



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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SEPTEMBER 9th – 15th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 6
(Commemorating the Venerable Pymen the Great; Synaxis of Serbian Saints)

Today's Epistle Reading:
EPISTLE: 2 Cor 4: 6-15

Today's Gospel Readings:
MATINS: Lk. 24: 1-12/**LITURGY:** Matthew 22: 35-46

Troparion: "The Angelic Powers were at Thy Tomb, the guards became as dead men! Mary stood by Thy Grave, seeking Thy most-Pure Body; Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life! O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, Glory to Thee!"

Kontakion: "When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!"

Spiritual Food: One of the things that we forget in life amidst all its challenges is that God is guiding and directing our paths EVERY step of the way **WHEN we let Him**. That, of course, is the challenge: how to 'get out of God's way' through submitting to HIS will and HIS Plan for our lives? The BEST way to do this is to read His Word – Holy Scriptures – and to apply it to our daily lives. Secondly, we are asked to do our very best to be as Christ-like as possible with family, friends, foes, co-workers, etc., whomever God has put in our daily lives. To do that means to work to see the BEST in everyone in our lives, even when they do not show it, showing them compassion and mercy, This takes prayerful discipline and humility, something many of us need to acquire. Finally, when life presents various disappointments and situations that challenge our ability to be that Christian that He calls us to be – we must remember that even in said times, **He will make the BEST of it all!** This was certainly the case in our experience from International Village last month: after the poor weather and the disappointing three-day earnings, our Parish was blessed with two separate anonymous donations in the past few weeks, **totaling over \$25,000!** Needless to say, we were humbled as a Parish Council to realize that as long as we do our best, and try to do all things to glorify Him in our work, He will continue to bless us and shower His Grace on all of us! Today, we ask that all of you remember what it means to be "in Christ", and to trust that He truly is in our lives, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we begin our 'Full Liturgical Cycle' with the return of Holy Matins before the Holy Divine Liturgy – please join us at 9:15 for this wonderful service!
- (2) **REMINDER #1:** our First Day of Church-school classes will be **Sunday, September 23rd**, with a **decidedly different format:** our Children will be dismissed AFTER Holy Communion for their classes downstairs – and those of us UPSTAIRS – please have the courtesy and respect when going downstairs AFTER Liturgy to BE QUIET and PROCESS to the KITCHEN for your refreshments – classes will be over shortly! THANK YOU!
- (2-A) **REMINDER #2: Nut-roll Baking Returns on TUESDAY the 25th – 9 AM!**
- (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
Richard Buzzelli Eugene Gould-H 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 Dates:** 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) **THURSDAYS the 13th, 20th, and 27th:** Choir Rehearsal at 7 PM for the Choir Concert in Monroeville and the Vigil of the Cross (Wed the 25th)
- (8) **THIS TUESDAY, September 11th:** Beheading of St. John the Baptist – 9:30AM Services!
(STRICT FAST DAY IN OUR FAITH)
- (9) **NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th:** ONCD Surveys to be taken after the Holy Liturgy!
(Your cooperation is needed for the those taking the Survey to be as quiet as possible...)
- (10) **Friday, September 21st:** Nativity of the Theotokos – 9:30AM Liturgy!
- (11) **Wednesday and Thursday the 26th/27th:** Exaltation of the Cross 0 7PM Vigil; 9:30AM Liturgy!
- (12) **OLDIES' DANCE:** Saturday, October 6th – 7 PM/**Sisterhood Slava** – Sunday, October 14th!

TWO GREAT MISSIONARIES

When we read that Jesus chose only twelve Apostles to lead His Church and then compare this figure with the multitudes that soon became followers of Christ, we get an idea of the great missionary efforts of the Early Church. Christ chose imperfect men, along with their sins, fears, vices and shortcomings, to spread the Word. From their experiences, they knew human weakness and how much mankind was in need of God's mercy.

Two important figures in this missionary outreach were **SAINTS BARTHOLOMEW AND TITUS**. Both Mark and Luke number Bartholomew among the disciples of Christ. He preached the Gospel in Asia Minor, and is said to have been martyred in Armenia about the middle of the first century.

Saint Titus is associated with the Apostle Paul, who converted him to the Christian faith, and found in him a zealous and faithful servant of Christ. Titus was put in charge of the Church on the island of Crete, scene of an ancient civilization and culture in the Mediterranean Sea. Titus is said to have lived a long life, and fell asleep in Christ about the year 107 at the age of 95.

The Apostle Paul wrote one of his epistles to Titus, referring to him as "*my own son after the common faith.*" He gives his disciple some practical advice concerning the organization of a church, how it is to be administered, what it is to teach and how its members are to live.

These two devoted men realized the need for spreading the Good News to all. Similarly, WE must continue to press forward in proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Christian way of life.