

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church,

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The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(10.31.2021)

Luke 6:31-36

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (KJV)

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)

The parish church is where believers normally enter into the life in Christ. Whether brought as an infant by parents or coming individually as an adult, the official entry into the life in Christ normally occurs at the parish church.

The parish church is where Baptism and Chrismation occur for the overwhelming number of believers. The parish church also provides the Holy Mysteries of Confession, Communion, Marriage and Holy Unction

Life from birth until departure from this life is connected with the parish church. The Lord Jesus Christ is always available and present in the parish church. Believers learn from and grow in Christ in the parish church.

The Christian home is an integral part of the Church. In the home parents are to nurture children in the way of Christ. Adults are to live in the home in ways pleasing to Christ.

The parish church and the Christian home affect the neighborhood and community in which they are located. Christ radiates from the parish church and the Christian home and reaches well beyond the walls and property boundaries.

Love grows and abounds in the parish church and in the Christian home. Individuals take on the responsibility of maturing in Christ and radiating the love of Christ in the parish, the home and the community.

The need for repentance is constant and the parish church and the Christian home encourage repentance. Christian husbands and wives, fathers and mothers learn to repent and return to Christ.

Prodigal sons and daughters find the welcoming love of the parish church and Christian home to be healing for the hurting heart and soul. The Gospel proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy nourishes and guides believers.

St. Luke's Gospel for today gives clear direction from Jesus Christ for dealing with difficult relationships in the church, the home and the community. Serious believers apply the Gospel reading to daily relationships.

Being loving and merciful in all relationships is an expectation for believers. The Lord Jesus Christ is the example of perfect love for believers to learn from and follow.

In St. John's Gospel for today, Jesus Christ identifies Himself as the door to enter for salvation. Jesus Christ's constant welcoming presence keeps the path to salvation open throughout life.

From Holy Baptism until departure from this life, believers have the opportunity to remain on the path to eternal life and God's Kingdom. When the believer strays and commits sins, returning to the narrow path is always possible.

Jesus welcomes believers seeking eternal life. Jesus welcomes sinners desiring to repent and begin anew. The parish priest is ever-ready to assist the believer in the journey to eternal life and the Heavenly Kingdom.

Attending the Divine services of the Church and adhering to the fasts keeps the believer united with Jesus Christ. Joy thrives in the minds, hearts and souls of believers united with Christ.

Jesus Christ the Shepherd is known to His followers and His followers are known to Him. Now is the time to rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the time to follow Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel readings from St. Luke and St. John are instructive and nourishing. God's Holy Church provides the Gospel readings at each Divine Liturgy for instruction and nourishment.

Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered at each Divine Liturgy ensures unity with Christ. Grateful believers appreciate the presence of the parish church and celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

Believers demonstrate gratitude to Christ by adhering to the teachings from the Holy Gospel and Divine services. Now is the time to demonstrate gratitude to Jesus Christ in everyday life.

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. October 18/31, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

The Prologue from Ochrid

St Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic

1. THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

Luke was born in Antioch. In his youth, he excelled in his studies of Greek philosophy, medicine and art. During the ministry of the Lord Jesus on earth, Luke came to Jerusalem, where he saw the Savior face to face, heard His saving teaching and was witness to His miraculous works. Coming to belief in the Lord, St. Luke was numbered among the Seventy Apostles, and was sent out to preach. With Cleopas, he saw the resurrected Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Luke returned to Antioch and there became a fellow worker of the Apostle Paul and traveled to Rome with him, converting Jews and pagans to the Christian Faith. *Luke, the beloved physician, ... greets you*, writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Colossians 4:14). At the request of Christians, he wrote his Gospel in about the year 60 A.D. Following the martyrdom of the great Apostle Paul, St. Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia and other regions. He painted icons of the Most-holy Theotokos--not just one, but three--and icons of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Hence, St. Luke is considered to be the founder of

Christian iconography. In old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt. From Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his old age. In addition to his Gospel, St. Luke wrote the Acts and dedicated both works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia. Luke was eighty-four years old when the wicked idolaters tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Boethia. The miracle-working relics of this wonderful saint were transported to Constantinople in the reign of Emperor Constantius, the son of Constantine.

