

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
Rev. Presbyter Milan Dragovic; Cell 385 228 4725
stnicholasjtown@gmail.com

***19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
(October 18th, 2020)***

Holy Martyr Charitina

56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF OUR CHURCH



***MAY THE LORD GOD GRANT OUR CONGREGATION COUNTLESS
PROSPEROUS AND BLESSED YEARS AND PRESERVE OUR CHURCH UNTIL
HIS GLORIOUS AND SECOND COMING!***

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE II:

*The Lord is my strength and my song, * and He is become my salvation*

Verse: *With chastisement hath The Lord chastened me; but He hath not given me over unto death.*

2 CORINTHIANS 11, 31 – 12, 9

Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know, God knows - such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows - how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

LUKE 6: 31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Alleluia Verses

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

O Lord, save the king and hearken unto us, in what day whatsoever we shall call upon Thee.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE II:

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, * then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Godhead. * And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, * all the Hosts of the heavens cried aloud: ** O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

TROPARION - THE TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF SAINT NICHOLAS - TONE IV:

The day of splendid solemnity hath arrived; * and the city of Bari doth rejoice, * and with it the whole world exulteth * with hymns and spiritual odes. * For today we celebrate the sacred feast * of the translation of the precious and much-healing relics * of the hierarch Nicholas the wonder-worker. * For like the never-setting Sun, * he shineth with brilliant beams of light, * driving away the darkness of temptations and misfortunes * from those who with faith cry aloud: * Save us, O Nicholas, ** for thou art our intercessor

TROPARION TO HOLY MARTYR CHARITINA - TONE IV:

Thy ewe-lamb Charitina O Jesus, crieth out with a loud voice: * "Thee do I love, O my Bridegroom, * and, seeking Thee, I endure suffering. * in Thy baptism I am crucified and buried with Thee. * I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; * I die for Thee, that I may live with Thee. * Accept me, who with love sacrifice myself for Thee, * as an unblemished offering!" ** By her supplications save Thou our souls, O most merciful One.

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE II:

Thou didst arise from the tomb, * O all-powerful Savior, * and seeing the marvel Hades was struck with fear, * the dead arose, and creation with Adam seeing this rejoiceth with Thee, ** therefore the world doth glorify Thee, my Savior.

KONTAKION TO SAINT NICHOLAS – TONE III

Thy relics have moved like a star, from the East unto the West, * O holy hierarch Nicholas; * and the sea hath been sanctified by thy passage. * The city of Bari receiveth grace through thee, * for thou hast been shown forth for us * as a wonderworker: ** illustrious, most wondrous and merciful!

GLORY... KONTAKION TO HOLY MARTYR CHARITINA – TONE II:

Rendering thy soul steadfast * with mighty understanding, * O all-blessed Charitina, * thou didst manifestly put to shame the adverse enemy, * arrayed in a robe dyed purple in thy blood; * and thou dost ever rejoice with the angels. ** Pray thou for us, O spiritual athlete.

NOW AND EVER... HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE SIX:

Steadfast Protectress of Christians and constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners; but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you!

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

Christians are called to be different and expected to be different. The daily Christian life is to exhibit and honor the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle Paul expressed the difference in writing to the Corinthians.

The Apostle Paul wrote: “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” (2 Cor. 6:17) Christians are to manifest the virtues and teachings of the Lord.

Holy Apostle Paul made his way of life clear when he said: “Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal.2:20)

Living as a Christian in today’s world is extremely challenging. Aggressive behavior is often heralded. Anger and strong words are often exchanged in human relationships.

Words misused can lead to harmful results in relationships, employment and social interaction. The current Gospel emphasizes Jesus Christ’s teachings on love and forgiveness.

The love of Christ is necessary to do good to those that have been harmful. The love of Christ is required to be kind and charitable to individuals considered to have been enemies.

Each person has to reconcile their relationship with Jesus Christ and learn to take on the characteristics of Jesus Christ in daily life. The Church is where to learn to become Christ-like in personal relationships.

The Church is where to begin life-anew after having failed to follow the ways of Jesus Christ. Jesus welcomes the repenting sinner in the Church and enables the person to begin anew.

