

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 8, 2018
--------------------	---	------------------------

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Romans (12:6-14) Gospel: Matthew (9:1-8)

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

TROPARION TONE V

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin, for He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

KONTAKION TONE V

You did descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we all cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates:

Tuesday, July 10th – July Board Meeting ó 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 12th - Saints Peter and Paul. Liturgy will be served at 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 15th – Annual Church Picnic/Serb Fest! – *All are welcome!* To pre-order lamb email: stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com or call 412-856-8166 and leave a message.

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. ***Please approach Father George or Boris Bajich to donate. 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.

MARTYRDOM

The beautiful, yet sad story of Saint Febronia can be read on the back page of today's bulletin. She gave the ultimate sacrifice for Christ; her story is the definition of the term martyr as we know. The word martyr was originally defined as "witness". In the second century, however, *martyr* became a technical term for a person who had died for Christ, while *confessor* was defined as one who proclaimed Christ's lordship at trial but did not suffer the death penalty.

Martyrs like Saint Febronia and many others lived centuries ago, so how can we, as modern Christians, relate to them? Father Calistrat Chifan, an Orthodox priest from the Vladiceni Monastery in Romania, said, "If you never chase God out of your house, your soul, and your heart, it is the last and greatest martyrdom."

Father Calistrat Chifan teaches that Christians living pious, chaste, and moral lives and staying faithful to God can also be considered martyrs. We are surrounded by so much corruption, filth, and immorality, that preserving our purity of heart, being virtuous, maintaining our faith in the True God, participating in the liturgical life of the Orthodox Church, staying faithful to our spouses, protecting our families, defending the sanctity of life, and raising God-fearing children, are just as much acts of martyrdom today as being tortured and killed for your Christian faith were centuries ago.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: CHRISTIANITY MEANS OUTREACH

Did you know that 2% of people come to church because of advertising, 6% come as a result of an organized parish outreach program, another 6% come as a result of the work of the priest, and the remaining 86% were brought by a friend or relative? Did you also know that 82% of the unchurched say that they would come if invited? Approximately only 2% of church members invite someone to church in a given year. And did you know that 70% of the unchurched have never been invited in their whole lives?

Do you really believe that you've found the true faith, seen the true light and received the heavenly Spirit, like we sing near the end of the Liturgy? Then why are you keeping it to yourself? Don't you think it's time you invited someone to church?

Think of at least one person you know who isn't in church. Make him or her a spiritual priority this year. Pray every day for that person. And when the time is right, give the invitation. Statistically speaking, they are probably going to say yes.

And when you make the invitation, don't say, "You should come to church with me sometime." "Sometime" is no time. Say: "We're celebrating the Divine Liturgy this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Can I pick you up and bring you with me?" Inviting people isn't the only thing we can do, but it's a start. Bring them into your community. Help them understand how it works. But most of all, love them. If you're not already convinced that Christianity means outreach, become convinced. It's not about programs or strategies. It's not something that should be left entirely to the priest.

It's about you and your desire to bring others to Jesus Christ.

Don't wait any longer to start connecting people to the Orthodox Christian faith.

This faith is not ours to keep. It is ours to share! And if we don't share it, we will lose it. Why? Because if we do not have love, then we're not really Christian.

