

<p>CHURCH BULLETIN</p>	<p>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> <a href="http://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org">www.stnicholasmonroeville.org</a> <a href="mailto:stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com">stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>SUNDAY February 17, 2019</p>
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**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE**

*Epistle: 2 Timothy (3: 10-15)*

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra ó what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*Gospel: Luke (18: 10-14)*

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men ó extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess." And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

**TROPARION TONE V**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin, for He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

**FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD; GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SYMEON – TROPARION TONE I**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace, for from you has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our god, enlightening them that are in darkness. Be glad you also, O righteous elder, who receives in your arms the Deliver of our souls, Who grants us Resurrection.

**TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDERWORKER  
TROPARION TONE IV**

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 V**

You did descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

**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 THE THEOTOKOS - 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 on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you do always protect those who honor you.

**SAINTS WE COMMEMORATE TODAY – Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; St. Nicholas the Confessor**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Our parish will host the Annual Diocesan Assembly. Vesper service 5:00 p.m. on Friday evening, and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. *Much help is needed to prepare for this beautiful weekend. Please contact Nick Jokola, Pam Matejevich, or Father George to see how you can help.*

**Today:** Parastos for +Martha Visnick. Memory eternal! Vjecnaja pamjat!

- \* Swearing in of officers for all St. Nicholas auxiliary organizations during Liturgy today.
- \* Winter soup sale by the Tammies! Stock up on some warm, comfort food! Eat in or take out \$8/quart.
- \* Purse Bash meeting in the Multi-Purpose room after Liturgy. Tickets are still available. Spread the word!

**House Blessings** ó Father George has begun blessing homes. Please understand that with the preparations for the Diocesan Assembly as well as other church services, Father has a very busy schedule. He will contact you with his availability.

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** – Bowling party at Lokay Lanes. All children are welcome!

**Fund Raiser for Matthew Shaffer** - As Christians, we need to help in any way we can! We will be selling sweatshirts for \$20.00 with the Serbian Orthodox cross on them. \$5.00 of each sweatshirt sold will help with medical and travel expenses. Please see Anna Drakulic - email: ([anikabrighton@gmail.com](mailto:anikabrighton@gmail.com)) phone: 412-823-4891.

**Matthew Shaffer**, son of Melissa Karas Shaffer needs our prayers, love, and support. Matthew is a wonderful, faithful young man and a member of our parish family. We are appealing for your compassion and help. Please see Father George and/or Nick Jokola. Make your checks payable to Melissa Karas Shaffer.

**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!

### **REMINDERS**

**Adult Bible Study** – Classes cancelled until further notice.

**Vespers** ó Saturday evening 6:00 p.m.

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

#### *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee*

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 18:10-14. This is the story of two men, one a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and the other a Publican, a government official charged with the responsibility of collecting taxes.

Both men enter the temple, and the Pharisee stands openly and prays, thanking God that he is not like other men, specifically extortioners, the unjust, adulterers, ðor even this tax collector.ö

He then begins to list his religious accomplishments by stating, ðI fast twice a week, and I give tithes of all that I possess.ö

In direct contrast to the pride of the Pharisee, the Publican goes to a place where he will not be noticed by others and beats his breast saying, ðGod, be merciful to me a sinner!ö Having told this story, Jesus affirms that it was the Publican who returned home justified and forgiven rather than the Pharisee. He states, ðEveryone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.ö

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of the journey to Pascha. To repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and with others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Gospel depicts him as a man that is pleased only with himself who thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has falsified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by the amount of money he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a ðchange of mind.ö He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), ðpoor in spirit.ö He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A ðchange of mindö and the transformation of our lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

