



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

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



The Second Sunday after Pentecost

(Matthew 4:18-23) *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday June 18, 2017

***Sunday, June 5/18, 2017. 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Holy
Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre, Venerable Peter of Korisha***

- *Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Step-fathers and Godfathers of our parish community.*

• **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. Matthew (4, 18-23).*

Epistle: Rome (2, 10-16).

- **Donations Received Sunday June 11, 2017**

Offering \$598.00 Candles \$27.00 Dues \$90.00 Charity \$32.00

Building Fund donation in memory of Stella Baich for \$100 from Nicholas and Karen Szmyd Large

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

Next Fish Fry will be July 21st

□ **The Second Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 4:18-23)**

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (KJV);

Epistle: Rome (2, 10-16). But glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church School -***The Prophets: Book of Malachi*** (June 18, 2017)

I have loved you” says the Lord.” But you say, “How have you loved us.” Malachi 1

The prophet Malachi of the tribe of Levi, lived near Jerusalem at some point between the years 500 to 350 BC. His name means “messenger” or “angel.” His book is considered to be one of the last books written by the prophets before the coming of the Messiah. Prior to Malachi’s message, the city of Jerusalem and the temple of God had been destroyed in the year 586 BC by the Babylonians, and the people had been into captivity for 70 years. The city of Jerusalem and the temple of God were rebuilt, and the temple of God was consecrated in the year 515 BC. Religious life returned to Jerusalem and sacrifices were again offered to God; however, as the years passed, the Jewish leaders, priests, and people began to turn away from God again. And the prophet Malachi soon begins to tell the people that God is displeased with them.

The prophet Malachi writes, *“A son honors his father and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is my honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due me?”* says the Lord. Malachi writes how the people were bringing sick animals to be sacrificed to God, and the priests were using defiled bread to be placed on God’s altar. Instead of praising God from the heart, the people and priests were going through the motions of honoring God. Furthermore, the Jewish people were forgetting the poor, the orphans, and the widows. Malachi writes, *“If you will not hear and if you will not take it to heart to give glory to My name, says the Lord Almighty, I will send a curse upon you and I will curse your blessing and you will have it no more because you do not take this to heart.”*

The book of Malachi contains a question and answer format as if God is talking to His people and the people respond to Him. This was to show how cynical the people had become towards God and His laws. For example, God says *“I have loved you,”... “But you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’* Imagine if you loved someone deeply from the heart and, one day, your love had meant nothing to that person. How would you feel? Perhaps your heart would be pierced with pain and sadness when you heard the words from the person you cared for, that your love was not even appreciated. Still the Lord in His mercy, kindness, and love tells the people to *“Return to Me and I will return to you...”*

The book of Malachi prophesies that the Messiah would come to His people. *“Behold, I will send you Elijah before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man’s heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely. Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments for all Israel.”* Hundreds of years later, John the Baptist, described by our Lord as Elijah and the fulfillment of the prophecies, would be born and announce the coming of the Messiah. Although the book of Malachi is only several pages long, it illustrates how the peo-

ple had turned away from God, disrespected His Holy Name, and even questioned how they had disrespected Him. The book of Malachi also shows how we can become cold hearted towards God and towards our neighbors in need. Still God remains merciful to those who turn back to Him for they shall be remembered by God in His book. *"....He wrote a book of remembrance before His face for those who feared the Lord and revered His name. They shall be mine," says the Lord Almighty. "For behold, the day of Lord is coming, burning like an oven,"* burning the wicked but healing those who fear the Him.

In Him, I live and have hope of the future age to come. Amen! (Article by Carlos Garcija)

THE VENERABLE FATHER PETER OF KORISHE

Peter was born in the village of Korishe beyond the monastery of St. Mark near Prizren. (According to another legend, he was from a village near Pec). As a young man, he plowed with a one-eyed ox. Peter was exceptionally meek and mild tempered. He withdrew at an early age to lead a life of asceticism, as did his sister Helen. He mortified himself very strictly and persistently. In difficult combat with demonic temptations, Peter proved himself victorious. He was a teacher to the many monks who gathered around him. Fleeing from the glory of men, he hid himself for a period of time by the Black river where, later on, St. Joanicius of Devich lived a life of asceticism. Peter died in old age in his cave at Korishe. The night in which he died a light from many candles was seen in his cave and angelic singing was heard. This saint probably lived in the thirteenth century. Over his miracle-working relics Tsar Dusan built a church, which was a dependency (metoch) of Hilendar. In more recent times the remains of the relics of St. Peter were secretly translated to the Black river where they repose today. **REFLECTION** Do not ever violate the fast on Wednesday and Friday. This fast is commanded by the Church and is well explained. If you have ever in your life violated this fast, pray to God that He forgives you and sin no more. The holy and pious men do not consider themselves dispensed from this fast either during a journey, much less even in sickness. St. Pachomius met some men carrying a corpse and he saw two angels in the funeral procession. He prayed to God to reveal to him the mystery of the presence of the angels at the burial of this man. What good did this man do that the holy angels of God accompanied him in procession to the grave? According to God's Providence, both angels approached Pachomius and, in this manner, explained to him: "One of the angels is the angel of Wednesday and the other is the angel of Friday. Seeing how this man always, even until death, fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays so we are honorably accompanying his body. As he, until death, kept the fast, so we are glorifying him." (Prologue by St. N.V)