

SUNDAY
May 26, 2019

V. Rev. Fr. George Veselinovic, Parish Priest
Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146
412.622.4714 (cell) 412.856.8166 (office)
dj.veselinovic@yahoo.com
www.stnicholasmonroeville.org stnicholasmonroeville@gmail.com

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have

well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

TROPARION TONE IV (RESURRECTION)

When the women Disciples of the Lord, learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

TROPARION TONE VIII (MIDFEAST)

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all: "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!" O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

KONTAKION TONE VIII (PENTECOSTARION-SAMARITAN WOMAN)

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

KONTAKION TONE IV (MIDFEAST)

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: "Come and draw the water of immortality!" We fall before You and faithfully cry: "Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!"

Saints we commemorate today – *Holy Martyr Glyceria*

REMINDERS

Adult Bible Study – Bible study will be canceled until further notice.

Confession – Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. after vespers and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today – Memorial service for +Dragan Kukich. May his memory be eternal! Vjecnaja pamjat!

Thank you – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to Marsha Watt for her generous monetary donation for the children's playground. This donation was made in loving memory of +Martha Visnic. May Martha's memory be eternal, and may God bless you and your family, Marsha.

Thank you – On behalf of the entire St. Nicholas parish, thank you to Pero and Mila Prpa for their generous donation of the Bishop's blessing cross in loving memory of Nikola "Nick" and Ljubica "Violet" Jokola. May their memory be eternal! Vjecnaja pamjat!

The Committee for the 2019 SNF Summer Golf Tournament has met and is excited to begin planning for this big event for our church and local SNF lodges. To be successful, we will need everyone's help! There will be many opportunities for you to contribute. The Committee will keep you informed of our progress over the coming months. Pam Matejevich will be coordinating volunteers for the event which will take place August 7-11, 2019. Reach out to Pam or to Chairman Dushan Markoff to offer your help or ask any questions!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 3rd – Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and Helen – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 6th – The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ – Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 15th – **Blessing of the graves** – 9:00 a.m. memorial service at Grandview cemetery in N. Versailles and 4:00 p.m. service at Export.

Sunday, June 16th – Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

Monday, June 17th – Pentecost Monday – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 18th – Pentecost Tuesday – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 21st & Saturday, June 22nd – St. Nicholas Church Summer Camp – For more information contact Amanda Formatto 412-980-8944 or amandabilak@gmail.com

Friday, June 28th – Holy St. Lazarus and All Serbian Martyrs – Vidovdan – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Memorial Day

This month, we observe Memorial Day, a special day dedicated to the remembrance of our departed loved ones. Throughout our country, we gather on this day as families and as communities to pray for the blessed repose of their souls, that they might live eternally in God's Kingdom, and forever in our hearts and minds. So that we might express this spiritual yearning together as an Orthodox family united in the Body of Christ, our Church has prescribed memorial services throughout the ecclesiastical year.

As we join our neighbors across America in observance of this national holiday, May 26th, we also remember the heroic men and women of our armed forces who sacrificed their lives so that we may live in conditions of liberty and freedom. Our gatherings over the Memorial Day weekend are rightful occasions for the celebration of freedom in our blessed nation and also for the solemn remembrance of those who have defended liberty with their lives.

Our Creator has endowed our minds with manifold abilities and complex functions, among the most extraordinary of which is the faculty of memory. Our inclination to honor and revere our departed loved ones is not only natural; it is also sacred and God-given. Our memory connects us to the continual presence – the living reality – of those who have passed on before us. Our act of remembering our loved ones has the extraordinary capacity to bring us comfort, to renew our spirit, and to mend the fractures of our soul. Moreover, our memory of the departed brings us into communion with the collective memory of the entire body of the Church—with those who also shared the experience of our earthly life ages ago, even with the Saints.

Our reverencing of those who have departed this life is, thus, a collective act, which connects us ultimately to the mystical body of Christ, to the Savior of the world who paid for our freedom by His death on a Cross, "so that we would not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In this sense, Memorial Day accords us the wonderful opportunity to affirm, through the sacrifice of Christ, that death has been overcome; and that He has granted us the joy of being in a lasting communion with our departed loved ones.

