

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
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4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VENERABLE ANASTASIA OF SERBIA

(St. Sava's mother)

(July 5th, 2020)



BLESSED FEAST!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE III:

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

ROMANS 6: 18-23

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MATTHEW 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word,

and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE III:

Let the heavens be glad; let earthly things rejoice; * for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm. * trampling down death by death; * becoming the first-born of the dead, * delivering us from the belly of Hades, ** and granting the world great mercy!

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 VENERABLE MOTHER ANASTASIA - TONE IV:

Abundant in virtue, and adorned with meekness and piety, / you shone forth through the purity of your life; / therefore, you were granted the grace to be the mother of our people's Luminary. / Thus, we cry aloud to you: "Rejoice, O venerable mother Anastasia!"

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE III:

Thou didst arise today, O Merciful One, * and hast led us out from the gates of death. * Adam danceth today, and Eve rejoiceth. * The Prophets also, along with Patriarchs, * praise without ceasing the divine might of Thy authority.

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 THE VENERABLE MOTHER ANASTASIA - TONE IV:

Having been blessed by marriage, and living a life of sobriety, / you humbly taught your children to love God above all else. / As you now stand before Him, / intercede for us who cry aloud to you: / "Rejoice, O venerable mother Anastasia!"

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

The present Gospel describes the centurion demonstrating humility before the Lord. The centurion was concerned for the welfare of his suffering servant. He did not feel himself worthy to have the Lord to come under his roof.

The centurion had compassion and concern for his servant. He desired the servant to be healed. Employers do well to learn from this centurion. Authorities, administrators and supervisors do well to be humble before the Lord.

Jesus Christ recognized the centurion's strong faith. Jesus responded to the strong faith by healing the servant. The centurion and the servant had every reason to be grateful.

The centurion's strong faith is a lasting lesson for believers today. When confronted with personal illness or when beloved family members or friends are suffering, turning to the Lord in great faith is the first step to take.

Jesus Christ does not disappoint individuals turning to Him in faith. Strong faith gives believers strength to endure great hardship and to seek the Lord's will in dealing with suffering.

Prayers to the Lord will reveal the outcome desired by the Lord. The Lord brings internal peace to the believers with strong faith. The Holy Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Roman's puts suffering into perspective.

The Apostle wrote: "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom.8:28) Patience and attention to the Lord are necessary when suffering occurs.

The Lord's goodness is not always immediately understandable when suffering is experienced. Turning to the Lord in faith, results in guidance, direction and understanding.

The present Gospel reveals Jesus' power to transcend distances. Jesus healed the suffering servant from afar. Jesus curative power was demonstrated in response to the centurion's great faith.

We know from the Epistle to the Hebrews that "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb.13:8) Great faith practiced by believers today will be acknowledged by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of St. Matthew says Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." (Mt. 4:23)

Today's news broadcasts can take our attention away from the teaching of the Holy Gospel. Our minds can be filled with unsettling news. We can quickly forget to focus on the Lord Jesus, His Kingdom and healing power.

We will only find lasting peace in our lives when Christ is the center of our thoughts. When the Lord Jesus Christ completely fills our minds and hearts, hope, light and love will dominate our beings.

Worries disappear when Christ is our foundation, guide and goal. Suffering is put in perspective when love for Christ dominates our lives. The faith of the centurion is an example for each of us to embrace and to follow.

Turning to the Lord Jesus Christ today puts life into perspective. We have the opportunity every day to nourish our lives in the Lord. We have the ability to draw strength from Jesus Christ. Prayer and fasting will increase our faith.

Being attentive to the Holy Gospel will increase our faith. We have to care for our souls just as we care for our bodies. We have to be attentive to the strength of our faith in God, just as we need strong, healthy bodies.

Current society puts great emphasis on being physically healthy. Health of the soul is always important. Strong faith goes hand in hand with a healthy soul. Jesus Christ is at the necessary center of strong faith and a healthy soul.

Today's Gospel is the Church's reminder to maintain strong in faith. The Gospel is proclaimed in order for believers to remain strong in faith. Growth in Christ is intended throughout life.

Each proclamation of the Gospel affects the attentive listener. Believers are nourished and strengthened when the Gospel is heard with attentive hearts and minds.

Strong faith brings healing. Healing brings peace and joy. During this Apostles Fast, keep the focus completely on the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. May our faith always be strong as the centurion's in today's Gospel

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON JUNE 28TH

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 \$1272.00; Candles \$35.00; Dues \$50; Donation of \$100 from Dianna Dunnington in honor of George & Kate McDowells 50th wedding anniversary.

BELL TOWER FUND - \$17,967.60

Milk Container Donation \$50

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

TODAY (July 5th)

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

TUESDAY (July 7th) - Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet Baptist John

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

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

6:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUNDAY (July 12th) - 5th Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy and All-praised Leaders of the Apostles Peter and Paul

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Rom. 10, 1-10 & 2. Cor 11, 21-32); Gospel (Matthew 8, 28-9, 1 & 16, 13-19)

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