

**SUNDAY**  
**October 4, 2020**

**SAINT NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Very Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic**, Parish Priest

412-622-4714 (cell) 412-856-8166 (office)

dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com

www.stnicholasmonroeville.org

stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

**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 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 (ELEVATION OF THE CROSS)**

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation!

**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 IV (ELEVATION OF THE CROSS)**

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

**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: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross)***

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

***Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 (Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross)***

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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***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.***

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***Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing: Tone VIII***

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord! You are the mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, in which Christ blossomed; through Him the life-bearing Wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its Exaltation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

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**Commemorated Today:** Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (130); Leave-taking of the Elevation of the Cross

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THANK YOU for all your prayers, love, calls, messages, and cooked meals** for Fr. George and his family. Thank God, his surgery went well, and by Our Lord's Grace, he is recovering well. Thank you for your continued prayers.
- **NUT ROLLS – We need YOUR help!** Do you love nut rolls? We know you do! Please – your help is needed so we can offer this delicious treat for Christmas! Even if you can only commit to an hour, or a few hours, contact Rose Cheran at (412) 824-7609 or (724) 953-4123. Helpers meet on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. (but that doesn't mean you can only help at that time!). Don't be a stranger – call Rose and have a great time baking while supporting your church.
- **Saturday, October 10 – MEMORIAL SATURDAY – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.** with pomen/memorial service. Please bring with you a list of names for those you wish to commemorate.
- **Transfer of Fr. George** – If you did not receive the email, please refer to Fr. George's letter attached to this bulletin regarding his transfer. Under the Act of His Grace Bishop Irinej, effective October 15<sup>th</sup>, Fr. George will be the new parish of Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Whitehall, PA. His last Sunday will be Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Stefan Djoric, current parish priest of Holy Resurrection Church in Steubenville, will serve his first Divine Liturgy as the new parish priest of St. Nicholas on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Sunday, October 11 – FR. GEORGE'S LAST SUNDAY AS PARISH PRIEST – Luncheon following Divine Liturgy on the Patio.** Join us for a fundraiser meal while we gather for "Father's – not goodbye – Just Moving 20 Miles Away." Proceeds benefit the HVAC Campaign. *Social distancing and guidelines still apply.*
- **Sunday, October 18 – Welcome Fr. Stefan and Popadija Marina Djoric, and their daughter, Saveta.** This will be Fr. Stefan's first Divine Liturgy with us. Welcome!
- **Sunday, October 25 – St. Petka Kolo Slava – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.** with blessing of the feastal bread/kolach and luncheon to follow. RSVP appreciated to Vesna Baer, Kolo President, at (412) 443-0465.
- **HVAC – Please see the letter from Fr. George for an update on our HVAC.** To all of those who have donated towards this campaign, thank you!
- **AT-HOME RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** – Although we completed spring/summer Sunday School via Zoom virtual classes – *thank you to the hard-working individuals involved with that* – we will not offer virtual classes when the academic school year resumes in September. *(God willing, when we are permitted to continue with in-person Sunday School, this will be communicated).* As an alternative, Fr. George has compiled a guide for religious education at home. He strongly encourages it be used as a family (or individually for your own personal and spiritual growth). If you did not receive the email with the At-Home Religious Education guide, please contact Fr. George.
- **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](mailto:jovanovich23@yahoo.com) or visit our webpage at [www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/onlinecontribution](http://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/onlinecontribution) to safely and securely make an electronic donation.

- **SAVE THE DATE – St. Nicholas Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (pre-orders only). *See the flyer for more details or contact Sandy Tarbuck at (724) 744-2075.*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### The Holy Apostle Quadratus

Quadratus, one of the Seventy, was a disciple of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel in Athens and was at first bishop of Athens after St. Publius, and afterward bishop of Magnesia. Quadratus was highly educated in secular wisdom, and rich in the grace of the Holy Spirit. His biographer says of him: He was as the morning star among the clouds (Sirach 50:6). The clouds were the darkness of Hellenic paganism, without the light of piety. The Holy Apostle Quadratus, through the word of God, shone upon the Hellenes as a great light, illuminating the darkness, destroying the foul sacrifices, crushing the idols, and destroying the demonic temples by his prayer. However, darkness always hates the light, and the pagans hated holy Quadratus. First they stoned him, as once the Jews did St. Stephen. Then they threw him into prison and gave him no bread until he gave up his holy soul, and went to dwell in the Kingdom of Christ, his God. St. Quadratus wrote an Apologia for Christianity and gave it to Emperor Hadrian. This Apologia had such an effect on the pagan emperor that he ordered that Christians not be persecuted without specific cause. St. Quadratus suffered in about the year 130. He is buried in the city of Magnesia, where he suffered.

