

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



**Kontakion to St. Mardarije of Libertyville, Tone 8:-** *Tireless preacher of Christ the Lord, Leader on the path of St. Sava for your people in diaspora, Labor-loving practitioner and teacher of repentance, Holy Mardarije of Libertyville and America, Together with all the Enlighteners of the American lands, Entreat the only Lover of Mankind, To grant all Orthodox Christians peace and unity!*

*A m e n!*

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*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday July 9, 2017*

Sunday, June 26/July 9, 2017. 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Venerable David of Thessalonica

Liturgical Readings: Gospel St. Matthew (8, 28-34;9,1).

Epistle: Rome (10, 1-10).

• **Donations Received Sunday July 2, 2017**

Offering \$1150.00 Candles \$24

Donation to Sunday School for \$25 in memory of mother Dorothy (Vuckovich) Bernard From Denise Bell

Donation of \$200 from Dianna Dunnington in honor of Dianna & Ronald's Wedding Anniversary

Donations to the Building Fund in memory of Sylvester Saula \$20 from John & Patti Pavich and Lazo & Debbie Gjurich. \$25 from Thomas Locher \$30 from Michael & Mary Raich, and Peter & Joanne Todorich \$40 from Luck & Linda Villa \$200 from RDM-Johnstown

**Announcements :**

- Next Fish Fry will be July 21st
- Idlewild Park July 23, 2017 (Sing up in hall. Also if anyone interested in going to Kennywood July 14 and 15 call Rose Marinkovich. Thank you!)
- It is with untold joy, that we most sincerely invite all clergy, monastics and faithful of the Diocese of Eastern America to participate in the Pan-Orthodox Glorification of the newly revealed St. Mardarije of Libertyville and All America, our first Serbian Orthodox Bishop of America and Canada, led by His Holiness the Archbishop Pech, Metropolitan Belgrade-Karlovci and Serbian Patriarch IRINEJ, which will take place as follows:

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

Symposium at Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago

5:00 PM - Vespers at the Cathedral

**SATURDAY, JULY 15**

9:30 AM - Patriarchal Divine Liturgy in New Gračanica Monastery in Third Lake

5:00 PM - Glorification Vigil at St. Sava Monastery

**SUNDAY, JULY 16**

9:30 AM - Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville

1:00 PM - Banquet and Program at St. Sava Monastery

**The Life of St. Mardarije of Libertyville**-Born in village of Kornet, Ljesani County, in Montenegro, on November 2, 1889, to pious parents Petar and Jela Uskokovic, he was baptized in his village church dedicated to St. George and received his baptismal name Ivan. His mother was from the well-known Bozovic family. Both of his parents were well respected in their community holding the office of leadership and particularly his father was a captain of their clan.

Considering his parents' status, young Ivan was sent to further his education, first in Rijeka Crnojevic, Cetinje, and then in Belgrade, Serbia. While in Belgrade, young Ivan advanced his childhood desire to serve God and the Church, and so from there he headed to monastery Studenica where after a short period of novice life he gets tonsured to monasticism having received the name Mardarije. With the decision of the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church, now young hierodeacon Mardarije is sent to Russia where he spent twelve years (1905-1917) furthering his theological education and growing in wisdom. From there, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church sent him to the United States of America to organize the Serbian Orthodox Church. On December 1, 1923, now archimandrite Mardarije is appointed as administrator of the Serbian American-Canadian diocese with the see in Chicago and that same year he purchased around ten acres of land in Libertyville, Illinois, where later St. Sava monastery was built. He was elected by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church as the first bishop for the newly established diocese in America on December 7, 1925, and his consecration took place on Palm Sunday, the Feast of the Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, on April 25, 1926.

From then on His Grace Bishop Mardarije, the first bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, labored tirelessly in building churches, St. Sava monastery in Libertyville, sowing Christian love, spread peace, preached and witnessed the Gospel of Christ throughout his diocese. In spite of inescapable worldly trends, he lived spontaneity of truth and a provision of grace, just because Life has dawned from the Tomb, and is dawning still. Having labored as bishop for a little over nine years he died peacefully on December 12, 1935, hospitalized in Ann Arbor, Michigan, while writing his last Nativity Encyclical to his beloved flock. His earthly remains were laid to rest at St. Sava monastery in Libertyville. The Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church during its regular session held from May 14-29, 2015 brought forth a decision that his name be added to the Diptych of saints of the Holy Orthodox Church.

