

<p>CHURCH BULLETIN</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>SUNDAY November 4, 2018</p>
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***TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***Epistle: Ephesians (2:4-10)***

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

***Gospel: Luke (8:26-39)***

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the

demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

**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!

**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 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.

**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 Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bishop of Hieropolis*

**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 ó 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)

**Father Dennis Swencki** is scheduled to go home on Saturday! His skills are improving faster than anyone imagined! His home address is:

PO Box 131

Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Please continue to keep Father Dennis in your prayers!

**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.

**Funeral services** were held this past Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> for +Sylvia Petrovich, sister of Dan Petrovich. May her memory be eternal! Vjecnaja Pamjat!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** Holy and Glorious Great-martyr Demetrius ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Our Saint Nicholas parish family will be celebrating its 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this beautiful, rich event honoring our fallen founding clergy, family, members, parishioners, and benefactors. Let's spend the day together, as a family, sharing a meal and

watching an entertaining program consisting of all auxiliary organizations coming together as one!

**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

#### 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:

##### *Fighting Fear: An Orthodox Perspective*

What causes fear? What frightens people? Is it facing death? Is it their lack of knowing the purpose of life: to love God and this creation in Jesus Christ? Jesus said to us, "Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness instead of light, lest their deeds should be exposed." In other words, lest their lack of love be exposed.

A very wise man said, "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." All of our littlest of fears in life come from one big fear, that is, the fear of death. If people are sensitive enough to believe in their hearts that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead, they already rejoice in their hearts, because they know that in Jesus Christ, life comes through death.

We need to die to our life in order to allow Christ's life to live in us, if we are to overcome death. Jesus said, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." Jesus did not run away from the demonic. He met him face to face. Jesus did not run away from Golgotha, He met death face to face. Courageous people are not those who have not experienced fear, but those who know it intimately and who do not let it rule them; they do not become slaves to fear. Have faith, and the fruits of faith are courage, joy, and peace, which lead you into the love of God. Then you do everything for this love, you live in Christ and Christ lives in you and death becomes life. The Lord invites us to leave our fears behind and come to Him, as we are, even sinful, confused and ill. With a single personal encounter by the Lord, the man's mind was completely changed. From being enslaved by demons, a slave to fear, living among the tombs, he became a humble servant and witness of the most high, who sat at his Lord's feet, clothed in his right mind.

But how is it that the Lord makes His presence known to a multitude of people through this miracle, and, yet, they reject Him? The townspeople had literally sent God away from their presence and their lives, because their hearts were insensitive. Their hearts were dead to the Word and Son of God because He was a threat to their ego and challenged their view about themselves. The townspeople sinned; they missed the point; they alienated themselves from the love of Christ. By accepting and responding to His love they would

have become God's by His grace. They would have been in their right mind. But instead of preferring to be with Christ, the Light of Life, they told Him to leave. They chose the way of death by choosing their own life. Their hearts weren't pure; they weren't upright with themselves. They saw that there was something about our Lord which their habits of life would never agree with. Their main concern was this life and their material possessions, and so without realizing, they denied the one thing that is necessary: to be with Christ. Christ delights in enriching His faithful with joy. This is what our religion is. This is the direction we must take. Christ is Paradise. Paradise begins here and now.

Let us be careful so as not to allow our fear, coldness and arrogance drive out our Lord from our hearts and from our homes. Blessed are those who hear the Lord's voice calling in their heart, and who have the courage to follow Him and make Him the center of their lives by accepting and loving Him. So we see the man from whom the demons had gone, begged that he might be with Christ. May we come to this realization and also proclaim how much Jesus has done for us and joyfully enter the kingdom of Heaven.

## ***Bishop Irinej Responds to Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting***

öThe shocking news of this morning's shooting attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, killing and wounding innocent worshippers, has pierced the hearts of all people of faith.

The Diocese of Eastern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church extends its sincere condolences to the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, to Mayor Peduto, and to all local and state officials and members of the community affected by this senseless hate crime.

We offer our heartfelt prayers to the Lord of Justice and mercy to give comfort to those who have lost loved ones, to bring healing and recovery to the wounded and traumatized, and to bless the people of Pittsburgh with His healing presence.ö

+Irinej

Bishop of Eastern America

The Serbian Orthodox Church