

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – September 25th, 2022



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Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

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 4 Tropar (Afterfeast)

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from You, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.

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 4 Kondak (Afterfeast)

By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!

Alleluia Verses

v. He who dwells 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 - Galatians 6:11-18*, 2 Corinthians 4:6-15, Gospel - John 3:13-17*, Luke 5:1-11

* - Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

Magnificat - Tone 8 (Instead of It is Truly Meet)

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!
Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins. But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished. Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify you.

Announcements

- **Please see updated service schedule through Christmas:**
 - <https://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/service-schedule/>
- **Parish Picnic - Today - CANCELED** - Due to lack of interest.
- **Popadija Marina's Baby Sprinkle - October 2nd** - You're all invited! Men, women, children, everyone! In lieu of the picnic, please mark your calendars for this event! The Sprinkle/ Luncheon will be held in the Church Hall after Liturgy on 10/2. Gift Suggestions - Newborn and Size 1 Diapers and Amazon Gift Cards
- **Amazon Smile - Easy way to donate to our church!** - Many of us shop (a lot) at Amazon! Now when you shop at Amazon, .05 percent of your purchase can be donated to our church simply by using this link when you shop! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-6565657>
- **Tammies are Looking for Instruments!** - If anyone has a slightly used tambura, ideally G-Prim or G-Brac they would want to donate or sell to the Tammies please contact Danny Vucelich at 724-261-2956.
- **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.
- **REMINDER - Hall, Kitchen, and Patio Rental/Usage Procedure** - If you or your organization is interested in using our Social Hall, Kitchen, or Patio for either a personal rental, or an Event that will benefit the Church, please be sure to reach out to Natalia via email at office@stnicholasmonroeville.org. For rentals, please include the date of the event, time of the event, number of people expected/invited, whether or not you will be using the kitchen for cooking, and if you want to set up the day prior to the event. I will then clear the date with our calendar, Nick, and Fr. Stefan. Once you receive a confirmation email back from office@stnicholasmonroeville.org the rental/event is then confirmed on our calendar.
 - Our Hall is either rented out or being used by our Organizations for many of the remaining dates in 2022 and we are starting to book 2023 as well. Please be sure to follow the proper procedure so that we avoid confusion. Thank you so much!!

Feast this Week: The Exaltation of the Cross - September 27th

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Excerpt from:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/09/14/102610-the-universal-exaltation-of-the-precious-and-life-giving-cross>

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