### Reflection (from the Prologue)

If only we begin with the firm intention to live according to God's law, we need not be afraid of any assaults by unreasonable men. For he who truly begins to live according to God's law finds that all things done to him by men happen for his benefit, and to the glory of God. One especially need not fear being compelled to move from a place that he loves to a place that he doesn't care for. Instead of empty fear and fruitless lamentation, it is better to seek out God's intention for us. What harm did the evil actions of Joseph's brothers do to him? Did not his involuntary departure to Egypt glorify him, save his brothers from famine, and create the necessary conditions for all the wondrous things God worked through Moses in Egypt and in the wilderness? The pagans and heretics often drove Orthodox Christians into barbarian regions. What did they accomplish by that? Did they destroy Orthodoxy? No-rather, they strengthened it even more in the souls of the persecuted, and spread it among the barbarian peoples. The evil heretic Lucius exiled the glorious Macarius, with several ascetics, from Egypt to a barbarian island, where the entire population worshiped idols. But by the teachings and example of these holy men, the entire populace of the island was soon baptized. That island was later renamed the "Island of Repentance."

FR. GEORGE'S

# "Not Good-bye"

JUST MOVING 20 MILES AWAY

LUNCHEON



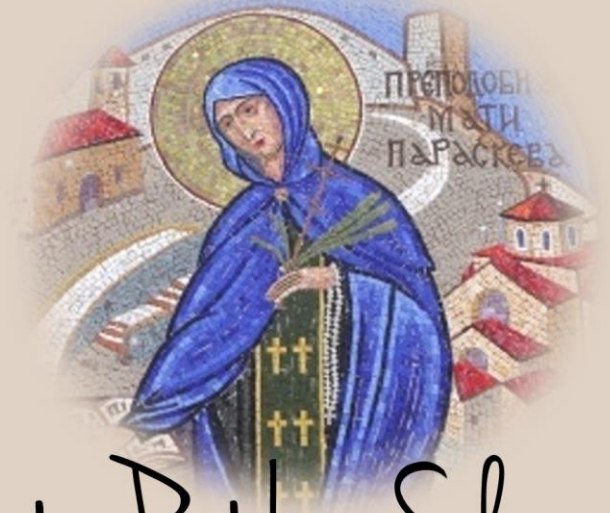
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
Following Divine Liturgy on the Church Patio

Menu: Serbian Style BBQ (chevapi,  
sausage, pljeskavica) - \$15  
Pre-orders appreciated.  
Call Toots Harvey @ 412-372-8064  
Proceeds benefit the HVAC Campaign.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m.  
Blessing of Feastal Bread and  
Luncheon to follow.

Please join us as our parish celebrates  
the Feast Day of St. Petka,  
Patron Saint of our Kolo  
(Circle of Serbian Sisters)



**St. Petka Slava**  
St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church - Monroeville, PA

**ST. NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2110 Haymaker Road  
Monroeville, PA 15146

Dear Parishioners:

It is time to get ready for the **St. Nicholas Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (pre-orders only)**. It will be totally different this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. People will not be able to choose the cookies they want, but will buy them already packaged in three sizes.

The nut rolls, apricot rolls, nut horns and lady locks will be prepared at the church by the committee and pre-packaged in one dozen containers and the remainder of the cookies will be prepared by you, our St. Nicholas parishioners. We will have a list of names, phone numbers and what kind of cookie you will be preparing (10 dozen of the same cookie please). In that way, we won't have duplicates and we know how many people will be baking, what kind of cookie they are making, and how many people we can accommodate. We ask that you not make "drop" cookies.

