

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 November 25, 2018
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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Ephesians (5:8-19)

Now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel: Luke (12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

TROPARION TONE I

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body; You did rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O You Who lovest mankind.

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 I

As God, You did rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to You: You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

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 – *St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria; Venerable Nilus of Sinai*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yesterday we baptized Ilani Stevens and Marija Popovic. May God grant them many years! Mnoga ja ljeta!

There will be a luncheon today provided by the maintenance committee. Please stay and enjoy a homemade meal of muckalica (pork and veggie stir-fry) and meatloaf!

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 Opancici – 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

November 28th: Nativity fast begins

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:

The Rich Fool

It is possible for us to become unwholesome people filled with greed, pride, hatred, selfishness, insensitivity, intolerance, judgment, and cruelty. Or we can become people filled with love, peace, tolerance, compassion, and joy. It is our decision which seeds take root and grow in us. What shall I do with the time and

talents that have been given me? The rich man in today's Gospel, though evidently gifted, talented and intelligent chose unwisely.

The rich man transgressed in a number of different ways. First, he ignored one of life's greatest teachers: death. He seems to have forgotten death entirely. He was so busy worrying about accumulating more wealth that he did not envision an end to his life. He may not have thought of death, but he sure did fear it! The parable ends with God saying to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided?"

The saints of the Church often teach that we should keep death in our minds daily. People often call us crazy when we say that, but think about it for a moment. If we remember that we are going to die, it helps us to prioritize what we do with the time we have left. Thinking on our won mortality need not be morbid or depressing; instead it can help us appreciate life even more and live fuller and richer lives. It certainly causes us to think of God and the after-life. The remembrance of death encourages us to nurture good things in ourselves.

Secondly, the rich man did not care for the poor. He had more than he needed and kept collecting even more, so much that he needed to build bigger barns. He forgot three important truths: every treasure in this life withers and fades, God gives in abundance so that we can share in abundance and, since all human beings are interconnected, the suffering of one equals the suffering of all.

Jesus tells us to "lay up treasures in heaven" that do not fade and cannot be stolen away. This we do by nurturing goodness in ourselves and sharing it with others. The truly rich are people who are rich in compassion even though they may have nothing in the bank. If we are well-off it is not for our benefit alone that God has blessed us. It is so that we can share even more with others and lay up treasure in heaven. Attachment to wealth, selfish hoarding during our short lives on this earth will impoverish us during our eternal life in the age to come.

Humanity is unity in diversity, one in essence just as we say about the Holy Trinity. We are indeed made in the image of God, are we not? In fact, the truth of the essential unity of humanity is one reason why we Orthodox should be extremely concerned about social justice. Every hungry child is my child, every tortured prisoner is my brother, every mother dying of HIV/Aids in Africa is my mother, every wounded soldier is my father, everyone suffering from injustice is my neighbor. Yes, it is our job to see to the needs of our neighbors and to do all we can to alleviate suffering. Like their Savior, all true Christian disciples have "bleeding hearts". After Cain killed his brother he asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer is yes.

St. Basil the Great has a famous quote for this foolish rich man and for us, "The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry, the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked, the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot, the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor, the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit." We do not own

anything. What we have belongs to God and to those who are in need. If we do not share, then we are no better than thieves.

Lastly, the foolish rich man, by not remembering death and by hoarding his wealth and robbing the poor, failed to lay up riches in heaven where neither rust nor moth destroys, where man cannot break in and steal. Thus, he ignored God whose treasures are eternal. "Seek first the kingdom of God," Jesus taught, but to do that we must stop trying to establish our own kingdoms here. Far from trying to ignore and escape death, Jesus teaches that we must embrace it, "Take up your cross and follow me."

To save our lives we must lose them. To preserve our lives we must give them up. To become great we must become small. All that God teaches is contrary to conventional wisdom. As Christians we are therefore called to be compassionate revolutionaries, to subvert the normal order of things with the radical leaven of the kingdom of heaven.

The foolish rich man ran away from death and discovered himself racing into its arms. He stole from the poor by hoarding his wealth and found himself impoverished in eternity. He ignored God who alone had the power to give him what his heart truly desired - peace, security, eternal life - and ended up empty handed. While we are able, let us learn from the foolish rich man. Let us turn away from our own foolish ways and begin laying up treasures in heaven.

