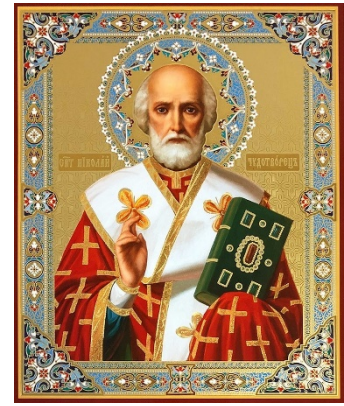


St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – July 31st, 2022



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Fathers of the 6th Ecumenical Council

Tone 6 Tropar (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You captured hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 8 Tropar (Fathers)

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

Tone 6 Kondak (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 8 Kondak (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Theotokion

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocat before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call upon you in faith, hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos; for you always protect those who honor you!

Alleluia Verses

v. He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (*Ps. 90:1*)
v. He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (*Ps. 90:2*)

Epistle - Romans 15:1-7, Gospel - Matthew 9:27-35

Announcements

- **Please see updates to service schedule for August.**
- **Pasta Dinner - Today!** - On July 31, 2022, there will be a pasta dinner (take-out). The dinner includes: pasta with meatballs and spaghetti sauce, garden salad, bread, and dessert. Cost is \$15. Pre-orders only, call Toots 412-372-8064. *Please note corrected phone number*
- **Save the Date: Church School Summer Camp: August 20th, 3PM-6PM** - Please join us for the St. Nicholas Church School Camp this August! More details to follow! If you are interested in volunteering for the Church Camp please contact Amy Yurko, ashimonovich@gmail.com. Please let us know if you would like to help out or if you have an idea and would like to run a station. We always appreciate fresh ideas! Sign up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqBSeV9ssOrjfyPB-_KLGpIp80EI5_FuDgaHG_JTAqDJaZA/viewform

Saint of the Week - St. Stefan of Dečani, August 1st

The founder of the Monastery was St. Stefan Uroš III of Dečani (1285-1331), the son of Holy King Milutin and the father of Emperor Dušan. The Church celebrates him as a great-martyr on November 11/24 (according to the Julian and Gregorian calendars, respectively). As a ten year old boy, he was given as a hostage to the Tatar, Nogai Khan. As a youth he was falsely accused of an attempt to depose his father from the throne, and was blinded and imprisoned in the Monastery of Christ the Pantocrator in Constantinople. Pious, mild-mannered, and compassionate, he won the favor of monks and lords alike, and even of Byzantine Emperor Andronicus II himself. Seven years later, through the mediation of Serbian and Greek bishops, his father reconciled with him and gave him the region of Budimlje (in today's Montenegro) to rule.

In 1321, after the death of King Milutin, Stefan was crowned in Prizren as Uroš III. Before his coronation, he removed the bandages from his eyes and revealed to everyone that he had been miraculously healed through the intercessions of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. Stefan Uroš III inherited a large state from his father that was rich in silver and gold mines, and was also developed in agriculture, livestock farming and commerce. He ruled wisely and in a God-pleasing manner with love toward both his people and God. The Holy King concerned himself with philanthropic works and the building and decorating of churches located both within his own realms and abroad: in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Alexandria, Sinai, Thessaly, Constantinople, and especially on the Holy Mountain of Athos in the famous Monastery of Hilandar. The pinnacle of Stefan's endowment efforts was the construction of Dečani Monastery, whose name he would later carry (St. Stefan of Dečani).

Full of gratitude to God for all the blessings that He had bestowed upon him, especially after the great victory against the Bulgarians in 1330 at Velbužd, King Stefan Uroš III issued his First Founding Charter of Dečani Monastery that same year with the approval of the Holy Synod and the blessing of the Serbian Archbishop, outlining the Monastery's estates and privileges.

The repose of the Holy King of Dečani was sudden; he died a martyr's death before having the opportunity to see his church in all its beauty. In 1331 the lords of the young King Dušan rebelled, and apparently with his knowledge, they attacked the palace in Nerodimlje. St. Stefan was imprisoned in the fortress of Zvečan and two months later, on November 11/24, Dušan's men executed him. The venerable body of the Holy King was transferred to the monastery of Dečani and solemnly buried in the place that had been prepared as soon as construction of the church was finished. The young King Dušan assumed responsibility for the completion of his father's endowment and the adornment of the church, as well as its decoration with frescoes.

In his Charter of 1342, Dušan himself recorded the miraculous revelation of his father's holiness. St. Stefan of Dečani appeared in visions to the church sexton and the abbot of the Monastery with the order that his body be exhumed from the tomb. The archbishop and Holy Synod prayerfully opened his tomb and found the King's remains intact and fragrant. The holy relics were then placed in a reliquary in front of the iconostasis and displayed for all to see.

Many people in distress, the blind, the deaf-mute, the weakened and especially barren women and the mentally ill who approached the saint with faith and prayer were healed. Although many centuries have passed, even today the holy body of the Saint rests intact in its reliquary before the iconostasis of the church of Dečani and is the source of many miracles.

Source: <https://www.decani.org/en/history/holy-king-stefan>