

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>September 15, 2019</b>	<b>SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> <b>V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic</b> , Parish Priest 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>
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**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**TROPARION - TONE IV (RESURRECTION)**

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

**TROPARION - TONE IV (TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS)**

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!"

**TROPARION - TONE IV (SYNAXIS OF SERBIAN SAINTS)**

As the enlighteners of the Serbs, O God-bearing Fathers, holy patriarchs and great shepherds, guardians of the Apostolic traditions, unshakable pillars, and teachers of Orthodoxy: Beseech Christ, the Master of All, to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.

**KONTAKION – TONE IV (RESURRECTION)**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

**KONTAKION - TONE III (TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS)**

Your relics, O Saint Nicholas, came out as a start 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 – TONE III (SYNAXIS OF SERBIAN SAINTS)**

Enthroned as hierarchs, and living lives worthy of praise, in God-pleasing manner you guided your people to knowledge of God: Because of this you were glorified by Him through miracles and incorruption, as befits pupils of the grace of God.

**THEOTOKION – STEADFAST PROTECTRESS - 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 upon you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

***Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24***

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

***Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42***

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

**Saints commemorated today:** Martyr Mamas; St John the Faster; Synaxis of Serbian Saints

***REMINDERS***

- **Confession** – Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. after Vespers, and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before Divine Liturgy.
- **Evening Akathist** – We will continue to serve an Akathist to the Mother of God service every **Thursday at 6:00 p.m.** An Akathist is a hymn dedicated to a saint, holy event, or one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, and so during this service, we offer up our prayers accordingly. Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts, prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.
- **Bible Study** – We have resumed Bible Study. Join us every **Thursday at 6:30 p.m.**

● **Sunday School** – Welcome back! Today is our first day of classes! As a reminder, following partaking of Holy Communion, all children are asked to proceed downstairs to their corresponding classes and not before. All children under the age of 7 should come forward for Communion (for questions please see **Fr. George**). If your child is of age and able to abstain from breakfast, please bring them forward for Communion (unless they are able to come forward independently). Each of us have been taught various things about “fasting” and preparation for Holy Communion. We have been told so many things that we tend to neglect everything we have been taught completely. The Orthodox Church has always held that we are united to Him in faith and love, and through Him, to one another through Holy Communion. It is in love and faith and worship that we are truly members of the Church.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Construction of Equipment Shed** – Please see the insert to learn about this project. We could use YOUR help to lighten the load! How? Contact Denny Zdrate at (412) 417-3167. Unable to commit to manual labor? No problem! Commit to helping feed our dedicated workers. Contact Nick Jokola at (814) 241-4929.
- **Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – NO SERVICES – Fr. George will be out of town.** In case of an emergency, please call Fr. George at 412-622-4714.
- **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m.** for the **Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross** – this Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ’s people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.
- **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – DOO-WOP DINNER AND DANCE – 6:00 p.m.** and show at 6:30 p.m. *See the flyer for reservations and details!*
- **Doo-Wop Silent Auction** – if you would like to donate or contribute to a basket, please contact Sondra Deaunovich at 412-374-0991 or [sondra7890@comcast.net](mailto:sondra7890@comcast.net) or Pat Kolar at 412-372-4239 or [patkolar@verizon.net](mailto:patkolar@verizon.net)
- **Thursday, November 14 - Sunday, November 17 – ANCIENT FAITH WOMEN’S RETREAT** at Antiochian Village Conference Center in Bolivar, PA. This retreat is a peaceful, loving, and reflective gathering of Pan-Orthodox women who come together to learn, worship, make friends, and rest at the entrance into the holy Nativity season. Women of all ages are welcome. For more information see Protinica Karen.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### Our Lord and Savior – the Cornerstone

*“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:22-24*

Today’s Gospel is from the book of Matthew. Jesus had entered the temple courts, and while He was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him to question His authority. Jesus told them the parable of the tenants and ended with a question: *Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”* (Matthew 21:42-44)

