

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 July 15, 2018
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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Romans (15:1-7) Gospel: Matthew (9:27-35)

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

TROPARION TONE VI

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure Body. You did capture hell, not being tempted by it. You did come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who did rise from the dead: glory to You!

KONTAKION TONE VI

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates:

TODAY! – Annual Church Picnic/Serb Fest! – *All are welcome!* Stay and enjoy the beautiful food, music, and fellowship!

Tuesday, July 24th-July 26th – St. Nicholas Summer Church Camp ó Ages 2-15. Contact Amanda Bilak Formatto (amandabilak@gmail.com) or 412-980-8944 for more information. **Help is needed in many ways/areas (donating food, snacks, cooking, cleaning, etc.) even if you do not have children attending! Do not hesitate to ask, "How can I help?" Come and have fun with our children!**

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 Petrulli, or Susan Glenn. Thank you for your help!

Donations ó A beautiful outdoor table has already been donated for the enhancement of our patio. We are looking to have 3 more donated at the cost of \$640 each. *To donate please approach Father George and Boris Bajich. Thank you!*

REMINDERS

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

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

JULY 15TH IS CELEBRATED FOR:

PLACING OF THE HONORABLE ROBE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Great (457-474), the brothers Galbuis and Candidus, associates of the emperor, set out from Constantinople to Palestine to venerate the holy places. In a small settlement near Nazareth they stayed in the home of a certain old Jewish woman. In her house they noticed a room where many lamps were lit, incense burned, and sick people were gathered. When they asked her what the room contained, the pious woman did not want to give an answer for a long time. After persistent requests, she said that she had a very precious sacred item: the Robe of the Mother of God, which performed many miracles and healings. Before Her Dormition the Most Holy Virgin bequeathed one of her garments to a pious Jewish maiden, an ancestor of the old woman, instructing her to leave it to another virgin after her death. Thus, the Robe of the Mother of God was preserved in this family from generation to generation.

Many who were ill and in need received healing of their sufferings through prayer and touching the robe. Galibus and Candidus brought this holy object to Constantinople and reported it to the emperor and patriarch. This brought about great joy in the imperial city.

The robe was solemnly placed in the Church of Blachernae. (This church had been built by Emperor Marcian and Empress Pulcheria on the shore of an inlet, and was called Blachernae after Blacheran, a commander from Scetis, who had been slain there.) This feast was instituted in remembrance of the placing of the robe of the All-holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae.

Kontakion of Robe of the Theotokos – Tone IV

O godly shelter that dost cover all mankind, the sacred robe that covered thy sacred body hast thou bestowed on all the faithful graciously, O pure Virgin, as a robe of divine incorruption. As we celebrate with love its august deposition, we cry to thee with fear, O graced of God: Rejoice, O modest one, boast of the Christian race.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: “I WANT MY OLD CHURCH BACK!” – FIVE RESPONSES...From an article by Thom Rainer on the “Faith Encouraged” website.

The grief is both real and anticipatory. The church member knows his or her church is in decline. That member knows some things must change or the church is headed for more rapid decline or even death. But change is *difficult*. These members want their old church back. They want to do things the way they’ve always done them. That church of the past, however, will not return. The pace of change is faster than ever, and it will only increase. How do we respond to these hurting, and sometimes, angry people? Here are five responses.

1. **Respond pastorally.** These members are not just hurting; they are grieving. Some of them believe they can find a way to return to the church of the 60s, 70s, or 80s. When they finally realize that the past will not return, their grief intensifies. They need our love, our encouragement, our support, and our prayers. If our first response is to return anger with anger, we can exacerbate a difficult situation.
2. **Respond with reality.** Do not give false hope to these members. That will only make the situation worse. Let them know gently and lovingly that change is inevitable. The church will either respond proactively to change, or it will be the victim of change. The latter is usually a death sentence.
3. **Respond with the non-negotiables.** Assure the church member that there are some facets of church life that can never change. The Bible is still the Word of God. The Gospel is still powerful. Christ is still the only way of salvation. In providing these non-negotiables, you are pointing the members away from the minors to the majors.

4. **Respond with an outward focus.** Sometimes a church member’s longing for the past is indicative that he or she is inwardly focused. These members can possibly see church as a place to meet all their needs and desires. If possible, get them involved in ministries that take them away from their own preferences and desires, and points them toward the world that needs our hope, our love, and our ministry.
5. **Respond with resolution.** A few church members will fight for the past no matter how toxic it may be for the church and her future. Leaders have to resolve to move on. They cannot spend all their time coddling the disaffected to the neglect of those who are ready to make a difference. This step is a last step. It is a final alternative. It is the most painful. But it can be necessary for the health of the body as a whole.

These days are days of rapid change. Congregations have not been immune from the impact of the change. We must always love people. But we cannot let one or a few hinder us from the work to which God has called us.

What is your personal outlook of church? Do you see church as a:

- Consumer Church ó Church is seen as a dispenser of religious goods and services. People come to church to be *ōfedō*, to have their needs met through quality programs, and to have the professionals teach their children about God. They say, *ōI go to church.ō*
Or do you see church as a:
- Missional Church ó A body of people who are sent on a mission and gather in community for worship, community encouragement and teaching from the Word in addition to what they are self-feeding themselves throughout the week. They say, *ōI am the church!ō*

