

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



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

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Sunday of All Saints

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday June 11, 2017

Sunday, May 29/June 11, 2017. Sunday of All Saints

• **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel* St. Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30).

Epistle: Heb. (11, 33-40).

• **Donations Received Sunday June 4, 2017**

Offering \$1217.00 Candles \$60.00 Dues \$135.00 Donations \$70.00

Large Candle donations in memory of Donna Trbovich Wharton, Benjamin Kaseler , Nancy Adams , Mildred Krzanowsky and Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

• **The Sunday of All Saints** (*Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30*) -Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (KJV)

Hymns of the Feast -Adorned in the blood of Your Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Your Church, through them, does cry unto You, O Christ God, "Send down Your compassion upon Your people; grant peace to Your commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls." **Kontakion** As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presents the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto You, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, through the pure Theotokos, O You Who are most merciful.

Introduction The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Background -Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood. Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers). In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen. (www.goarch.org)

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church School, June 11, 2017 •The Prophets

Then I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. So I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession. I said, "O Lord God, great and marvelous, who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and keep Your commandments—we sinned and did wrong. We acted lawlessly, fell away, and turned away from Your commandments and judgments. Neither did we obey Your servants the prophets who spoke in Your name to our kings, our rulers, our fathers, and to all the people in the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but shame of face belongs to us, as it is today, to the men of Judah, to those who dwell in Jerusalem and to all Israel, those near and far in all the earth, wherever you scattered them in their faithlessness by which they rejected You. O Lord, shame of face belongs to us, our kings, our rulers, and to our fathers who sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, whereas we fell away. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by the hands of His servants the prophets. There the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has come upon us, because we sinned against You.... O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay for Your sake, O my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name." Daniel 9

The above passage was written by Daniel during the Babylonian captivity somewhere between the years 605 to 530 BC. Daniel describes the sins of the people and their rejection of the Lord. Unfortunately, Daniel's prayer appears to be describing the state of our current times. The book of Daniel is calling the people to return to God and to reject the worship of idols. He describes that we should "walk in His laws" Throughout history, God has sent His prophets to awaken His children, to remind them of the path that they should walk, to warn them of the perils and dangers of rejecting Him, and also to have them repent and return unto Him.

This summer, we shall explore the lives of several of God's prophets, and we shall try to understand their messages from God, so that perhaps our eyes shall be opened and our hearts shall know and understand His Word. One example of understanding the word of God can be found in the Psalms in which His servant David writes that blessed is the man whose delight and will is in the law of the Lord, for this man shall be like a tree planted by streams of waters and shall be strong and rooted in the Lord.

Several speakers have made reference to the understanding and love of God's laws by using the analogy of learning to play a sport. Whichever sport you try to learn, you begin with the most basic rules, and you begin playing the game in the most basic form. As you grow older and gain more experience, you begin to learn more rules and the sport you try to learn becomes easier and you have a better appreciation of the game. And as you grow older, you come to find an inner joy from playing the sport every day, anywhere, and with anyone, by following the established rules. On the other hand, you will eventually find out that there is no inner freedom or inner joy when everyone is making their own rules each time you play and every place you play. Rather than enjoying the game, you shall have total chaos; and each shall become like a tree planted in the desert, dry and wilted. God gave His laws to Moses, and they have been passed to each generation. These laws have not changed. And His laws shall give your soul peace despite the worldly chaos around you.

Today, let us remember Daniel, a man of God, who lived his life in exile in Babylonia, who never returned to his land of Jerusalem, who remained faithful to God despite his captivity, who remained steadfast in God's laws despite the external world around him, and who trusted and hoped in God despite his hardships even when he was thrown into the lions' den. And when Daniel received a meal from God when in the lions' den, Daniel said: *"You have remembered me O God, and You have not forsaken those who love You."* Let us also remember the great individuals that have come before us to teach us and to remind us of our Lord and of His laws. Let us remember their examples of prayer, repentance, fasting, and "practice of virtues" to the poor and the sick and their call to return to God. Remember the four major prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Remember the twelve minor prophets of the Old Testament: Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Remember the non-writing prophets of the Old Testament: Elijah, Elisha, Gad, and Nathan. Lastly, remember Daniel when you receive Holy Communion and when you, dressed in the garment of His righteousness, share the meal that He has prepared for you and to those who love Him, just as He did with Daniel. Love the Lord and walk in His laws. Amen!
(Article by Carlos Garcia)

Church School Graduation in Johnstown



RAISING TOMORROW'S SAINTS

The purpose of Sunday School is to teach our children how to live their Orthodox faith. By teaching them about the life of Christ, we give them the foundation to live Christian lives, to go out into the world and share their faith and do good works.

Our Fabulous Sunday School Teachers for 2016/17

Director: Rose Marinkovich, PreSchool & Kindergarten: Danielle Ribaric

1st/12th Grade: Linda Freidhoff, Carlos Garcia

THANK YOU!

