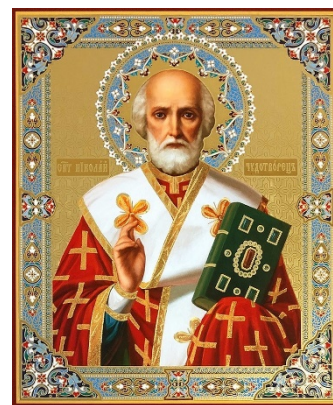


St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – September 11th, 2022

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Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Tone 4 Tropar (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 2 Tropar (St. John the Baptist)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets, for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh, who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy.

Tone 5 Kondak (St. John the Baptist)

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner, became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the law of God, nor eternal life, but that which is false and temporal.

Tone 4 Kondak (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Alleluia Verses

- v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (*Ps. 88:18b*)
- v. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (*Ps. 88:20*)

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24, Gospel - Matthew 21:33-42

Announcements

- **Start of Sunday School for the 2022-2023 School Year - TODAY - September 11th -** Children will report to their classes directly after Communion! Grades PreK-3 in the multipurpose room and grades 4-12 in the Church Hall!
- **No Vespers** - This Saturday, September 17th
- **Save the Date! - September 25th! - Parish Picnic** - We will have a Parish Picnic on 9/25 after Liturgy on the Patio. Please bring your favorite picnic side dish and call Sondra at 412.760-5796 to let her know if you are coming to the picnic, and what you are planning to bring. Join us for Great Music, Great Food, and Great Fun!!
- **Fundraiser to Support Our Tammies** - The St. Nicholas Tamburitzans are gearing up for the 2022-2023 season! We're kicking off the year with a new fundraiser: Mabel's Labels. Mabel's Labels are dishwasher, microwave, and laundry safe - and a great way to tag all you and your child(ren)'s belongings. Order online and ship directly to you! *See flyer for more details.*
 - Go to: https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/
 - Enter St. Nicholas Tamburitzans (Monroeville) into the search bar to shop our fundraiser.

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist - September 11th

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Source:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/08/29/102419-the-beheading-of-the-holy-glorious-prophet-forerunner-and-baptis>

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Complete your online order— ships directly to you!





**Sunday, September 25
After Church on the Patio**

Great music, great food, great fun!

**Please bring your favorite picnic side dish and call Sondra
to let her know:**

- You are coming**
- What you are bringing**

Sondra: 412-760-5796

12-3 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!