The Holy Gospel is proclaimed faithfully in the Church in order for believers to recognize the teachings of Christ and to take them to heart. The Lord knows believers need the repetition of the Gospel to continue to learn.

The Lord Jesus Christ knows each person fails to follow Him completely. Jesus Christ does not give up on the person. Christians are not to give up on themselves or others.

Hope rests in Christ for the renewing of relationships. Christ’s love enables strong relationships to be forged among individuals differing with each other when the love of Christ prevails in the relationship.

The present Gospel teaches Christians to be good and loving in all circumstances as Christ is good and loving. We learn patience from Christ as Christ is patient with each of us.

We learn love from Christ as Christ loves each of us. Jesus Christ is the EXAMPLE to follow in all relationships. The Gospel proclaimed in the Church teaches the way of Christ to be followed.

The truth and validity of Christ’s words become apparent when put into daily practice. Apostle Paul in his writings verified that love never fails. (I Cor. 13)

St. John expanded on love in his Epistles.

St. John was explicit when he wrote: “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

(I Jn.4:7) We make love happen in our lives by turning to Christ.

Turning to Christ enables us to move forward in life as loving humans. Christ helps us to eradicate all within our lives that are not of Christ. Christ's love for us when welcomed into our hearts and minds transforms us.

This transformation is a life-long process requiring the strongest desire in our hearts and minds. Christ makes the change possible if we cling to Him, pray to Him and strive to be faithful to Him.

Failure is to be expected. Christ does not give up on us. We are not to give up on Christ. God's Holy Church offers the nourishment, the teachings and the hope to continue in Christ.

Always begin anew after each failure by turning to Christ and appealing for help. The world is viewed differently when viewed through the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Gospel in God's Holy Church enables believers to see the world as Christ would have the world to be seen. The Gospel contains Christ's teachings on human relationships and interactions founded in love.

Believers make the choices to love and to forgive. Loving and forgiving impacts and changes relationships. The home, the neighborhood and the workplace benefit when love and forgiveness prevail.

Today is the day to begin anew in Christ. Every day, begin anew in Christ. We know from the Apostle Paul: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new". (2 Cor. 5:17)

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 11TH

Thank you for your continuing financial support! Please, remember that without our fund raisers and fish fries that we cannot hold at this time, your contributions are more important than ever.

Offering \$1004.00; Candles \$33.00; Dues \$150.00; Seminary \$24.00; Pork Chop Dinner profit \$1129.00

Donation to the Building Fund in memory of Sandy Simko for \$20 from Tony & Linda Freidhoff & Daughters

BELL TOWER FUND - \$20,228.88

\$150 in memory of Michael & Evelyn Raich from Ann & Tom Luy. Ev & Steve King & Mike & Mary Raich; \$100 in memory of Charles, Christine, & Michael Bulich from Olga Bulich

Large Candle Donations

In memory of Mie Tumbas from Milica Knepp

In memory of Amelia I Joe Kondash from Richard Kondash

In memory of Eva Viswish Johnson from Cameron Palmer

In memory of Bosal Lazo Vockovich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Damjana I Lazo Gjurich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Mildred Tumbas (22 yr departed) from Milica Knepp

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE LARGE CANDLES (\$25) - THANK YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY at 7:45 PM – Evening Prayer through the Conference call (339) 207-6529

SATURDAY (October 24th)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (October 25th) – 20th Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Fathers of 7th Ecumenical Council

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Gal. 1, 11-19 & Heb. 13, 7-16); Gospel (Lk. 7, 11-16 & Jn. 17, 1-13)

SUNDAY (November 1st) - Liturgy time change– 10:00 AM

FRIDAY (November 6th) – FISH FRY

3:30 PM-6:30 PM - Take Out only. No phone in orders.

SUNDAY (November 22nd) - Thanksgiving luncheon

11:30-12:30 Take out only (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, green beans, yams, pumpkin pie) - \$10

FISH FRY, tentative December 4th

Dear ones,

Please, keep in your hearted prayers our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

- who suffer of cancer: Jenifer, Linda
- who pray the God for the restoration of health: Irine (Martinovich), Grace (Vuckovich), Ranka (Banda), Edward (Gartell), George (Momcilovic), Nektarios
- who passed away – Sandra (Simko)