

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

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Venerable Sisoës the Great

(July 19th, 2020)



BLESSED FEAST!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE V:

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Verse: *You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.*

ROMANS 12, 6-14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

MATTHEW 9, 1-8

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE V:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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 VENERABLE SISOES – TONE I

Dweller of the desert and Angel in the body, You were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Sisoes. 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 your strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown! Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE V:

Thou didst descend into Hades, O my Savior, * and having shattered its gates, as All-powerful, * Thou didst raise the dead with Thyself, as Creator, * and didst deliver Adam from the curse, * O Lover of mankind. ** Therefore, we all cry to Thee: 'Save us, O Lord!'

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 VENERABLE SISOES – TONE IV:

In asceticism you were revealed to be an earthly Angel, continually enlightening the thoughts of the faithful with divine signs. Therefore we honor you with faith, venerable Sisoes.

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*

We gather today in God's Holy Church to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. We are nourished and strengthened by the Holy Gospel. We have the opportunity to be renewed by the Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

Believers gather in faith and love for the Lord regularly to worship, to hear the Holy Gospel and to be renewed. Orthodox Christians have followed and worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ for more than twenty centuries.

The desire to seek and experience the Kingdom of God exists within believers of every century. The Lord Jesus Christ offers new life, renewal of life and eternal life. We all commit sins, need to repent and seek forgiveness. Today's Gospel makes Jesus' power to forgive sins very clear. The Gospel records and verifies the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In these trying and uncertain times, repentance, forgiveness of sins and experiencing the Kingdom of God are of paramount importance. Believers' saving and primary hope exists in the good, all-merciful and loving God.

God is the authentic certainty for believers. (Heb 13:5) The Lord God provides perspective for life and the Kingdom as life's primary goal. (Mt.6:33) We experience God's Kingdom in the Divine Liturgy.

God's Kingdom is the goal all believers embrace at Holy Baptism. Sin all too often arises in the believer's life and Christian journey. Today's Gospel reminds believers of the power of Christ's forgiveness.

The present Gospel describes Christ's power to restore freedom of movement among those paralyzed by sin. The coronavirus has had a paralyzing effect on many believers.

The Lord Jesus Christ offers healing and personal peace. Believers benefit by turning deep within the self and examining the personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ offers the peace passing all understanding. (Philippians 4:7)

The Lord God knows all that is happening in the world. God is present everywhere and fills all things. (Prayer to Holy Spirit) The believer's mind, heart and soul are enriched and experience peace when embracing the presence of God.

Believers choose the daily focus and goals of life. If the peace of God is being ardently pursued, the goal will be realized. (Gal. 5:22-23) Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mt. 6:21)

God's forgiveness of sins and granting of new freedom of movement are accompanied by new responsibilities. The man forgiven his sins and freed of paralysis in the Gospel had new responsibilities toward Christ.

Jesus Christ was due gratitude from the man in the Gospel. Each believer forgiven of sins and freed from paralysis of sins has the responsibility to honor Christ's commandments and be faithful to Jesus Christ.

Believers have sins forgiven at Holy Confession. The weight and paralysis of sins are removed at Holy Confession. New life in Christ is experienced in Holy Communion.

Christ's commandments and way of life are to be fully embraced following Confession and Communion. Love for Christ is to be renewed and experienced with great joy when the Precious Body and Blood of Christ are received.

The Christian life is intended to be active. At Holy Baptism, the Kingdom of God becomes the believer's primary goal. The potential for growth in Jesus Christ is unlimited.

The Apostle Paul described to the Corinthians the possibilities saying: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the **glory** of the Lord, are changed into the same image from **glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

(2 Cor.3:18)

The joy of the Lord is present in the Divine Liturgy. We experience God's Kingdom in this church even as we actively pursue the Kingdom by being here. God enriches and renews our lives in the Divine Liturgy.

We strengthen our love for the Lord and express it more fully by being in God's Holy Church. By actively participating in God's holy Church, we thank God for the forgiveness of sins and freedom from paralysis of sins.

Forgiveness of people in our daily lives and love of each person we meet are ways to further show our gratitude toward God. Each day is an opportunity to begin anew in Christ.

We need not remain paralyzed in these times of uncertainty. God is always present to help us and to guide us. God is ever-present to reassure us and to forgive us when we sincerely repent of our sins.

Let us savor and be grateful for the love of the ever-merciful and healing God. May the remaining days of our lives be days of repentance and expressions of gratitude to God for all that He does and has done for us.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON JULY 12TH

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 \$530.00; Candles \$23.00; Dues \$50.00

BELL TOWER FUND - \$18,319.60

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 19th)

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

Fr Stefan Djoric – Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church in Steubenville

SATURDAY (July 25th)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (July 26th) – 7th Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Fathers of first 6 Ecumenical Councils

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Rom. 15, 1-7& Heb. 13, 7-16); Gospel (Matthew 9, 27-35 & Jn. 17, 1-13)

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