

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

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (November 1st, 2020)

Holy Prophet Joel; Venerable Prochorus of Pchinja



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

Liturgical Readings:

PROKEIMENON IN TONE IV:

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

Verse: *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!*

THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS (2, 16-20)

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make 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 lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (8, 5-15)

The Lord told this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

Alleluia Verses

*Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.
You love righteousness and hate iniquity.*

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE FOUR:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is Risen, granting the world great mercy.

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 HOLY PROPHET JOEL – TONE II:

We celebrate the memory of Your prophet Joel, O Lord; through him we beseech You: save our souls.

TROPARION TO VENERABLE PROCHORUS – TONE I:

O dweller of the desert and angel in the body, you were shown to be a wonderworker, our Godbearing Father Prochorus. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer; healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you a crown! Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE IV:

My Savior and my Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. And He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

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!

KONTAKION TO THE HOLY PROPHET JOEL – TONE IV:

Illumined by the Spirit, your heart was a vessel of illustrious prophecy, seeing far-off things as though they were present. Therefore, we venerate you, glorious prophet Joel.

GLORY... KONTAKION TO VENERABLE PROCHORUS – TONE IV:

Boldly revealing a great victory and burning with heavenly love, you disdained the corruptible king and rejected all earthly pleasures; taking up your abode on Mount Kozjak, you ascended from it to the King of kings in heaven. O Prochorus, ceaselessly intercede for us all!

NOW AND EVER... HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE VI:

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

We learn from today's Gospel reading the words of Jesus Christ about eternal life. Eternal life is described as knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ sent by the true God.

Serious believers will invest their whole lives in their relationship with the Lord God. The relationship with Jesus Christ is of paramount importance to serious believers.

Learning about eternal life is utmost interest. The Holy Scriptures are authoritative for believers to learn more about eternal life. Believers do well to immerse themselves in the Holy Scriptures.

A sense of eternal life is described by the Holy Apostle Paul to his Epistle to the Romans. The Apostle Paul said: "...Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." (Rom.14:8)

God's Holy Church is where to learn about eternal life. God's Church offers the instruction and nourishment needed for eternal life. The Divine services and Holy Mysteries lead the believer to life eternal.

Believers fully encouraged to look deeply within the heart, mind and soul to experience eternal life. All that is corrupt, all that is foreign to the Lord's ways and teachings are required to be expelled.

Honoring the word of God and the commandments have a place in experiencing eternal life. Continuous repentance and recommitment keep the focus where it needs to be.

St. Luke's Gospel for today affirms Jesus Christ's power over life and death. Jesus restored life to the son of the widow of Nain after he had died. At Jesus' word, the young man arose from death to life.

We are in many ways dead in our sins. Jesus Christ offers us life. He offers us life eternal. It is necessary for Jesus Christ to be central in our hearts, minds and souls.

The Church offers the way out of sin and the way to eternal life. Life replaces the death of sin when we respond to Christ's word as did the dead son of the widow of Nain.

Change will occur in our lives when we listen fully and completely to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the Holy Gospel in Church to hear Christ speak.

We have Bibles in our homes to read and keep Christ's words fresh in our lives.

Committing sins is a purely voluntary action. Rejecting sin and accepting the way of Christ is completely voluntary. Regular divine worship strengthens the resolve to seek eternal life and to combat sin.

Regardless of our age, if our minds are capable of making mature decisions, eternal life is within reach and is possible. The saints and martyrs have established the examples and have shown the paths to follow to eternal life.

Life from God is not to be wasted in sin. Joy in life is eternally possible. Decisions made at every moment of life determine whether the death from sin or eternal life is experienced.

The widow of Nain and her son had reason to be full of joy when the dead son arose. Jesus Christ speaks to us at every moment of our lives. We need only listen and arise from death to life.

Thank God for the Church where we regularly hear about eternal life. Thank God for the Church where Christ's victory of death is constantly celebrated. Let us resolve always to choose life over death. Let us listen to Christ.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 25TH

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 \$1035.00 Candles \$34.00 Parostos \$40.00 Seminary \$25.00; Donation of \$40 in memory of Sam Vuckovich from wife Lori; Donation of \$25 in memory of Richard Uzelac from Darlene Hobar

BELL TOWER FUND - \$20,248.88

Large Candle Donations

In memory of Mie Tumbas from Milica Knepp

In memory of Amelia I Joe Kondash from Richard Kondash

In memory of Eva Viswish Johnson from Cameron Palmer

In memory of Bosal Lazo Vockovich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Damjana I Lazo Gjurich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Mildred Tumbas (22 yr departed) from Milica Knepp

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 (November 7th) – Memorial Saturday

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

FRIDAY (November 6th) – FISH FRY

3:30 PM-6:30 PM - Take Out only. No phone in orders.

SUNDAY (November 8th) – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Great-martyr Demetrius

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Gal. 6, 11-18 & Heb. 12, 6-13, 25-27& 2, 1-10); Gospel (Lk. 16, 19-31 & Jn. 8, 23-27 & 15, 17-27; 16, 1-2)

SUNDAY (November 22nd) - Thanksgiving luncheon

11:30-12:30 Take out only (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, green beans, yams, pumpkin pie) - \$10

FISH FRY, tentative December 4th

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)

The Venerable Prochorus of Pchinja

St. Prochorus was a contemporary and friend of Saints John of Rila and Gabriel of Lesnov. According to his prayer, God showed him the place where he would live a life of asceticism. This place was a wooded area near the River Pchinja. Here Prochorus labored in asceticism to his old age and repose. Only the One All-seeing God knows the extent of Prochorus' labors and the temptations he endured in the course of his asceticism. But one can judge by his myrrh-gushing relics and his numberless miraculous healings—which have continued up to today—the greatness of his asceticism and the greatness of God's grace which was given to him because of his great labors. St. Prochorus entered into rest and took up his abode in the Kingdom of God in the eleventh century.