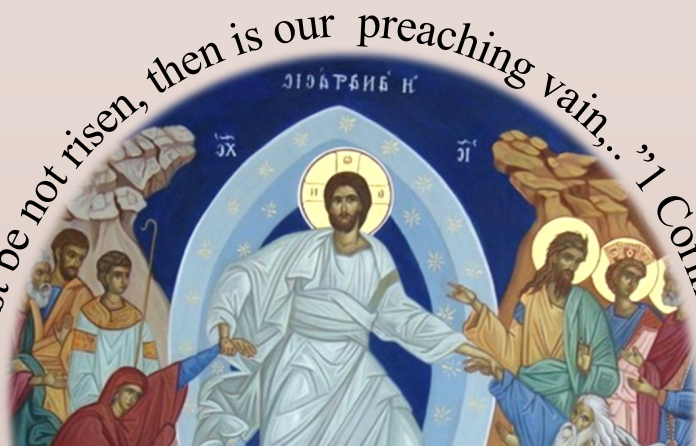


If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.. '1 Corint. 15:14



# ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



## The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

(Matthew 9:1-8) -

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

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*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday July 16, 2017*

Sunday, July 3/16, 2017. 6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Martyr Hyacinth; St. Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople

- Liturgical Readings: Gospel St. Matthew (9,1-8).

*Epistle: Rome (12, 6-14).*

- **Donations Received Sunday July 9, 2017**

Offering \$1285.00 Candles \$47.00 Dues \$135.00 Funerals \$400.00

Donations to the Building Fund include

In memory of Ben Kaseler for \$10 and Dorothy Smrzlich for \$10 from the Kolo

In memory of Sylvester Saula for \$10 from Louise Brudnak, Gloria Cernic, Aggie and

Eileen Malysko. For \$20 from Sylvester Gjurich, David & Dorothy Beltz, John Yarina,

Dan & Dianne Tomak, Donna Yarina. For \$25 from Joan Spampinato, Michael, Lynn

& Conner Kelly, Evalyn Bradnak, Suzette & Dick Gardenhour, Mr & Mrs Edward

Gregorchik. For \$50 from MaryLou Oyler, Steve Purich. For \$100 from Milan Saula &

Sons, Robert Shahade, Bill & Mary Kelly, Nick & Emma Saula, Kim & David Haggin

Large Candle donations In Memory of Victoria Bartis, Dudukovich & Knezevich

Families, Stella & Steve Baich, Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

The Fish Fry for July 21<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled

- **Announcements :**

- Sunday, July 23, 2017-Sunday School picnic trip to Idlewild Park. (Sing up in hall, for more info call Rose Marinkovich).
- Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017- New Marcha Monastery Patronal Feast and Agape—*Slava* in Richfield, Ohio.
- Diocesan Day Celebration on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ,10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by a picnic and program, featuring our Folklore Group from Tambura Week, as well as music for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment.

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 9:1-8)** -Certain scribes were not willing to accept Christ's words. Many individuals today reject Christ's words. Individuals not going to church are proof greater importance is placed other than on the Holy Gospel.

If more people accepted the authenticity of the words of Christ, greater numbers of people would be attending church regularly. Where individuals spend their time, where they spend their income and where they invest their talents are strong indications of where their interests are. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mt.6:21) The words of the critical scribes were challenging. They took issue with what Jesus had said. The scribes' words were an attack on His authority. Jesus was viewed simply as a man. His divinity was not recognized. The critical scribes did not give credence to the power of Jesus. Their statement did not reflect understanding that the paralytic's sins were forgiven. The cheer Jesus encouraged in the paralytic was in direct contrast to the mood conveyed by the critical scribes. Two views existed. Jesus had the ability to know the thoughts of the critical scribes. Their motivation did not escape Jesus. Evil cannot be hidden from Jesus. The scribes were witnesses and had the choice to rejoice at being present. They had the choice to praise Christ and welcome His words. Some individuals today choose to reject and be critical of accounts of good by Jesus and in the name of Jesus. Accepting and welcoming Christ requires conscious decisions. The power of choice rests with each individual. Jesus questioned the scribes as to why they had evil in their hearts. How often today is the question asked as to why a certain individual has evil in his or her heart? Why is it that in a certain family that evil reigns in one member's heart and good is present in the hearts of other family members? Why is it that in certain families good seems to be ever present and in other families evil seems to be ever present? The heart is the battleground. When Christ prevails, good is forthcoming. When evil prevails, the evil behavior reflects the contents of the heart. Care must be taken in what is permitted to enter and remain in the heart. Jesus wanted the scribes to appreciate His identity. He wanted the scribes to realize the extent of His power. Jesus posed a question to the challenging scribes. The critical scribes had to weigh the complexities of the forgiveness of sins with the intricacies of physically healing. The scribes had to determine who has the power to forgive sins and whether they were willing to recognize Jesus as the forgiver of sins. If done other than by Christ, healing the paralytic would be no easy matter. If healing the paralytic physically were easy, perhaps it would have already taken place. The verbal exchange between Jesus and the critical scribes was not a simple exchange of words between the adverse scribes and a mere man. The reading of the Gospel at each Divine Liturgy reaches deep into the minds of attentive listeners. Great attention is necessary when the Holy Gospel is being read. Believers need to focus on the words of Christ and the thinking of Christ crafted in the words being used. Jesus uses the words "The Son of Man" in His response to the scribes. Jesus' identity becomes far reaching. Listeners to the Gospel today are required to think about the meaning of the "Son of Man." Listeners to the Gospel have to consider the healing taking place and compare it with the forgiveness of sins. Neither action can be taken lightly. The forgiveness of sins necessitates the greatest spiritual authority. Physical healing involves control of the body. Believers attending the Divine Liturgy are to use their minds to learn about God. Believers are expected to leave the Divine Liturgy as better Christians than when they entered. Coming to the Divine Liturgy includes the expectation of experiencing the Kingdom of God. The Divine Liturgy offers the experience of being united with God. Human beings find their origin in God. Human beings find their completeness in God. The power of choice in learning about God rests with the person. Choosing to draw near to God and consciously being united with God rests with the person. The scribes would come to know more about Jesus. They would be subject to an experience of lasting value. (By V. Rev. Stav. Rodney Torbic)