Please think about this now, so that you can call the committee person with your choice of cookie. You may freeze the cookies and drop them off at the church hall at 9:00 a.m. December 2, 2020.

We will have them packaged in containers and have their name and amount they owe on it. Then, we will have a cashier who will collect the checks, credit cards or cash. The buyers will not have to enter the building at all.

The committee person to call is **SANDY TARBUCK at (724-744-2075)**.

Please help us out so that we can help our St. Nicholas church. Thank you.

Rose Marie Cheran and  
Sandy Mereles,  
Co-Chairpersons

## AT-HOME RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Below, you will find activities, crafts, and discussions for use at home. Depending on the ages in your household, read through the suggestions for the entire day, and then tailor your discussions and activities accordingly. I did my best to keep all ages in mind so that this can be a fruitful and enjoyable learning experience for all. (The "Activity" is geared towards younger children, whereas the "Discussion" is more appropriate for older children).*

### **Sunday, October 4 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Read:** Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20; Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

**Activity:** To the tune of "Skip to My Lou," (while adding dancing or movement) sing:

- 1) I will always follow Christ  
I will always follow Christ  
I will always follow Christ  
I'll do just what He says!
- 2) I'll be happy following Christ  
I'll be happy following Christ  
I'll be happy following Christ  
When I obey His words!
- 3) Jesus leads me every day  
Jesus leads me every day  
Jesus leads me every day  
Because I listen to Him!

**Another Activity:** Using the face template attached, have your child add hair, eyes, nose, etc. Draw a cross to teach that each of us received our cross at our baptism. We wear our crosses because we follow Christ and we follow Him with a happy heart.

**Discussion:** What should we do to follow Christ? Will it always be easy? Why or why not? According to this Gospel, how does a person become a follower of Jesus? Do you wear a cross around your neck? Why? Does it help you think about doing hard things for God? Were you ever embarrassed to do the right thing and to follow Jesus? If you are tempted to be embarrassed, pray that God will help you follow Him with a happy heart.

**Ending reflection:** What does our Lord say we should do if we want to come after Him? What does it mean when it says *"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of Him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the Glory of His Father with the Holy Angels."* Christ reminds us *"there are some here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."*

### **Tuesday, October 6 – The Conception of the Honorable, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

**Read:** From the Synaxarion: "Today in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the conception of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On this day the mercy, miracles and wisdom of God are celebrated: His mercy toward the devout and righteous parents of St. John, the aged Zacharias and Elizabeth, who all their lives had wished for and begged a child from God; His miracle, that of John's conception in the aged womb of Elizabeth; and His wisdom, in the dispensation of man's salvation. God had an especially great intention for John: namely, that he be the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world. Through His angels, God announced the births of Isaac to the childless Sarah, Samson to the childless wife of Manoah, and John the Forerunner to the childless Zacharias and Elizabeth. All of these were those for whom He had special intentions, and He foretold their birth through His angels."

### **Wednesday, October 7 – Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla of Iconium (1st c.)**

**Activity:** Discuss who St. Thecla is. Then, discuss how we can be God's disciples. On the pathway for the activity sheet attached, have your child write things he/she does to show the light of Christ.

