

# ***SUNDAY BULLETIN***

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***2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***Holy Great-Martyr Theodore Stratelates***

***(June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020)***



***BLESSED FEAST!***

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

**Liturgical Readings:**

**ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 2:10-16**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

**MATTHEW 4:18-23**

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

**RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - Tone I:**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who loves mankind.

**TROPARION OF ST. NICHOLAS (THE TRANSLATION OF THE PRECIOUS RELICS)****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 HOLY GREAT MARTYR THEODORE THE GENERAL- Tone IV:**

Through noetic recruitment \* thou didst become a most comely general of the heavenly King, \* O passion-bearer Theodore; \* for wisely arraying thyself with the weaponry of faith \* thou didst vanquish legions of demons, \* revealing thyself to be a victorious spiritual athlete. \*\* Wherefore, with faith we ever bless thee

**RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - Tone I:**

As God, Thou didst arise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the giver of resurrection to all, O Christ!

**KONTAKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (THE TRANSLATION OF THE PRECIOUS RELICS)****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 HOLY GREAT MARTYR THEODORE THE GENERAL****- Tone II:**

Arrayed in faith with manliness of soul, \* and taking in hand the word of God as a spear, \* thou didst conquer the enemy, O Theodore, \* great among the martyrs. \*\* With them unceasingly entreat Christ God on behalf of 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 are blessed to have the Gospel to consider as an integral part of the Divine Liturgy. The current Gospel reading focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ calling the Holy Apostles to follow Him.

The Holy Apostles were blessed to learn directly from the Lord Jesus Christ. They carried Jesus' teachings to different parts of the world. The Apostles put the growth of the Church in motion.

We benefit today from the centuries of faithfulness to God's Holy Church. We draw strength and knowledge from the Church's history in difficult times. The Lord Jesus Christ offers the path for lasting peace.

The Church's prayers lift our spirits when we are depressed by societal concerns. Church services offer a haven for believers to experience Jesus Christ when personal need arises.

When illness strikes or a family member is in crisis, the Church is present to give direction and comfort. The Holy Apostles quickly realized the Lord Jesus Christ was worthy of being loved and followed.

The Holy Apostles left their families, homes and occupations to follow Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ and the advancement of the Holy Gospel kept the Holy Apostles occupied until they departed this life.

Trust was an essential element in the Apostles' lives. They trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and their experiences with Him. Faithful believers in each century have experienced Jesus Christ and have learned to trust in Him.

Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ becomes known from personal experience. The Lord Jesus Christ never fails those who trust in Him. The Lord affords believers opportunities to begin anew when they fail and go astray.

Judas betrayed Christ. Judas failed in His trust in Christ. We learn from Judas not to betray Christ. We learn that we have the responsibility to be faithful. Our faith in Christ rests with ourselves.

We cannot blame others for our wrongdoings. Knowing Jesus Christ and having experienced Jesus Christ does not guarantee we will be faithful to Christ until our last breath.

Many believers fall away from Christ. Jesus Christ is rejected all too often by individuals baptized into Christ. The devil has reason to be gleeful when a believer rejects Christ and commits sins.

Today's world challenges believers to be faithful at every moment of life. Believers face information overload with the world's events and happenings in personal life.

Dramatic changes in life add to the complexity of decision-making.

Peace exists in Jesus Christ and in the Church. Christ is proclaimed in the Gospel. Christ is experienced in the Holy Mysteries.

During the Apostles Fast, wise believers firmly focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. Fasting and prayer strengthen believers to seek the Kingdom of God. The Lord helps serious believers avoid dangerous temptations and perils to the soul.

The Lord God is always accessible to believers reaching out in faith. Parents, grandparents and faithful family members abide in strong prayer to keep loved ones protected and secure in this difficult world.

God's Holy Church needs the enduring support and protection of the faithful. Active believers support and protect the Church by being faithful to Jesus Christ at all times.

Faithful believers stand for Christ and the Church in the home, the neighborhood and the workplace. Attacks on the Church and believers need to be rebuffed. The love of Christ has a place in daily life in all places and all times.

Keeping Jesus Christ at the forefront of the mind is beneficial in these difficult times. Deliberate daily prayer helps believers to be united with Christ.

Prayers for peace reach beyond the home to the community.

Love for Christ grows out of experience with Christ. Christ becomes increasingly known as the believer takes the Gospel and worship seriously. Believers learn from the lives, experiences and teachings of the Holy Apostles.

This Apostles Fast is a time for growth in Jesus Christ. Growth in Christ is for every moment of life. Deliberate choices for Jesus Christ occur at every moment the mind is working.

Fasting, resolute prayer and repentance enable unity with Jesus Christ to occur and be maintained. This Second Sunday after Pentecost affords believers the opportunity for unity with Christ.

The opportunity is to be seized by conscious choice and desire to follow Christ. St. Matthew's Gospel states: From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force (Mt. 11:12).

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

***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 \$2010.00; Candles \$87.00;

**BELL TOWER FUND - \$17,867.60**

Milk Container \$182.00

### **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!**

### **BOOK OF THE MONTH JUNE**

***"Liturgy and Life" - Fr Alexander Schmemmann***

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

### ***TODAY (June 21<sup>st</sup>)***

7:00 PM - "Orthodoxy Live" on FB Page Diocese of Eastern America of the SOC

**Fr Borjan Vitanov - Lebanon, PA**

### ***SATURDAY (Jun 27<sup>th</sup>)***

**6:00 PM - Great Vespers**

***SUNDAY (Jun 28<sup>th</sup>) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Holy St. Lazarus and All Serbian Martyrs - Vidivdan***

**9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy and Pomen**

**Liturgical Readings:** Epistle (Rom. 5, 1-10 & Acts 12, 1-11); Gospel (Matthew 6, 22-33 & Jn. 15, 17-16, 2)

### **Dear ones,**

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

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