meeting will be held today and will include the election of officers for 2019. All are welcome!

Beautiful Christmas Cards ó Available to purchase at the tutor's desk. \$30/pack.

The "Noodle-makers" of St. Nicholas began their work to help replenish the Maintenance Committee Fund this past Tuesday and will continue for at least 4 weeks. To place orders for home-made noodles, please call Rose Cheran (412 824-7609). Donations of flour and eggs will be deeply appreciated. If you have a noodle machine you are not using, we would

love to use it! If you want to help by making noodles or packaging them on another day, call or email Pat Kolar (412 445-0536; patkolar@verizon.net).

Many **new** spiritual books are available to purchase at the tutor's desk. Please take a look at the various titles and acquire them for the benefit of our church and for the enrichment of your soul.

Skolarac Serbian Language Classes – Have begun from 4:00 ó 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs hall. Ages 3-5 years old. Still interested? Sign-up at: www.skolarac.org

Mali Opanci – Meets on Mondays from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the parish home for ages 3-6 years old. Contact Sonja Capuzzi: sonjacapuzzi@gmail.com

The Committee for the 2019 SNF Summer Golf Tournament has met and is excited to begin planning for this big event for our church and local SNF lodges. To be successful, we will need everyone's help! There will be many opportunities for you to contribute. The Committee will keep you informed of our progress over the coming months. Pam Matejevich will be coordinating volunteers for the event which will take place August 7-11, 2019. Reach out to Pam or to Chairman Dushan Markoff to offer your help or ask any questions!

Maintenance Group is preparing for winter! Sauerkraut, sour heads, applesauce, smoked kielbassi, Italian sausage, smoked spare ribs, bacon, pumpkin pie, and organic potatoes will be available very soon to purchase for the upcoming winter months. Details to follow.

PURSE BASH - Ladies, A Purse Bash is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2019. Let's pull together our talents to make this a fun and profitable event for our church. Anyone, all ages, who is interested in being part of a committee, please contact Sondra Deaunovich, at Sondra7890@comcast.net or text/phone, 412-760-5796.

The St. Nicholas Sunday School will be selling candy from Dorothy's in White Oak for Christmas. Please see or call Sophie Vargo at (412) 466-2760.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4th: The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos ó Liturgy at 10 a.m.

December 9th: Annual Assembly Meeting will be held after Liturgy. A luncheon will be available to purchase. All members are invited to attend. You are kindly reminded to ensure that your financial obligations are met for 2018. If you have questions or concerns about your dues, please contact Jovan (Jovi) Jovanovich.

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

A reflection on today's Gospel

Today's Gospel reading tells us about the heart of a selfish and difficult man who has no mercy for another. This point alone is terrible, but what makes it worse is that this lack of mercy is justified using God and His commandments. The woman in the story, who was crippled for 18 years, was healed on the Sabbath (Saturday). Attacking Christ that He has performed this miracle on the Sabbath, the day of rest, the leader of the synagogue presents a classic example of the perception of God and His Law of that day.

With these sorts of individuals, who exist even today, faith in God has been leveled to a formalistic understanding of God's Commandments, and on a legalistic approach to the relationship between God and man. With this belief, the people of past became immune to God's mercy, and thus lost the merciful approach between one another. This shows us why the Son of God was born and became man at this point in time. With Christ's birth, this legalistic approach to one's spiritual life ceased.

What spiritual gain does man have by not working on the Sabbath (day of rest), by eating the prescribed foods, and by holding onto the commandments in a ceremonial fashion, but at the same time not being interested in the other, one's neighbor, who suffers beside him? NONE! This shows the importance and strength in Christ's response. That is why He calls the synagogue leader a hypocrite, as He knows that every one of them unties their animals to be fed and given water, but is disturbed that a woman who needed healing, is healed on the Sabbath.

Why is this Gospel important to today's people? As Christians, we are aware that man is invited to seek help from God to save oneself from destruction and death, but we sometimes forget that we are also invited to partake in the fulfillment of God's plan for humankind. If we are genuine Christians, who follow Christ, we are obliged to help our neighbor and loved ones in need, taking on their hardships as our own. By doing so, we accept that we are "tools" in God's hands through whom God offers help to those who require it. The fallen and self-centered man who helps his neighbor in his own name, not in God's, hurls to spiritual emptiness and pride. Every work we do, every good deed, simply every action we undertake, cannot be in our name, but only in God's holy name. Only then will our spiritual life have true meaning and lead us to eternity. In this way, we will feel the delight felt by those who rejoiced and delighted in this Gospel story, witnessing the great deeds that Christ performed.

