

SUNDAY September 13, 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
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14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TROPARION - TONE V (RESURRECTION)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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 VIII (MARTYRS OF JASENOVAC)

Being faithful to God and His justice, suffering bodily, earth was saddened. Your souls were saved and heaven rejoiced! Welcoming you at the Gates of Paradise, your heavenly ancestors exclaimed in song "Your names are inscribed in the Book of Eternity Enter children of immortality." We your earthly family cry to you in one voice, Holy New Martyrs pray for us!

KONTAKION - TONE V (RESURRECTION)

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

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 (FOR THE THEOTOKOS)

Today your flock celebrates the enshrinement of your precious sash, and it earnestly cries out to you: "Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of all Christians!"

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: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Lord said this parable, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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.***

Commemorated Today: Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos; Holy Serbian Martyrs of Jasenovac

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY** – Lunch following Divine Liturgy. 1/2 chicken grilled over wood fire; farm fresh corn; homemade applesauce; garden fresh salad, Serbian style.
- **TODAY – Religious arts for sale** – the sisters of Saint Elisabeth Convent of Minsk, Belarus, have been rendering spiritual, social and financial assistance to the sick and the suffering who stay at the National Psychiatric Clinic, the boarding home for children with special needs, the boarding home for mentally challenged adults, the rehabilitation center for mentally challenged children, the municipal hospital No.2, a TB clinic, and shelters for homeless, ex-prisoners, drugs and alcohol addicted men and women for twenty years in Minsk, Belarus. To support and develop those ministries, the sisters all give their talent to produce beautiful religious crafts. Your donations are greatly appreciated as they will help continue the wonderful and Christ-loving efforts of the sisters of Belarus. Please make checks out to: **Natallia Shakalava** NOT St. Elizabeth Convent and place it in the basket on the table where the items are sold. *Please see the attached flyers for more information.*
- **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 or visit our webpage at www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/onlinecontribution to safely and securely make an electronic donation.
- **Monday, September 21 – DIVINE LITURGY for the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary at 10:00 a.m.** – Saints Joachim and Anna were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks. As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

● **Sunday, September 27 – DIVINE LITURGY for the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross at 10:00 a.m.** – 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. *This is a fast day.*

● **LIFELINE - Vasa Stajic Home** – Our St. Petka Kolo is partnering with Lifeline Chicago again this year to deliver Christmas gifts to the 25 children and young adults living in the Vasa Stajic Home in Belgrade, Serbia. We hope that you will again help support this beautiful cause. We pray that through this effort, those less fortunate will have a blessed and joyous Christmas. *See the flyer for more details or contact Pam Matejevich at pam.matejevich@icloud.com or (724) 454-4451.*

● **SAVE THE DATE** – **St. Nicholas Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 4th** 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

Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalcostrateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. This holy relic was entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself and was later kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her. The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer in which the relic was kept. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it. In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.

Holy Serbian Martyrs of Jasenovac

These martyrs are commemorated together on September 13, although a number of them are also commemorated separately, as the dates of their martyrdom are known. The icon for these saints is a particularly poignant icon, because there are still among us survivors of the Ustasha terror of World War II. Moreover, it is an important icon inasmuch as it will witness not only to the faith of these martyrs, but also to the genocide of Serbians itself, which many ignore, forget or deny having occurred. In the icon, a vast sea of haloed martyrs stands before a background showing the Jasenovac concentration camp in the upper left corner, with ominous grey walls, barbed wire and watchtowers. The Churches of Jasenovac (destroyed, sadly, twice by Croatian Ustasha) and Glina (burnt to the ground with 500 slaughtered Serbians in it) are shown

centrally, while the upper right corner shows one of the many caves of Lika, Dalmatia, Hercegovina, that became the graves of numerous innocents. In the lower foreground is the Sava River, the Una, the Vrbas, and the Drina, all of which carried the tortured bodies downstream. They bear crosses and appear peaceful, as they have accepted their martyrdom. The standing figures in the foreground are identified individually with an inscription in their halo. What touches many people when they contemplate this icon is that these Holy New Martyrs are every man: a peasant, a student, a teacher with her pupils, a nun, an old woman, a priest, a bishop, a child. All of them were killed for the simple fact that they were baptized in and lived by the Orthodox faith. For this, they are crowned with martyrdom; Christ blesses them, while on either side St. John the Baptist (patron of the Jasenovac Church) and St. Sava (patron of the Serbian people) intercede on their people's behalf.



Troparion to the Holy Serbian Martyrs of Jasenovac – Tone VIII

Being faithful to God and His justice, suffering bodily, earth was saddened. Your souls were saved and heaven rejoiced! Welcoming you at the Gates of Paradise, your heavenly ancestors exclaimed in song "Your names are inscribed in the Book of Eternity Enter children of immortality." We your earthly family cry to you in one voice, Holy New Martyrs pray for us!



DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

We will have a visiting sister from the Convent of St. Elisabeth (Minsk, Belarus) on

Friday, September 11 from 11:00 a.m. and Sunday, September 13 from 11:30 a.m.



Sisters brought with them beautiful religious handcrafts made in the workshops of the Convent.



Handcrafts are available after Divine Liturgy in our church. The goods at display:

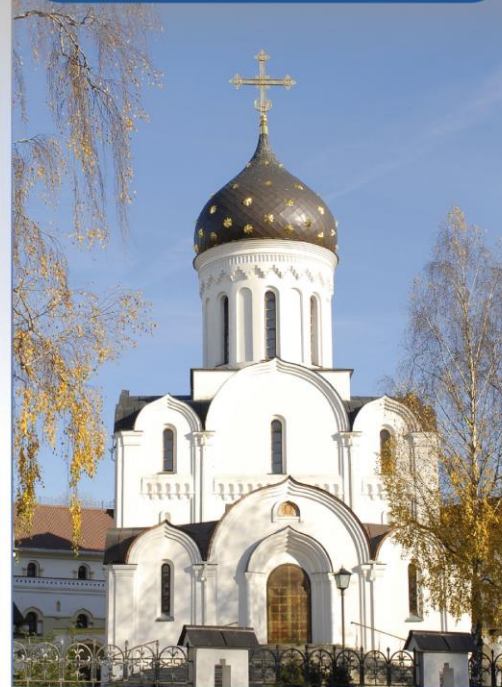
- church vestments;
- icons;
- crosses;
- prayer ropes;
- religious items;
- souvenirs;
- Cds.



Sisters of St Elisabeth take care of children and adults with mental and physical disabilities and work hard to improve their living conditions.



They also help ex-prisoners, drug and alcohol addicts at rehabilitation center.



PLEASE TAKE THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY to support beautiful work and mission of the sisters by purchasing the items of devotion.

www.obitel-minsk.by stelisabethconvent@gmail.com



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 4th 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

St. Petka Kolo Christmas Project

In partnership with Lifeline Chicago

The St. Petka Kolo is partnering with Lifeline Chicago to deliver Christmas gifts to 25 children and young adults of the Vasa Stajic Home in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Home is for children and young adults who have been rescued off the streets, have problems at home or have no help receiving needed medicines.

Join us in the effort to ensure those less fortunate have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Contact Pam Matejevich by September 10th for the name of a child or to donate monetarily.

pam.matejevich@icloud.com
724.454.4451 (call or text)



2019 Lifeline Christmas Packing, Lifeline Warehouse, Gary, Indiana
Monroeville Kolo members and parishioners in attendance