

If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain... 1 Corint. 15:14



# ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



● **Friday July 7, 2017-  
Divine Liturgy 9:30am  
Nativity of the Holy Glorious  
Prophet, Forerunner  
and Baptist, John**

Troparion — Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, / although we cannot praise you worthily, / we honor you in love at your nativity, / for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness, / proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

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*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday July 2, 2017*

**Sunday, June 19/July 2, 2017. 4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Holy Apostle Juda; Venerable Paisius the Great; St. John of Shanghai**

**•Liturgical Readings: Gospel St. Matthew (8, 5-13).**

**Epistle: Rome (6, 18-23).**

**• Donations Received Sunday June 25, 2017**

Offering \$675.00 Candles \$14.00 Dues \$45.00

Large Candle donations In Memory of Victoria Bartis, Dudukovich & Knezevich Families, Stella & Steve Baich, Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

**• Next Fish Fry will be July 21st**

**• Idlewild Park –July 23, 2017 (Sing up in hall. Also if anyone interested in going to Kennywood July 14 and 15 call Rose Marinkovich. Thank you!).**

**• The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 8:5-13)**

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. (KJV)

**Romans 6:18-23(KJV)** <sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

●**Homily by V.Rev. Stav. Rodney Torbic (St. Matthew (8, 5-13)-**The present Gospel documents the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is a lesson in the value of strong faith and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. The value of humility is a lesson in the current Gospel. The centurion had strong faith in Christ. He held Christ in the highest degree of honor. The centurion did not consider himself worthy for Christ to enter his house. Christ speaking words to heal were sufficient for the centurion. The centurion's genuine concern for his servant merits central attention. Individuals in power and authority can learn well from this centurion. Jesus marveled at the centurion's strong faith. Healing the servant was within Jesus' power. The Gospel documents the servant was healed the very same day. Turning to Christ for healing is an important lesson to learn. Turning to Christ in strong faith is a valued teaching for all attentive to St. Matthew's Gospel. Hope emanates from this Gospel lesson. God's Holy Church proclaims the message of hope at each Divine Liturgy. Hope in Christ triumphs over despair. Christ's resurrection is the enduring message of hope in all circumstances. The centurion was in a position of command. He had soldiers under him. He showed deliberate attention for the servant tormented with palsy. The centurion looked to Christ as being greater than he viewed himself. The centurion was confident in placing trust in Christ. Christ did not disappoint the centurion. Contemporary individuals benefit by assessing where they place their trust for living. What is the degree of trust placed in Christ for daily living? Is Christ the dominant occupant of the heart, mind and soul? Is Christ the goal and foundation for daily life? Does the eye and mind look to Christ at every waking moment of life? Are the pages of the Holy Gospel written in the heart and in the mind? Is greater interest shown in Christ than in things of the world? Do the words that come to our minds reflect love of Christ? Do the words emanating from our mouth reveal depth of trust in Christ? Do we hold the same degree of trust in Christ as did the centurion? If we do not trust Christ as did the centurion, how can we expect to be healed of our sinfulness? What are we doing to increase our depth of faith in Christ? If we want to be healed of afflictions, this Gospel tells us the necessity of great faith. This Gospel reveals the importance of placing complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church proclaims the Gospel with strength and power at each Divine Liturgy. Attentive listeners change their lives when carefully taking the Gospel to heart. The world is better following each proclamation of the Holy Gospel. Attentive believers take the Gospel to heart and leave the church as better people in Christ. Healings by Christ take place every day. Healings are not necessarily proclaimed from housetops. Lives changed by Christ reflect the change. Love of Christ and appreciation for Christ are manifested in the affected believers. The centurion benefitted immeasurably from his love and faith in Christ. The centurion's servant had his life changed remarkably. Jesus continues to change the lives of attentive and trusting believers. The Gospel is filled with healing power. The Gospel is contemporary in lessons of faith. Investments in learning from the Gospel continue to bring rewards beyond imagination. The centurion's example of faith has endured in the Church for centuries. The lives changed based on the centurion's faith in Christ are beyond measure. We will never know how many believers learned from centurion. We do know the Church continues to consider this Gospel lesson worthy to be proclaimed throughout the world. We do know that placing faith in Christ brings healings in life.

Christ is due immeasurable honor, love and appreciation. Christ deserves complete attention and the primary place in the heart, mind and soul. Christ changes the lives that place their complete trust in Him. Amin!

