

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>February 16, 2020</b>	<b>SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> <b>Very Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic</b> , Parish Priest 412-622-4714 (cell) 412-856-8166 (office) dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com
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**35<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**  
**AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

**TROPARION - TONE II (RESURRECTION)**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

**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 I (MEETING OF OUR LORD)**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

**KONTAKION – TONE II (RESURRECTION)**

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me. And now I cry to You as the Prodigal: “I have sinned before You, O merciful Father; receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

**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 I (MEETING OF OUR LORD)**

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin’s womb and blessed Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

**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 6:12-20**

Brethren, “all things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

**Gospel: Luke 15:11-32**

The Lord said this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

### REMINDERS

- **Thursday Evening Akathist & Bible Study** – join us for our next Akathist this **Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** at **6 p.m.** and Bible Study at **6:30 p.m.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY** – Parastos for Milan (Gemo) Drakulic; Timothy and Martha Mrkich Dawson.
- **TODAY** – Administering the oath of office to the new Church Board and auxiliary organizations following Divine Liturgy.
- **TODAY – Lunch** offered today following Divine Liturgy: Beef and vegetable soup.
- **Next Sunday – Lunch** offered following Divine Liturgy: Beef goulash.
- **House Blessings** – Fr. George will continue to bless houses. Please anticipate a call from to schedule your house blessing. (412) 622-4714 / dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, February 22, 2020** – Memorial Saturday – Parastos/Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m. in church. Please bring a list of names of the departed to be remembered.
- **NEXT Saturday, February 22, 2020** – The 2nd Annual Purse Bash Event – 12-2:30 p.m.
- **Friday, February 28** – **The Men's Club Fish Fry** will begin on February 28<sup>th</sup> and will continue every week through Friday, April 10. This means that the Fish Fry Cake Table will be in operation as well. If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to contribute Lenten baked goods, or work at the Cake Table, please call or email Janet Tumbas – (412) 751-3809 / jtumbas@gmail.com, or see her at church. There is no set schedule, and we appreciate any assistance, whether it is one cake and one hour, or many cakes and many hours. Thank you for your support!
- **Sunday, March 8 – Sunday of Orthodoxy** – Please bring your icons from home to hold during the procession around the church at the end of Divine Liturgy.
- **Sunday, March 8 – Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy** at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) in the North Hills.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 3** – Senior Luncheon hosted by the Outreach Committee
- **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 22 – Sunday, May 24** – SSF Festival Monroeville

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day with the reading of prayers of purification. The Most Holy Virgin, who had no need of purification since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement, humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law. The theme

of all these readings together tell of the changing from the Old Testament to the New Testament; the old law becomes something new. The Son of God, giver of the law, now Himself fulfills the law, being carried in Simeon's arms as a human child.

The greatly aged Prophet Simeon the God-Receiver - whom we commemorate together with Prophetess Anna today - was a just and devout man and was guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, Simeon had been awaiting the salvation of God and had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld Christ. Thus, at Christ's presentation in the Temple, he took Him up into his aged arms and gave glory to God, singing: "Lord, now let Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." This prayer is sung every Vespers.

Simeon's words to the Most Holy Virgin were indeed bittersweet: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32).

Along with Simeon, the widow Anna was present at the Meeting of Our Lord. In the Gospel of St. Luke, Anna "was a widow for eighty-four years, who went not out from the temple, serving God both day and night by fasting and prayer. And she having approached at this time, glorified the Lord and prophesied about Him to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem" (Luke 2:36-38). Anna is depicted in the icons of this feast, together with the Holy Child and the Virgin Mary, Joseph and Simeon.

#### 2nd Annual Purse Bash fundraiser!

**Date: February 22, 2020**

**Time: from Noon—2:30pm.**

**Location: 2110 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146**

**Doors open at 11:30am**

**Tickets are \$40 each and includes:**  
**(4) Chances to win designer handbag**  
**Served Lunch, Soft Drinks, Coffee/Tea**  
**(2) Wine Vouchers**

**Opportunities to participate in Raffles, Cash Prizes**

**Purchase 8+ tickets together and have a table reserved for your group of friends!**

**Cash Bar - No Outside Alcohol Permitted**

**Must have ticket to enter & present to claim prize**

**TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.**

**Contact:**

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