**Read:** The story of St. Thecla is an intriguing one – it is above all a story that demonstrates a woman in active ministry – a story that shows a woman as an Apostle. St. Thecla grew up in Roman Iconium, in central Anatolia (modern day Konya, Turkey), in the first century. She was the daughter of wealthy parents, and was very beautiful. At 18, she was betrothed to Thamyris, an eminent young man. It was during the period of her engagement that St. Paul traveled through Iconium, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. From her bedroom window, Thecla could hear Paul’s preaching in the house of her neighbor Onesiphorus, and she remained at the window, rapt, for three days, never pausing to eat or sleep as she absorbed his teachings on Christ’s Resurrection and life in Him. After those three days, she declared herself a disciple of Christ and refused to go through with her marriage to Thamyris. Her mother and fiancé both tried to dissuade her, and Thamyris had Paul thrown into prison for so disrupting the social order. That night, Thecla snuck out from her home, bribing the prison guards to see Paul in his cell and hear more of his teaching. When she was discovered by her mother and fiancé, she remained steadfast in her refusal to marry or to renounce Christ. The governor expelled Paul, Onesiphorus, and his family from Iconium, and Thecla’s mother pleaded with him to execute her own daughter as an example to other young women. And so the saint was sentenced to death by burning, and approaching the stake, Thecla received a vision of Christ. Making the sign of the cross, she was tied to a great pyre, but as it was lit, an earthquake occurred, sending her persecutors scrambling. Hard rain and hail descended, dousing the fire. Thecla eventually caught up with Paul and his Christian companions, and traveled with them to proclaim the Gospel in Pisidian Antioch. After converting many to Christianity, Thecla returned home to Iconium to convert her mother too, and then retired to Isaurian Seleucia – the Taurus Mountains – where for decades, she lived a life of great purity, converting peoples to Christianity and becoming an unmercenary healer. Time and again, there were attempts to defile her, in a vain effort to discredit her and limit the action of divine grace, by which through her God healed many. At last, a mob of young men was sent against her by resentful pagan doctors. Thecla cried out to Christ and offered up her soul, upon which a rock split open, received her into itself bodily, and sealed up again around the saint, preserving her from her persecutors, and bringing about her martyrdom, at long last.

### **Saturday, October 10 – Memorial Saturday**

**Activity:** Explain what today is, referring to the Discussion below. Make koliva with your child, adjusting the recipe to their taste/dietary restrictions. Remind your child that the koliva symbolizes everlasting life and hope in the resurrection for the deceased one. It is brought to church to be blessed and then each person who eats the koliva prays for the soul of the deceased.

#### Ingredients

2 cups wheat

1/2 c. walnuts, chopped (optional)

1/2 c. raisins or dried fruit (optional or used for decoration)

cinnamon to taste

powdered sugar to taste and more for the top as decoration

slivered almonds for decoration (optional)

#### Cooking Instructions

Boil the wheat until soft. After boiling for a while, you may want to pour out the water (which is cloudy and starchy) and fill the pan again and continue to boil. When wheat is soft to taste, remove from heat, rinse and drain in a colander to allow it to dry. Occasionally move the wheat around to allow the wetness to evaporate. Place dry wheat into a bowl and add all the ingredients, except the sugar, and mix well. Omit any ingredient you don’t like. Mound the wheat in a bowl. Cover the wheat with powdered sugar. Use waxed paper to press down on the sugar gently to form a smooth crust. Decorate with almonds slivers or raisins/dried fruit, making a cross in the middle. There is no set way to decorate koliva.

**Discussion:** Saturday is the day which the Church has set aside for the commemoration of faithful Orthodox Christians departed this life in the hope of resurrection to eternal life. Koliva or zhito (wheat or rice cooked with honey and mixed with raisins, figs, nuts, sesame, etc.) is blessed in church on these Saturdays. The koliva reminds us of the Lord’s words, “*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit*” (John 12:24). It also symbolizes the future resurrection of all the dead. As St. Simeon of Thessalonica says, man is also a seed which is planted in

the ground after death, and will be raised up again by God's power. St. Paul also speaks of this; see First Corinthians 15:35-49. It is customary to give alms in memory of the dead in addition to the prayers we offer for their souls. The angel who spoke to Cornelius testifies to the importance of almsgiving, "*Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God*" (Acts 10:4).

**Ending Reflection:** The holy Fathers - St. John Chrysostom, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, St. John of Damascus - testify to the benefit of offering prayers, memorial services, Liturgies, and alms for the dead. Although both the righteous and those who have not repented and corrected themselves may receive benefit and consolation from the Church's prayer, it has not been revealed to what extent the unrighteous can receive this comfort. It is not possible, however, for the Church's prayer to transfer a soul from a state of condemnation to a state of holiness and blessedness. St. Basil the Great points out that the time for repentance and forgiveness of sins is during the present life, while the future life is a time for righteousness. However, by praying for others, we bring benefit to them, and also to ourselves, because "*God is not so unjust as to forget your work and the love which you showed for His sake in serving the saints...*" (Heb. 6:10).

