

<p>CHURCH BULLETIN</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>SUNDAY January 13, 2019</p>
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SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY – HOLY GOD BEARING FATHERS

Epistle: Galatians (1: 11-19)

I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many on my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Matthew (2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry, and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying, "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

TROPARION TONE VIII

You did descend from on high, O Merciful One! You did accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to You!

TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY – TONE IV

Your nativity, O Christ our god, has shone forth the light of knowledge upon the world; for therein those who worship the stars have been taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of righteousness, and to know You the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory be to You!

SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY – TROPARION TONE II

O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ our God, the great wonders you have witnessed: you have seen the Virgin with Child, given praise with the shepherds and adored with the magi; from the angel, you have received the glad tidings. Pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

KONTAKION TONE VIII

By rising from the tomb, You did raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

KONTAKION TO THE SAINTS – TONE III

Today, David the holy King is filled with joy. Joseph and James offer hymns of praise. Having received a Crown on account of their relationship to Christ, they rejoice and sing to him who is born on earth in a manner beyond understanding, crying out: "Save those who adore You, O merciful Lord!"

KONTAKION OF THE FEAST - TONE III

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth, in an ineffable manner, to the eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! With the angels and shepherds, glorify Him who is made manifest! The eternal God, a little Child!

SAINTS WE COMMEMORATE TODAY – *Ven. Mother Melania of Rome; Met. Dositej of Zagreb*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Shaffer, son of Melissa Karas Shaffer, is ill and 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.

2019 BEAUTIFUL SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESAN CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED! Please support our church by purchasing these calendars for a minimal \$5.00. Calendars are available at the tutor's desk.

Tonight – Come celebrate Serbian New Year’s Eve! Doors open at 4:30 p.m with a traditional dinner served at 5:00 p.m. Ball drop in Belgrade at 6:00 p.m. Music provided by Srpski Sinovi. Adults - \$20 Children ó free! RSVP: 412-856-8166.

January 14th - Circumcision of Our Lord and St. Basil the Great (New Year) - liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

January 18th – Holy Cross Day - Blessing of the Water ó liturgy 10:00 a.m.

January 19th – Holy Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ ó Epiphany ó Blessing of the Water ó liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

January 20th – Synaxis of St. John

January 27th – St. Sava Slava ó program to follow Divine Liturgy.

After January 20th, Father George will begin blessing homes.

Pizza! Pizza! – **January 20th** - Following Divine Liturgy, a pizza sale will be held. \$10 for *whole* plain or pepperoni. Pizza **will not** be sold by the slice. **All money collected will benefit the Matthew Shaffer family. Advance orders are appreciated!** Call Alexis Janiga: 412-965-5602.

Purse Bash – A 3rd planning meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the church hall. The Purse Bash is scheduled for March 2, 2019. Ladies, it is not too late to join the group to help make this event a successful fundraiser. If you have any questions, please contact Sondra Deaunovich at Sondra7890@comcast.net or 412-760-5796.

The Noodle-makers of St. Nicholas want to thank everyone who donated eggs, flour, money for supplies, prepared and cleaned the social hall, and gave time to help with this project. We want you to know that we are contributing over \$1,000 to help replenish the Maintenance Fund. Again, we thank everyone who participated in this successful effort. Hvala!

Sophie wishes to thank all those who bought poinsettias or Dorothy’s candies for Christmas. Profits go to the Sunday 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:

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness,” (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ’s baptism in the Jordan was “theophany,” a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord’s public ministry. It was also a “theophany” in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father’s testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

