



The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa
901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 **Our Web-site:** stsavapa.org*
***(PLEASE VISIT OUR Newly-designed Website, and We're On Facebook & Twitter!)**
Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest
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May 13th –6th Sunday Of Pascha – The Blind Man– Teaching Liturgy Day!
(Commemorating the Holy Apostle James, Brother of St John The Theologian)

Today's Epistle Reading:
EPISTLE: ACTS 16: 16-34

Today's Gospel Readings:
LITURGY: John 9: 1-38

Troparion: "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!"

(The Troparion of the Blind Man & Tone also will be sung)

Spiritual Food: Thanks for being a part of this wonderful day, a day *"That the Lord has made!"* In order to help you better grasp the scope and the depth of our Lord's love FOR US, I thought it would be helpful to give you a 'map' to follow along as we make our journey into His Heavenly Kingdom (revealed on earth) by way of today's TEACHING Liturgy. At any point during our 'pauses', please feel free to ask a question, if you are not sure of something, ok? **To begin**, the word, **"Liturgy"** (*litourgia* in Greek) means **'common work or common action'** – thus, the Divine Liturgy is not only the common work of the Orthodox Church, but the **official action** of the Church, formally gathered together as the 'chosen people of God'. We assemble in order to be together in one community to WORSHIP, to PRAY, to SING, to hear GOD'S WORD, to be INSTRUCTED in His Commandments, to OFFER OURSELVES with thanksgiving in Christ to God our Father, and to have the LIVING EXPERIENCE of God's eternal kingdom through COMMUNION with Christ Who is present in us by the Holy Spirit! **Secondly**, the Divine Liturgy as we know it today did not take its final form until the **mid- 9th Century**, under the strong influence of Monastic Communities. **Finally**, there are many variations that we may encounter of the Liturgy when we go elsewhere to worship, but most of the differences that we may find are more cosmetic rather than theological: for example, in the Antiochian Church, they use a shortened form of the Prayer before Holy Communion, while in the Russian Church, they still say the Prayer of the Third Hour just before the Invoking of the Holy Spirit at the Anaphora. **Overall, however, the Liturgy is the Liturgy in all places, at all times!**

Today's Special Announcements and Upcoming Events For Our Parish:

- (1) **TODAY:** we invite ALL of you downstairs for our Fellowship celebrating Mother's Day!
- (2) **THIS WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY: Great Vespers for the Ascension of our Lord** – Wednesday evening at 6 PM – then Thursday at 9:30AM Liturgy – join us!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Katie Repasky Ann Cervo Nick Trbovic Donna/Nick Moss-NH Helen Lia
Lucy Pcholinski-H Martha Zivkovich-NH Stella Stipanovich -NH Ann Vunovic-NH
Beverly Stipanovich Keith Bedell Margaret Ivkovich-NH Melva Buzzelli-NH
V. Rev. Adam Yonitch V. Rev. Paul Lazor Wayne Eremic
- (4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach +Sophie Vranesevic +Louise Zivkovich +Smilja Blagovich
+Mimi Pavlovich +Robert Torbic +Ann Vranesevic +Nick Pilipovich +George Medich
+Kh. Stefanie Yazge +Stoyanka Vranesevich +Mel Trkula +Sharon Young +Mika Rocknage
+Betty Perich +Dorothy Shumkaroff +Tom Greyno +Zoran Popovich +Amy Pacura
+APS Stevan Stepanov, +Rastko Truhovich, & +Vasilije Sokolovic +Arlene Crnkovich
- (5) **GROUPS Ministry:** Our Women's Support Group meets Tuesday the 22nd at 7 PM!
- (6) **Don't forget: you can help out at the St. Cyril Food Pantry** – any Thursday at 4:30pm!
- (7) **UPCOMING MAY EVENTS:** please mark your calendars for the following:
 - **NEXT SUNDAY, May 20th:** Honoring Grads/Teachers!
 - **May 24th:** Sts. Cyril and Methodius – Matins at 9:30AM!
 - **May 26th/27th:** PENTECOST Weekend – KOLO SLAVA on that Sunday!
- (8) **REMINDER:** Saturday nights – Confessions at 5PM and Great Vespers at 6 PM!
- (9) **NEXT Sunday, May 20th:** We honor our Graduates and Teaching Staff – JOIN US!
(ALSO, we will serve the 40-day Parastos for +Daniel Ikach)
- (10) **THURSDAY, May 24th:** Matins for Ss. Cyril and Methodius – 9:30AM!
- (11) **Saturday/Sunday May 26th-27th: PENTECOST WEEKEND** – Parastos on Saturday at 9:30AM – followed by Blessing of Graves; Sunday – KOLO Slava in Church – JOIN US!

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY



The past several decades have seen great changes in the status of women in our society. But we should begin by examining the impact that Christ made for women during the years of His life, and their continuing impact on His Church.

At the time of Our Lord, under Roman law, women were under perpetual guardianship; this means they had no legal authority over their own children, and husbands exercised authority of life and death over them. She was more of a piece of property than a living soul and child of God.

In many parts of the world, even today, the status of women is far from what it should be. But Christ gave women a place of dignity. He accepted women to be disciples, followers of His. Women were among Paul's helpers in spreading the Gospel. We think of the three Marys of the Scriptures: first, the Holy Virgin, the first among women, the mother of God; then Mary Magdalene, our Lords' devoted follower; and Mary, the mother of two great apostles, James and John.

Jesus took the time, even when hungry and thirsty, to talk to the woman of Samaria. Although of a despised race, Jesus spoke tenderly to her and taught her great spiritual truths. Think of the woman caught in adultery and condemned by the men of her time, but whom Jesus saved by reminding the men of their own sins. Think of the marvelous myrrh-bearing women who ministered to Jesus in life and death. It is thanks to the influence of Christ that women have reached their status of today, and it is through the influence of His teachings that this enlightenment will continue in the future.

A woman does not become a mother in the full sense simply because she biologically produces a child. It is the woman who loves and cherishes, who nourishes and sacrifices, that deserves the honor of Mother's Day. Let us on this day, pray for our mothers, be they with us or with our Lord.