

<p>CHURCH BULLETIN</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>SUNDAY October 21, 2018</p>
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***TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH COUNCIL***

Epistle: Galatians (2:16-20)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Luke (8:5-15)

ōA sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.ō When He has said these things He cried, ōHe who has ears to hear, let him hear!ō Then His disciples asked Him, saying, ōWhat does this parable mean?ō And He said, ōTo you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ōSeeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.ø Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

TROPARION TONE IV

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDERWORKER

TROPARION – TONE IV

The day of the joyous celebration has come; the city of Bar 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: ōSave us, as our protector, O great Nicholas!ō

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS/SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

TROPARION TONE VIII

Most glorious are You, O Christ our God! You have established the holy Fathers as lights on the earth! Through them You have guided us to the true faith! O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You.

KONTAKION TONE IV

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

KONTAKION OF THE FATHERS/SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

KONTAKION TONE VI

The Son, Who shone from the Father, was in an inexpressible manner born of Woman, thus, becoming dual in nature; and , having seen Him, we do not renounce the presentation of His image, but this one, piously painted, we truly honor; therefore, adhering to the true Faith, the Church venerates the icon of the Incarnation of 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 Bar, 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.

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

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

October is Orthodox Youth Month:

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth." (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

This month, we celebrate the contributions and needs of our Orthodox youth.

Therefore, we call upon our youth to share in the many opportunities to minister in the Church. **The youth are encouraged to read the Epistle, chant and sing in the choir, help distribute bulletins, pass around the offering plate, assist in church school, and help serve drinks and snacks after Divine Liturgy.** Active participation for all our parishioners, youth and adults alike, is glorious before God's eyes. Let us remember the examples who have gone before us, "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Father Dennis Swencki had a stroke last week and was life-flighted to Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. He is now in rehab. If you would like to send him a note or card:

*Fr. Dennis Swencki Room 102
c/o Magee Hospital of Rehabilitation
1513 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19102*

Please 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26th: Our St. Nicholas parish will be hosting the 40 day parastos/memorial service for our beloved +Very Reverend Father Dragan Filipovic at 12:00 p.m. The Orthodox clergy brotherhood of the greater Pittsburgh area will be attending and concelebrating. A luncheon will follow services in the parish hall downstairs. Please try to attend. Memory eternal! Vjecnaja Pamjat!

October 27th: Venerable Mother Paraskeva the Serb ó St. Petka - Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

October 28th: Kolo Srpskih Sestara Slava celebration of Sveta Petka
Reservations are due today: stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com or 412-856-8166.

October 31st: St. Peter I, Metropolitan and Wonderworker of Cetinje; Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

November 18th: Our Saint Nicholas parish family will be celebrating its 113th 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!

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:

Today we celebrate the COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)...Do you know the history?

The Seventh Ecumenical Council convoked by the Empress Irene and met at Nicaea from September 24th to October 13, 787. Patriarch Tarasios (commemorated February 25) presided. The council ended almost fifty years of iconoclast persecution and established the veneration of the holy icons as basic to the belief and spirituality of Christ's Church. As the Synaxarion says, "It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but, in fact, the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The second Council of Nicaea is the seventh and last Ecumenical Council recognized by the Orthodox Church. This does not mean that there may not be ecumenical Councils in the future although, in holding the seventh place, the Council of Nicaea has taken to itself the

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)...CONTINUED...

symbol of perfection and completion represented by this number in Holy Scripture (e.g. Gen. 2:1-3). It closes the era of the great dogmatic disputes which enabled the Church to describe, in definitions excluding all ambiguity, the bounds of the holy Orthodox Faith. From that time, every heresy that appears can be related to one or other of the errors that the Church, assembled in universal Councils, has anathematized from the first until the seventh Council of Nicaea.

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which gathered in Nicaea in 787 under the holy Patriarch Tarasius and during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, to refute the Iconoclast heresy, which had received imperial support beginning with the Edict issued in 726 by Emperor Leo the Isaurian. Many of the holy Fathers who condemned Iconoclasm at this holy Council later died as Confessors and Martyrs for the holy Icons during the second assault of Iconoclasm in the ninth century, especially during the reigns of Leo the Armenian and Theophilus.

The Holy Icons

Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not cease with the Council of 681, but were extended in a different form into the eighth and ninth centuries. The struggle centered on the Holy Icons, the pictures of Christ, the Mother of God, and the Saints, which were kept and venerated both in churches and in private homes. The Iconoclasts or icon-smashers, suspicious of any religious art which represented human beings or God, demanded the destruction of icons; the opposite party, the Iconodules or venerators of icons, vigorously defended the place of icons in the life of the Church. The struggle was not merely a conflict between two conceptions of Christian art. Deeper issues were involved: the character of Christ's human nature, the Christian attitude towards matter, the true meaning of Christian redemption.

The Iconoclast controversy, which lasted some 120 years, falls into two phases. The first period opened in 726 when Leo 3 began his attack on icons, and ended in 780 when the Empress Irene suspended the persecution. The Iconodule position was upheld by the seventh and last Ecumenical Council (787), which met (as the first had done) at Nicaea. Icons, the Council proclaimed, are to be kept in churches and honored with the same relative veneration as is shown to other material symbols, such as "the precious and life-giving Cross" and the Book of the Gospels. A new attack on icons, started by Leo V the Armenian in 815, continued until 843 when the icons were again reinstated, this time permanently, by another Empress, Theodora. The final victory of the Holy Images in 843 is known as "the Triumph

of Orthodoxy," and is commemorated in a special service celebrated on "Orthodoxy Sunday," the first Sunday in Lent.



