

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 March 31, 2019
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Epistle: Hebrews (4: 14-5:6)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel: Mark (8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with the power."

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!"

ADORATION OF THE CROSS -TROPARION TONE I

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to all Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

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.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS- KONTAKION TONE VII

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of paradise; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my savior, did come and cry to those in hell, "Enter again into Paradise."

SAINTS WE COMMEMORATE TODAY – St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study will be cancelled for this Thursday, April 4th.

Confession – Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. after vespers and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight– Lenten vesper services will begin at 5:00 p.m. at St. George in Midland, PA. His Grace Bishop Irinej will be present, and guest homilist will be Father Sasa Nedic.

Kolo – There will be a meeting after church today. All are welcome!

Wednesday, April 3rd – No Presanctified liturgy services.

The Noodle-Makers of St. Nicholas are at it again! Four weeks only! Wide or fine noodles. \$8.00 for 14 ounces. To order, call Rose 412 824-7609.

Saturday, April 6th – The Federation of Circles of Serbian Sisters together with St. Nicholas parish in Monroeville, with the Blessing of His Grace Bishop Irinej, will be hosting a Lenten retreat in our church hall. Guest speaker will be Father Maksim Ilic from New Marcha Monastery in Ohio as well as honored guest Mother Christophora from Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA. Registration & breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. Spiritual lecture beginning at 10:00 a.m. Contact Martha Springborn with questions and/or reservations: mspringborn78@comcast.net

Sunday, April 7th – *Posna Vecera* ó Vesper services begin at 5:00 with a lenten dinner to follow. We welcome our clergy brotherhood from greater Pittsburgh and Father Maksim as guest homilist. ***The Kolo is requesting posno desserts for this evening.**

Sunday, April 14th – Quarterly meeting for the parish after liturgy. Please make every effort to attend this informational meeting.

Easter Candy Orders – The church school is selling Easter candy from Dorothy's of White Oak. Please see Sophie Vargo for a form. All orders are due April 1st.

Easter Flowers - Orders are being taken by Sophie Vargo (412 466-2760) and Pat Kolar (412 372-4239)/patkolar@verizon.net. The deadline for orders is Monday, April 15, 2019. Please see the insert in the bulletin or refer to the email sent to parishioners for additional information.

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Maintenance Committee ó Sour cabbage heads, smoked kielbasa, and limited smoked spare ribs available to purchase for your Easter meal. See anyone from the maintenance committee to order.

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 began Friday, March 8th, and will 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. Thank you!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Veneration of the Cross

Today is the third Sunday of Great Lent and the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Divine Liturgy includes a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

Let's reflect for a moment on the Crucifixion and its meaning. Jesus Christ died for our sins which was done because "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. God's love for us - our opportunity for eternal life - our Salvation and the hope of living in God's kingdom are all because Jesus died on the Cross. As we venerate the Cross this Sunday, let us especially think about the meaning of the Cross and ask ...how much do we love God? ...how much do we love our Church which represents Christ? ...how much do we love God for all that he provides for us? Do we love him enough to sacrifice of our time, talents and treasures?