***The Prophets: Book of Haggai***

*“Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying, “Is it time for you to dwell in you paneled houses, while this house stands in ruins?” (Haggai)*

The prophet Haggai was called by God close to 520 BC and in a period of four months Haggai delivered his prophecies. As with the book of Obadiah, the book of Haggai is brief; however, the messages have endured over the years.

In 586 BC, Jerusalem of the land of Judah was destroyed by the Babylonians and the people were taken into captivity in what is now the country of Iraq. Eventually the Persians dominated the Babylonians and the Persians allowed a segment of Jews to return to Jerusalem close to 539 BC. Once the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem they laid the foundation to rebuild the temple of God. However, the work they began soon came to a halt for several reasons. Eighteen years had passed when God called Haggai to preach to the Jews to begin work on the temple. God was displeased that the people had their own homes while God had no house for His worship and sacrifice. God said, *“You looked for much, but little came, and when it was brought into the house I blew it away, because My house is desolate while each one of you hurries to his own house, because of this the heavens above you will withhold the dew, and the earth withhold its fruit.”* Thus in the eighteenth year after their return to Jerusalem, God limited the harvest through a drought and food shortages were soon to take place. In 520 BC, the Jewish people began rebuilding the Temple of the Lord and it was completed in 515 BC. The Temple was called Zerubbabel’s temple, also called the second Temple. It was named after the leader of the Jewish people who had returned from Babylonian captivity. Zerubbabel was also a descendant of King David. This second Temple of God lasted approximately 500 years before Herod the King, the same King Herod from the time of our Lord, began a 40 year renovation program, completed in 64 AD. This third temple, also called Herod’s temple, was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

For us, there are several take away messages from the book of Haggai. First, get your priorities in order; in other words, take care of your spiritual needs first and then focus on your earthly needs. Second, as you put your spiritual priorities in order, you will be blessed by God, for He says, *“I am with you, says the Lord Almighty. And My Spirit remains among you; take courage.”* Third, the rebuilding of the temple of God was to remind the Jewish people that God wanted to live among them, with His people; however, without the temple, the people became distracted by everyday life and for years, God was out of the picture, out of their minds. Remember that God caught their attention by using a drought. Thus God wants to live with you and to walk with you. Lastly, remember that you are a temple of God, originally made in the beauty of Solomon’s temple but later destroyed by sin, and eventually rebuilt through the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, this time clothed with righteousness and with more beauty than Solomon’s temple. Remember to rebuild your body into the temple of our Lord through prayer and fasting: God will be with you.

Bless the Lord O my soul and everything within me, bless His Holy Name. Amen!



# Idlewild<sup>TM</sup> -AND- SoakZone<sup>TM</sup>

*Sunday School Trip - July 23, 2017*

*For more info contact Rose Marinkovich (814) 241-6510*





## Invitation to Diocesan Day on Saturday, August 5th

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Eastern American Diocese,

It is with exceedingly great joy and anticipation that we write to invite all faithful and friends of our God-protected Diocese to our annual **Diocesan Day Celebration and Patronal Celebration of the Venerable Mother Angelina at Shadeland, 25072 State Highway #18, Springboro, PA 16435, on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Diocesan Day activities will begin at 10:00 AM,** with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by a picnic and program, featuring our Folklore Group from Tambura Week, as well as music for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment.

All concelebrating clergy are asked to bring gold/white vestments. We ask that churches arrange transportation for their interested members.

We look forward to spending Saturday, August 5th with all of you at our beautiful St. Sava Camp and Shadeland Diocesan Estate.

With Archpastoral blessings and Paternal love,

**+IRINEJ**

**BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA**

