

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 May 19, 2019
--------------------	--	------------------------

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Epistle: Acts (9: 32-42)

Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas or Gazelle. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him. "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Gospel: John (5: 1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' Then they asked him, 'Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been

made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

TROPARION TONE III

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy.

TROPARION TONE IV – TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

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: "Save us, as our protector, O great Nicholas!"

KONTAKION TONE III

By Your divine intercession, O Lord, as You did raise up the paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that, being saved, I may sing to You: "Glory to Your majesty, O Bountiful Christ!"

KONTAKION TONE VIII

You did descend into the tomb, O Immortal; You did destroy the power of death! In victory did You arise, O Christ God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Your apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Saints we commemorate today – *Righteous Job the Long-suffering; Transfer of the Relics of St. Sava of Serbia*

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study will be canceled until further notice.

Confession ó Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. after vespers and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Sunday, May 19th – Church Slava celebration, Transfer of The Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker - Slava banquet in the church hall following liturgy ó **Honored Kuma Mary Ann Tomich**. All welcome! Dobro dosli!

Thank you – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to Marsha Watt for her generous monetary donation for the children's playground. This donation was made in loving memory of +Martha Visnic. May Martha's memory be eternal, and may God bless you and your family, Marsha.

Thank you – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to Pero and Mila Prpa for their generous donation of the Bishop's blessing cross in loving memory of Nikola "Nicholas" and Ljubica "Violet" Jokola. May their memory be eternal! Vjecnaja pamjat!

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, May 24th – Saints Cyril and Methodius, Enlighteners of the Slavs ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 3rd – Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and Helen ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 6th – The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 15th – **Blessing of the graves** ó 9:00 a.m. memorial service at Grandview cemetery in N. Versailles and 4:00 p.m. service at Export.

Sunday, June 16th – Pentecost ó Trinity Sunday

Monday, June 17th – Pentecost Monday ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 18th – Pentecost Tuesday ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 21st & Saturday, June 22nd – St. Nicholas Church Summer Camp ó For more information contact Amanda Formatto 412-980-8944 or amandabilak@gmail.com

Friday, June 28th – Holy St. Lazarus and All Serbian Martyrs ó Vidovdan ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Srecna Slava to all who gather today to celebrate!

Today we celebrate the Transfer of the Relics of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker! Do you know the history?

In the eleventh century the Byzantine Empire was going through some terrible times. The Turks put an end to its influence in Asia Minor, they destroyed cities and villages, they murdered the inhabitants, and they accompanied their cruel outrage with the desecration of churches, holy relics, icons and books. They also attempted to destroy the relics of Saint Nicholas, deeply venerated by the whole Christian world.

The desecration of holy things shocked not only Eastern, but also Western Christians.

Christians in Italy were particularly concerned for the relics of Saint Nicholas. The inhabitants of the city of Bari, located on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, decided to save the relics of Saint Nicholas.

In the year 1087 merchants from Bari and Venice went to Antioch to trade. Both these and others also proposed to take up the relics of Saint Nicholas and transport them to Italy on the return trip. In this plan, the men of Bari requested the Venetians to land them at Myra. At first two men were sent in, and, in returning, reported that in the city all was quiet. In the church, where the glorified relics rested, they encountered only four monks. Immediately, forty-seven armed men set out for the church of Saint Nicholas. The guards, suspecting nothing, showed them the raised platform, beneath which the tomb of the saint was concealed, and where they anointed foreigners with myrrh from the relics of the saint.

They took apart the church platform above the tomb with the relics. In this effort, the youth Matthew was excessive in his zeal, wanting to find the relics of Saint Nicholas as quickly as possible. In his impatience he broke the cover and the barons saw that the sarcophagus was filled with fragrant holy myrrh. The compatriots of the barons, the priests Luppus and Drogus, offered a litany, after which the break made by Matthew began to flow with myrrh from the saint's sarcophagus. This occurred on April 20, 1087.

The priest Drogus wrapped the relics in the cloth, and in the company of the barons, he carried them to the ship.

In May of 1087, the ships arrived in Bari, and the joyous news made the rounds all through the city. The following day, they solemnly transported the relics of Saint Nicholas into the church of Saint Stephen, not far from the sea. The solemn bearing of the relics was accompanied by numerous healings of the sick, which inspired still greater reverence for God's saint. A year afterwards, a church was built in the name of Saint Nicholas and consecrated by Pope Urban II.

The Transfer of the Relics of Saint Nicholas from Myra to Bari is a religious holiday for Orthodox Christians. It is celebrated on May 22nd. The feast commemorates the translation (movement) of the relics of Saint Nicholas from Myra (in present-day Turkey) to Bari, on the Italian Peninsula, to save them from the Turks, who were persecuting Christians and destroying churches and holy objects. To this day, the relics remain at the Basilica of Saint Nicholas.

The Slava: Celebrating our Serbian Orthodox Faith

In the services of the Orthodox Church, everything has a special meaning. This is true for Slava, too! For the Slava we prepare a small table facing the Holy Icon. On this table are four important things we must always have to celebrate our Slava.

Candle ó The Slava candle is the light of the saint amongst us on that day. Our Lord said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). When we see how brightly the Candle shines before us, it is like we see the good life of the saint. We pray that the light of our Slava will never go out.

Kolach ó The Slava kolach, the round loaf of bread, is made as an offer in honor of our Patron Saint. We remember that we Christians do not sacrifice animals to the gods, as pagans did. Instead we offer bread to God in thanks for all He has given us. Bread really stands for life itself, which God has given us. That's what we mean when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11).

Wheat ó The Slava wheat, called zito, is boiled wheat mixed with honey and nuts. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone" (John 12:24). Each of us takes a spoonful in memory of our loved ones who have died.

Wine ó When Jesus sat with his disciples at His Last supper, He took bread and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat! This is My Body which is broken for you." Then he took the cup of wine and said, "Drink of it, all of you! This is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins!" (Matthew 26: 26-28). Jesus sacrificed His life for us when He died on the cross. We always remember this!

