

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
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3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***THE HOLY PROPHET AMOS; THE HOLY MARTYRS VITUS AND HIS
COMPANIONS; THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR LAZAR OF SERBIA AND ALL
SERBIAN MARTYRS -VIDOVDAN***

(June 28th, 2020)



BLESSED FEAST!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE TWO:

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

ROMANS 5: 1-10

Brethren, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

HOLY GREAT-MARTYR LAZAR – ACTS 12: 1-11

At that time, Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying: "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him: "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals" and so he did. And he said to him: "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said: "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

THE ALLELUIA VERSES:

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

MATTHEW 6: 22-33

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

HOLY GREAT-MARTYR LAZAR – JOHN 15: 17-16: 2

At that time Jesus said: "These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of this world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me, hates My Father also. If I had not done

among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service."

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE II:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

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 THE HOLY PROPHET AMOS – TONE TWO:

Celebrating the memory of Your Prophet Amos, O Lord, for his sake, we entreat You, save our souls.

TROPARION TO THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR LAZAR - TONE THREE:

Longing for the beauty of God's glory, you were found pleasing to Him while yet in the flesh and by good deeds multiplied the talents entrusted to you. Having suffered greatly, even to the shedding of your blood, you received the crown of martyrdom from Christ. By your prayers, O Lazar, entreat Him to save us who sing to you.

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE TWO:

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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.

KONTAKION TO THE HOLY PROPHET AMOS – TONE FOUR:

Purifying your fervent heart by the Spirit, O glorious Prophet Amos, and receiving the gift of prophecy from on high, you cry with a loud voice to the nations: This is our God, and there is none beside Him.

Glory...KONTAKION TO THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR LAZAR – TONE EIGHT:

Your flock glorifies you as a valiant champion of true piety and a glorious martyr, O most-wise Lazar. Since you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to grant peace to those who praise you, that we may cry: 'Rejoice, O praise-worthy Lazar!'

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!

The Holy Great-Martyr Lazar, Prince of Serbia

Lazar was one of the Serbian noblemen who ruled the Serbian empire after the death of Tsar Dušan. After the death of Tsar Uroš, Patriarch Ephraim crowned Lazar as the Serbian Tsar. Lazar sent a delegation with the monk Isaiah to Constantinople to implore the patriarch to lift the anathema from the Serbian people. He fought against the Turkish powers on several occasions. Finally, on June 15, 1389, he clashed with the Turkish Emperor Amurat at Kosovo Polje [the Field of Blackbirds], where he was beheaded. His body was translated to and interred in Ravanica, the monastery he founded near Ćuprija, and was later translated to [New] Ravanica in Srem, and from there, during the Second World War (1942), it was translated to Belgrade and placed in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Archangel Michael, where it rests today incorrupt, extending comfort and healing to all those who turn to him with prayer.*) St. Lazar restored the monasteries of Hilandar [Mount Athos] and Gornjak. He built Ravanica and Lazarica [in Kruševac] and was a benefactor of the Russian Monastery of St. Panteleimon [Mount Athos] as well as many other churches and monasteries.

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

Today Vidovdan is celebrated in the Serbian Orthodox Church. Resolute commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ is remembered and reaffirmed. St. Lazar and the martyrs of Kosovo chose the Heavenly Kingdom over the earthly.

Believers face the same choices each day as to whether to succumb to earthly temptations and perils or to be resolute for the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's society is rapidly changing and consistently challenging.

Christianity is under attack in many overt and subtle ways. Threats to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro is currently in the news. Laws exist in America legalizing actions condemned or considered sinful by the Church.

Believers are required to be continuously cautious in daily decision-making. Words expressed are to be carefully chosen. Each believer does well to examine his or her own personal integrity and resoluteness in following Jesus Christ.

St. Matthew's Gospel speaks about first seeking the Kingdom of God (Mt.6:33). The believer's thoughts and actions are to be directed to the Kingdom. The eye will direct the believer in daily life. Where the eye is directed, the actions will follow. (Mt.6:22)

Love of the Lord Jesus Christ will take the believer to the Church. Love of the Lord Jesus Christ will be manifested in personal relationships. Believers are challenged in today's society as the Lord was challenged. when He took on flesh.

Believers with fortitude and faith in the Lord will meet the challenges with confidence. The world is changing rapidly. A believer can easily get lost, face peril or be overwhelmed if not grounded in the Lord.

The martyrs of Kosovo were prepared to battle against evil. Martyrs throughout the Church's history faced evil. Civilization has progressed in the material comforts and developments of life, but evil is still present.

Evil cannot be sugarcoated. Evil cannot be denied. Believers hear of evil and the threats of evil. The Lord God provides the protection, strength and wisdom of dealing with evil.

The Lord Jesus Christ experienced evil when He was crucified. His death on the Cross was soon followed by His Resurrection. Jesus Christ is to be followed by all resolute believers. Martyrs through the centuries serve as enduring inspiration.

Martyrs are complete witnesses for the Faith. Martyrs teach the continuing value of loving Christ at all costs. Contemporary believers do well to draw strength from the martyrs of Kosovo and Christian martyrs through the centuries.

The world needs believers firmly planted in Christ today. Opponents of evil demonstrate love as taught and exemplified by Christ. We learn from St. Lazar and the martyrs of Kosovo that love for Christ makes a lasting and decided difference.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON JUNE 21ST

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 \$1086.00; Candles \$31.00

BELL TOWER FUND - \$17,917.60

\$50 from Milica Knepp in memory of her father Mike Tumbas

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 Schmemann

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TODAY (June 28th)-At the end of Liturgy - Pomen to all Serbian Martyrs

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

SATURDAY (July 4th)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (July 5th) – 4th Sunday after Pentecost – Venerable Anastasia of Serbia (St. Sava’s mother)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Rom. 6, 18-23); Gospel (Matthew 8, 5-13)

SATURDAY (July 11th) - 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown

FUNDRAISER DONATIONS DRIVE WITH GOODWILL – “BY THE POUND” TO SUPPORT “THE BELL TOWER PROJECT RESTORATION” OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.

Eligible Items – clothing, linens, housewares, shoes, purses, toys, glassware, cooking accessories, pictures, sports equipment, tools, small musical instruments, electronics (NO TVs!), jewelery, knick-knacks, and light furniture items (e. g. kitchen chairs, *small* tables)

Questions: (814) 248-1550

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), Nektarios