



The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa
901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 **Our Web-site:** stsavapa.org*
***(PLEASE VISIT OUR Parish Website, and Also Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)**
Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest

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NOVEMBER 25th – 26th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 1
(Commemorating St. John the Merciful, Pat. Of Alexandria & Nilus the Faster)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Ephesians 5: 9-19

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk. 24: 1-12/**LITURGY:** Lk. 12: 16-21

Troparion: "When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most-Pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: 'Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!'"

Kontakion: "As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: 'Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!'"

Spiritual Food For Thought:

John the Merciful was born in Cyprus and was elected Patriarch of Alexandria in 609. He is called "the merciful" because of his great compassion for the poor for whom he sold all his possessions, the sacred vessels of the church, and even himself into slavery. He died in 620.

Nilus was a prefect in Constantinople who gave up his position to become a monk at Mt. Sinai where he lived 60 years, composing many spiritual writings. He died in 450.

Hisappointments

Someone said once, "Change the first letter of the word disappointment to 'h' and disappointment becomes 'Hisappointment.'" Was not Paul's disappointment at not going to Spain, Hisappointment for some important letter writing from that prison cell in Rome? Was not Joseph's disappointment at his being sold into slavery in a foreign land, Hisappointment to save the world and his own people from famine?

To those who trust the Lord and place their lives in His hands each day, life's disappointments will turn out to be God's appointment for something better. What you regard as a disappointment may actually be a wonderful new appointment or plan for your life: namely, His plan. As long as we allow the Lord to make the appointments, life's disappointments ultimately will never be able to defeat us.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we invite you to join us downstairs for our Annual Parish Meeting (and luncheon), where we will review the previous year, and look ahead for the future of our Parish!
- (2) **REMINDER:** Tuesday – nut-roll baking at 9AM!
- (3) **WEDNESDAY:** the Christmas Lenten Fast begins – do your best – Confessions needed!
- (4) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Nick Trbovic Carl Magdic Lucy Pcholinski Katie Repasky Donna 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
Mark Vojnovich-NH Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea Child Danijela Belo-H
- (5) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Ray Moss +Helen Tankosich +V.Rev. Dragan Filipovic V.Rev. Dennis Pavichevich
+Martha Zivkovich- +Ann Cervo +Helen Lia +Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach
+Sophie Vranesevic +Alex Hutsko +Louise Zivkovich +Mimi Pavlovich
+Nick Pilipovich +Kh. Stefanie Yazge +Mika Rocknage +Sharon Young +Amy Pacura
+Betty Perich +Dorothy Shumkaroff +AP Stevan Stepanov/+Rastko Trbuhovich/
+Vasilije Sokolovic +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +George Martich
- (6) **Don't forget: you can help out at the St. Cyril Food Pantry** – any Thursday at 4:30pm!
(HARVEST DRIVE: is underway – please bring in your goods for the pantry!)
- (7) **THIS WEEK – JOIN US:** We have been selected by the Diocese to HOST the World War I Exhibit, **from November 23rd-30th** – there will be 12 Panel Exhibits set up in Our Hall, with appropriate ENGLISH handbooks explaining the Serbian text of each Panel!
(Please spread the word – this is a magnificent and educational display!)
- HELP needed to set up and dismantle the Panels for Transport to next site!
- (8) **Our Church-school** has applied to participate in the Festival of Trees at Heritage Park – we are looking for 'SERBIAN' items to decorate the tree with...ok? (You will get your ornaments back....)
- (9) **TUESDAY, December 4th:** Presentation of the Theotokos – 9AM Liturgy!
- (10) **SPECIAL THANKS:** to all who supported our Thanksgiving Drive – we did help seven families and collected \$800 as well to use!

CHRIST GAVE US INSTRUCTIONS

Throughout our Lord's earthly ministry, He showed us many examples of how WE should act. One such directive was to **SHOW PITY TO SINNERS**. Jesus instructed us that this is the way to help and reform them.

Let us consider the case of Zaccheus, the despised tax collector whose riches were acquired in a sinful manner. After speaking to Jesus, he was truly penitent and charitable towards the people he had wronged.

There is the encounter between Christ and the woman accused of adultery. She was about to be stoned for her transgressions, when our Lord stepped in. He imparted this message to us all: "Go and sin no more." (John 8:11) Jesus continually forgives the repentant sinner. Let us recall the thief on the Cross or the Samaritan Woman at the well. Our Lord showed that His forgiveness is unending.

Just as a doctor does not visit the healthy but the sick, so our Lord approaches those with the sickness of sin, not those with the health of righteousness. Doesn't every sensible doctor behave this way when entering a hospital? Our world can be viewed as a giant hospital, overflowing with sick people infected by sin. Our heavenly Physician came to earth for their urgent healing and salvation.

Jesus came to find those sinners whom no-one seeks and all reject. He came to save those who are lost. Christ worked to restore their spiritual health and human dignity. May we try to fulfill His instructions and do the same.

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