2. SAINT PETER OF CETINJE, METROPOLITAN OF MONTENEGRO

Peter was born on April 1, 1749 A.D., in the village of Njeguš. He entered the monastic order at the age of twelve. Following the death of Metropolitan Sava in 1782 A.D., Peter became the Metropolitan and ruler of Montenegro. This glorious man dedicated his entire holy life to his people. He worked with all his strength to reconcile the quarreling clans of Montenegro, and strove mightily to defend the land and people from greedy aggressors. He succeeded in both tasks. He is especially glorified for his victory over Napoleon's army in Boka and Dalmatia. He was very strict with himself, and with everyone else he was just and condescending. Peter lived in a small cell like a simple monk even though he was a prince over the people. He reposed on October 18, 1830 A.D. His miracle-working relics repose, incorrupt, in the Monastery of Cetinje. The Lord glorified him in the heavens and on earth as His faithful and long-suffering servant.

3. SAINTS JULIAN AND DIDYMUS THE BLIND

St. Julian, called the "Hermit," was a Persian and an unlearned peasant, but because of the purity of his heart he was a vessel of the grace of the Holy Spirit. He lived a life of asceticism beside the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia, and possessed the gift of clairvoyance. In the same moment that Julian the Apostate perished, St. Julian discerned this in the spirit, and declared it to his disciples. St. Didymus the Blind was his contemporary. He lived in Alexandria, and also perceived in the spirit the death of Julian. St. Didymus was at prayer during the night when a voice came to him from heaven, saying: "Today the Emperor Julian is no more; inform Patriarch Athanasius of this." St. Anthony the Great greatly respected this wondrous blind saint who had the spirit of discernment. He stayed with him and prayed to God with him whenever he came to Alexandria from the desert. Both St. Julian and St. Didymus, wonderful servants of God, entered into rest some time after the year 362 A.D.

HYMN OF PRAISE

SAINT LUKE THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

The divine Luke, both wise and learned,
Was tortured willingly for the Lord.
He could have avoided mockery and torture,
But the world would not have had the great Luke.
The young Luke beheld God's truth
And surrendered his heart to the Son of God.
He hearkened to the Teacher, beheld the Wonderworker,
And in Him he recognized the Immortal Creator.
He beheld the Resurrected One, and spoke with Him,
And worked miracles in His name.
Christ became his only joy,
And Luke sacrificed his mind, wealth and youth to Him.
When Luke became old, he was young in Christ,
And gave to the world what he received from the Lord.
And when he had given the world all he could give,
Then the world, fulfilling the Scripture, repaid him with contempt.
From an old olive tree the aged Luke hung,
With a smile on his face and his arms folded crosswise.
And the hand of Christ came down from heaven
And received the soul of His Evangelist.
Now, in radiant Paradise with the other apostles,
St. Luke prays for the Holy Church.

REFLECTION

Can a sinner repent of his sins in ten days? According to the immeasurable compassion of God he can. During the reign of Emperor Maurice, there was a well-known bandit in the vicinity of Constantinople. He inspired fear and trembling both within the capital and without. One day, the Emperor Maurice himself sent the robber a cross as a sign of faith that he would do him no harm if he surrendered. The robber took the cross and surrendered. Arriving in Constantinople, he fell before the feet of the emperor and begged for forgiveness. The emperor kept his word, had mercy on him and released him. Immediately after that, the robber became gravely ill and sensed that death was drawing near. He bitterly repented of all his sins and tearfully

prayed to God that He forgive him, as the emperor had forgiven him. He shed so many tears at prayer that his handkerchief was completely soaked. After ten days of weeping and praying, the repentant man reposed. The same night he passed away, his physician saw a wondrous vision in a dream: when the robber had given up his soul, there gathered around him black, manlike demons with pieces of paper on which were written all his sins. Two radiant angels also appeared. The angels set a scale between them, and the joyful demons placed all those papers on it, weighing down their side of the scale; but the other side was empty. The angels held counsel: "What shall we place on it? Let us seek something good in his life!" And then that handkerchief soaked with tears of repentance appeared in the hands of one angel. The angels quickly placed it on their side of the scale and it outweighed all the demons' papers. Then the black demons fled, howling sorrowfully, and the angels took the soul of the repentant thief and carried it to Paradise, glorifying the man-loving God.

