

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, Oct. 25th 2020

20th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 3

Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries, of Constantinople

Gal. 1:11-19 | Luke 16:19-31

Thank you to everyone for your love and prayers for Mat. and baby Jonah this last year. Baptism and Chrismation today at 3:30; lecture beforehand cancelled.

The Saint Nicholas Society is conducting an **advance order only** Hoagie Sale on **Saturday Nov. 7th**. Volunteer workers are appreciated, and are asked to please be at the church at **8:00am** on Nov 7th. Pickups will be from 11:00 am to noon that same day. To place an order, please call either Caroline at 724-379-6478 or Denise at 724-483-8428. Hoagies are \$8.00 each.

The Wednesday night book study via zoom is starting a new book this week, focusing on the Divine Liturgy, entitled “Orthodox Worship: A Living Continuity with the Synagogue, the Temple, and the Early Church” By Benjamin D. Williams and Harold B. Anstall. Now is a perfect time to join in!

The Quilting group is planning to meet at St. Nicholas on Saturday, November 14th. For information talk to Sandy Carroll.

Reminder that making a habit of regular confession (ideally monthly, but at the very least during the 4 annual fasting seasons) and frequent Communion are an expected part of Christian life, first and foremost to be in communion with God but also in right relationship to His Body, the Church. Regularly attending Saturday Vespers also goes a long way in aiding this practice, as preparation and prayerful vigil asceticism and prayer.

Our **parish library** is always available to those interested; simply write down the title you’re checking out and the date so Fr. John can keep track of what goes where.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Mon. Oct. 26th

10:00am—Divine Liturgy here at St. Nicholas

Wed. Oct. 28th

6:30pm—Compline & reading from the Lives of the Saints

7:00pm—Zoom book Club (email Fr. John for link, or call to ask for the call in number if you are participating via phone)

Fri. Oct. 30th

6:30 pm— Compline & reading from the Lives of the Saints

Sat. Oct 24th

4:30pm—Great vespers

Sunday, Nov. 1st

9:00 am— Epistle bible study

10 am—Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:40

Prayer List Oct. 18th

Mary Behanna—in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

Sandy Klizas—in memory of Frank and June Drake / in memory of Stephen and Helen Drake / God’s blessings on newly married Ryan and Mary O’Callaghan

Ralph Prystash—health of Ina, Jacque & Dianna / in memory of Paul Petro

Janine Shepler—Memory eternal to sister becky / for health of brother-in-law Mike, son Billy & daughter in law Jodi

Tom & Elaine Backstrom—special intentions / in memory of mom and dad / God’s healing hand be upon sister Michele / God’s blessings upon grandchildren Sidney, Luke, Freddy and Madison

Dimitri & Pauline Petro—in memory of newly departed brother Paul / God’s blessings upon Mat. Nadia on her birthday / for health of Kyra, Luke, Noah & Adam / for health of Christine and Alexandra / for health of baby Jonah / special intentions / for health of Fr. Igor & Philip

Fr. Igor—in memory of beloved Mat. Irene / for health of Son Philip /in memory of newly departed Paul Petro

Mark Soroka—For health of Father, Fr. Igor

Vlad Kash—in memory of Paul Petro

Pauline Aitken—in memory of departed son Kevin, grandson Nicholas, and husband Lee / special intentions / for health of David

Nick & Christine Milchovich—for newly departed uncle, Paul / for health of Fr. Igor / special intentions

On Baptism

God’s most perfect creation, mankind, was fashioned *in the image and likeness* of God (Gen 1:26) from the outpouring of divine love. Man was, that is to say, endowed with life, reason, wisdom, the grace of the Holy Spirit, and every divine gift, and with the prospect, according to his ability, of becoming like God. He was placed in the Paradise of perceptible and noetic (*nous: the “organ” suited for receiving God’s revelation, also referred to in English as “mind” or “heart” – not strictly intellect, but man’s spiritual center*) riches so as to delight in fellowship with God. When of his own free will man fell, he was separated from God, the true Life, and began to live “a living death,” and the image of God [in man] was increasingly deformed by sin...

