

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 April 7, 2019
--------------------	---	-------------------------

***THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS***

Epistle: Hebrews (6: 13-20)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all disputes. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark (10: 32-45)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.”

TROPARION TONE IV

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

ANNUNCIATION -TROPARION TONE IV

Today is the crown of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which is from before the ages! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the glad tidings of grace. Wherefore, with him let us cry out to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O you who are full of grace! The Lord is with you!

TROPARION OF SAINT JOHN – TONE I

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body! You were a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing father John! You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all.

KONTAKION TONE IV

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

KONTAKION TONE III

TRANSFER OF THE HOLY RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDERWORKER

Your relics, O Saint Nicholas, came out as a star from the east to the west. The sea was sanctified by your journey, and the city of Bari, through you, has received the grace. For working for us, you have appeared as an excellent, wonderful and merciful Wonderworker.

KONTAKION OF SAINT JOHN – TONE IV

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher, John.

ANNUNCIATION - KONTAKION TONE IV

Today is the crown of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which is from before the ages! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the glad tidings of grace. Wherefore, with him let us cry out to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O you who are full of grace! The Lord is with you!

SAINTS WE COMMEMORATE TODAY – *The Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos*

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study will resume this Thursday, April 11th.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Father Maksim Ilic of New Marcha Monastery in Ohio and thank you for concelebrating Holy and Divine Liturgy today with our parish family!

Today – Memorial service for Uros and Milica ðMitziö Vukic and Timothy Dawson. May their memory be eternal! Vjecnaja pamjat!

Items Gifted to our Church ó On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to our **St. Petka Kolo, the Saula family, and Jim and Martha Springborn** for their generous donations: our St. Petka Kolo donated the icon of Trojerucica (Third Hand) Theotokos, the Saula family purchased the blessed, holy bread vessel, and Jim & Martha Springborn purchased a history book of the Serbian Orthodox Churches of North America and Canada. This book was printed in honor of the 800th anniversary of the Serbian church autocephaly. May God grant you many years! Mnogaja ljeta!

Tonight– Posna Vecera ó Vesper services begin at 5:00 with a lenten dinner to follow. We welcome our clergy brotherhood from greater Pittsburgh and Father Maksim as guest homilist.

Wednesday, April 10th – Presanctified liturgy services at 6:00. Confession at 5:30. Parishioners are kindly reminded to refrain from food or drink after 12:00 p.m. Please take all necessary medications as prescribed even if that falls after 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14th – Quarterly meeting for the parish after liturgy. Please make every effort to attend this informational meeting.

Easter Flowers - Orders are being taken by Sophie Vargo (412 466-2760) and Pat Kolar (412 372-4239)/patkolar@verizon.net. The deadline for orders is **Thursday, April 11, 2019**.

Maintenance Committee ó Sour cabbage heads and smoked kielbasa available to purchase for your Easter meal. See anyone from the maintenance committee to order.

Tamburitzans – Please support our Tammies by placing an ad in this year's ad book. For prices, sizes, and more information contact: Maria Stone (724-989-3088) or bellich.maria@gmail.com.

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!

Fish Fry Cake Table - The Men's Club Fish Fry began Friday, March 8th, and will continue every Friday through April 19 from 4 - 7 pm. This means that the Fish Fry Cake Table will be

in operation during this time as well. Any help that can be offered to make this project a success would be greatly appreciated, either to bake and donate Lenten desserts, or volunteer to sell the baked goods to our customers. We are grateful for any assistance parishioners may give, whether it is one cake or one hour, or many! To volunteer, please contact Janet Tumbas at church, or by phone or email: 412-751-3809 / jtumbas@gmail.com. Thank you!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Annunciation of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary commemorates the *announcement* by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb. The biblical story of the Feast of the Annunciation is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke (1:26-39). The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was living in Nazareth, and said to her, ðHail, O favored one, the Lord is with you.ö Mary was perplexed and wondered what kind of greeting this was.

The angel told her not to be afraid, for she had found favor with God. He said, ðYou will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.ö

Mary responded to the angel by asking how this could happen since she had no husband. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit and the power of God would come upon her, and that the child to be born of her would be called holy, the ðSon of God.ö

The angel then proceeded to tell the Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth had conceived a son in her old age (John the Baptist), and affirmed that with God nothing is impossible.

In faith and obedience to the will of God, Mary replied to the angel, ðBehold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word.ö Upon her response, the angel departed.

It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her. He elected to become man, and He desired to do this with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. Mary could have refused, for she was not a passive instrument, but an active participant with a free and positive part to play in God's plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.

