

SUNDAY
August 9, 2020

SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TROPARION - TONE VIII (RESURRECTION)

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

TROPARION - TONE III (GREAT-MARTYR PANTELEIMON)

Holy Passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon, entreat the merciful God, to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions.

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 VIII (RESURRECTION)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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 V (GREAT-MARTYR PANTELEIMON)

You emulated the Merciful One, and received from Him the grace of healing, passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon; by your prayers, heal our spiritual diseases and continually drive away the temptations of the enemy from those who cry out in faith "Save us, O Lord."

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: Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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 Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon (305)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **TODAY – St. George Medal** – A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God and he is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. To encourage Scouts to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed programs which are approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Upon their completion, the emblems are worn on the official uniform. Today, Cub Scout **Robert Eugene Hanson** was awarded the St. George Medal, the medal of Orthodox Christian Cub Scouts. Congratulations on this achievement, Eugene!

● **TODAY – Luncheon Fundraiser** following Divine Liturgy for Meigan, and her daughter, Maggie, who lost everything they had in a devastating house fire. Please open your hearts and help Meigan and Maggie in any way you can. *“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*

● **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.

● **DORMITION FAST** – The Dormition Fast (*or falling asleep*) begins this 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 – Friday, August 28th** – Fish Fry from 4-6 p.m.

● **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

Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius, and he was named Pantoleon (“in all things a lion”). His mother Saint Euboula (April 12) was a Christian and she wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, and there, Pantoleon studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (August 8), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. Saint Hermolaus saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited Pantoleon to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited Saint Hermolaus every day.

One day Pantoleon found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child’s body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon’s eyes.

After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by Saint Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning “all-merciful”). Speaking with Eustorgius, Saint Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by Saint Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable

physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man, and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor.

At this time the priests Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded.

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon. They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom. Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but Saint Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Saint Panteleimon's servants Laurence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

Saint Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a

lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.

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>