May our communion with God be also strengthened through our memory of all those who have departed this life; and may the joy of the Risen Lord strengthen your hearts, nourish your souls, and renew your spirit on this Memorial Day and throughout the Paschal season, as we draw closer to one another in fellowship and in love.

Holy Martyr Glyceria (*commemorated on May 26*)

St. Glyceria suffered as a martyr for her faith in Christ in the second century during the persecutions against Christians under Emperor Antoninus. She came from an illustrious

family, and her father, Macarius, was a high-ranking Roman official. Later, the family moved to the Thracian city of Trajanopolis.

St. Glyceria lost both her father and mother at an early age. Befriending some Christians, she converted to the true Faith and visited the church every day. Sabinus, the prefect of Trajanopolis, received the imperial edict ordering Christians to offer sacrifice to idols, and designated a certain day for the citizens to worship the idol, Zeus.

St. Glyceria made firm her decision to suffer for Christ. She told her fellow Christians of her intentions and begged them to pray that the Lord would give her the strength to undergo suffering. On the appointed day, St. Glyceria made the Sign of the Cross on her forehead and went to the pagan temple.

The saint stood on a raised spot in the rays of the sun, and removed the veil from her head, showing the holy Cross traced on her forehead. She prayed fervently to God to bring the pagans to their senses and destroy the stone idol of Zeus. Suddenly, thunder was heard, and the statue of Zeus crashed to the floor and smashed into little pieces.

In a rage, Sabinus and the pagan priests ordered that St. Glyceria be pelted with stones, but the stones did not touch her. St. Glyceria was then locked in prison, where the priest Philocrates came to her and encouraged the martyr in the struggle before her.

In the morning, when the tortures had started, an angel suddenly appeared, and they torturers fell to the ground in terror. When the vision vanished, Sabinus, who was hardly able to speak, ordered that St. Glyceria be thrown back into prison.

They shut the door securely and sealed it with the prefect's own ring, so that no one could get in. However, angels of God brought St. Glyceria food and drink. Several days later, Sabinus came to the prison and removed the seal. Going in to the cell, he was shaken when he saw that Glyceria was alive and well.

Setting off for the city of Heraclea in Thrace, Sabinus gave orders to bring St. Glyceria with them. Bishop Dometius and the Christians of Heraclea came out to meet her and prayed that the Lord would strengthen the saint to endure martyrdom.

At Heraclea, St. Glyceria was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but the fire was extinguished at once by an invisible force. The prefect then gave orders to rip the skin from St. Glyceria's head. She was then thrown into a cell with sharp stones. She prayed incessantly, and at midnight an angel appeared and healed her of her wounds.

When the jailer, Laodicius, came for the saint in the morning, he did not recognize her. Thinking that the martyr had been taken away, he feared he would be punished for letting her escape. He tried to kill himself, but St. Glyceria stopped him. Shaken by the miracle, Laodicius believed in the true God, and he asked the saint to pray that he might suffer and die for Christ with her.

“Follow Christ and you will be saved,” the holy martyr replied. Laodicius placed upon himself the chains with which the saint was bound, and at trial told the prefect and everyone present about the miraculous healing of St. Glyceria by an angel, and confessed himself a Christian. For his belief in Christ, Laodicius was beheaded by the sword. Christians secretly took up his remains, and reverently buried them.

St. Glyceria was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts. She went to her execution with great joy, but the lioness set loose upon the saint meekly crawled up to her and lay at her feet. Finally, the saint prayed to the Lord, imploring that He take her unto Himself. In answer, she heard a Voice from Heaven, summoning her to heavenly bliss. At that moment, another lioness was set loose upon her. It pounced on St. Glyceria and killed her, but did not tear her apart. Bishop Dometius and the Christians of Heraclea reverently buried her. St. Glyceria suffered for Christ around the year 177. Her holy relics were glorified with a flow of healing myrrh.

St. Glyceria, whose name means “sweetness,” now rejoices in the unending sweetness of the heavenly Kingdom.