

CHURCH BULLETIN	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> www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com	SUNDAY March 3, 2019
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***MEATFARE SUNDAY***

***Epistle: Corinthians (8: 8-9, 2)***

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

***Gospel: Matthew (25: 31-46)***

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me." Then they also will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?" Then He will answer them, saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

**TROPARION TONE VII**

By Your Cross, You did destroy death! To the thief, You did open Paradise! For the myrrhbearers, You did change weeping into joy! And You did command Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, granting 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 VII**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

**KONTAKION TONE III**

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble and the river of fire shall flow before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge.

**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 – *St. Leo of Rom; St. Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople***

**REMINDERS**

**Adult Bible Study – Bible study is cancelled until further notice.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**House Blessings** ó Father George will resume blessing homes on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. He will contact you with his availability.

**Items Gifted to our Church** ó On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to **Stevan Silianoff, Betty Novakovich, Ann Pieczynski, and Mona Robertson** for their generous donations: Stevan purchased a beautiful, new chalice set for the health and well being of his parents and family, Betty purchased the Bishop's serving set, Ann bought the clergy's serving set, and Mona bought new priest vestments. May God grant you many years! Mnogaja ljeta!

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** – St. Nicholas Church of Monroeville will be hosting this year's celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Vesper service will begin at 5:00 p.m., and a dinner will follow. Homilist will be The Most Reverend Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

**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.

**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** - Our St Nicholas Choir will be offering a breakfast buffet on Sunday March 10th (Cheesefare) for all to enjoy. Menu includes pancakes, eggs, French toast casserole, veggie casserole, fruit, yogurt and juices. Please come and help support the choir's fundraiser. Thank you!

**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!

**Fish Fry Cake Table** - The Men's Club Fish Fry will begin on Friday, March 8, and continue every Friday through April 19 from 4 - 7 pm. This means that the Fish Fry Cake Table will be in operation during this time as well. Any help that can be offered to make this project a success would be greatly appreciated, either to bake and donate Lenten desserts, or volunteer to sell the baked goods to our customers. We are grateful for any

assistance parishioners may give, whether it is one cake or one hour, or many! To volunteer, please contact Janet Tumbas at church, or by phone or email: 412-751-3809 / [jtumbas@gmail.com](mailto:jtumbas@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** *Sunday of the Last Judgment*

The commemoration for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning his Second Coming and the Last Judgment of all, both the living and the dead. In today's Gospel, Christ speaks about what will happen at this specific point in time when He will come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him.ö At His coming, öHe will sit on the throne of His glory,ö and all of the nations will be gathered before Him. He will separate them öas a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.ö The sheep will be placed on His right hand, and the goats on the left.

To the sheep, He will say öCome, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.ö

This kingdom is offered to the sheep because of their compassion and service to those in need. Jesus says, öI for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.ö

The sheep, who are the righteous chosen for the kingdom, will ask how this could be so. They will ask Jesus when He was hungry or thirsty, a stranger, naked, and in prison. He will answer them by saying, öAssuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.ö

Christ the King, seated on His throne of judgment, will then turn to the goats on His left and say, öDepart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.ö He will condemn them because they did not feed Him when He was hungry, give Him drink when He was thirsty, take Him in when He was a stranger, clothe Him when He was naked, visit Him when He was sick or in prison.

The goats will ask the Lord, öWhen did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?ö Then He will answer them saying, öAssuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.ö Jesus concludes His words on the Last Judgment by stating that those on the left öwill go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.ö

On the past two Sundays of this pre-Lenten period, the focus was placed on God's patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our Judge. Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes.

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: The Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come, a theme that is also the focus of the first three days of Holy Week. But the judgment is not only in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts toward others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given of helping them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves. Another theme of this Sunday is that of love. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable of the Last Judgment answers: love— not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete and personal love for the human person— the specific persons that we encounter each day in our lives.

Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another person, whoever he or she is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ’s love. We know that all persons ultimately need this personal love— the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that people are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And, finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ’s love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged.

