

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*



## *Diocesan Day Celebration* *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.*

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*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday July 30, 2017*

**Sunday, July 17/30, 2017. 8th Sunday after Pentecost;  
Holy Fathers of first 6 Council, Holy Greatmartyr Marina**

- **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. Matt. (14, 14-22)&St. Jn (17, 1-13).*

*Epistle: 1 Col. (1, 10-18)&Heb. (13, 7-16).*

- **Donations Received Sunday July 23, 2017**

Offering \$1050.00 Candles \$34.00 Dues 90.00 Funeral \$300.00

Donation of \$100 in memory of Milton Paulovich from Sylvia Holt

Donations to the Building Fund for \$25 in memory of Sylvester Sau;a

From Richard & Olga Lucas

In memory of brother-in-law John Vuletic for \$50 from Betty Majher

In memory of brother Pete Velemirovich for \$50 from Betty Majher

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

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

- ***Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils (John 17:1-13)***

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given Me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (KJV)

● ***The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Mt.14:14-22)***

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick. And when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to Me. And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. And straightway Jesus constrained His disciples to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. (KJV)

**Homily By Ver. Rev. Stav. Rodney Torbic**-The Lord Jesus Christ related with individuals and large groups during His time in the flesh on earth. The present Gospel of St. Matthew speaks about the compassion of Jesus and His power to heal the sick. In times of bereavement, in times of tragedy and when family difficulties arise, believers will turn to Christ seeking His compassion and His power of healing. Believers commonly turn to Christ in prayer. The current Gospel message of St. Matthew reinforces the compassion and healing powers of Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ told the Holy Apostle Peter: "I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."(Mt.16:18) The current Gospel message reveals the resourcefulness and power of Jesus. The capability of Jesus far exceeded the expectations of the disciples. Jesus provided a solution where none seemed evident. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "With God all things are possible."(Mt.19:26) When believers are frustrated and face situations having no apparent solution, turning to God in faith will provide a solution. Turning to Christ in all undertakings is the best direction to take. The disciples came to Jesus knowing that action was needed. The relationship between the disciples and Jesus was sufficient for their appeal to take place. Sincerity and seriousness are fundamental in coming to Christ. Jesus was willing to hear the disciples. Jesus continues to listen to believers to the present day. We learn about Jesus by carefully examining His responses to appeals, requests and prayers. We learn about Jesus by praying to Him, listening to Him through the Holy Gospel and studying about Jesus in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus did not delay feeding the multitude. He perceived their hunger and wanted it satisfied. Jesus directed the disciples to act immediately. Jesus strengthened and nourished the multitude. All individuals present benefitted from the physical and spiritual nourishment. Individuals never need to depart from the presence of Christ when they are hungry. Individuals never need turn from Christ to seek any form of nourishment. Food for the body and food for the soul comes from God. God is



everywhere and knows the needs of each person. Individuals turning to other than God to seek nourishment for the soul will always be disappointed. The disciples were required to revise their thinking. The disciples had to consider feeding the multitude. The ways of God seem challenging and difficult at times. The disciples felt that challenge from Jesus. Individuals following Christ may at times feel uncertain and even anxious. The uncertainty and even anxiety are put to rest by listening carefully and being obedient to Christ. The disciples would quickly learn of the far reaching power of Christ. The disciples would learn the unlimited possibilities existing in Christ. Believers benefit from thinking carefully about their views and attitudes towards God. Many years ago Proto Radovan Milkovich wrote an article entitled "A God Too Small." The present Gospel gives a lesson in the expansive powers of God. Believers need to assess if personal views held about God are too minimal. The disciples found out that the Lord Jesus Christ had greater capabilities than imagined. The disciples felt the existing amount of food was inadequate. God can make minimal resources become inexhaustible. Centuries before the current Gospel was written the Holy Prophet Elijah met a widow in Zarephath. The woman would learn from Elijah how the power of God would multiply her small amount of oil and flour into an abundant supply. (I Kings 17:8-16)

Let us regularly review our thoughts about the greatness and majesty of God. Let us behold His greatness as known through the centuries. May our lives ever be grateful and amazed by God's goodness and majesty.

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**Article by St. Nikolaj Velimirovic** A man adorns simple clothing and ornate clothing adorns a man. Simple clothing calls attention to the man, but ornate clothing calls attention to itself. The passion for ornate clothing simply drains and withers the soul of man. This is the real reason why the Church from time immemorial stood against opulence in dress and recommended the simple and plain. Among the countless Christian saints there is no mention of one for whom ornate clothing helped to attain sanctity. Many great and wise kings, not only Christians but also heathens, loved simplicity in dress. Thus, it is said that the Emperor Augustus Octavius, during whose reign the Lord Christ was born wore only simple clothing which was woven for him by his wife, sister or daughter. Of King Charles V, it is said, that he wore such simple clothing that even ordinary citizens, his subjects, were better dressed than he. A man once invited the glorious Greek military general Philopomenes to dinner in whose home he had never previously entered. Philopomenes arrived at the home of his host a little early. The host had not yet arrived and, the hostess not knowing Philopomenes personally and seeing him attired in simple clothing, thought that he was a servant of Philopomenes who was sent in advance to inform her husband of the coming of the military general. Because of this, she ordered him to chop wood. Philopomenes willingly acceded to her command and began to chop wood. When the host came and saw what this honored guest was doing, he was horrified and asked him: "Who dared to give this type of work to Philopomenes?" Quietly, the military general answered: "My clothing."



## 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**