Why did Jesus speak to them using parables and what did He mean by His question? We find the answer earlier in the Gospel of Matthew: *“At that time, the disciples of Jesus came to him and said to him, “Why do you speak to the crowds in parables?” And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand”* (Matthew 13:10-13). Jesus then tells His disciples: *“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart.”* The chief priests and the elders of the temple **knew** the scriptures; they **knew** the prophecies, but they **rejected** the cornerstone. They rejected Salvation Who had come into the world. Jesus says, *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* (Matthew 13:43). Jesus was telling the chief priests and the scribes - the “kingdom of priests; the holy nation” – *“I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”*

As followers of Christ, what does this mean for us? Apostle Paul writes: *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 2:19-22). Apostle Paul continues in his Acts of the Apostles: *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:10-12)

And so, who is our rock, our foundation, our cornerstone? Is it the Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings or is it something else? Is it our comfortable lifestyle, our passions? Are we to become like the chief priests who heard the Word of God yet rejected Him? How do we receive the Word of God and His prophets today? Do we ignore them with stony hearts? Do we beat them with criticism to deflect attention away from our own lack of faithfulness and commitment?

“Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” According to St. John Chrysostom, this illustrates the two ways of destruction. Those falling on the stone are people who suffer the consequences of their sins in this life, whereas those on whom the stone falls are unrepentant people who will suffer utter destruction in the final judgment. The Lord has placed us in the vineyard of His glorious Church. Let us give Him His fruits in due season with thanksgiving and glorification (Psalm 104). Do not put the light of Christ “under a bushel, but on a stand” so it may “give light to all in the house” (Matthew 5:14). Speak good and do good. Let us hear the Word of God and live it. “For blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28).

### Construction of new Church Grounds Equipment Building

**Purpose** – the building will house groundskeeping equipment (presently stored in one of 2 metal storage boxes behind the hall); select items used by the various church organization (currently stored within rooms in the basement level of the Church); and the snow removal truck. When the new building is completed, the 2 metal storage boxes will be removed from the church grounds.

**Funding** – Funding has been provided by Srbo Slav (Zip) Drakulic and “Friends of St. Nicholas Church.” Not only have these individuals funded this project – which we desperately needed – they have dedicated their time and knowledge to see to it through to completion. We are incredibly grateful! May God grant you many years!



### ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH TAMBURITZANS

Enroll your children today in our St. Nicholas Church Tamburitzans so they may be immersed in the music, dance, culture, and costumes of traditional Serbian folklore! Your children are sure to make lasting friendships as they dance, play, sing, and travel with this loving and vibrant group! With over 50 years in its existence, our group of talented individuals have continued to perpetuate the Serbian culture within our community, and we look forward to inviting your children to our group this year!

Rehearsals began, **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** in the church hall. All rehearsals are Monday evenings in the church hall unless announced otherwise.

Please contact Sonja Capuzzi if your child is **2 to 5-6 years of age** at (412) 334-0267 or at [sonjacapuzzi@gmail.com](mailto:sonjacapuzzi@gmail.com). Our youngest group of dancers “Tiny Tammies” rehearse from 5:45 until 6:15 p.m.

Please contact Bati Bajich if your child is in the **1<sup>st</sup> grade or older** at (816) 678-6251 or at [borisbajich@gmail.com](mailto:borisbajich@gmail.com). Rehearsal start times vary based on your children’s age.

**WELCOME! DOBRODOSLI!**

# DOO WOP DINNER DANCE

## October 26, 2019

6PM till 11PM

Stage Shows at 6:30 & 8:30

**St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church**  
2110 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146



## THE PITTSBURGH BELAIRS

The Pittsburgh Belairs are a singing group that specializes in Doo-Wop harmony & Motown. The group sings the hits of the 50s and 60s. The group strives to keep this era of great music alive by performing the best Doo-Wop & Motown songs in the same manner the original performers intended the music to be heard.

**COST ONLY: \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door**

Reservations Required: Price includes dance and dinner ticket

**WOOD-FIRED GRILLED STEAK or CHICKEN and SHRIMP**  
Baked Potato, Vegetable and Salad

**CASH BAR • Desserts and Snacks for Purchase**

**Please Call: Church Office 412-856-8166 or**  
**Email [stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com)**

**Oldies DJ with Dancing ALL NIGHT LONG!**