

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2200 Irwin Street Aliquippa, PA 15001

Parish Office: 724-375-4074

Email: stelijah@comcast.net

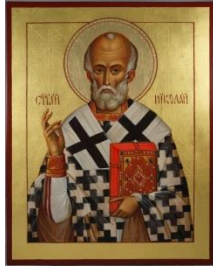
Center Office: 724-375-9894

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Branislav Golic

December 18, 2016

Webpage: stelijahaliquippa.com

Saint Nikolas...Every Orthodox family in Serbia has one patron saint. Each family celebrates the feast day of their saint with a unique Serbian Orthodox religious tradition, Krsna Slava or Thanksgiving, on the day when their ancestors were baptized (Serbians accepted Christianity by families and whole tribes). This same saint is the family's saint from generation to generation through the centuries. *Sveti Nikola* (St. Nicholas) is the most common patron saint for so many families that there is a Serbian saying for St. Nicholas Day, 19 December, "Half of Serbia is celebrating their Slava today, and the other half is going to a Slava." It is a very important day for Serbian Orthodox people. Happy Slava to those who Celebrate December 19th SVETI NIKOLA!



Scripture Readings... 1st Epistle - Ephesians 5:8-19 1st Gospel - Luke 17:12-19
2nd Epistle - Galatians 5:22-6:2 2nd Gospel - Matthew 11:27-30 Gospel, Saint

CHILDREN'S DAY-Among many national customs, the Serbs have a special one in which we REMEMBER and TIE as well as give gifts on Children's, Mother's, and Father's Day. The Church Books dedicate the two Sundays preceding Christmas to the Forefathers and Fathers, the Righteous Ones and the Prophets of the Old Testament, who awaited the coming of the Saviour, symbolically depicted Him and prophesied His Advent, but did not live to see Him. Why did the Church choose to institute this commemoration of the Old Testament Fathers just before Christmas, the day we celebrate the Birth of the Creator of the New Testament? The Church felt it obligatory to portray to its adherents the connection between the old and the new, to teach us to see the history of mankind as a whole, and to show us that God's plan is a continuous one. The Serbian people willingly adopted this tradition from the Apostolic Church, and through the years have faithfully kept its teaching. However, being of a very practical intellect, the Serbian people have applied this ancient custom to enhance their lives in the way most beneficial to them. They divided this commemoration of the Fathers so that one Sunday was dedicated to Children, one to Mothers and one to Fathers. Why? Because Serbs put a strong emphasis on the importance of unity and sharing in family life. Among many national customs, the Serbs have a special one in which we REMEMBER and TIE as well as give gifts on Children's, Mother's, and Father's Day. **WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND today following Divine Liturgy we will dedicate TODAY to our Children. Activities are planned following our church service today. Please stay and let your children be a part of this wonderful event.**

Visits: Thursday, December 15th - (Brighton Rehab aka Friendship Ridge) Ann Belich, Robin Lapceovich
Friday December 16th Sewickley Hospital -Cynthia Bratich
Villa St. Joseph - Theodore Belich, Slavka Nikolic

St Nicholas the Wonderworker TOMORROW - Divine Liturgy at 9:30am Confession will be heard starting at 8:30 AM . For those who celebrate Sveti Nikola- HAPPY SLAVA!

Saint Elijah Cornerstone Men's Club Annual "Barbecued Christmas Pigs" Whole Pigs (average weight~ 35# @ \$8.00 per pound or you may purchase a minimum of 3 lbs or above @ \$12.00 per pound. Deadline to order is January 1, 2017. Pick-up at the Picnic Grounds on January 6th no later than 12:00 NOON. Please call Dorothy Baron @ 724-378-7731.

ST. ELIJAH CHOIR – Candy orders and Psenica orders are available for pick up today following Divine Liturgy, again thank you to those who made purchases.

FROM FR. BRANISLAV... ADVENT - began on Monday, November 28th . Confessions will be heard preferably by appointment on Saturday night. If you want confessions on Sunday morning be in church **BEFORE 9 a.m.** Confessions will not be heard after 9:30a.m.

POSNO SOUP - will be available today following Divine Liturgy. Today we will have **Vegetable Soup**, as well as **POGACA** for sale by the KCC's. Also we have a few items left from our Bake Sale stop by and shop following **DIVINE LITURGY IN THE CENTER!**

POINSETTIAS- Once again we will decorate our church with poinsettias for the Christmas holiday. We are asking our parishioners to help defray the cost of this by donating towards this wonderful project. You may notate a donation in memory of a loved one(s) or in honor of loved one(s). Donation \$20.00. Sveta Petka \$250.00- Barbara Sahar \$ 20.00 Thank You!

