

SUNDAY
August 2, 2020

SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

TROPARION - TONE VII (RESURRECTION)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world great mercy.

TROPARION - TONE IV (HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH)

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the Prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha, to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers. Therefore he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

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!"

KONTAKION - TONE VII (RESURRECTION)

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind 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 (TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. NICHOLAS)

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 - TONE II (HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH)

Prophet Elijah of great renown, seer of the mighty works of God, by your command you held back the rain! Pray for us to the only Lover of mankind.

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: James 5:10-20 (Prophet Elijah)

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and He had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then He made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

Petition to Our Lord and Savior for His Help and Mercy during the COVID-19 pandemic

For our salvation during the time of this pandemic; for protection and deliverance from the Coronavirus; for the health and recovery of those suffering from this virus; and for the guidance of physicians and those who minister to the afflicted, let us pray to the Lord: ***Lord have mercy.***

Eternal Lord, God Almighty, in Your ineffable goodness and love for humankind, look upon us who have gathered in Your Holy Name and those who could not be present; be our constant helper and defender at the time of this pandemic and hear our prayer offered with contrition of heart: Compassionate Lord, save, protect and deliver us from the impending threat of the Coronavirus; grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus; and guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who minister to the afflicted, let us all say with all our heart and mind Lord have mercy: ***Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Saints Commemorated Today: Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah; St. Elijah the Righteous (1907) (Georgia)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **HELP NEEDED** – On Friday June 5, our dear parishioner, Meigan, and her daughter, Maggie, lost everything they had, including their beloved cat Memphis in a devastating house fire. Not only is this family facing uncertain financial times due to the ongoing pandemic, as well as the astronomical cost of college tuition, (Maggie will be going into her Sophomore year at Duquesne), they did not have adequate insurance to cover the total loss of their home as well as all of their belongings. Meigan is now tasked with not only tearing down the remaining structure, rebuilding and furnishing the home, but also replacing all her and Maggie’s personal items. The cost is rising rapidly. Please open your hearts and help Meigan and Maggie in any way you can. Meigan and Maggie sincerely appreciate each and every one of your prayers, well wishes, and financial contributions. Please visit <https://gf.me/u/x738a4> to make a financial contribution. *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25:40* ***Please see the attached flyer for the upcoming luncheon-fundraiser on Sunday, August 9th

● **DONATIONS** – Thank you, beloved parishioners, for your continued love and support during the pandemic! If you have any questions on how to become an EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) Donor, please contact Jovi Jovanovich at jovanovich23@yahoo.com or visit our webpage at www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/onlinecontribution to safely and securely make an electronic donation.

● **Sunday, August 9th** – TAKE-OUT “COMFORT FOOD” LUNCHEON following Divine Liturgy hosted by the Outreach Committee. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

● **DORMITION FAST** – The Dormition Fast (*or falling asleep*) begins **Friday, August 14th** and ends on Friday, August 28th with the Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. During this fast, through pray and fasting, we prepare ourselves for Her Great Feast. One of the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, the Dormition celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith – the Resurrection of the body and life eternal. Each day we must strive to emulate the live of the Mother of Our God, and prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come. Through this fast, we ask that our heavenly Mother intercedes for us, as she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

● **Wednesday, August 19th** – DIVINE LITURGY for the **Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** at **10:00 a.m.** One of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, this great feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white. Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Saint John Chrysostom explains the presence of these two fathers of the faith from the Old Testament in three ways. He states that they represent the Law and the Prophets (Moses received the Law from God, and Elijah was a great prophet); they both

experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel); and they represent the living and the dead (Elijah, the living, because he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire, and Moses, the dead, because he did experience death). While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. The icon of the feast directs our attention toward the event of the Transfiguration and specifically to the glory of God as revealed in Christ. This event came at a critical point in the ministry of our Lord, just as He was setting out on His journey to Jerusalem. He would soon experience the humiliation, suffering, and death of the Cross. However, the glorious light of the Resurrection was revealed to strengthen His disciples for the trials that they would soon experience. The feast also points to the great and glorious Second Coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when all of creation will be transfigured and filled with light.

