

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> stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com	SUNDAY September 2, 2018
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### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Corinthians (1:21-2:4) Gospel: Matthew (22:1-14)*

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen.

#### 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!"

#### TROPARION FOR THE DORMITION

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity! In falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos! You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish family, congratulations to Theodore "Teddy" and Milica Sovich on their marriage! Ziveli i na mnogaja ljeta! Many years!

**Tamburitzans** " The 2018-2019 season of Tammies will be starting after Labor Day! Any child who is at least **6 years old** and in **first grade** is eligible to join. Rehearsals are Monday evenings in the hall. Please contact Alexis Janiga at 412-965-5602 or at [djaniga872@comcast.net](mailto:djaniga872@comcast.net) if you are interested or have any questions. Your children will develop friendships that will last a lifetime!

There is an unclaimed Bath & Body Works gift basket from the Oldies Dance. The ticket pulled is **953145**. The ticket holder will have until **September 9th** to claim the basket. If not claimed, a new ticket will be pulled.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 4th:** Church Board meeting 6:30 PM

**September 9th:** First Day of Sunday School & Picnic (Potluck)

**September 15th:** Klub Karadjordje's Golf outing

**September 29th:** Choir Concert " 5 p.m. doors open/6 p.m. dinner/7p.m. concert " Dance to follow. Entertainment provided by *Pobeda*.

**September 30th:** Quarterly Parish update

**October 14th:** Triple B Farm field trip for Church School

**October 20th:** Tamburitzans concert, dinner and dance \*Details to follow

**October 28th:** Kolo Srpskih Sestara Slava celebration of Sveta Petka

#### REMINDERS

**Adult Bible Study** – Bible study will resume in September. More details to follow.

**Vespers** " Saturday evening 6:00 p.m. Confession 6:30 p.m.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** *Many are called, but few are chosen...What lessons are we to draw from this parable?*

St Gregory the Dialogist writes that the King is God Himself, and the marriage is symbolic of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the union of Christ's divine and human natures into one Person. The feast is symbolic of Christ's Church, the Orthodox Church, which exists, we

***Many are called...continued...***

remember, in heaven and on earth. St. John Chrysostomos' commentary is similar to this interpretation. He adds that, at first, Christ invites the people of the Old Covenant, the Jews, to join this great marriage feast, which is the Church. But they fail to respond. He invites them a second time, and they are too busy with earthly concerns, to which St. John Chrysostomos states that "when spiritual things call us, there is no press of business that has the power of necessity." When Christ persists with His invitations to the Jews, they kill Him, they crucify Him, just as they killed the Old Testament Prophets. St. John comments that Christ sought to win them over before His crucifixion, and even after it "He still urges them, striving to win them over." However, they refused Him, and so it is then that the ordinary people of the "highways," the Gentiles, are invited, since the wedding feast, the Church, must be filled. St John writes that when the Jews "were not willing to be present at the marriage, then He called others," He called you and me.

Christ has summoned us to His feast, that is to His Church, so that here we may partake of His sacred foods, those that are filled with Graceô the Holy Mysteriesô and that prepare us spiritually for eternal life with Him, for life in that eternal aspect of the Church. But, for this feast we must prepare, we must attire ourselves with the proper garment or we shall be cast, like the man in the parable, into the outer darkness. This garment is, of course, a spiritual one. Without it, without preparing ourselves for the wedding feast, we are no betterô NO BETTERô than those who rejected and crucified Christ, since failure to prepare ourselves is a form of rejectionô it is a gross insult to the Kingô and therefore our ultimate fate too, in the life to come, will be no better. How do we apply that which we read in this Gospel lesson to our daily lives and how do we assure that our wedding garment is proper to the occasion of our meeting with our King? We are blessed by God to be members of His Church. We have been invited to partake of the feast, and we have accepted the invitation. When we attend Divine Liturgy, we share in the feast that the King, Christ Jesus, has readied for us and doing this we prepare ourselves for an eternal feast in the life to come.

Men and women who come to the feastô who come to Divine Liturgyô with hate in their hearts do not wear the acceptable garment. Men and women whose faith and love are cold, who attend Church for social reasons, to show off their cloths and jewelry, or to visit with acquaintances or for any of a myriad of other reasons not consistent with love of God, are, spiritually speaking, not dressed in a wedding garment pleasing to the King, Christ Jesus. We must come to the feast, to Divine Liturgy, for the sake of the Glory of Him who invited us, not for our own glory.

Christ ends His parable with the dictum, "Many are called, but few are chosen." St. Paul tells us that God desires that all men be saved. God loves every human being with the same intensity of love, and wishes that all may come to him. So, many are called. However, it is in the very nature of God's Glory that only those who have purified themselves and acquired selfless love may spend eternity with Him, may, so to speak, partake of the eternal feast. That is because only those men and women who have acquired the means to receive the boundless love that radiates from God, what the theologians call God's Energies, can live in eternal bliss. He chooses only those men and women, only those who have acquired some measure of selfless love, and that number is small by comparison with the total. Few, indeed, are chosen.

**HELP NEEDED!** - On **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**, The Od Srce Committee will be hosting a benefit at our church hall for *The Tamburitians* (formerly known as The Duquesne Tamburitians). Currently, **five of our St. Nicholas kids** are members of this organization, and they need our support! The university no longer sponsors this incredibly talented group which means that they need to look elsewhere for donations to keep the group in existence. This group travels across the United States and promotes our culture! They need our help to ensure that people in every corner of our country know about our Serbian culture and heritage. **Please attend this event and consider baking an item for the reception at our hall.** Not a baker? Donate a bottle for the bar or a cash donation to offset the cost of the event. Please contact Alexis Janiga at 412-965-5602 or at [djaniga872@comcast.net](mailto:djaniga872@comcast.net) if you are willing to lend a hand.



