

<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 September 23, 2018</p>
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SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS

Galatians (6:11-18) Gospel: John (3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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!

KONTAKION TONE VIII

By rising 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!

**FOREFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS
TONE IV**

We offer to You, O Lord, as a means of intercession, the Life-giving Cross, a sign of Your bounty which You have given us in spite of our unworthiness. Save our country and Your people who offer to You their supplication through Your Mother, O You, Who alone are the Lover of Mankind.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
TONE IV**

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He has bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

KONTAKION TONE IV

Today, from the heart of the earth, the salvation-bearing Tree appeared, devoutly elevated by the bishop's hands in the church. Bowing down in worship, the world honors it in fear. O Lord, save us by it.

KONTAKION TONE IV

By your Nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Father Dragan Filipovic passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 18th. Pomen 7:00 p.m. Sunday, September 23rd - All Saints Greek Orthodox Church 601 W. McMurray Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Monday, September 24th - Holy Hierarchial Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. at All Saints Greek Orthodox Church - Funeral Service to follow. Gravesite service at 4:00 p.m. Holy Transfiguration Monastery 321 Monastery Lane Ellwood City, PA 16117. May your memory be eternal, dear Father! Vjecnaja Pamjat!

Yesterday we baptized Benjamin Francis Rajkovich. To him, parents, sponsors, and all family, many years! Ziveli na mnogaja ljeta!

Many new spiritual books are available to purchase at the tutor's desk. Please take a look and acquire them for the benefit of our church and for the enrichment of your soul.

Skolarac Serbian Language Classes - Beginning Monday, September 24th from 4:00 ó 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs hall. Ages 3-5 years old. www.skolarac.org

Tiny Tammies - Beginning Monday, September 24th from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the parish home for ages 3-6 years old. Contact Sonja Capuzzi: sonjacapuzzi@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 27th: The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

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

September 30th: Quarterly Parish update

October 6th: Parastos/Memorial service for all hierarchs, clergy, and parishioners of St. Nicholas ó at 10:00 a.m.

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

October 20th: Tamburitzans concert, dinner and dance

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

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 Most Holy Mother of God was born at a time when people had reached such limits of decay of moral values, that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. Many felt that God needed to come down into the world so as to restore faith and save mankind.

The birth of the Theotokos is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, having been fore chosen through the ages by to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God, the Theotokos is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the world, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God chose for the salvation of mankind to take on human nature; and He chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary ó alone worthy to contain in God within herself.

The Theotokos was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joakim from the tribe of the King and Prophet David, and Anna from the tribe of the First-Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joakim and Anna did not lose hope on the mercy of God. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to solve the barrenness of Anna ó even in her old age, as He had once solved the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joakim and Anna made a vow to dedicate the child which the Lord might bestow on them, into the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joakim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joakim brought his sacrifice in offering to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. Saint Joakim in deep grief went into the wilderness and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for the granting of a child. Saint Anna, having learned about what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple, wept bitterly; never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed, asking God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious spouses had attained extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling ó to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel brought Joakim and Anna the joyous message: their prayers were heard by

God, and they would become the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the world.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – SEPTEMBER 27th

The Holy Cross bears such great significance to Orthodox liturgical tradition that many days throughout the year are devoted to its commemoration. Every Friday is a day of Fasting as we remember the Crucifixion. In the middle of Great Lent a Sunday is dedicated to the veneration of the Holy Cross. On Holy Thursday, the Holy Cross is carried in solemn procession to the center of the Church for veneration commemorating our Lord's Crucifixion.

On September 27th, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. The Exultation of the Holy Cross is one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It is a fixed Feast, meaning that it is always celebrated on the 27th of September. It is also a Strict Fast day.

The importance of this Feast is highlighted by the fact that the Gospel lessons for the Sunday before and the Sunday after the Feast both focus on the meaning of the Holy Cross. On the Sunday prior to the Feast of the Elevation, we hear the lesson of God's love: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him will have eternal Life...”* The Gospel reading on the Feast is a reflection of the passion of our Lord. On the Sunday following the Feast, the Gospel message calls us to take up our Cross and to follow Christ.

