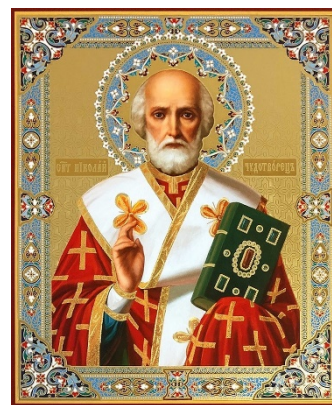


St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – January 2nd, 2022

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Sunday of the Genealogy of Christ

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion (Fathers)

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Fathers)

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for You are merciful and able to do as You will!"

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Alleluia Verses

v: O God, we heard with our ears.

v: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them.

Epistle - Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Gospel - Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Additional Petitions for Mercy and Help during the Covid-19 Pandemic

For our salvation during the time of this pandemic; for protection and deliverance from the Coronavirus; for the health and recovery of those suffering from this virus; and for the guidance of physicians and those who minister to the afflicted, let us pray to the Lord.

Eternal Lord, God Almighty, in Your ineffable goodness and love for humankind, look upon us who have gathered in Your Holy Name and those who could not be present; be our constant helper and defender at the time of this pandemic and hear our prayer offered with contrition of heart: Compassionate Lord, save, protect and deliver us from the impending threat of the Coronavirus; grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus; and guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who minister to the afflicted, let us all say with all our heart and mind Lord have mercy.

Announcements

- **Baby J.P. Cervo - Update and Thank You** - *See letter below from J.P., Gina, and Joey*
- **Soup is On!** - *See flyer for details.*
- **Christmas Services and Events** - *See flyer for details.*
- **2022 Kielbasa Sale!** - *See flyer for details.*
- **Mediterra Bread is Back! - Pickup today!** - Next order deadline is Jan 12 for Jan 16 pickup after liturgy. *See flyer for details.*
- ○ Order online here: <https://forms.gle/KUsfLHCyUiPno9Cd7>
- **SAVE THE DATE: 3rd Annual Purse Bash - Feb 26, 2022** - Volunteers: The first planning meeting will be held on Sunday, 12/19 following Divine Liturgy. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Amanda Bilak Formato amandabilak@gmail.com 412-980-8944.

SOUP IS ON



The **Soup Kitchen** is now open.

- Cream of Potato Soup
- Vegetable Soup

Contact Denny or Sam
from the Maintenance
Committee

There is **NO cost** for the soup. **Home delivery** is available for those who are not feeling well or are homebound. Let the men know if you or anyone you know who might want to receive this gift of soup.

What better way of getting well than by eating homemade soup! 🥄



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS.....

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
10:00 AM—VESPERAL
LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
6:00 PM—VIGIL AND YULE
LOG SERVICE

THEN.....

LET'S ENJOY DINNER AND
DRINKS TOGETHER
FOLLOWING THE YULE LOG
SERVICE

- POSNO DINNER
- HOT TODDY
- BEVERAGES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
MIR BOŽIJI HRISTOS SE RODI!

LITURGY 10:00 AM



*Let us celebrate Badnjak and Bozic together as a
St. Nicholas parish family!*

.....And on the day of Christmas Eve, men from the
house go to "badnjaks". Badnjak is the young oak or cer
tree and it represents a symbol of the tree which was,
according to the stories, brought to Joseph and Mary by the
shepherds, to start the fire and heat the cave in which Jesus
was born.

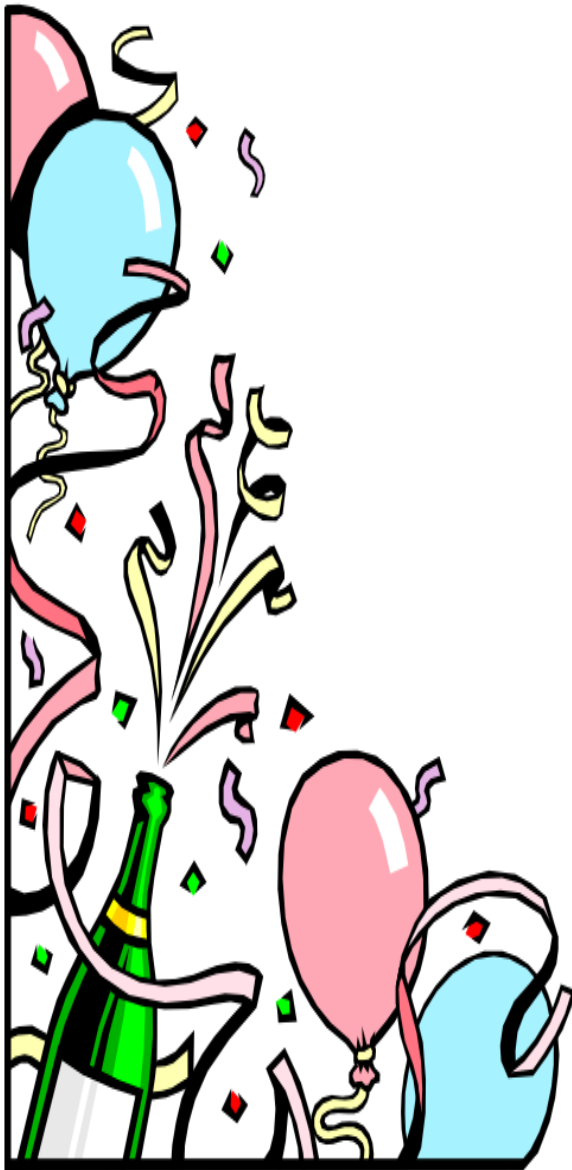
SREĆAN BOŽIĆ!

