

**SUNDAY**  
**August 4, 2019**

**SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**TROPARION - TONE VI (RESURRECTION)**

Angelic hosts were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate body. Thou did despoil hades and was not tempted by it. Thou did meet the Virgin and did grant us life. O Thou Who did rise from the dead, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

The day of splendid solemnity is come; the city of Bari rejoices, and with it the whole world does exult with hymns and spiritual songs. For today is the sacred feast of the translation of the precious and much-healing relics of the hierarch Nicholas the wonderworker. For like the never-setting Sun, he shines with brilliant beams of light, driving away the darkness of temptations and misfortunes from them that cry out with faith: Save us, O Nicholas, for you are our intercessor!

**TROPARION - TONE I (ST. MARY MAGDALENE)**

The honorable Mary Magdalene followed after Christ, Who for our sake was born of the Virgin, keeping His precepts and laws. Wherefore, celebrating thy most holy memory today, through thy supplications we receive remission of sins.

**KONTAKION - TONE VI (RESURRECTION)**

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.

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

Thy relics have moved like a star, from the East unto the West, O holy hierarch Nicholas; and the sea has been sanctified by your passage. The city of Bari receives grace through you, for you have been shown forth for us as a wonder-worker: illustrious, most wondrous and merciful.

**KONTAKION - TONE IV (ST. MARY MAGDALENE)**

When God, the Mighty, the Transcendent in essence, came in the flesh into the world, He received you, O Mary, as His true disciple as was meet. For you have thy whole desire and thy love set upon Him; wherefore, you did bring to pass many cures for the ailing; and now translated to the Heavens' heights, you ever fervently pray for all the world.

**EPISTLE: ROMANS 15:1-7** Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:27-35** At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he

touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

**Saints commemorated today:** Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene; Translation of the relics (404) of Hieromartyr Phocas

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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS – SNF GOLF**

**Wednesday, August 7** – Tee-esta Fiesta

**Thursday, August 8** – Fore-One-Two Pittsburgh Theme

**Friday, August 9** – Children's Mini Golf; Bogies & Stogies (college theme)

**Saturday, August 10** – Pool Party; Evening Banquet

5:00 p.m. – **Vespers with His Grace Bishop IRINEJ present** (please note the time)

**Sunday, August 11** – Hierarchal Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop IRINEJ

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**The Holy Myrrh-Bearer Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene**

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch me not, for I am still not ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them: 'I ascend to My Father and your Father and to My God and to your God.'" Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but Holy Tradition testifies that when the Apostles departed from Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, Mary Magdalene accompanied them also. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene proclaimed to all people about Christ and His Teaching, and when many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!" Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman. "Madeleine" is a form of Magdalene.