

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*

New Marcha Monastery Patronal Feast and Agape—Slava in Richfield, Ohio.



Wednesday, July 26th, 2017

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 AM.

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday July 23, 2017

Sunday, July 10/23, 2017. 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy 45 Martyrs at Nicopolis in Armenia; Ven. Antony of the Kiev Caves

- *Liturgical Readings:* *Gospel* St. Matthew (9, 27-35).

Epistle: Rome (15, 1-7).

- **Donations Received Sunday July 16, 2017**

Offering \$671.00 Candles \$29.00 Dues \$270.00 Charity \$24.00

Donation of \$100 in honor of George & Kate McDowell's wedding anniversary

Donations to the Building Fund

In memory of Sylvester Saula for \$50 from Evelyn Dimpfl, for \$25 from Edward &

Delores Gartrell and \$25 from George & Amelia Moncilovich

In memory of John Gjurich for \$20 from Michael & Mary Raich and \$20 from

Richard & Suzette Gardenhour

In memory of Judy Raich for \$50 from Michael & Mary Raich and \$50 from

Ann & Tom Luy

In memory of Michael & Evelyn Raich for \$100 from Ann and Tom Luy, Ev & Steve

King and Michael & Mary Raich

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

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

Announcements :

- Wednesday, July 26th, 2017- New Marcha Monastery Patronal Feast and Agape—*Slava* in Richfield, Ohio. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 AM
- Diocesan Day Celebration on Saturday, August 5th, 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.

Romans 15:1-7(KJV)

15 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

² Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

⁵ Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

⁶ That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 9:27-35)

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto Him, Yea, Lord. Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad His fame in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (KJV)

Homily by Very Rev. Stav. Rodney Torbic -The two blind men were attracted to the Lord Jesus Christ. They followed Jesus and were seeking His mercy. The Lord Jesus Christ is the source of immeasurable love and mercy.

Wise individuals of every century turn to Christ and follow Him seeking salvation. The blind men articulated their need for mercy. They made a connection between the Lord Jesus Christ and David. The blind men initiated contact with Jesus. They actively sought improvement through the Lord Jesus Christ. Being passive has no place in Christianity. The Lord Jesus Christ and all of His

ardent followers were active. Serious Christians living the contemplative life are active in silent prayer and meditating upon the Lord God. A certain amount of action and initiative is required to live the full life in Christ. Even when Christ makes the initial contact with a person, initiative and faithfulness are necessary to follow Christ. Attacks from the evil one and temptations that plague Christians require conscious decisions to follow the narrow path.(Mt. 7:13-14) The blind men would need to be very close to Christ to follow Him. They would have to be within the sound of Christ or have someone to assist them. The Lord Jesus Christ plumbed the depth of the blind men's faith when He asked if they believed He could make a difference in their lives. The blind men answered affirmatively. The interaction between Jesus and the two blind men connected them. By the blind men's answer to His question, Jesus assessed the depth of their faith. We read in I John 4:15-"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he is in God." The two blind men saw in Jesus a difference that made Jesus stand apart from others. By coming to Jesus, the blind men by-passed others and were selective in their pursuit of mercy. The Creed recited at Holy Baptism and at each Divine Liturgy summarizes the basic Christian profession of faith. This confession of faith sets Christians apart from others believing differently. The Church has gone to great lengths to put forth the basic profession of faith and to maintain fidelity to this profession of faith through the centuries. Each believer is expected to adhere to The Creed. From Baptism until departure from this life, faithfulness to The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed is expected from Christians. The blind men perceived in the Lord Jesus Christ a reason to hope for the betterment of their lives. Jesus offers improvement to each person drawing near to Him and choosing to live in Him. Jesus equated the depth of the blind men's faith with what they could expect from Him. This is similar to the section in The Lord's Prayer where forgiveness of others affects forgiveness of the self. Individuals living in Christ unite with Christ. The Holy Apostle Paul described this unity when he said: "...Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."(Gal.2:20) Jesus touched and spoke to the blind men. Individuals living today believing in Christ will experience His touch and hear His word. We know from the Holy Scriptures: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."(Heb.13:8). Time passes. Centuries pass. Jesus affects the sight of men, women and children today turning to Him in faith. Individuals looking for Christ in daily life will find Him. Individuals choosing to follow Christ in daily life will have their paths brightened and the kingdom of God set before them. The Psalmist said: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."(Ps.118/119:105). The Lord Jesus Christ said: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."(Jn.8:12). Individuals make choices by the moment whether to follow Christ and seek His kingdom. Decisions made have cumulative results. When sin dominates, a quagmire is created. Darkness sets in. Following Christ takes the person from darkness to light. Repentance lifts clouds of gloom and cures despondency. The road to wellness begins with Christ. Wellness is maintained by following Christ. Spiritual wellness affects the bodily condition and the attitude toward the condition of the body. Jesus opened the eyes of the blind men. The lives of the men who were blind had been radically changed by the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord Jesus Christ open our hearts and minds and heal us. Amen! *(Article by Carlos Garcia)*



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 5th, 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

