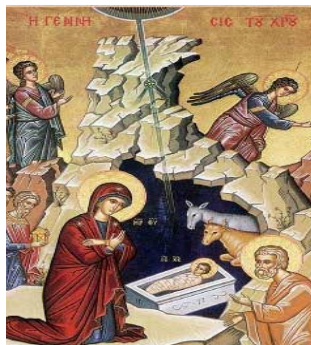


ST. NICHOLAS SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Rev. Presbyter Dragan Vukovic
971 St. Clair Rd. - JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905
The Sunday After the Nativity –Sunday, January 10, 2021



MIR BOZI – HRISTOS SE RODI ! – VAISTINU SE RODI !
PEACE OF GOD! - CHRIST IS BORN ! - INDEED HE IS BORN !

Peace from God! Christ is born!

Happy and blessed New Year 2021 to all our Parishioners!

Troparion of Nativity (Tone 4)

*Your Nativity, O Christ our God, Has shone to the world the Light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, Were taught by a Star to adore You,
The Sun of Righteousness, And to know You, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You!*

!

EPISTLE: (Gal: 1,11-19)
GOSPEL: (Matthews 2:13-23)

The Sunday after the Nativity

Matthew 2:13-23

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.^(KJV)

МИР БОЖИ ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ! DIVINE PEACE CHRIST IS BORN!

The present Gospel describes Herod's interest in destroying the New Born Christ. Herod eventually slew all the children under two years of age. Horrific action against young children continues to the present day.

In addition to the innumerable babies that are aborted prior to birth, the daily news often reports acts of horror against young children. Love for children is not fully embraced by all in present society.

Repentance is needed for a change within the present society to address the harm imposed on children born and unborn. Restraint is called for among those adults who would have a child aborted or harmed.

A change in the hearts and minds is necessary to prevent harm to children, born and unborn in the present world. The love embodied in the New Born Christ Child being celebrated at this time merits greater attention in the wider community.

Repentance begins within the individual. The importance of changing must be visualized if it is to occur. Individuals who would harm children need to realize within themselves that restraint is the best action.

Believers loving children and practicing restraint serve as inspiring examples. Love learned from the Lord Jesus Christ and practiced in daily life on a much wider basis will lead to changing community values.

Love practiced sincerely goes further than the use of force. Repentance is needed not only within those harming and those who might intend to harm children.

Repentance is needed among believers who are lukewarm in faith. Love that is not genuine and full of forgiveness has limited effect. When faith and love increase among believers, the impact is much greater.

The proof of the value of living in Jesus Christ becomes evident in the lives of believers making the total commitment. The valuing of loving as Christ intends becomes obvious when fully practiced.

The Lord Jesus Christ made clear that following Him and living in ways pleasing to Him is not the easiest path to follow. The narrow path of Christ always involves the Cross.

Violence occurred at the time of Christ's birth and was a reaction to His birth. Violence took place directly against Jesus Christ when He was placed upon the Cross.

Believers seriously following Jesus Christ are not exempt from witnessing violence. Believers embracing the values of Jesus Christ may personally experience derision and oppositions from those holding contrary views.

Love and forgiveness are the essential guiding factors for followers of Jesus Christ. Believers embracing Jesus Christ will look to Christ's example to follow in daily actions.

Jesus demonstrated humility, patience, and forgiveness. Jesus is love incarnate and teaches love. Hearts change and repentance occurs when love, patience, forgiveness and humility are put into practice.

The centurion standing at the Cross had his heart changed when he witnessed the Crucifixion. (Mk.15:39) The tempo of violence against children born and unborn in current society requires widespread change.

The changes needed have a place in the lives of individuals that would perpetuate violence against children and in the lives of believers seeking to eliminate the violence.

The solution rests in all taking steps taught and demonstrated by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is currently rejoicing and celebrating Jesus Christ's birth. The Church has the full teachings of Christ for the benefit of all wanting to learn.

The Church offers the beneficial Divine services fostering change and proclaims the values of love and repentance. Individuals within and outside the Church do well to take the steps of forgiveness, love, humility and patience.

Children born and unborn cannot defend themselves. The responsibility for change rests with society's adults. Each adult has the responsibility to begin the process of change that will lead to less violence and harm to children in this world.

The Sunday after the Nativity. Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. December 28, 2020/January 10, 2021, Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Services this Week

Thursday, January 14, - (Thursday)

CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD - ST. BASIL - Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

Orthodox New Year's Day

Donations Sunday, December 27, 2021

Offering - \$1,778.00

Candles - \$94.00

Dues - \$600.00

Bell Tower Fund

\$250 In Memory of Michael & Evelyn Raich

From: Ann & Tom Luy, Ev & Steve King and Michael & Mary Raich

Large Candle Donations

Stella Nikolenic in memory of Kata & Stanko Villa

Richard Kondash in memory of parents Amelia & Joe Kondash

Cam Palmer in memory of Eva Visnich Johnson

Peter & Joanne Todorich in memory of Nikola & Milka, Nick Jr Todorich

Richard & Suzette Gardenhour in memory of the Grisin & Gardenhour Families

Lawrence Bertino for the health of Sylvestr "Peti" Gjurich and Family

Lawrence Bertino In Beloved Memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Gjurich

We are very happy to welcome our new Parish Priest Father Dragan Vukovic, his Popadija Vladanka, and 3 year old son Petar who arrive last Saturday, January 2nd from Charlotte North Carolina. Please welcome them to our Church Family!

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will be celebrating their Slava Sveti Jovan (January 20) on Sunday, January 24, 2020 with the Blessing of the Kolac, zito and wine.

They will holding a Serbian Steak Take-Out Dinner on that Sunday – details to follow.

FISH FRY

Friday, January 29, 2020

3:00 PM to 6:30

Take out Only