***The Prophets: Book of Amos***

*"I shall bring back the captives of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them. They will plant vineyards and drink wine from them. They also will make gardens and eat fruit from them. I shall plant them on their land; no longer will they be uprooted from the land which I have given them," says the Lord God Almighty. (Amos 9)*

The above passage is a picture of hope that the Lord offers to his people through the prophet Amos. Amos lived in the land of Judah, near Jerusalem around 750 BC. He lived in the times of the prophets Hosea, Jonah, and Elisha and possibly the prophets Isaiah and Micah. Amos was a farmer, and he took care of sycamore trees, which produced sweet figs. He was called by God to preach first to the southern kingdom and eventually to the northern kingdom of Israel, before the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC. According to Orthodox tradition, Amos preached to the northern kingdom of Israel to repent of their sins; however, after repeatedly hearing the message of how sinful they were, the priests of that time clubbed Amos to death, to silence him and therefore to continue the life of sin and unfaithfulness to God. However, the judgment of the Lord was not deterred and eventually the northern kingdom of Israel was utterly destroyed by the Assyrians. What message caused the Jewish priests so much anger that they reached the point of wanting to silence the messenger of God?

A look at the time of Israel shows that the northern kingdom was very prosperous; however, because of greed, the kingdom ignored the poor. The kingdom lived with immorality, corruption, injustices, and with the worship of idols. Amos was sent to call for the people of Israel to repent. However, Israel did not repent. And God said: *"Hear, O priests, and testify against the house of Jacob," says the Lord God Almighty, for in the day I exact vengeance against Israel for their sins, I shall also visit destruction on the altars of Bethel and tear down the horns of the altar, and they will fall to the ground..."* And Amos preached the message until his death, and the northern kingdom was destroyed by the Lord.

As we live in this time, thousands of years after Amos, the words of Amos from God still ring with the truth: *"Thus says the Lord to the house of Israel, "Seek Me, and you will live."* Throughout the preaching of the prophets, the message is consistent to the children of God: return to Me, repent of your sins and you shall be restored. No matter if you were the Prodigal Son, return, repent, and live in our Lord's love and mercy. The prophet Amos was honored by the Orthodox Church on June 28.

*Therefore, O Israel, thus shall I do to you, and because I will do thus to you, make yourself ready to call upon your God. O Israel! For behold, I am the One who strengthens the thunder, and creates the wind, and proclaims His Anointed one to mankind, making the daybreak and the darkness, while treading upon the high places of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name!*

Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless His Holy name. Amen!

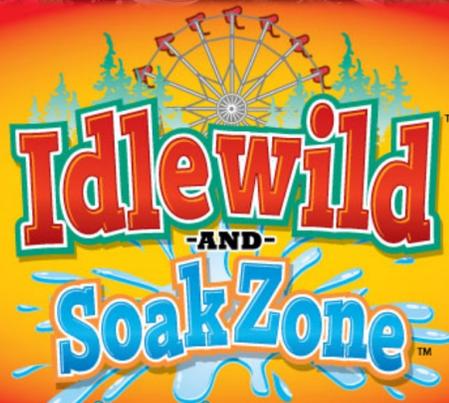
# St. Nicholas

Serbian Orthodox Church

*Next Fish Fry will be July 21st*



3 - 6:30 PM



Sunday School Trip - July 23, 2017

For more info contact Rose Marinkovich (814) 241-6510



## Invitation to Diocesan Day on Saturday, August 5th

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Eastern American Diocese,

It is with exceedingly great joy and anticipation that we write to invite all faithful and friends of our God-protected Diocese to our annual **Diocesan Day Celebration and Patronal Celebration of the Venerable Mother Angelina at Shadeland, 25072 State Highway #18, Springboro, PA 16435, on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Diocesan Day activities will begin at 10:00 AM,** with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by a picnic and program, featuring our Folklore Group from Tambura Week, as well as music for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment.

All concelebrating clergy are asked to bring gold/white vestments. We ask that churches arrange transportation for their interested members.

We look forward to spending Saturday, August 5th with all of you at our beautiful St. Sava Camp and Shadeland Diocesan Estate.

With Archpastoral blessings and Paternal love,

**+IRINEJ**

BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA



*Diocesan Day 2017*  
Saturday, August 5, 2017