

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

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14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (September 13th, 2020)

***Placing of the Sasho of the Most Holy Theotokos; Holy Martyrs of
Jasenovac; Synaxis of the Serbian Enlighteners and Teachers***



BLESSED FEAST!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE V:

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever .

Verse: *Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly*

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE III:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

2 CORINTHIANS 1: 21 - 2: 4

Brethren, now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

HEBREWS 13: 7-16

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

MATTHEW 22: 1-14

At that time Jesus told this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'" So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

SERBIAN ENLIGHTENERS & TEACHERS: MATTHEW 5: 14-19

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE V:

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

TROPARION TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS (PLACING OF HER SASH) - TONE VIII:

Ever-virgin Theotokos, Protectress of mankind, you have given your people a powerful legacy: the robe and sash of your most honored body which remained incorrupt throughout your seedless childbearing; for through you time and nature are renewed! Therefore we implore you: 'Grant peace to your people and to our souls great mercy!'

TROPARION TO THE SERBIAN ENLIGHTENERS & TEACHERS - TONE IV:

As our enlighteners, O God-bearing fathers, holy patriarchs and great shepherds, guardians of the Apostolic traditions, unshakeable pillars and teachers of Orthodoxy: beseech Christ the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE V:

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 all cry to You: O Lord, save us!

GLORY... KONTAKION TO THE SERBIAN ENLIGHTENERS & TEACHERS – TONE III:

Enthroned as hierarchs and living lives worthy of praise, in God-pleasing manner you guided your people to knowledge of God: because of this you were glorified by Him through miracles and incorruption, as befits pupils of the grace of God.

NOW AND EVER... KONTAKION TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS (PLACING OF HER SASH) – TONE IV:

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

Alleluia Verses

I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation

For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens."

Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification!

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

We gather today in God's Holy Church to worship and glorify God. We come seeking the salvation of our souls and unity with the Lord God. God's Holy Church offers us the opportunity to partake of Christ's Precious Body and Blood.

Every moment of every day God's invitation to draw near exists. Too often God's invitations are rejected. Matters and interests other than God captivate individuals' hearts and minds.

Work, activities, and personal pursuits regularly take individuals away from God. Excuses abound about why persons do not come to the Divine services of the Church.

Reasons for not drawing near to God need challenged and deeply questioned. God's Holy Church has existed through the centuries because of the great fervor and sacrifice of believers.

Each generation has the responsibility to be fervent in faith and to follow Jesus Christ. Each generation is expected to accept God's invitations to be faithful stewards of God's Holy Church.

Believers, martyrs, teachers, ascetics, clergy and monastics are needed in each generation. We commemorate the Synaxis of Serbian Saints today. Our hearts and minds need to be filled with gratitude for faithful believers come before us.

We are blessed to have this church to worship and draw near to God. This church exists because many faithful through the years said "yes" to the Lord God and sacrificed and worked with God's help to build the church and keep it going.

Renewed commitment to the Lord God is called for from all believers of every generation. The Lord God depends upon believers of every century to carry forth the message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Evil abounds in the world. Faithful believers are needed to counter the evil and show there is a better way. Lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ put into practice Christ's teachings.

Ardent followers of Christ bring alive the peace of Christ and love of neighbor in daily life. God's invitation to the Divine Banquet offers renewal in life and unity with Christ.

Daily life is a challenge. The battle against sin and interests that take a person away from God are constant. The more fervent a person is about God, the greater the effort the devil applies to derail the believer.

The Lord Jesus Christ offers the strength, the teachings and the opportunities for repentance and renewal. Believers need to say "yes" to Christ and "no" to sin and evil.

The saints and martyrs through the centuries are standing examples and proof that saying “yes” to Christ is of the greatest value. Worldly values are not lasting. Christ offers life-everlasting.

Hunger in the soul is satisfied in Christ. Peace in the heart and mind occur when believers say “yes” to Christ. Material pursuits, worldly interests, and sinful ways fail to bring lasting peace and joy.

Peace, love and joy come from the life in Christ and from saying “yes” to God’s invitation. God’s Holy Church is the welcoming home for experiencing peace, love and joy.

God’s Holy Church keeps alive God’s invitation to draw near. Nourishment for the heart, mind and soul abound and never is exhausted in God’s Holy Church.

Jesus Christ’s Precious Body and Blood replenishes all who partake.

No greater banquet exists than the Divine Banquet in God’s Holy Church.

Choose always to say “yes” to God’s invitations. Be resolute in drawing near in faith and in love for everlasting life.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 6TH

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 \$982.00; Candles \$80.00; Dues \$150.00

Donation of \$100 in memory of Lillian Dulak from Daria Dulak

BELL TOWER FUND - \$19,187.68

Amazon Smile \$21.08; Milk Container \$67.00

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!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TODAY (September 13th) –A Prayer Service for the Beginning of the New School Year

SATURDAY (September 19th)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (September 20th) – 15th Sunday after Pentecost – Before Exaltation

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Gal. 6, 11-18 & 2. Cor. 4, 6-15); Gospel (Jn. 3, 13-17 & Matthew 22, 35-46)

SUNDAY (October 11th) - Pork Chop Dinner

11:30-1:30 - Take out only

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