



*O Lord,
how great are Thy works!*

Psalm 92:5

The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa
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***(PLEASE VISIT OUR Newly-designed Website, and We're On Facebook & Twitter!)**
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SEPTEMBER 23rd – 17th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 8
(Commemorating the Holy Martyrs – Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 2 Cor 6: 16-7:1) **MATINS:** Lk. 24: 36-53/**LITURGY:** Mt. 15: 21-28/Jn 3: 13-17

Today's Gospel Readings:

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: Today, we share with you a **tremendous loss** – for my own personal family, for our Parish Family, for our Serbian Orthodox Family, and for the Orthodox Church Family as a whole – in the sudden, tragic death of **+Proto-Stavrofor Dragan Filipovic** last week. In these times of uncertainty, a societal trend to minimize the Teachings of the Church to somehow make it 'more acceptable' to all people (as if it wasn't!), +Proto Dragan stood out amongst his peers and those he served as the perfect example of what it meant to live "**the one thing needful**" – because that was how he lived his life – constantly exemplifying one who lived out God's Word in his life – not perfectly, of course, but in a manner that demonstrated that 'the Word of God' was his goal, was his compass, and was his companion in all life's situations that came his way! Those of us who knew and loved him, and also those who found him to be an irascible, stubborn Serbian (and there were some!) all could say without a doubt that his motivation was always to better the Church, to better the parishes he served, and to better the society that we lived in. It is my humble opinion that because of his decades of serving his Church, both within the Serbian Archdiocese, as well as the OCA and the Greeks, and doing it sacrificially, without any desire to be in the limelight, God answered one of Proto Dragan's favorite liturgical petitions, "*...a Christian ending to our life – painless, blameless, and peaceful...*" by blessing him during his regular afternoon nap to make his journey to the Kingdom! For those of you who only knew of him by name, or as an occasional visitor to our parish, understand that our Church has lost a TRUE servant of our Lord; yet, his legacy of self-less service, and total dedication to our Faith will live on!
"Memory Eternal, dear Proto Dragan!" We will always lift you up in prayer!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** is our First Day of Church-school classes - our Children will be dismissed AFTER Holy Communion for their classes downstairs – to 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) **REMINDER:** Nut-roll Baking Returns THIS 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:**
+ Very Rev. Dragan Filipovic +Martha Zivkovich- +Ann Cervo +Helen Lia
+Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach +Sophie Vranesevic +Louise Zivkovich
+Mimi Pavlovich +Nick Pilipovich +Jovan Vujatovich +Kh. Stefanie Yazge
+Stoyanka Vranesevich +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:** to be announced for October!
- (6) **Don't forget: you can help out at the St. Cyril Food Pantry** – any Thursday at 4:30pm!
- (7) **CHOIR REHEARSAL** – this Tuesday the 25th for the Monroeville Concert and this week's Vigil of the Cross!
- (8) **THIS WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY:** Exaltation of the Cross – Wednesday - 7PM Vigil; Thursday - 9:30AM Liturgy – and this is a STRICT FAST DAY!
- (9) **OLDIES' DANCE:** Saturday, October 6th – 7 PM...Door & Chinese Auction Prizes needed!
- (10) **Sisterhood Slava** – Sunday, October 14th – Come celebrate with us!
- (11) **Sunday, October 7th:** Parastos for +Jovan Vujatovich – brother of +Dolly Grba...

✠ ✠ THIS WORLD OF OURS ✠ ✠

The Fall is a lovely time of the year. One thinks of the words of the Psalmist: *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork."* People leave the highways and go onto country roads that display the splendor of the season. It is a sight to behold, the colors of red, orange, yellow and brown.

But Autumn is also a sad time of the year, if we reflect that the trees and flowers lose their lovely foliage and seemingly fall asleep for the Winter season. Yet, this is precisely what preserves the life of those plants. This is God's provision for the continuation of life.

The cycle of Nature goes on, season upon season, year after year. We, too, are part of this vast cycle of life. The more we alienate ourselves from Nature, the worse off we are. We are now reaping the bitter harvest of decades of pollution of the earth, the air and the water of our world. *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof,"* said King David long ago, and we are slowly learning the lesson of preserving this blue planet that is but a speck in the vast universe.

The Church has always considered God's creation, now redeemed and restored, as sacred. Water and food are blessed. Branches and palms are blessed. God breathed into man to give him life. Jesus breathed upon the Apostles, giving them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins Yes, indeed, this world bears the imprint of the Lord's glory and love.