

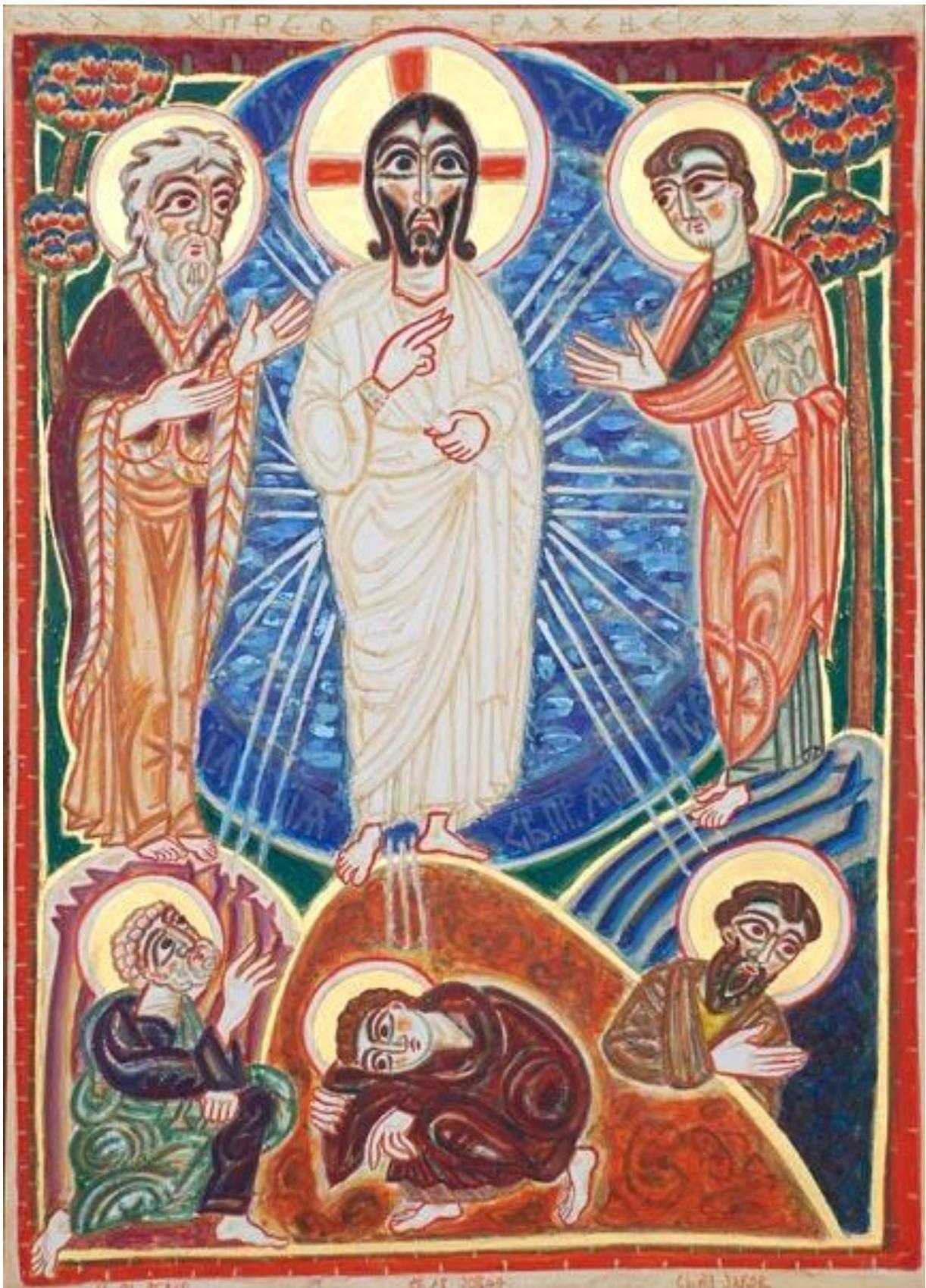
SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
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10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Venerable Isaac, Dalmatius and Faustus

(August 16th, 2020)



By Deacon Srdjan Radojkovic

BLESSED FEAST!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE I:

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!