CONTEMPLATION

Contemplate the miracle of the Apostle Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8):

1. How an angel guided Philip from Samaria to the road into Gaza;
2. How Philip saw the eunuch of Queen Candace, explained to him the prophecy of Isaiah, and baptized him;
3. How an angel made Philip invisible to the eunuch, and transported him instantly to the town of Azotus.

HOMILY on the sins of the tongue

I said, I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue (Psalm 39:1).

The sin of the tongue is the most common and most frequent sin. *If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man*, says the Apostle James (James 3:2). When a penitent sets out on God's path--when he begins to live according to God's commandments--he should first strive to avoid sin with the tongue. That was the rule that the penitent David laid down for himself. He vowed especially to remain silent before his adversaries: *I will restrain my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked are before me* (Psalm 39:1). Behold a most wonderful rule for one who is being healed of sin. When he is accused, he does not reply; when he is slandered, he remains silent. In truth, what does it help to speak with an enraged, unrighteous man who does not love God more than himself? If you speak to him of evil, you will enrage him even

more. If you speak to him of good, you will make him a mocker of holy things. Before Pilate Christ remained silent. Pilate said: *Answerest Thou nothing?* (Mark 15:4). What can He reply to you, when you do not have ears to hear or a mind to understand? Behold, the silence of the righteous one before the unrighteous one can still have the best influence on the unrighteous one. Left to interpret the silence of the righteous one by himself, the unrighteous one can interpret it for the benefit of his soul; while any other answer, good or bad, will be interpreted for evil, to the condemnation of others and to the justification of himself. Blessed is he who learns to govern his tongue.

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Thou Who hast shown us by example how and when to speak, Thou hast shown us by example how and when we should be silent. Help us, by Thy Holy Spirit, that we not sin with the tongue.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Services this Week

**Holy Apostle James, First Bishop of Jerusalem (Friday, November 05th) –
09:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

Donations Sunday, October 24, 2021

Offering - \$897.00 Candles - \$66.00

Large Candles

In Memory of Julie Lambrinos from Kumovi Dan & Dyne Tomak

In Memory of Vincent Czubak from Olga Bulich

In Memory of Irene Marinkovich from Olga Bulich

In Memory of Joanne Pavich from Joe & Connie Pavich

In Memory of Zivkovich Family from Janice Fall Urchek

In Memory of Parents Mike & Mildred Tumbas from Robert & Milica Knepp

**IMPORTANT DATES TO PLACE ON YOUR
CALENDAR**

* Sunday, November 14th

, - Men's Club Pancake

breakfast following Divine Liturgy

* Next Fish Fry –Friday, December 3rd

* Sunday, December 5th -Annual Congregational Meeting – Liturgy will begin at 9:00 AM

* Sunday, December 12th
, - St. Nicholas Slava

Celebration! Blessing of Slavski Kolac with Honored Kumovi Peter & Joanne Todorich followed by Banquet in the Church Hall! Please mark your calendars!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

DIVINE LITURGY WILL NOT BE SERVED due to the Diocesan Centennial Celebration at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA

Father Milan, Dragana, their boys and a few guests from New York will be passing through Johnstown this Friday, November 5th around 6:00 PM

Anyone interested in running for and/or remaining on the St Nicholas Church Council for 2022 must submit their name and intent in writing to a member of the nominating committee (Natalie Ofsanko, Carole McAllister and Joseph Golden) – You may also leave this information in the Candle Room to the attention of the Committee.