



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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JULY 29th – 9th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 8
(Commemorating the Hiero-Martyr Athenogenes, the Martyr Julia, and the Holy
Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17

Today's Gospel Readings:

LITURGY: Matthew 14: 22-34

Troparion: "Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial, to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: 'Glory to Thee!'"

Kontakion: "By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead, and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!"

Spiritual Food:

— **Broken to Make Space for Him** —

It is not always bad to be "broken." Sometimes God has to break us a little in order to make space for Himself in our hearts to let the fragrance of His love pour into and out of us to others. Our hearts are like little fortified kingdoms where self, ego, rules. Until they are broken there is no room for anything but our own passions, ambitions, and desires.

Jesus cannot set up His kingdom in the central part of us — our hearts — until there is an opening, until our hearts are broken. The break is what makes it possible for Jesus to enter and displace the selfishness in our hearts with His love. This is perhaps why the shepherd of Hermas wrote in the early church, "God does not leave us until He has broken our hearts and our bones."

Broken through repentance to experience the beauty of God's peace. Broken in weakness to experience the power of God's strength. Broken through suffering to experience the sweetness of God's grace. Broken to be made more holy.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** Memorial Service for +Ann Cervo – after Holy Liturgy.
- (1-A) **THIS SATURDAY: Shadeland Diocesan Day** - Make your plans to celebrate with us!
(See the Flyer both downstairs and upstairs! – Divine Liturgy at 10AM!)
- (1-B) **TUESDAY:** Palachinke-Making at 9 AM; **Men's Support Group at 7 PM!**
- (2) **DIOCESAN PLEA:** To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW I, the Diocese is asking IF anyone has souvenirs (medals, trinkets, symbols, uniform parts, etc.) from that time (1914-1918) to please let Fr. Stevo know, as the Diocese wants to hold a Traveling Exhibit that will go around the Diocesan parishes beginning in September of this year!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Nick Trbovic Donna/Nick Moss-NH Dan Pacura Katie Repasky Lucy Pcholinski
Stella Stipanovich -NH Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Keith Bedell
Margaret Ivkovich Melva Buzzelli-NH Nick Pavlovich V. Rev. Adam Yonitch
V. Rev. Paul Lazor Wayne Eremic John Walker Danijela Belo
- (4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Martha Zivkovich- +Ann Cervo +Helen Lia +Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach
+Sophie Vranesevic +Louise Zivkovich +Mimi Pavlovich +Ann Vranesevic
+Nick Pilipovich +Jovan Vujatovich +Kh. Stefanie Yazge +Stoyanka Vranesevich
+Mel Trkula +Mika Rocknage +Sharon Young +Betty Perich +Dorothy Shumkaroff
+AP Stevan Stepanov/+Rastko Trbuhovich/+Vasilije Sokolovic +George Medich
+Arlene Crnkovich +Amy Pacura
- (5) **GROUPS Ministry:** Our Support Group dates for **August : Women – the 21st** – 7 PM!
- (6) **Don't forget: you can help out at the St. Cyril Food Pantry** – any Thursday at 4:30pm!
- (7) **THIS THURSDAY** – August 2nd: **Feast Of St. Elijah – 9:30AM Matins!**
- (8) **NEXT Sunday:** Deacon Matthew Stahoviak here for Fr. Stevo – just Deacon's Service!
(Fr. Michael Zak, from St. Nicholas in Homestead is on call for us – 412-461-3264)
- (9) **REMINDER:** Please help YOUR Parish by donating items/goods from the List you Received this past week for International Village – the more we have donated, the more success we will have at the Village, ok?
- (10) **ATTENTION MEN:** we'll be setting up the Booth for the Village probably Friday the 10th between 3 and 4 PM – Come help out!
- (11) **Sunday, August 26th:** Parish Info-Session on ONCD Program – After Church!

"BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN . . ."

The role of the Holy Virgin Mary is clearly reflected in a temple of worship. Enter into a church, and what do you SEE? Inevitably, in a position of prominence, an icon of the Mother of God. It may be a huge portrayal that covers the wall area at the rear of the sanctuary. Certainly there will be an icon of the Birthgiver and Child Jesus at the one side of the Royal Doors.

The prominence of the Theotokos is also reflected in the calendar of the Church. There are a number of important feasts honoring her, beginning with her Birth and ending with her Falling-Asleep in the Lord.

What do you HEAR upon entering a church? There are special commemorations of the Mother of God in the Divine Liturgy and other services. It is often that the faithful sing about the one who is *"more honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim . . ."*

In public worship and in private prayer, in church and home, the Holy Virgin occupies a special place because of her relationship to Jesus Christ. This veneration of the mother serves to maintain the true belief concerning the identity of the Son. Jesus is God, therefore the mother who gave Him birth on this earth is Birthgiver of God. It was the Third Ecumenical Council, held in Ephesus in the year 431, which specified that the Holy Virgin is *"Theotokos"* – Mother of God.

Many of the finest and most ancient icons of our Faith are those that depict the Virgin and Child. There are hundreds of variations of these, but all reflect the relationship of the Mother to the Child as reason for veneration.