



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 Rocknag, Parish Priest

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AUGUST 26th – 13th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 4
(Commemorating the Holy Martyr Hyppolitus & The Apodosis of Transfiguration)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 1 Cor 16: 13-24

Today's Gospel Readings:

LITURGY: Matthew 21: 33-42

Troparion: "Thou was transfigured on the Mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy Glory To Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, Glory To Thee!"

Troparion: "When the women disciples of the Lord, learned from the Angel the Joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: 'Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy!' "

Spiritual **The Four Rivers**

A lesson can be learned from the story of a conversation among four rivers.

The Danube boasted that she carried the heaviest load: "Look at all the ships I carry every day."

The Nile said, "I am the longest. I travel nearly four thousand miles each day."

The Ganges said, "I help people to be holy. Many come to wash away their sins in my holy water."

At last a meek, insignificant little river said, "I cannot boast of the things you larger rivers can. But every year my banks overflow, and I freely give water to needy fields so they can become fertile and yield great crops to feed hungry people. All I do is simply overflow."

Christ calls upon us to be givers overflowing with God's love.

Prayer

Our Father, help us to be overflowing Christians — overflowing with love, compassion, patience, understanding, gentleness, and kindness. Help us to be givers as You are the Greatest Giver of all, mindful of the needs of others, and compassionate in doing what we can to help them. For truly it is more blessed to give than to receive. Amen.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we invite all of you to join us downstairs after the Holy Liturgy for our first 'Info-session' on the ONCD Program that our Parish has undertaken, given by our Church Health Team members. Light refreshments will also be on hand!
- (2) **REMINDER:** that we are in the middle of the 2-week Fast of the Falling-asleep of the Mother of God – confessions heard before Great Vespers at 5:30PM tomorrow night, or Before Tuesday's Holy Liturgy, at 8:45AM, which ends the Fast!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Nick Trbovic Lucy Pcholinski Katie Repasky Donna/Nick Moss-NH
Stella Stipanovich -NH Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Keith Bedell
Margaret Ivkovich Melva Buzzelli-NH V. Rev. Adam Yonitch V. Rev. Paul Lazor
Wayne Eremic Patrick Singer 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 /Mateja Matejich
+Dorothy Sevich +Ann Bogus +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +Amy Pacura
- (5) **GROUPS Ministry:** September – the 11th (Men), and the 25th (Women) – 7PM!
- (6) **Don't forget: you can help out at the St. Cyril Food Pantry** – any Thursday at 4:30pm!
- (7) **Tomorrow – Great Vespers – Eve of Dormition – 6 PM!**
- (8) **TUESDAY, August 28th:** Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos – 9:30AM Liturgy!
- (9) **THURSDAY, AUGUST 30th:** Church-school re-organizational meeting – 7 PM, at the Church Hall – please come and be ready for major changes in our Church-school Program!
- (9-A) **Liturgy returns to 10AM on September 9th!**
- (10) **TUESDAY, September 11th:** Beheading of St. John the Baptist – 9:30AM Services!

REPOSE OF THE BIRTHGIVER OF GOD

We learn the truth of our faith by hearing the Word of God from the hymns and prayers of the Church during services. But we may also learn the doctrines of faith from the multitude of icons that grace our houses of worship. Consider the icon of the Repose of the Birthgiver of God: its graphic scene parts the curtain of some of the Church's profound mysteries.

There is the Holy Virgin, having fallen asleep, lying on her deathbed. The Church, so-to-speak, is gathered around the reposed form, and is comprised of apostles, bishops, disciples, women and faithful. As for the two figures at the bottom: an old story speaks of an enemy of the Faith trying to disrupt the event, and an Angel of the Lord cutting off his hand with a sword.

But the scene is quickly transformed as the eye focuses on the Figure of Christ in glory hovering over the form of His Mother, and holding in His arms an infant clothed in white and crowned with a halo. It is the luminous soul of the Mother of God, being received into the realm of glory. Above the Lord is the representation of a six-winged Seraphim.

And so we have the dual nature of this feast, reflected in the very names of the day. It is the Falling-Asleep, the Dormition, the Repose of the Theotokos; but also, for many, the Assumption of the Birthgiver of God. A verse from the Vespers says it this way: "Come, you feast-lovers, let us form one rank. Come, let us crown the Church with songs at the falling-asleep of the Ark of God: for today Heaven opens its bosom to receive her who gave birth to the One whom all cannot contain."