Jesus Christ, by means of His incarnation, sufferings, death and resurrection, restored human nature. Every person who believe in Him, and unites himself to Him through the holy Mysteries, is liberated from sin, and brought back into communion with God. The first Mystery that the Lord gave to us is Holy Baptism.

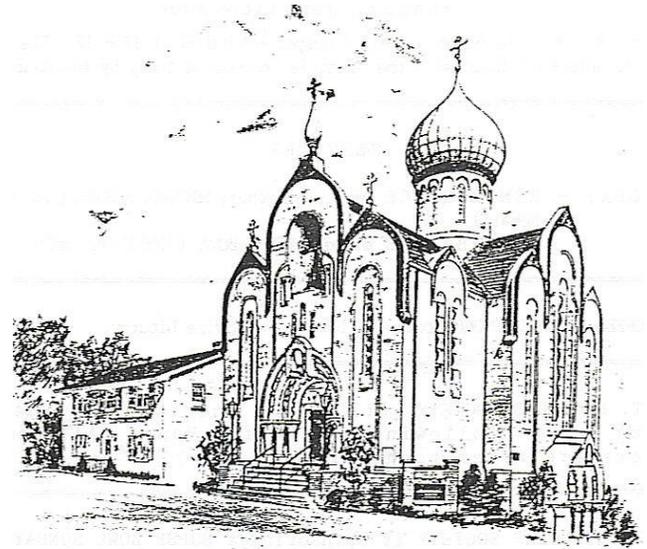
When Christ came to earth, “the reign of life began...and a new birth took place, a new life, a new from of existence... Faith is the womb that conceives this new life, Holy Baptism the rebirth by which

it is brought forth into the light of day" (St. Gregory of Nyssa, On Holy Pascha). Life in Christ and the true life of man, who was previously dead because of sin, begins at Holy Baptism, and though the human body continues to reside in the corruptible world, its soul now finds itself in paradise, like our forefather Adam.

Christ Called Holy Baptism birth: *...unless one is born of water and spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God!* (Jn 3:5) Therefore "Holy Baptism is the beginning of life" (St. Basil the Great, on the Holy Spirit) and the day of Holy Baptism is the birthday of the believer. During Holy Baptism, "a regeneration occurs. Just as we were born of the womb, we are also born from the waters" (St. John Chrysostom, On 2 Cor.) of the baptismal font. The newly illumined person becomes like a little child, which Christ sets forth as the prototype for persons of faith, and "because of this spiritual condition, he is welcome in the heavenly Kingdom" (St. Basil the Great). In order to show us the meaning and necessity of this Mystery for mankind, the Lord stressed that: *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever disbelieves will be condemned* (Mk. 16:16).

On Infant Baptism

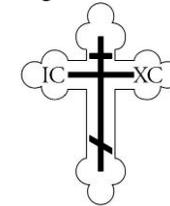
Infant Baptism was already known during the apostolic age. It was a common occurrence for whole families to believe in Christ and to be baptized. St. Hippolytus (253 AD) mentions that in Rome in the post-Apostolic period it was common for infants to be baptized. St. John Chrysostom also confirms the tradition of infant Baptism in Antioch: " ...we baptized even infants, although they are sinless, that they may be given the further gift of sanctification...that they may be brothers and members of Christ, and become dwelling places for the Spirit." Infant baptism may be attributed, in part, to the high rate of infant mortality, for "it is better that they should be sanctified without their conscious knowledge than that they should depart unbaptized" (St. Gregory the Theologian). Moreover, the Lord's words *Allow the little children and do not forbid them come to me...* (Mt. 19:14) do not allow either doubt or delay in the baptism of infants. St. Gregory the Theologian urges parents to baptize their children during infancy: "Do not let evil become active. Let your child be sanctified from its childhood; from its very youngest age dedicate it to the Holy Spirit...Give your child to the Holy Trinity, that greatest and noble Guard."



"Love every person, regardless of his sinful state. Sin is sin, but the basis of a human being is one and only—the image of God." —St. John of Shanghai & San Francisco

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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