

CHURCH BULLETIN	V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic, Parish Priest Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146 412.622.4714 (cell) 412.856.8166 (office) <a href="mailto:dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com">dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org">www.stnicholasmonroeville.org</a> <a href="mailto:stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com">stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com</a>	SUNDAY November 18, 2018
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***TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***Epistle: Ephesians (4:1-6)***

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one god and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

***Gospel: Luke (10:25-37)***

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who striped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**TROPARION TONE VIII**

You did descend from on high, O Merciful One! You did accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: 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 VIII**

By raising from the tomb, You did raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

**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 Martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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 to 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs hall. Ages 3-5 years old. Still interested? Sign-up at: [www.skolarac.org](http://www.skolarac.org)

**Tiny Tammies** – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Today:** Our Saint Nicholas parish family is celebrating our 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Attend this beautiful, rich event honoring our fallen founding clergy, family, members, parishioners, and benefactors. Let's spend the day together, as a family!  
**November 21<sup>st</sup>:** Synaxis of the Archangel Michael ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>:** Nativity fast begins  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** 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:

##### *Lessons from the Good Samaritan*

Regarding the people of Samaria, also known as Samaritans, Jews had no dealings with them. This is told to us in Gospel of John when Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. That's why she ask Jesus, "How is that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" To the Jews, the word "Samaritan" meant "dog" or "devil". They were considered half-breeds and heretics. However, because of the parable Jesus told in today's Gospel, from the Eighth Sunday of Luke (10:25-37), everyone thinks of Samaritans as "good". If I asked anyone

who/what a "Good Samaritan" is, virtually all of them could say that it's a person who helps someone in need, even if they are a stranger.

However, before Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan became widely known, the old negative connotation was predominant, certainly among the Jews. And because of the bad reputation assigned to the Samaritans, Jesus' parable became more powerful. In the today's passage we hear of a lawyer trying to test Jesus asking, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asks the lawyer what is written in the law, and he responds by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." The lawyer wanted to justify himself and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered and told the story of about the man who fell among robbers who assaulted him and left him half-dead. Two highly respected Jewish religious leaders, a priest and a Levite, came upon the man separately, but when each saw him, both passed by on the other side. However another person came upon the wounded man and had compassion and helped him and took care of him and made sure others took care of him. Who was the one who helped him? It was the half-breed heretic, the Samaritan.

The second lesson of today's Gospel reading is that religion is not just to be practiced inside the walls of a temple or a church but on the roadside as well. An atheist once asked a poorly dressed person, "If God is love, how come He didn't tell someone to give you clothes and shoes?" The person thought for a moment and replied, "I guess God told somebody and that somebody forgot." The priest and the Levite forgot to love their neighbor as themselves. The third lesson is that wounded people are all around us, all the time. However, they are not only suffering physically. Most people who suffer do so on a mental, emotional and spiritual level. One could argue that by expanding the definition and types of suffering, almost all of us are hurting for one reason or another. Young college graduates worry about finding a job. Middle-age middle managers worry about losing their job to young college graduates. Young couples try to gather and save money to buy a home of their own, while others agonize about making the mortgage payment each month. More seriously, some are grieving the loss of a loved one, while many have anxiety about getting sick and dying. Others endure abuse in relationships and many feel the affects of abuse long after it has ended. Nearly half of all husbands and wives end up divorced, and even more were betrayed by adulterous affairs. Think of the children who try to grasp the fact that their parents don't love each other any more. Think of those who suffer from built up resentment and bitterness, having difficulty forgiving and letting go.

Another lesson in the story of the Good Samaritan is the definition of neighbor. The lawyer asked, "And who is my neighbor?" To the Jews of Jesus' time, a Samaritan was not a neighbor. To the ancient Greeks, every foreigner was a "barbarian." To the ancient Jews every stranger was a "Gentile." To many Muslims, every non-believer is an "infidel." However, to Jesus, every person is our neighbor, regardless of whether a stranger or family, friend or foe. Instead of asking, "Who is my neighbor?" ask "To whom can I be a

neighbor? In other words, Christians should be looking for neighbors all the time. We should be looking for those who are suffering and need God's love and mercy. Let's step back for a moment and remember that God did not create an evil or imperfect world. He created a world that was originally good. He created mankind, male and female, as very good. It was us humans, through our rejection of God's love, the misuse of our free will that spoiled God's world through sin. Knowing this fact, it's easier to understand why the Son and Word of God became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ. It is because he saw our helpless, mutilated body on the side of the road. We were robbed, stripped and beaten by the devil. We were doomed to death and sin. Jesus is our Good Samaritan who saw us and had compassion. He stooped down to us in His birth from the Virgin Mary. Jesus carried us on the Cross, to His crucifixion and death. He healed us through His Resurrection from the dead giving us the oil of Chrismation and Unction. Jesus continues to heal us through the eternal offering of Himself in the wine of the Eucharist. He brings us to the inn of the Church, the hospital for all those who suffer.

In conclusion, let us ask ourselves, are we looking for someone who needs a neighbor? Or are we too busy to be bothered? Do we have more important things to do? If we see someone in need who is experiencing physical, emotional, mental or spiritual suffering, will we pass by on the other side, hoping that they don't notice us avoiding them? Let us look for and see, let us have compassion and go to them. Let us love them as Jesus as loved us. Let us bring them to the inn of the Church, which is the source of the best medicines in the world, the sacramental Mysteries of the Eucharist, Unction and Reconciliation.

