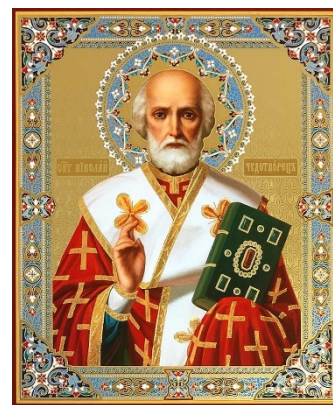


St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – December 3, 2023



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Forefeast of the Presentation of the Mother of God, St. Gregory the Decapolite

Tone 1 Tropar (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 4 Tropar (Forefeast)

Today Anna bequeaths gladness to all instead of sorrow by bringing forth her fruit,¹ the only ever-Virgin. Today, in fulfillment of her vow, joyfully she brings her into the Temple of the Lord as the true Temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

Tone 4 Tropar (Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas)

The day of the joyous celebration has come; the city of Bari rejoices and with it the whole universe leaps from joy, singing the spiritual songs and psalms. For today, the holy feast, on the occasion of the transfer of the honorable and exceedingly healing relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, has shone forth with the radiant rays, like the sun that does not set, driving away the darkness of temptations and calamities from those who faithfully exclaim to thee: “Save us, as our protector, O great Nicholas!”

Tone 4 Tropar (Gregory)

Let us glorify the twin lampstands of divine gifts, Proklos the wise Archpastor of Constantinople, and Gregory, the godly-minded scion of Decapolis; as divinely-inspired Fathers they guide us with the light of grace. Therefore, let us approach and beseech them fervently that we may receive the forgiveness of our sins, and that our souls may be saved.

Tone 1 Kondak (Resurrection)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: “You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 3 Kondak (Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas)

Your relics, O Saint Nicholas, came out as a star from the east to the west. The sea was sanctified by your journey, and the city of Bari, through you, has received the grace. For working for us, you have appeared as an excellent, wonderful and merciful Wonderworker.

Tone 3 Kondak (Gregory)

The Church knows you to be a radiant sun enlightening all with the rays of healing and the beauty of virtue. Therefore, as we celebrate your honored memory, we glorify your struggles, ever-blessèd and most wise Father Gregory.

Tone 4 Kondak (Forefeast)

Today all the world is filled with joy at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, and cries out: “She is the heavenly tabernacle.”

Epistle - Ephesians 5:9-19, **Gospel** - Luke 18:18-27

Alleluia Verses

v. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (*Ps. 17:48*)

v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (*Ps. 17:51*)

Announcements

- **Calling all Children!:** We will be planting wheat for St. Nicholas Day, as well as making a craft to be delivered to our members that are homebound or unwell during Sunday School and during the annual meeting on Dec. 17th. Please encourage all children to join us in the church hall after Communion!
- **Christmas Toy Drive:** We'll be collecting gently used or new toys for those less fortunate in the local area. It's the perfect time of the year to go through your closets to see what is no longer needed, and rather than throwing toys away, you can donate toward a good cause. Our only ask is that when one donates, please bring the toy(s) in a bag and place on the stage (do not wrap the toy). Collection will go through Sunday December 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact Dushan Markoff at 724-493-9084.
- **Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert - 12.10.23:** Our St. Nicholas Church will be hosting the Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert on December 10. Choirs from various Orthodox churches in the Pittsburgh area will be participating including our own St. Nicholas Choir. It promises to be an evening of beautiful Christmas and Liturgical music. We hope to see many of our parishioners in attendance for this special event.
 - **Baking help needed!** - We are in need of bakers to help with posno cakes and cookies for the concert. Bakers should contact Cathy Stupar with what they are baking/bringing. Cathy's contact number is 412.298.9261 and she would prefer to be contacted via text message.
- **Save the Date - Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, December 17, 2023** -We will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting, which will include the election of Church Board officers, on Sunday, December 17th after liturgy. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
- **Noodles for Sale** - You can place your orders for Homemade Noodles now. The noodle ingredients consist of flour, eggs and tender loving care! They can be cut Fine or Wide. They come in 16 ounce bags and cost \$10. Call Pat at 412 372-4239 to place your order.