

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
Rev. Presbyter Milan Dragovic; Cell 385 228 4725
stnicholasitown@gmail.com

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
(September 27th, 2020)

The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross



BLESSED FEAST!
GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE VII:

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Verse: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 1:18-24

Brethren, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God

JOHN 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

At that time, when the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God. When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no

power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Then when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Alleluia Verses

*Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.*

TROPARION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE I:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

GLORY; NOW AND EVER... KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE IV:

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

We are blessed to hear St. John's account of the Lord Jesus Christ's crucifixion in the Church. We learn of the Lord's complete love through His willingness to be crucified for our salvation.

The Holy Apostle Paul told the Galatians that Jesus gave: "...himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." (Gal.1:4)

We are all indeed sinners. We sin regularly and in ways we do not know and cannot fully account for. St. John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ both called for repentance. (Mt. 3:2, 4:17)

The Church is first and foremost a community of love. Jesus Christ's love on the Cross is to be embodied by the believers in the Church. Christ's love is characterized by forgiveness, mercy and newness. (Mt.26:28, Jn 13:34, 2 Cor.5:17, Col.3:10, Heb.10:20)

Serious self-examination and honesty will reveal the need for constant repentance and the seeking of the Lord's mercy. God's Holy Church provides the instruction, guidance and love for the healing and nourishment of the soul.

The Kingdom of God is the first priority of serious believers. All that is thought and done in life is to be measured according to seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. (Mt.6:33)

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered unto death upon the Cross in His love for each person. Every person baptized into Christ is expected to be faithful in following Christ all the remaining days of life. (Rom. 6:4)

If we call ourselves Christians, our daily thoughts, words and actions should fully reflect the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything we think, say and do should conform to the way of Christ.

Following Christ entails taking up our personal crosses in life willingly.

Jesus said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Lk.9:23)

The world is filled with turmoil and uncertainty. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only certainty to embrace, follow and love. The Lord Jesus Christ embraces and loves each one of us.

Now is the time to fully consider Jesus Christ's death on the Cross. Now is the time to consider Jesus' complete love for each one of us. Christ's love will transform our lives.

Christ's love will heal our hurts. Christ's love will give us hope and remove any thoughts of despair, despondency or loneliness. Christ's love is all encompassing. No one is excluded from Christ's love.

In this world where hate and anger are expressed and violence occurs all too often, Jesus' love offers the better way. In homes and in communities where discord exists, Christ's love enables peace and unity to prevail.

Each person having entered into Holy Baptism is expected to live out the remaining days of life in ways pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ. Today is the day to ensure the promise to follow Christ made at Baptism is truly followed.

Let us measure each word, thought and action today to ensure they reflect the love of Christ. St. John's Epistle states: "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." (I Jn.3:11)

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 20TH

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.

A list of donations will be provided next Sunday.

BELL TOWER FUND - \$19,958.88

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***

SATURDAY (October 3rd)

6:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUNDAY (September 27th) - 17th Sunday after Pentecost (After Exaltation)

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Gal. 2, 16-20 & 2. Cor. 6, 16- 7, 1); Gospel (Mk. 8, 34 -9, 1 & Matthew 15, 21-28)

SUNDAY (October 11th) - Pork Chop Dinner -Cost \$13

11:30-1:30 - Take Out - Drive By only

Dear ones,

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

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