

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. Branislav Golic

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Webpage: stelijahaliquippa.com

45 Holy Martyrs at Nicopolis in Armenia

The Forty-five Martyrs of the Armenian City of Nicopolis suffered during the reign of the emperor Licinius (311-324), then a co-regent with Constantine the Great. Licinius, the ruler of the Eastern Empire, fiercely persecuted Christians and issued an edict to put to death any Christian who would not return to paganism. When the persecutions began at Nicopolis, more than forty of the persecuted of Christ decided to appear voluntarily before their persecutors, to confess openly their faith in the Son of God and accept martyrdom. The holy confessors were headed by Leontius, Mauricius, Daniel, Anthony and Alexander, and were distinguished by their virtuous life. The procurator of the Armenian district, Licius, before whom the holy confessors presented themselves, was amazed at the directness and bravery of those who voluntarily doomed themselves to torture and death. He tried to persuade them to renounce Christ and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saints remained steadfast. The procurator gave orders to beat the confessors about the face with stones, and then shackle and imprison them.

In prison the saints rejoiced and sang the Psalms of David. When the holy martyrs sang Psalms at midnight, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to them, and the prison blazed with light. The angel declared to the martyrs that their contest was near its end, and their names already were inscribed in Heaven. Two of the prison guards, Meneus and Virilad, saw what was happening and believed in Christ. On the following morning, the governor decided to put the martyrs of Christ to death. After beastly tortures they burned them in a fire, and threw their bones in a river. Pious people found the relics, gathered them up and saved them. Later on, when freedom had been bestowed to the Church of Christ, a church was built on this spot in the name of the holy 45 Martyrs.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Epistle-ROMANS 15:1-7 Gospel-MATTHEW 9:27-35

VISITS THIS WEEK: Nikola Cokic, Joseph Mrkonja, Bob Sparcie, Simmy Milosh, Mary 'Cookie' Loverich

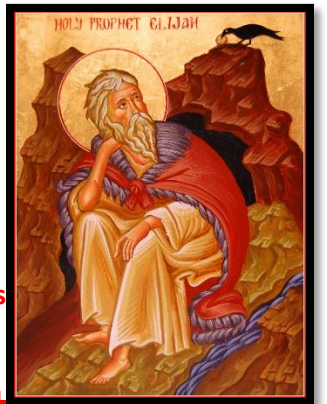
NEXT SATURDAY, JULY 29TH is the MEN'S CLUB PICNIC and the 40th Anniversary of Church Day Camp

This will be an ALUMNI GET TOGETHER OF PAST CAMPERS All former Campers will receive a STONE COASTER See Georgette Osman or Julie Taylor the day of the Picnic PROGRAM 5:30 P.M.

*DIOCESE DAY- Saturday, August 5th IN SHADLAND

*SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH OUR 103RD ANNUAL ST. ELIJAH CHURCH SLAVA CELEBRATION

His Grace the Right Reverend Irinej (Dobrijevic) will be joining us this year for our celebration



HONORED KUMOVI... GEORGE and MARLENE VOLITICH

We will also recognize our 2017 Church School Graduates at the Slava Banquet Nick Kosanovich III and Eli Loncar

Since this will be a catered affair by BEYOND PARSLEY the last day to purchase your tickets will be Sunday, July 30th

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE EVERY SUNDAY IN JULY or YOU MAY CALL THE CHURCH CENTER OFFICE at

724-375-9894 to make your reservations OR you may mail in your check to the church and we will mail your tickets back to you. Adults: \$30 Students \$15

Hors d'oeuvres, beverages Menu: Beef tips/Chicken Marsala/Pasta Alfredo/ Roasted Potatoes Mixed Vegetables/Salad/Rolls /Dessert/Coffee

It's that time of year again THE ST. ELIJAH CHOIR will be selling our annual CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT. This year's design (once again created by our very own Kristen Milanovich) shares our love for our Musical Heritage. Please pick up a flyer and submit it to Diane Knapp following Divine Liturgy today!

If you placed a second order from last year please see Kathy Loverich for payment and your ornament! HVALA!



Fr. Branislav is assigned to be in Shadeland this week. For emergencies, you may call his cell at 1-224-715-5368 or the Church Secretary- Kathy Loverich's cell phone @ 724-777-5170