

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



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

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*Blessed beginning of the
New Ecclesiastical Year!*

Welcome all parents, guardians, and students to another blessed year of Sunday School!

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday September 17 2017

Sunday, September 4/17, 2017. 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Martyr Bablas. Holy Prophet Moses, Hieromartyr Peter of Dobar-Bosnia

• Liturgical Readings: Gospel St. Matt. (22, 35-45)

Epistle: 2 Cor. (4, 6-15).

• **Donations Received Sunday September 10, 2017**

Offering \$938.00 Candles \$56.00 Parastos \$20.00 Dues \$90.00 Donations \$100.00 Funeral \$150.00

Donation to the Building Fund for \$20 in memory of Bill Calaboyis from Pete & Joann Todorich

The Fifteen Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 22:35-46)

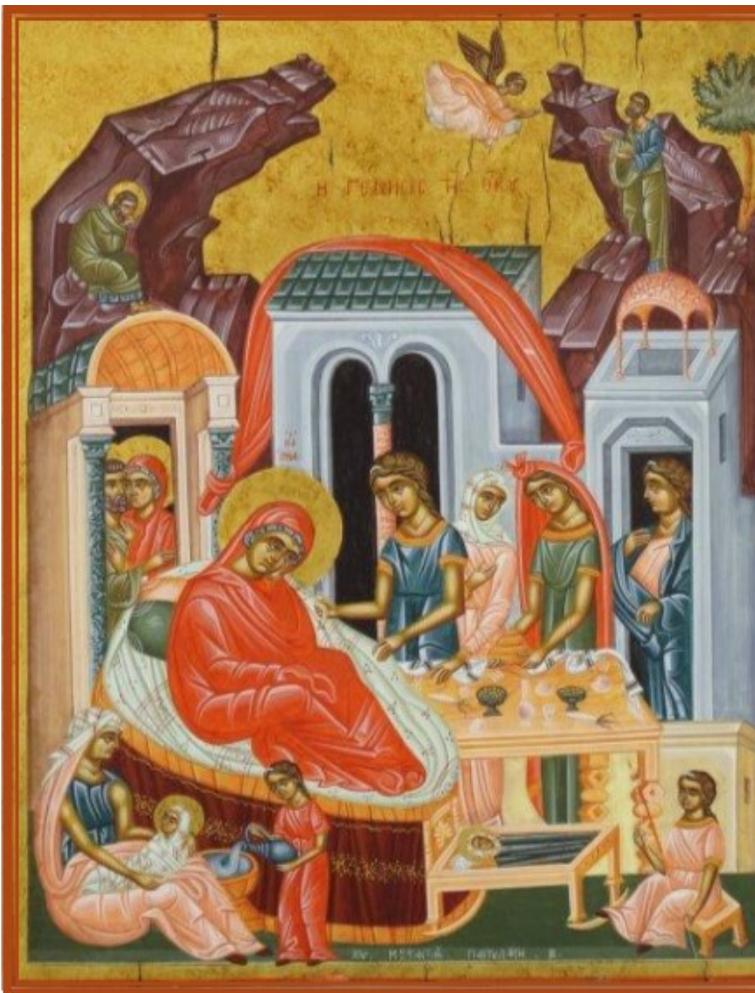
Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions. (KJV)

Homily by V.Rev. Stav. Rodney Torbich-Studying the Holy Gospel is important for believers. The Holy Orthodox Church has a set order to the Gospels that are to be read during the course of the year in the Divine Liturgy. The Holy Gospel exposes church attendees to the words, teachings and life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Gospel provides nourishment for the mind, the soul and the body. In the present Gospel, a lawyer put a question to the Lord Jesus Christ. It was considered a testing of Jesus. Believers benefit from wondering if their personal behavior tests the patience of Jesus. Believers are baptized into Christ and are expected to honor Christ at all times. Given the abundance of sin that occurs among identified believers, Christ's patience and love for those seeking to repent deserves everlasting gratitude. We benefit by knowing that we can reach out to the Lord Jesus Christ with questions and that He will listen. We can turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer for guidance and direction. We do well to look to the Lord Jesus Christ for development of our lives. We will find in the Lord Jesus ways to resolve dilemmas we face. Jesus provides the strength for us to sin less and to follow Him more completely. There is no benefit in trying to test Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ died -

for us on the Cross and rose from the Tomb establishing the enduring hope for believers in all circumstances. Christ deserves our abundant love and gratitude. We have no need for a lawyer to intercede for us with Jesus. At the final judgment we will face Christ alone and without a lawyer. Our guardian angel and any good that we have done may be to our benefit. The judgment we face will be final and complete. Standing before the returning Christ at the glorious Second Coming needs always to be kept in mind. The prayers of the Midnight Office say we have done nothing good. The lawyer asked Jesus about the great commandment in the law. The lawyer was seeking the most dominant commandment, the most compelling. His question was very pointed and direct. We do well to evaluate our conversations with Jesus. We do well to think about the questions, statements or prayers we put forth before Christ. What we say and don't say to Jesus speaks much about us and the condition of our souls. The degree to which we are honest with Christ reflects the trust we have in Him. Christ already knows our innermost thoughts and sinful actions. We benefit from Holy Confession seeking forgiveness to have the weight of sin removed. The life with Christ is the life of the heart, the mind and the soul. The commandments are to be embraced as structures reinforcing the life in Christ. Christ emphasized the love of God and neighbor in the present Gospel. The lawyer identified Jesus as Teacher. We never exhaust the learning available in Christ. We will learn everything we need to learn by studying the life of Christ and the teachings of Christ. Christ answered the lawyer without any noticeable hesitation. He answered directly and with certainty. The great commandment calls for complete love of God with the heart, mind and soul. When a person is baptized, the person is fully covered with the baptismal waters. The total person is consecrated to Christ at Holy Baptism. The person is anointed with the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit from head to foot. God wants the complete person for the rest of the person's life. Becoming a Christian carries with it great responsibility. The commitment is not to be made lightly and without forethought. Complete love of God means the full person is devoted. When we give of ourselves completely we can expect to be received by God completely. God knows the commitment of the heart, mind and soul. The Psalmist said: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me." (Ps.138/9:1) We cannot run from God. We cannot hide from God. We cannot deceive God or pretend to be better or more fully committed than we actually are. God knows the truth about us. The Psalmist said: "Where can I go from Your Spirit, or where can I flee from Your presence?" (Ps.138/9:7) It is better to be honest with God when we sin and to confess our shortcomings. We all have different callings, gifts and talents. The Holy Apostle Paul told the Ephesians: "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Eph.4:7) We need to be true to Christ.

Love of God and love of neighbor need to be in the forefront of each Christian mind. Love of God and love of neighbor are preeminent guides for daily thoughts and actions. Amen!

The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos - The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.



*The Nativity of our Most Holy
Lady the Mother of God and Ever
- Virgin Mary - September 8/21*

- *Circle of Serbian Sisters, at St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church will celebrate on Sunday, September 24th, 2017.*
- *The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 AM, followed by a Festal Banquet.*
- *God bless our host/Kuma Linda Palmer*
- *The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy.*

WELCOME, INDEED - OUR JOY!
