

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

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (November 15th, 2020)

Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasus, Elpidephorus, Aphthonius and Anempodistus



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

Liturgical Readings:

PROKEIMENON IN TONE VI:

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! (Ps 27/28:9))

Verse: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

EPHESIANS 2: 4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

LUKE 8: 26-39

At that time, Jesus and His disciples sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in

the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

Alleluia Verses

*v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.
(Ps 90/91:1)*

*v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps
90/91:2)*

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE SIX:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who arose from the dead, glory 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 HOLY MARTYRS ACINDYNUS, PEGASIVS, AND COMPANIONS - TONE TWO:

Blessed is the earth that received your blood, Passion-bearers of the Lord, and holy is the dwelling place which received your spirits. You triumphed over the enemy in the stadium and you preached Christ with boldness. Since He is good, we pray that you beseech Him to save our souls.

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE SIX:

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and God of 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 HOLY MARTYRS ACINDYNUS, PEGASIVS, AND
COMPANIONS – TONE TWO:**

You have received into the enjoyment of Your goodness and repose, O only Good One, the pious and God-bearing martyrs, who abandoned all earthly things: Acindynus, Pegasias, and Anempodistus, together with Aphthonius and Elpidephorus.

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

Each believer is tormented by the devil with thoughts which are contrary to the way of Jesus Christ. The path to lasting peace and eternal life requires these torments be overcome. Jesus Christ must remain primary in our lives in all times.

The current Gospel verifies that Jesus Christ has power over the devils that torment us. The devil is always at work seeking to conquer the believer. Sometimes the devil's evil efforts are obvious, at other times they are subtle.

We face daily choices, temptations and difficulties in life. The choices we make determine whether we always choose the path of Jesus Christ or we yield to the ways of the devil.

The choices we face may have conflicting alternatives. We may experience torment in the decision-making process. The present Gospel reveals Jesus Christ brings peace when the devils are expelled from our lives.

For the devils to be conquered and expelled, Jesus must always be with us. This means we need to be united with Christ at every moment. Prayer and resolute faith centered in Christ gives power over the devil.

Reading the Holy Scriptures regularly, being consistently in God's Holy Church for the Divine services and prayer at every moment of the day empowers the believer to fight off the devil and remain united with Christ.

Love of Christ and recognition of Jesus Christ as the Son of God as revealed and embraced by the Church is essential in spiritual warfare. Faithfulness to God's Holy Church and the teachings of the Church keep the believer rooted in Christ.

The writings of the Holy Fathers and Mothers of the Church educate believers about Jesus Christ. The lives of the saints and martyrs inspire believers to always choose the way of Christ to ward off the torments of the devil.

The battle for each person's soul is a battle to the last breath of life. The devil is always at work to disturb personal peace and to destroy the soul. Jesus Christ provides for lasting peace and salvation of the soul.

The believer is required to do his or her part in fighting the torments and evil arising from the devil. God gives each person the ability and the freedom to choose the way of life.

Christ stands before each person at every moment of life. The person decides whether to embrace and follow the way of Christ or whether to take the path put forth by the devil.

The man in the current Gospel was freed from the torments of the devil. The man in today's Gospel came to his right mind because of Jesus Christ. The power of Jesus Christ is a great mystery.

We learn about the mystery of Christ and His love for each of us in God's Holy Church. Christ teaches us through the Holy Gospel. We learn of Christ through the services of the Church.

We experience Christ in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. We grow in Christ throughout life when we choose to embrace and follow Him. Our knowledge of Christ is never complete.

Jesus Christ is more than we will ever fully understand. At the same time, once we embrace Christ, we realize He is sufficient for every moment of life and everything we need in life.

If we follow Christ, He will lead us to His Kingdom. Christ will lead us to lasting peace and eternal life. The decisions we make at each moment of life will determine the way our lives will be in eternity.

God's Holy Church is present in the "here and now" to help us in our journey. Jesus Christ is with us at all times to point the way to the Kingdom and to eternal life. Let us always choose the way of Jesus Christ in His Holy Church.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 8TH

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 \$835.00; Candles \$57.00; Donation of \$100 from Dianna Dunnington in memory of her grandparents Tumbas and Tomasevich

BELL TOWER FUND - \$20,403.88

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 21st) – Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and other Bodiless Powers

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM – Great Vespers and Akathistos to St. Nectarios of Aegina

SUNDAY (November 22nd) – 24rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (2, 14-22); Gospel (Lk. 8, 41-56)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM - Thanksgiving luncheon

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

The Holy Martyrs Acyndinus, Pegasus, Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, Anempodistus, and others with them, of Persia (341)

They were all Christians from Persia and suffered during the reign of King Sapor in the year 355. The first three were servants at the court of this same king but secretly served Christ their Lord. When they were accused and brought to trial before the king, he asked them where they came from. To this they replied: "Our fatherland and our life is the Most-holy Trinity, one in Essence and undivided, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God." The king subjected them to cruel tortures but they endured all heroically, with psalmody and prayer on their lips. During the time of their torture and imprisonment angels of God appeared to them many times, and one time the Lord Christ Himself appeared to them as a man "with a face radiant as the sun." When one of the torturers, Aphthonius, beheld a

miracle, when boiling lead did no harm to the martyrs, he believed in Christ and cried out: "Great is the Christian God!" For this, he was immediately beheaded, and many others saw and believed. Then the king ordered that Acyndinus, Pegasus and Anempodistus be sewn into animal skins and cast into the sea. But St. Aphthonius appeared from the other world with three shining angels, and led the holy martyrs to dry land and set them free. Elpidephorus was one of the king's nobles. When he revealed that he was a Christian and denounced the king for his slaughter of innocent Christians, the king condemned him to death and Elpidephorus was beheaded along with seven thousand other Christians. Then those first three martyrs [Acyndinus, Pegasus and Anempodistus] were finally thrown into a burning furnace along with twenty-eight soldiers and the king's mother, since they also believed in Christ—and thus, in the flames, they gave up their righteous souls into the hands of the Lord.

The Venerable Monk Marcian of Cyrrhus in Syria (ca. 387)

Marcian was from the town of Cyrrhus in Syria. He was distinguished by his noble ancestry as well as by his physical beauty. He left all for the sake of Christ and withdrew into the wilderness of Halkis to live as a hermit. He was a contemporary of Patriarch Flavian of Antioch and the Emperors Constantius and Valens. A heavenly light shone in his cell at night by which he read the Holy Scriptures, and he never had need of any other light. He was a great miracle-worker both during his life and after death. Before his death, he ordered his disciple Eusebius to conceal his body and bury it secretly because of his many admirers. He entered into rest in the Lord in 387.

The Hieromartyr Victorinus, Bishop of Patav

Many maintain that he was a Slovene by ancestry. Blessed Jerome points him out as a learned and devout man. He knew Greek better than Latin. He wrote the interpretations of several books of the New and Old Testaments. He suffered for the Christian Faith in about the year 303.