

SUNDAY August 18, 2019	SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic , Parish Priest 412-622-4714 (cell) 412-856-8166 (office) dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com
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9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - FOREFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

TROPARION - TONE VIII (RESURRECTION)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

TROPARION - TONE IV (TRANSFIGURATION)

Come, you faithful, let us welcome the Transfiguration of Christ, and let us joyfully cry as we celebrate the prefeast: "The day of holy gladness has come; the Lord has ascended Mount Tabor to radiate the beauty of His Divinity."

TROPARION - TONE IV (TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS)

The day of the joyous celebration has come; the city of Bari 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 VIII (RESURRECTION)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

KONTAKION - TONE III (TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS)

Your relics, O Saint Nicholas, came out as a start 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 – TONE IV (TRANSFIGURATION)

Today all mortal nature shines with the divine Transfiguration and cries with exultation: "Christ the Savior is transfigured to save us all!"

THEOTOKION – STEADFAST PROTECTRESS - TONE VI

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator: do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call upon you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man’s work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Saints commemorated today: Martyr Eusignius of Antioch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SNF Golf Tournament: Thank you to EVERYONE who made the 4-day tournament at our parish so wonderful! May God bless you for all your hard work and dedication for the benefit of our church and the Serbian community!

FAST OF THE DORMITION (OF THE MOTHER OF GOD)

Dormition Fast: We began the Fast of the Dormition (the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God) on **August 14th**. It continues through **August 28th**. During this fast, we are called to reflect upon the Mother of God and her incomparable life. In her we see a model Christian life. "Blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it." Truly Mary did this better than anyone. The Mother of God heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was

chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So, while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast. May the Mother of God intercede for us!

On behalf of our son, Matthew Shaffer, our family thanks you, dearest parish family, for your overwhelming prayers, support, love, and generosity. Matthew's recovery is continuing to go well, and we are grateful for your continued thoughts and prayers.

We are truly blessed to have such a supportive and loving parish.
With much love, Jeremy - Melissa - Jacob - Matthew (Karas) Shaffer.

REMINDERS

-Confession – Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. after Vespers, and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before Divine Liturgy.

-Evening Akathist – Beginning **Thursday, August 22nd**, we will serve an Akathist service every **Thursday at 6:00 p.m.** An Akathist is a hymn dedicated to a saint, holy event, or one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, and so during this service, we offer up our prayers accordingly. Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts, prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.

-Bible Study – We will resume Bible Study on **Thursday, August 22nd** at **6:30 p.m.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 19th – DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m. for the **Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ** – this is a “red letter” day and one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory speaking with Moses and Elijah before the Apostles Peter, James, and John. This great event was a revelation of the Holy Trinity (God the Father spoke, Christ was there, and the Holy Spirit was revealed in the form of a cloud). Christ's radiance was physically seen by the disciples so that they could better realize His Divinity. Moses and Elijah were present showing the disciples that in Christ the law and the prophecies are fulfilled. According to the Church's tradition, the Transfiguration occurred forty days before His Crucifixion; for this reason, the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross (*September 27th*).

Wednesday, August 28th – DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m. at **St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Johnstown, PA** for the **Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary** with **His Grace Bishop IRINEJ** presiding for the **Federation Kolo Slava**

On this great feast of the Dormition, we commemorate when the holy Disciples surrounded the Mother of God as she offered praise to God and anticipated the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary, descended from Heaven. Seeing Her Son, the Mother of God exclaimed: “*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior, for He hath regarded the low estate of His Handmaiden*” (Luke 1:46-48) and, rising from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave her soul into the hands of her Son and God. The angels exclaimed: “*Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed art Thou among women! For lo, the Queen, God's Maiden comes, lift up the gates, and with the Ever-Existing One, take up the Mother of Light; for through Her salvation has come to all the human race. It is impossible to gaze upon Her, and it is impossible to render Her due honor.*”

Wednesday, September 11th – DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m. for the **Beheading of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John** – the divine Prophet, John, preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; taught people of all ranks how they must order their lives; filled all with the fear of God, teaching that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he does not seek repentance; prepared the hearts of people to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, “Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world” (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36). After all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of Herod. That is why this day is always commemorated with a strict fast no matter what day of the week it falls.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From the Prologue of Ohrid
On the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
(By St. Nikolai Velimirovic)

In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at night to Mt. Tabor and there was transfigured before them: “And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow” (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: “Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah” (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter

still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him” (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: “Arise and be not afraid” (St. Matthew 17:7).

Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal.

Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-thoughts.

Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens.

Why did Moses and Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord’s passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

Why did our Lord not manifest His divine glory on Tabor before all the disciples instead of before three of them? First, because He Himself gave the Law through the mouth of Moses: “At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established” (Deuteronomy 19:15). Therefore, three witnesses are sufficient. These three witnesses represent three main virtues: Peter Faith, for he was the first to confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God; James Hope, for, with faith in the promise of Christ, he was the first who laid down his life for the Lord, being the first to be slain by the Jews; John Love, for he reclined on the bosom of the Lord and remained beneath the Cross of the Lord until the end. God is not called the God of many but rather the God of the chosen. “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6). God often valued a faithful man more than an entire nation. Thus, on many occasions, He wanted to destroy the entire Jewish nation, but because of the prayers of righteous Moses, spared that nation to live. God listened more to the faithful Prophet Elijah than to the entire unbelieving kingdom of Ahab. Because of the prayers of one man, God towns and people. Thus, the sinful town of Ustiug was to be destroyed by fire and hail had it not been saved by the prayers of the one and only righteous man in it, St. Procopius, the “fool for Christ” (July 21).

Everyone is invited to join us after Divine Liturgy on
Sunday, **September 8, 2019** in the
St. Nicholas Church Social Hall and Patio, Monroeville, PA



2019 FALL

POT LUCK PICNIC

WELCOME BACK,

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS and TEACHERS!!

Food will be provided by the Outreach Committee, Klub Karadjordje, and our Church. The buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, sauerkraut and kielbasa, hot sausage, halushki, and beverages. A piñata filled with candy and coins will be a special treat for the children. Music and conversation will fill in the background as will the sounds of children engaged in playful activities. **Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish or salad in a disposable dish if their last name begins from A to M and a dessert if their last name is from N to Z. Plan your dish to serve from 8-10 people. Please plan to come!**

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee