



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

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

● **Wednesday June 28, 2017–
Divine Liturgy 9:30am Right
-believing Prince Lazarus
the Great Martyr of Serbia**

Troparion — Tone 3-

Longing for the beauty of
God's glory, / you were
found pleasing to Him while
yet in the flesh / and by good
deeds multiplied the talents
entrusted to you. / Having
suffered greatly, even to the
shedding of your blood, /
you received the crown of
martyrdom from Christ. / By
your prayers, O Lazar, en-
treat Him to save us who
sing to you.



Weekly Bulletin - Sunday June 25, 2017

Sunday, June 12/25, 2017. 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Venerable Onuphrius the Great; Venerable Peter of Mount Athos
Liturgical Readings: Gospel St. Matthew (6, 22-33).

Epistle: Rome (5, 1-10).

• **Donations Received Sunday June 18, 2017**

Offering \$893.00 Candles \$49.00

Large Candle donations In Memory of Victoria Bartis from Joseph & Connie Bartis, In Memory of the Dudukovich & Knezevich Families from Mark & Olga Stokrp In Memory of Stella & Steve Baich from Gerry & Kathy Szymyd IN Memory of Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich.

A special thank you to Laura Giannakopoulas for the donation of a large cast iron skillet.

• **Announcements**

- Next Fish Fry will be July 21st
- Idlewild Park –July 23, 2017 (Sing up in hall. Also if anyone interested in going to Ken-nywood July 14 and 15 call Rose Marinkovich. Thank you!).
- Diocesan Day Celebration - Saturday, August 5th, 2017.

• **The Second Sunday after Pentecost** (Matthew 6:22-33) - **The Sound Eye** ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; ²³ but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **Serving Two Masters** ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **Do Not Worry** ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?^[b] ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Epistle: Rome (5, 1-10). Results of Justification -⁵ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we^[a] rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

⁶ While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

THE HOLY MARTYR LAZAR [LAZARUS], SERBIAN PRINCE

Lazar was one of the Serbian noblemen who ruled the Serbian empire after the death of Tsar Du-shan. After the death of Tsar Urosh, Patriarch Ephrem crowned Lazar as the Serbian king. Lazar sent a delegation to Constantinople with the monk Isaiah to implore the patriarch to lift [remove] the anathema from the Serbian people. He fought against the Turkish powers on several occasions. Finally, he clashed [fought] on the Field of Blackbirds [Kosovo Polje] on June 15, 1389 A.D. against the Turkish Emperor Amurat where he was beheaded. His body was translated and interred in Ravanica, his memorial church [Zaduzbina] near Cuprija and later was translated to Ravanica in Srem and from there, during the Second World War (1942) was translated to Belgrade and placed in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Archangel Michael where it rests today incorrupt and extends comfort and healing to all those who turn to him with prayer. [In 1989, on the occasion of the six-hundred year anniversary of his martyrdom, St. Lazar's relics were again translated to the monastery of Ravanica in Cuprija]. St. Lazar restored the monasteries of Hilendar [Mt. Athos] and Gornjak. He built Ravanica and Lazarica [in Krusevac] and was a benefactor of the Russian monastery St. Pantaleon [Mt. Athos] as well as many other churches and monasteries.

Kontakion — Tone 8

Your flock glorifies you as a valiant champion of true piety / and a glorious martyr, O most wise Lazar. / Since you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to grant peace to those who praise you, / that we may cry: "Rejoice, O praise-worthy Lazar!"

The Prophets: Book of Hosea

I brought you from the land of Egypt And you shall know no God but Me; And there is no Savior besides Me. I tended you as a shepherd in the wilderness. In an uninhabited land, when they had their pastures. They were completely filled and their hearts were exalted; therefore, they forgot Me.” Hosea 13

The prophet Hosea of the tribe of Issachar prophesied in the land of the northern kingdom of Israel around the year 750 BC. This northern kingdom of Israel also contained the land of Samaria. During the time of Hosea, Israel or the northern kingdom was prosperous; however, the northern kingdom was also unfaithful to God and had turned to the worship of false gods. Hosea preached of God’s unending love for Israel. Unfortunately, the northern kingdom continued to reject God and His love. It was in the year 722 BC when the Assyrian army came, destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, and took Israel captive.

Hosea is known in some circles as the first of the twelve Minor Prophets. The term minor is not meant to say that Hosea’s message is unimportant; quite the opposite, the message is truly important as God tells Israel of His love despite Israel’s unfaithfulness. The book of Hosea describes God’s love for Israel as a marriage. To illustrate this concept, God told Hosea to marry a woman, who was to be unfaithful to him. Despite his wife’s unfaithfulness, Hosea takes back his wife and endures more rejection of his love and endures more unfaithfulness. It is in this setting that Hosea shows how God viewed Israel as His bride who rejected His love. God asked His love, Israel, to return to Him. However, Israel continued in her evil ways and was eventually destroyed. However, God offers hope of a reconciliation in the future. Hosea writes:

“Return O Israel, to the Lord your God for you became weak through your wrongdoings. Take with your words and turn to your Lord your God. Speak to Him, that you may not receive the reward of unrighteousness, but that you may receive good things....”

God in the book of Hosea has been likened to the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. In the Prodigal Son, the Father has a strong and deep love for his son even though his young son rejected the Father and took his inheritance money and lived life filled with many wrongdoings. Still, the Father loved his son and hoped that one day he should return. Then one day, the Father looked out onto the road and recognized his son returning to him. With open arms, the Father accepted his son’s return to their home as his son had repented and wished to return home. Despite his evil actions, the son’s return and repentance allowed the Father to bestow riches upon his son and the father returned him to his original status as his son.

For us, the book of Hosea tells us of God’s love for us and tells us of His desires to be with us and His desire to offer us our inheritance that is ours in heaven. He is patient and merciful and awaits for His children to return to Him. Do not be like the northern kingdom and later the southern kingdom of Israel, which also met its destruction due to its unfaithfulness to God; rather, return to God and repent just like the prodigal son. *“Let us go and return to the Lord our God. For He has grasped and will heal us. He will smite and plug His wound with lint. After two days He will heal us. In the third day we shall rise and live before Him. Let us know, let us pursue that we might know the Lord. We shall find Him ready as the daybreak. And He will come to us as the early and latter rain to the earth.”* Follow the ways of the Lord and give honor and reverence to Him. Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless His Holy name. Amen! (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