● **SAVE THE DATE** – **Sunday, August 30th** “Sausage Sizzle” to-go lunch hosted by the Church Board. Menu includes spicy or mild traditional Serbian sausage on fresh bread.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah

When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision, that handsome men greeted him, they swaddled him in fire and fed the fiery flame”. The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, Divine-meditation and prayer.

Called to prophetic service afront the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of the true faith and piety. During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. An especial advocate of idol-worship was the wife of king Ahab, the paganess Jezebel. The worship of the idol of Baal led the Israelites towards complete moral decay. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce king Ahab for impiety, and exhorting him to repent and turn to the True God. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that in punishment there would then be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the dryness would cease only through his prayer. And indeed, through the prayer of the prophet the heavens were closed, and there befell drought and famine throughout all the land.

The nation suffered from the incessant heat and hunger. The Lord through His mercy, seeing the suffering of the people, was prepared to forgive all and send rain upon the earth, but did not want to annul the words of the Prophet Elijah, sorrowed with the desire to turn about the hearts of the Israelites to repentance and return them to the true worship of God. Having saved the Prophet Elijah from the hands of Jezebel, the Lord during this time of tribulation sent him into a

secret place of the stream Horath. The Lord ordered rapacious ravens to bring food to the prophet, moving him to pity for the suffering nation.

When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sidonian Sarepta to a poor widow, who suffered together with her children in the expectation of death by starvation. At the request of the prophet she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Thereafter through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for all the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet did another miracle – he resuscitated the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to king Ahab to bring an end to the misfortune. The Prophet Elijah gave orders to gather upon Mount Carmel all Israel and the pagan-priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed the building of two sacrificial altars: one – for the pagan-priests of Baal, and the other – for the Prophet Elijah in the service of the True God. “Upon whichever shall come down upon it fire from the heavens, that one will be shown to have the True God, – said the Prophet Elijah, – and all shalt be obliged to worship Him, and if not invoking Him shalt be given over to death”. The prophets of Baal rushed off first to offer sacrifice: they called out to the idol from morning till evening, but in vain – the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built up his sacrificial altar from 12 stones – the number of the tribes of Israel; he placed the sacrifice upon the fire-wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the fire-wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the fiery prophet turned to God with a prayer and asked, that the Lord send down fire from the heavens to teach the wayward and obdurate Israelite people and turn their hearts to Himself. Through the prayer of the prophet there came down fire from the heavens and it fell upon the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: “In truth the Lord is the One God and there is no other besides Him!”. Then the Prophet Elijah had put to death all the pagan-priests of Baal and he began to pray for the sending down of rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and there came down an abundant rain, watering the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol-worship, he asked of God his death. An Angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah went for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave. Here after a terrible storm, an earthquake and a burst of flame the Lord appeared “in a quiet wind” (3 Kings 19:12) and revealed to the grieving prophet, that He preserved seven thousand faithful servants who were not worshippers of Baal. The Lord commanded the Prophet Elijah to anoint Elisha unto prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive to Heaven on a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha began with the testimony of the ascent of the Prophet Elijah to the heavens on a fiery chariot and received together with his fallen-down mantle (cloak) a gift of prophetic spirit twice as great, than the Prophet Elijah had possessed.

“The incarnate Angel, the Cornerstone of the Prophets, the second Forerunner of the Coming of Christ”, the glorious Holy Prophet Elijah will announce the Second Coming of Our Lord, the Bridegroom of the Church, Who will return in glory to claim His Bride, the people of the Church.

TAKE-OUT “COMFORT FOOD” LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

BENEFITS MEIGHAN AND MAGGIE PILIPOVICH NICOLAI
WHO LOST THEIR HOME, THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS, INCLUDING THEIR DOG,
IN A FIRE ON JUNE 5, 2020

MENU

SARMA

PARSLEY POTATOES

GREEN BEANS

BREAD

COOKIES



\$15.00 DONATION

(Cash, check (St. Nicholas), credit card)

PRE-ORDERS PREFERRED; CALL Toots Harvey (412) 372-8064

Pick up at the patio outside of the Church Social Hall after 11:45AM

Please remember to wear your mask and stand at a 6 ft. distance from others!

Additional fundraising is occurring through:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-meigan-and-maggie-rebuild-their-home>