

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> www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com	SUNDAY April 28, 2019
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***RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - PASCHA***

***Epistle: Acts (1: 1-8)***

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He, through the Holy Spirit, had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

***Gospel: John (1: 1-17)***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**TROPARION TONE V**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling on death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life.

**KONTAKION TONE VIII**

Though You did descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet did You destroy the power of hell, and did rise again as Conqueror, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrhbearing women, Rejoice! And giving peace to Your Apostles, and offering to the fallen resurrection.

**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**

**BRIGHT WEEK SERVICES**

**Monday, April 29th:** Bright Monday, Liturgy 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, April 30th:** Bright Tuesday, Liturgy 10 a.m.

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** St. Nicholas parish family Pascha celebration dinner for all beginning at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to the church office: 412-856-8166 or Sava Saula: 412-600-3246. Last name A-M please bring an appetizer or side dish; N-Z bring a dessert.

**Thank you** – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to **Marsha Watt** for her generous monetary donation for our children's playground. This contribution is made in memory of +Martha Visnic. Additionally, **thank you** to the **Outreach Committee** for their beautiful donation of the Crucifixion for all to venerate. May God grant you many years to you and your family, and may Martha's memory be eternal.

**Thank you** – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to **Robert Ray and his crew** for repairing the potholes and cracks in the pavement of our entire parking lot! May God grant you many years!

**Items Gifted to our Church** ó On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to Danilo "Dale" Dawson for his generous donation of the Bishop candle set in loving memory of the Mrkic family. May God grant you many years! Mnogaja ljeta!

**Easter Flowers** - Those who purchased flowers for beautifying Christ's Tomb and the Church at Easter should remove their flowers after Divine Liturgy **today**. Flowers that are left will be planted on the Church grounds. Thank you for participating in this effort.

**Homemade Noodles** – There are still a few bags available to purchase. Please see Rose Cheran.

**Thank you** - Once again we would like to thank our talented bakers, tireless workers, generous donors, and loyal customers for helping with the Fish Fry Cake Table. Our total profits for this Lenten season were \$4,106.00, which will be passed on to the Men's Club for use in their next church improvement project. Sincere thanks to all of our parishioners for your support and your efforts to make this endeavor such a success!

**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:**

**Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Glorious Great-martyr George ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Free Tammie concert. 3:00 p.m. at East Allegheny High School

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Mother's Day celebration luncheon

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Church Slava celebration, Transfer of The Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. with procession around the church ó Slava banquet to follow in the church hall ó Honored Kuma Mary Ann Tomich. All welcome! Dobro dosli!

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** – **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.

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

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

#### ***Great and Holy Pascha***

On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

Holy Week comes to an end at sunset of Great and Holy Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time of preparation will give way to a time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, raised from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes "captivity captive" (Psalm 67:19). All the limitations of our creation are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. "For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new

and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.

The Resurrection made possible the miracle of the Church, which in every age and generation proclaims and affirms "God's plan for the universe, the ultimate divinization of man and the created order." The profound experience of and the unshakable belief in the risen Lord enabled the Apostles to evangelize the world and empowered the Church to overcome paganism. The Resurrection discloses the indestructible power and inscrutable wisdom of God. It disposes of the illusory myths and belief systems by which people, bereft of divine knowledge, strain to affirm the meaning and purpose of their existence. Christ, risen and glorified, releases humanity from the delusions of idolatry. In Him grave-bound humanity discovers and is filled with incomparable hope. The Resurrection bestows illumination, energizes souls, brings forgiveness, transfigures life, creates saints, and gives joy.

The Resurrection has not yet abolished the reality of death. But it has revealed its powerlessness (Hebrews 2:14-15). We continue to die as a result of the Fall. Our bodies decay and fall away. "God allows death to exist but turns it against corruption and its cause, sin, and sets a boundary both to corruption and sin." Thus, physical death does not destroy our life of communion with God. Rather, we move from death to life - from this fallen world to God's reign.

