

<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 9, 2018</p>
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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Colossians (1:12-18)

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities ó all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Gospel: Luke (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, òJesus of Nazareth is passing by.ö And he cried, òJesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!ö And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, òSon of David, have mercy on me!ö And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, òWhat do you want me to do for you?ö He said, òLord, let me receive my sight.ö And Jesus said to him, òReceive your sight; your faith has made you well.ö And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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!

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: òSave us, as our protector, O great Nicholas!ö

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!

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 – Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 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.

The St. Nicholas Choir was awarded the bid and will host the 2020 SSF Festival in Monroeville. Congratulations!

We will be having a Christmas play on Jan. 6th following Divine Liturgy. ALL children will have a role, so all parents need to attend and bring their kids.

Also, there will be [mandatory] play practice on Sunday Dec 16th, 23rd, and 30th (last 3 Sundays in December) as well as MANDATORY dress rehearsal on Saturday Jan. 5th from 11-2. Lunch will be served to the children. Also, if anyone has any "Nativity" scene costumes like animals or angels that they would like to donate, please see Protinica Karen.

December 12th - St Mardarije, Bishop of America and Canada. Liturgy at 10:00am. All the clergy from the Pittsburgh Deanery will concelebrate Divine liturgy together.

December 16th - Our Choir and Tamburitians are celebrating their patron saint day St. Nicholas. Lunch will be served after Divine Liturgy. Menu: Shrimp bisque, hearty vegetable soup, poga a, and salad. Please try and make the effort to attend and show our support.

December 19th - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia. Liturgy at 10.00am. Cutting of the Festal Slava Breads will follow.

January 6th - Christmas Eve. Following Divine Liturgy, our beloved children will perform a Christmas play. Lunch will be served.

January 6th - Christmas Eve service will begin at 6.00pm. Traditional lighting of the Yule tree/ Badnjak will follow. A rich and wonderful dinner following the service will be in the church hall with entertainment provided by Srpski Sinovi/ Serbian sons. Invite your family and friends and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All are welcome/ Dobro do li!

Beautiful Christmas Cards ó Available to purchase at the tutorø desk. \$20/pack or \$2/each.

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).

PURSE BASH - A Planning Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 7 p.m. for a new fund raiser, a Purse Bash. The Purse Bash is scheduled for March 2, 2019. Ladies, this will be a fun event. Please plan on attending this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Sondra Deaunovich at Sondra7890@comcast.net or 412-760-5796.

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.

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

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Classes cancelled until further notice.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

The Significance of Being Christian

Did you ever ask yourself if your life has any real purpose? There are many people today, philosophers and scholars, as well as ordinary people who think that men and women really have no ultimate purpose, that our existence is a biological accident, that life as we experience it is a flash in the void, both temporary and without meaning or purpose.

Christians, who believe in God as Creator, cannot hold such a pessimistic view of man. Christians understand that man is really the end result of Godø creative action. The Scriptures teach that mankindø destiny and purpose is to become øperfect as our Father in heaven is perfectø and that our ultimate goal and purpose as individuals and as a people is to be øthe image and the likeness of god.ø

If we are to become as much as is humanly possible like God, then our thoughts are like His thoughts, our desires coincide with His desires, our will chooses as He chooses, our actions are reflections of His actions. In other words, we become like God when our ways of thinking, feeling, acting, and doing are united with Godø ways of doing these things. We fulfill our purpose as human beings when we are thus united with God. Our life on earth then has great meaning and significance: to develop and to grow little by little into that image and likeness of God.

Yet, we all know that things are not that simple. Human beings do not grow in an unobstructed way toward that union with God and the realization of their own human potential. We can expect that if we plant a lily bulb, with a minimum of proper care, the bulb in due time will sprout and soon present us with its lovely trumpet-like flowers in an almost automatic fashion. Not so with man. It is as if there is some perverse force which causes us to separate ourselves from thinking, desiring, willing, and acting in a God-like way. The name we give to this separation is øsin.ø

Sin means not being united with God ó not living like God, and thus not fulfilling our purpose as human beings. This condition of sin seems to have a very profound influence in our lives. Just as Adam and Eve were separated from God, when we sin, we are separated not only from God, but also from our own true self since our own true self exists and can only be realized when we are united with God.

We can only be pulled out of the quicksand when God reaches out and extends the hand of salvation, known as øDivine Graceø to us! He has shown us that Grace in many ways. The most important way was through His Son, Jesus Christ. The whole meaning of Christø Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection is that we are given the opportunity again to realize our potential and purpose as human beings. Christ through His death took the brunt of the spiritual death which we were living upon Himself. His Death and Resurrection restored the possibility to every man to live, think, desire, and will as God does. If we accept Godø extended hand, we begin to be lifted out of that sure death through sin. We can then rejoice because we know that as long as we grasp hold of that hand, we are saved. Accepting the saving hand of Jesus Christ, being united with Him in that unbroken handclasp is what it means to simply be a Christian.