Important....

*Please call Sandy at 412-616-2699 by
January 4th and share if you plan to attend
dinner on Thursday and number attending.
Thank you!*

Yes, it's coming very soon...

2022



Order Now!!

Start your New Year's celebration with an order of **smoked or unsmoked kielbasa.**

Order from Denny or Sam.

1 lb. /\$5.00

Yes, it's back again at St. Nicholas by popular demand...



www.mediterrabakehouse.com

If you have tried these breads, you'll want to come back for more. If you haven't, we hope you will soon.

These artesian breads are ordered by Wednesday noon for availability at St. Nicholas on the following *Sundays* after Divine Liturgy. These breads are Lenten.



GOOGLE FORMS. Orders can be picked-up at the Church Social Hall.

ORDER BY NOON

PICK-UP 11-30AM-12:30 PM

<i>Wednesday, November 17, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, November 21, 2021</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 1, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, December 5, 2021</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 15, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, December 19, 2021</i>
Wednesday, December 29, 2021	Sunday, January 2, 2021
<i>Wednesday, January 12, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, January 16, 2021</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 26, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, January 26, 2021</i>
<i>Wednesday, February 9, 2021</i>	<i>Sunday, February 13, 2021</i>

The following selections will be available for \$5.00 per loaf. **Cash only, please:**

- Sourdough Round
- Rustic Italian Bread
- Ciabatta
- Paesano
- Heartland Grain
- Mt. Athos Fire Bread
- Rye, seeded or unseeded

Specialty Bread (\$6.00 per loaf). Specialty Breads may vary on specific dates, please ask.

- Pecan Raisin
- 8 Grain 3 Seed

To the Parishioners of St. Nicholas,

This isn't the first or even the second draft of this letter. I've sat down several times in an attempt to appropriately express the gratitude my wife and I have for all of you. However, every attempt felt typical and scripted. So instead of trying to come up with a half dozen different ways of saying thank you, I'd like to share a part of our experience.

Many of you know my dad, Fr. Joseph Cervo. It wasn't long into our 4 month hospital stay before he was leading the "Prayers for Junior, aka, Joey" campaign. Before we knew it, what seemed like every Serbian and Orthodox Christian east of the Mississippi was praying for our son's recovery.

Now my wife can sometimes take on the "us against the world" mentality. For what seemed like an eternity, we really were on our own. The COVID restrictions didn't allow for anyone else to visit the hospital other than the two of us. The days were long, stressful and often times filled with hopeless thoughts.

As our hospital stay lengthened without any signs of us being able to take our son home, it was difficult not to succumb to the omnipresent lonely hopeless feeling. Especially when all we could do as parents was stand by our son's bed; hoping and praying. To live through a scenario like this and not be able to physically help your child get better isn't something I would wish on even the worst of my enemies.

There were moments where my wife and I questioned whether God was with us. How could he let such a sweet little boy suffer?

Then I started hearing from my dad more frequently. It felt like everyday he was telling me how many different parishes across all different jurisdictions were praying for Joey. Even our friends and their parents were telling us how Joey had been added to their respective churches' prayer groups.

I can't pinpoint an exact moment in time where I realized that my wife, son and I weren't really alone. It was something that happened over time. I think we all want God's will to be blatantly in front of us. It's easy that way. The hard part is keeping the faith; believing in something that isn't necessarily tangible or is often times unexplainable.

Here's my infant son in a fight for his life against a genetic heart defect and a lung disease that nobody had ever really seen before. In the midst of this struggle for life, thousands of people are thinking of him and praying for his recovery; most of whom I've never met. To know that there were Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Altar Boys, Choir Members, Chanters, and parishioners from all over were praying for my son gave us hope. (At the time I'm thinking to myself, "this is a lot of spiritual firepower to have on our side, have to think it pulls a little weight with the big guy upstairs")

Where was God through all of this? God was making sure we weren't alone. God was giving the doctors and nurses the ability to care for and heal our son. God was giving us the Miracle of Life. The smile on Joey's face on this Christmas card is proof that God exists.

From the moment our son's condition worsened a few days after his birth, all my wife and I ever asked of anyone was that they keep Joey in their prayers. Those close to my family wanted to do more, recognizing the financial burden that often accompanies treating severe medical conditions. While Gina and I are most grateful for the prayers that Joey received, we also appreciate the monetary gifts that were so graciously donated. Fortunately, we are both blessed to have steady jobs and Joey's health concerns have not left us with the as much of a financial burden to bare as others in similar situations.

Essentially living in a Pediatric ICU is difficult in its own right. From our own experience Gina and I both identified minor gestures that could bring a little cheer to other patients and families going through some of the worst times in their lives. We have already used a portion of the donations we received carry out some of these gestures. For example, while Joey was hospitalized, I gave him a small plush carrot around the time of Pascha/Easter. The smiling carrot was the perfect size to fit in his infant crib without becoming a constant obstacle for his care team to deal with. Carrot quickly became a celebrity with the staff and accompanied Joey to all of his procedures. We purchased quantities of all different plush vegetable friends and coordinated with the hospital's staff to give one to all of the pediatric patients who are expected to be in the ICU for an extended time.

While we may not necessarily be in need of using your generous donations, know that they will be used to help those that are in need. It's funny how the Lord really does work in mysterious ways. God helped us through our terrible situation, but also put us in a position where we can help others in need of the same.

From the very bottom of our hearts, we thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and incredible generosity.

With Love and Immense Gratitude,

J.P. , Gina & Joey Cervo