

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 9, 2018
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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Corinthians (4:6-15) Gospel: Matthew (22:35-46)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?' If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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!

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.

SYNAXIS OF ALL SERBIAN SAINTS – TONE IV

O God-bearing fathers and hierarchs, we ask you, as our Serbian enlighteners, as true shepherds and patriarchs, as genuine guardians of apostolic tradition, as solid pillars, as teachers of Orthodoxy: Beseech Christ, the Master of All, to grant peace to the whole world and abundant mercy to our souls.

HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF JASENOVAC – TONE VIII

For your faith in God and His Righteousness, you suffered in the flesh. The earth sorrows, but you have saved your souls and heaven rejoices! And your ancestors sang aloud with the heaven greeting you at the gate of paradise with this song: your names are in the Book of Eternity. Enter into Paradise O children of immortality! We your posterity on earth, cry out in unison: O New-martyrs, pray for us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tamburitzans ó The 2018-2019 season of Tammies will be starting tomorrow, September 10th. 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 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 **today** to claim the basket. If not claimed, a new ticket will be pulled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parastos today ó 40 day memorial service for +Ilija ðEliö Bogonovich ó Vjecnaja Pamjat! Memory eternal!

Today: First Day of Sunday School & Picnic (Potluck) ó Stay and enjoy this beautiful luncheon!

September 11th: **Beheading of St. John the Baptist – Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

September 15th: Klub Karadjordjeø Golf outing

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

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

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study will resume Thursday, September 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Vespers ó Saturday evening 6:00 p.m. Confession 6:30 p.m.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *Celebrating Synaxis of all Serbian Saints*

Today the Synaxis of Serbian Hierarchs remembers and celebrates archpastors of the Serbian Church of the thirteenth through fourteenth centuries. The majority of them have individual days of celebration in addition to this general commemoration. Saint Archbishop Sava I, January 12; Saint Archbishop Arsenius I October 28; Saint Archbishop Sava II, February 8; Saint Archbishop Eustathius I, January 4; Saint Archbishop Nicodemus, May 11; Saint Archbishop Daniel, December 20; Saint Patriarch Joannicius II, September 3; Saint Patriarch Ephraim II, June 15.

The Greatest Commandments

In today's gospel reading, the 15th Sunday of Matthew 22:35-46, Jesus gives us a simple little nail, actually two nails, upon which we can hang our whole life. We hear that a lawyer of the Sadducees and Pharisees asked Jesus a question saying, "What is the great commandment in the law?" Even though the lawyer was not interested in the a correct or true answer, for it says he was trying test or bother, Jesus still answers him directly saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Then Jesus states, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Therefore, twenty-one books of the Old Testament can be distilled down to two commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God will all your heart, will all your soul and with all you mind and your neighbor as yourself. Often, we remember Jesus words and say to ourselves, "Ah, that's easy. It's all about love. All that other stuff we do, fasting, incense, services, theology, that's not important. Just love each other." Remember that Jesus also said, "I did not come to abolish the Law and Prophets but to fulfill them" (Mt.5:17). So, one could say that the two great commandments are a fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Just like we cannot appreciate the painting on the wall without the nail that it hangs on, we cannot appreciate the depth and the breadth of Law and the Prophets, if we forget that they are essentially based on the love for God and the love for neighbor. Yet, at the same time, the Law and the Prophets teach us in multiple, myriad ways how to love God and each other. After all what is more interesting and tells you more about life: a beautiful painting or a nail?

However, our love for God and neighbor does not originate from us human beings. Love comes from God. Only after we understand, experience, and accept God's love, can we return it to Him and pass it on to others. This is what John the Evangelist says, "We love Him (God) because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this

commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1John 4:19-21).

To love God and neighbor is not just to feel good about them or respect them but rather willing to sacrifice our very life for them. When Jesus says we must take up our cross and follow Him, He's saying we must be willing to be crucified for His sake, meaning for our salvation in Him, and for the sake of each other's salvation. Jesus says, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12-13).

When Christ said that to love the Lord your God is the greatest commandment, He also said it was the first commandment. Let us conclude today by hearing that first and great commandment in its original form. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me," (Exodus 20:2-3). If we wish our life to be a beautiful painting of vibrant colors and rich landscapes, then our life must be hung upon, based upon, and wholly dependent upon the Lord God of Israel--God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. There is no other nail that can hold us up. Amen!