From the Holy Hierarch Mardarije, we see how the grace of God reaches the heart of our cities, bringing to the confusion of the world the breeze of the Spirit and the serenity of the Age to come.

**Troparion of Sts. Mardarije and Sebastian:**-O God of our Fathers, Always act with kindness towards us; Take not Your mercy from us, But through the prayers of Saints Mardarije and Sebastian Guide our lives in peace. **Kontakion to St. Mardarije of Libertyville, Tone 8:-** Tireless preacher of Christ the Lord, Leader on the path of St. Sava for your people in diaspora, Labor-loving practitioner and teacher of repentance, Holy Mardarije of Libertyville and America, Together with all the Enlighteners of the American lands, Entreat the only Lover of Mankind, To grant all Orthodox Christians peace and unity!

***The Prophets: Book of Obadiah***

*Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom shall be the Lord's. (Obadiah 21)*

The prophet Obadiah is the shortest book in the bible consisting of only 21 verses. However, the message is of utter judgment to the land of Edom. To understand the book of Obadiah, one has to go back to the time of Isaac. Isaac had two sons: Esau, the oldest, and Jacob, the youngest. Jacob, by tricking an old Isaac, received the birthright that belonged to the oldest son, Esau. As expected, Esau became and remained bitter for years; however, as time passed, the two brothers, Jacob and Esau, reconciled. Despite the brothers reconciling, the children of Esau never forget the deception and bitterness caused by Jacob's action years ago. Jacob had 12 sons, who became the 12 tribes of Israel. Esau had children who developed the land of Edom, which was just south of Israel. The two nations of Israel and Edom were actually "brother nations." However, sometimes family disputes turn into fighting, and this is what happened to Israel and Edom. One story to remember is the time when Moses and the children of Jacob were attempting to cross the land of Edom to get to the promise land; however, Edom refused their passage, and Moses and the children of Jacob had to go around the land of Edom.

In 722 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel, consisting of 10 of the 12 tribes of the sons of Jacob, was destroyed by the Assyrians due to their utter disobedience and rejection of God. Then, in 586 BC, the southern kingdom, consisting of the last 2 of the 12 tribes of the sons of Jacob, was destroyed by the Babylonians also for their disobedience and rejection of God. The children of Esau sat back and watched the southern kingdom be destroyed. However, the children of Esau rejoiced and gloated over the destruction of Jerusalem. Instead of helping their neighbor and brother in need, the children of Esau killed some of the Jews who were escaping from Jerusalem or they captured the Jews and returned them to the Babylonians into captivity. Furthermore, the children of Esau searched through the remains of the cities of the southern kingdom looking for loot they could return to Edom. By 553 BC, God had seen enough and pronounced utter judgment upon Edom for what they did and didn't do to the children of Jerusalem.

Sometime before Edom's destruction, God called the prophet Obadiah, whose name means servant of God. The prophet Obadiah is perhaps the only prophet who does not warn the northern or southern kingdoms of Israel of their destruction if they did not repent, but rather, the shortest book in the Bible is geared primarily to Edom, warning them that God will take revenge upon them for what they had done to the southern kingdom of Judah and Benjamin. In contrast to most of the prophets who provided hope of a return to rebuild what the children of Jacob had lost, the prophet Obadiah speaks of destruction of Edom, with no hope of returning to their land. In other words, their land will be no more. And Obadiah further writes, *"As you have done, it shall be done to you."* And as God spoke through Obadiah, there was no more Edom for it was completely destroyed by an invading army.

The story of Obadiah in only 21 verses describes God's judgment upon Edom and upon their pride and upon their failure to help their brother in need. What do we learn from the shortest book of the Bible? The answer is found in the emergence of the Golden Rule. To the children of Esau, Obadiah said, *"As you have done, it shall be done to you"*; and to us our Lord Jesus Christ teaches *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and Prophets."* For us the message is not to rejoice or gloat when our neighbor falls, but rather help your neighbor in their time of need. Thus, remember the Golden Rule and remember to love your neighbor as oneself.

Bless the Lord O my soul and everything within me, bless His Holy Name. Amen! *(By Carlos G.)*





# 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**