1 CORINTHIANS 4: 9-16

Brethren, I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly clothed, beaten, homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled we bless, when persecuted we endure, when slandered we try to conciliate. We have been made as the filth of the world, the off-scouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

MATTHEW 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE I:

From on high didst Thou descend, O compassionate One; * to burial of three days hast Thou submitted * that Thou mightest free us from our passions. ** O our Life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

TROPARION -THE TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF SAINT NICHOLAS - TONE IV:

The day of splendid solemnity hath arrived; * and the city of Bari doth rejoice, * and with it the whole world exulteth * with hymns and spiritual odes. * For today we celebrate the sacred feast * of the translation of the precious and much-healing relics * of the hierarch Nicholas the wonder-worker. * For like the never-setting Sun, * he shineth with brilliant beams of light, * driving away the darkness of temptations and misfortunes * from those who with faith cry aloud: * Save us, O Nicholas, ** for thou art our intercessor

TROPARION TO THE VENERABLE FATHERS - TONE IV

God of our fathers, do not take away your mercy from us, but ever act towards us according to Your kindness, and by the prayers of Your saints, guide our lives in peace!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE I:

Thou didst arise from the grave in glory as God * and thus raised up the world with Thee; * and mortal nature singeth Thy praises as God, * and death hath disappeared; * Adam danceth, O Master, * and now Eve, freed from her chains, * rejoiceth as she cries aloud: ** It is Thee, O Christ, who grantest the Resurrection to all.

KONTAKION TO SAINT NICHOLAS – TONE III

Thy relics have moved like a star, from the East unto the West, * O holy hierarch Nicholas; * and the sea hath been sanctified by thy passage. * The city of Bari receiveth grace through thee, * for thou hast been shown forth for us * as a wonderworker: ** illustrious, most wondrous and merciful!

Glory...KONTAKION TO THE VENERABLE FATHERS – TONE IV:

Let us praise Isaac, Dalmatus and Faustus with hymns: they shone like beacons through fasting and turned away heresies with faith. They are saints of God who entreat him on our behalf!

Now and ever... HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE SIX:

Steadfast Protectress of Christians and constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners; but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you!

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

In the present Gospel, the Lord Jesus Christ verified the value of strong faith, prayer and fasting. Attentive believers take Jesus' message to heart. Strong faith, prayer and fasting benefit believers throughout life.

The Dormition Fast occurring at this time is a perfect time for increased faith, prayer and fasting. Keeping the Mother of God in mind is a move toward personal purity and obedience.

The Dormition Fast inspires thoughts of the Mother of God and her chosen life. The Virgin Mary was selected by God from among all women of all centuries to give birth to the Christ Child.

Through the centuries, believers have turned to the Mother of God in prayer. The Mother of God's intercession before the Lord Jesus Christ is desired with strong faith. The Mother of God does not fail those turning to her for help.

During this time of the coronavirus and social turmoil, the Mother of God is an inspiring example. Mary is an example of peace and love when peace and love in communities are desperately needed.

The Mother of God experienced danger at the beginning of her Motherhood when their family had to flee to Egypt. (Mt/ 2:13) Violence occurred when Mary witnessed Christ's painful death upon the cross. (Jn. 19:25)

Parents of every generation benefit from being attentive to the Mother of God and the way she lived and loved. The Mother of God transcends time. Her Virgin Birth was prophesied centuries before it took place. (Is.7:14)

Mary's transcendence from earthly life is celebrated by the Church on the Feast of Dormition. The Dormition Fast is for the benefit of believers as a reminder of her place in our salvation. Miracles are attributed to Mary to the present day.

Believers reach out in prayer to the Mother of God constantly. She is an integral part of the Church's prayer life. The Mother of God is associated with peace, purity and obedience. (Lk.1:1-38)

Peace, purity and obedience are integral to the Christian life. Being an Orthodox Christian requires active faith. Passivity denies the believer the fullness of the life in Christ.

