

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 September 30, 2018
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SUNDAY AFTER EXALTATION OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS

Galatians (2:16-20) Gospel: Mark (8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with the power."

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 power 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 loves mankind.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Yesterday, Claire Magdalen Snyder was baptized. Congratulations to her parents, Megan Zatezalo Snyder & Anthony Snyder, her sponsors, and family. Ziveli i mnogaja ljeta! Many years!

Skolarac Serbian Language Classes – Have begun from 4:00 to 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

Congratulations to our St. Nicholas Choir on a successful concert last evening filled with beautiful music, food, and fellowship.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to the **maintenance committee** for your extremely hard work on refurbishing the storage area off of the kitchen. If you haven't taken a look at this beautiful, new area, please do so. Please help to maintain this area. God willing this is the beginning of many much-needed projects for our parish. On behalf of St. Nicholas parish, we thank you!

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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today: Please stay for the Quarterly Parish update!

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

October 7th: There will be a Kolo meeting following Divine Liturgy. All are welcome!

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

October 20th: Tamburitza concert, dinner and dance

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

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

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: *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

History and Background of the Feast – The pagan Roman emperors tried to eradicate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected. The Emperor Hadrian gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and had a temple to the pagan goddess Venus and statues of pagan idols erected in their place.

After 300 years, the sacred remains of the Sepulcher of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great.

In 313 Emperor Constantine had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians were stopped.

Desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although she was declining in years, Empress Helen set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, she was directed to an elderly Hebrew man named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body.

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius laid a corpse on each of the crosses. When the corpse was laid on the Cross of the Lord, the corpse came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross had been found.

In 326, Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Patriarch Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross a grievously sick woman was healed instantly beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elder Jude and other Jews who witnessed the miracle, accepted Holy Baptism. Afterward, Jude was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem, and accepted a martyr's death for Christ.

Holy Empress Helen journeyed to the places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches at Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St. Helen took part of the Life-Creating Cross and nails to Constantinople where Emperor Constantine gave orders to build a majestic church in Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about 10 years. St. Helen did not survive to see the dedication of the temple. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335, and the next day the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and the emperor Heraclius, who with the help of God, defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, and the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

The Cross was transferred to Jerusalem and was carried by Emperor Heraclius who was accompanied by Patriarch Zacharios. When they reached the gates, the emperor claimed that he was not able to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way! The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross had made his way to Golgotha in all humility. Heraclius donned plain garments, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross into the church.

The Feast of The Exultation of the Holy Cross is an opportunity outside of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world. This Feast relishes the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. The entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross; it is the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

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Icon of the Feast



The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Holy Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. The elevated Cross is surrounded by Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

