

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 February 3, 2019
--------------------	---	----------------------------

THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle: Corinthians (6: 16 - 7: 1)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Matthew (15: 21-28)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

TROPARION TONE III

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown might with His arm; He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted the world great mercy!

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 III

On this day, You did rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day, Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs, they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power!

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 – *Ven. Maximus the Confessor, Holy Martyrs Neophytus and Agnes*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A very special welcome and thank you - to Father Rodney Torbic for serving Divine Liturgy today while Father George is away. If you have an emergency, please call Father George on his cell phone. His number can be found at the top of the bulletin.

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.

Pizza! Pizza! Today – Don't forget to pick up your ordered pizzas downstairs after church. All proceeds will assist Matthew Shaffer with medical and travel expenses. Thank you for your support.

Tuesday, February 12th – Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 15th – The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple ó Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 17th – The Tammies will be having a winter soup sale! Stock up on some warm, comfort food! Eat in or take out \$8/quart.

Friday, February 22nd and Saturday, February 23rd – 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. Please plan on attending!

The St. Nicholas Jr. Choir will resume rehearsal today after Divine Liturgy and church school.

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:

Resilience and the Canaanite Woman

In today's Gospel, the Canaanite woman came to Jesus crying, "Have pity upon me Son of David!" It is the only occasion on which Jesus was ever outside of Jewish territory: the land of Tyre and Sidon north of Galilee where the hated Phoenicians, the enemies of the Jews, lived. What is implied here? Did it foreshadow the spread of the gospel to the whole world? Was it the beginning of the end of the geographical barrier to His message? Could it be that even enemies should have the gospel of Christ proclaimed to them?

The Apostles reacted to the woman with irritation. She was a nuisance. They wanted to be rid of her -- the sooner the better. Even the response of Jesus seems inexplicable at first. After she pled for help in curing her daughter's possession by a demon, Jesus replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread, and to throw it to the pet dogs," -- hardly a comforting response given that calling a person a "dog" was an insult with the most contemptuous intent. Historians write that in those days dogs were the unclean scavengers of the street -- lean, savage, and diseased.

The Canaanite woman had to have been aware that Jesus was telling her that Jews considered her to be contemptible. But this did not stop her. She acknowledged Him as "Son of David." She was persistent and did not let obstacles: the insults of others stop her. She was cheerful. To the question asked by Jesus: "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs?" she answered "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Linguistic historians comment that her reply was a clever play on words, of someone with a cheerful quick wit.

St. John Chrysostom asked, "Was she silent and did she desist? By no means, she was even more insistent." Chrysostom pointed out Jesus knew she would say this. Jesus wanted to "exhibit her high self-command." She went even a step further, demonstrating her profound

humility by not calling the Jews children, as Jesus had done, but "master." To follow the Canaanite woman's lead we too must be committed to Christ with all our heart. We have to be persistent, tenacious, stubborn, undiscouraged and joyful. The Canaanite woman is tough and resilient, and has taken responsibility to overcome barriers.

Like the Canaanite woman we have to start by making a choice even against all odds. We have to be committed against all who mock us and loving in the face of those who reject our love or even hate us.

As the crumbs of bread from the Master's table was the food that sustained the Canaanite woman, may the food received by Orthodox Christians from the table of the altar during Divine Liturgy sustain us to become tough and resilient in overcoming the barriers of life in Christ.