Active faith combined with prayer and fasting leads to fullness in earthly life. The doors open to the Kingdom of Heaven when strong faith, prayer and fasting are actively practiced. (Mt.11:12)

The father in the present Gospel reached out to the Lord Jesus Christ to cure his tormented son. Parents today with tormented sons and daughters do well to reach out to Christ in strong faith.

The Lord will not disappoint parents turning to Him in faith. Parents practicing prayer and fasting develop perspective in dealing with their tormented sons and daughters.

Jesus Christ brings peace to parents suffering with tormented children. Jesus Christ welcomes parents in search of answers and personal peace. Jesus offers love and reassurance.

Parents find healing in Christ. Sons and daughters afflicted with torment achieve peace when turning to Christ in faith. Parents practicing strong faith pass through the troubled moments of life by perfect hope in Jesus Christ.

The present Gospel foretells of Jesus' eventual tragic death and His triumphant resurrection. Hardships in life are overcome in Christ. Believers die with Christ at Holy Baptism and rise with Him in faith and in life.

Joy is prevalent in the Christian life. Joy permeates life when Christ abides firmly in the heart, mind and soul. Joy radiates from the heart when Christ is ever present within.

The Lord puts life in perspective and keeps the focus on the Kingdom of God. Believers choose daily whether to follow Christ or to experience sin. Each moment believers either reject or welcome Christ into the heart, mind and soul.

The battle to remain faithful to Christ is constant. When believers practice strong faith, fasting and prayer, the devil fights to bring the believer down. Only in being firmly united with Christ is the believer able to overcome sin. (Mt.24:13)

God's Holy Church nourishes the believer and provides the haven for replenishment of the heart, mind and soul. Wise believers turn to Christ and hold onto Christ in life's most difficult times.

The Mother of God offers intercessory prayers for believers reaching out to her in faith. During this Dormition Fast, may our hopes and prayers in the Lord yield lasting peace and love.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON AUGUST 9TH

Thank you for your continuing financial support! Please, remember that without our fund raisers and fish fries that we cannot hold at this time, your contributions are more important than ever.

Offering \$1080.00; Candles \$30.00

Donations from Dianna Dunnington for \$100 in memory of Milos Tumbas who passed away 24 years ago at age 84. \$100 in honor of Robert & Milica (Tumbas) Knepp 38th wedding anniversary

BELL TOWER FUND - \$18,999.60

\$25 in memory of Nikola Matijevich; \$25 in memory of Lillian Fleck from Danica Wess; \$100 from Sue Seitz and family

\$55 from Milk container project

Large Candle Donations

In memory of Joseph Kondash Jr(Brother) from Rick Kondash

In memory of Damjena & Lazo Gjurich from Dianne Tomak & Family

In memory of Bosa & Lazo Gjurich from Dianne Tomak & Family

In memory of Charles Bulich, Christina Bulich, Mary Dadey, & Louis Daley from Olga Bulich

In memory of parents Nikola Davich, Sara Davich & brother Nickola from Carol McAllister & Family

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE LARGE CANDLES (\$25)
THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Our Goodwill Fundraiser!
We collected 7,712 lbs. of donation resulting in a check of **\$771.20.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY at 7:45 PM – Evening Prayer through the Conference call (339) 207-6529

TUESDAY (August 18th) – Forefeast of the Transfiguration

6:00 PM – Great Vespers with Artoklasia (The Blessing of the Five Loaves)

NO EVENING PRAYER through the Conference Call

WEDNESDAY (August 19th) – Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of the Grapes (Please, bring grapes in your own basket)

SATURDAY (August 22nd)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (August 23rd) – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (1. Cor 9, 2-22); Gospel (Matthew 18, 23-35)

Dear ones,

Please, keep in your hearted prayers our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

- who suffer of cancer: Jenifer, Linda, Sandy (Sandra Simko)
- who pray the God for the restoration of health: Irine (Martinovich), Grace (Vuckovich), Ranka (Banda), Edward (Gartell), George (Momcilovic), Nektarios