

Ἡ ἁγία

ΜΕΡΟΠΗ



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

Rectory: (412)672-1872

Hall: (412) 664-0820

E-mail: frstevor@aol.com

DECEMBER 16th – 29th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 4 **(Commemorating the Saints – the Prophet Zephaniah & The Ven. John the Silent)**

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Colossians 3: 4-11

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 20: 1-10/**LITURGY:** Lk. 17: 12-19

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!”

Kontakion: “My Savior as Redeemer and God, rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell; and, as Master, He has risen on the third day!”

Spiritual Food For Thought: The Mission Statement our Church Health Team has adopted for our Parish is quite appropriate as we make our way through the Christmas Lenten Season:

“No matter what your present or past status in the Orthodox Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present Religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color: YOU are invited, welcomed, accepted, and loved here at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Community!”

Quite simply, it reflects the very **purpose of our Lord** coming into the flesh – **for ALL mankind**, NOT just for a specific group, or race of people! One of the things that I humbly believe ALL of us must come to terms with is that the future of our Parish is tied directly to several crucial factors: (1) **Our willingness** to ‘humble’ ourselves as a people, the Body of Christ, and work to do HIS Will, NOT what we think should be done; (2) **Our ability** to be open-minded and truly Orthodox in what we do and say as a Community of Believers. What does this mean? For one, being adherents of the Orthodox Faith, we **MUST** do all we can to bring non-Orthodox to the Faith, but in ways that are non-threatening and Christ-centered. In addition, we **MUST** reach out to those that have fallen away from our Parish in non-judgmental ways that show the true nature of our Outreach efforts – showing compassion, empathy, and a willingness to leave the past behind and work for the Good of our St. Sava Church for generations to come!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we will take our **THIRD Collection** for the Needy at Christmas – people are so desperate at this time of year - so whatever you can do to help will be so appreciated by them!
- (2) Today is our **Parish Advent Celebration – join us for the fun and fellowship!**
- (3) **SPECIAL PLEA:** our family needs your prayers for our Katie, sick with pneumonia...
- (4) **TUESDAY:** nutroll baking as usual – Christmas Party for workers!
- (5) **WEDNESDAY – Feast Of St. Nicholas – 9:30AM Liturgy (Confessions at 8:45AM)**
- (6) **THURSDAY:** Choir rehearsal at 7 PM – upstairs in Church (rehearsing new music)!
- (7) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Katie Elizabeth Repasky Nick Trbovic Carl Magdic 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
- (8) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Lucy Pcholinski +Ray Moss +V.Revs. Dragan Filipovic & Dennis Pavichevich
+Helen Tankosich +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
- (9) **Don't forget: you can help the St. Cyril Food Pantry – by donating ½ ham for their Christmas Drive – BEFORE their Christmas Dinner on the 20th!**
- (10) **Upcoming Events:**
- THIS FRIDAY: Carol Sing-a-long at SERB Club – 7PM - ? – JOIN US!
- (11) **STEELER PARTY!** Sunday, December 30th – right after Liturgy – (Game at 1 PM) Large-screen TV's – bring POSNO goodies – SIGN-UP in hall on Board!
- (12) **Christmas Services:** Sunday the 6th – 7:30PM – Yule Log/8 PM – Festal Vigil!
Christmas Day – the 7th: Festal Liturgy at 10AM – JOIN US!

AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN COURAGE

ST. MYROPE was born in the third century in the city of Ephesus. She grew up at a time when Christians endured severe persecution for their Faith. During a particularly intense time of suffering in her home town, Myrope and her family fled to the Greek Island of Chios.

The young girl, however, found little peace there, for a pagan prince named Numerius delighted in seeking out Christians – torturing some and executing others. During one of his terrible purges, Numerius was astounded to hear of the conversion to Christianity of Isidore, one of his high ranking soliders. After executing him, Numerius merely tossed his body in a shallow grave.

When the compassionate Myrope learned of this, she secretly took Isidore's body to his family for a proper burial. Numerius was enraged

when he heard what had happened, and he threatened to kill several of his prison guards if they did not find out who was responsible for such an act of insubordination. When Myrope realized innocent men would suffer for her actions, she came forth and admitted her deed of kindness. She was savagely beaten and thrown into prison. Although she was given every opportunity to renounce Christ in exchange for her freedom, Myrope steadfastly refused.

Finally, Myrope had a vision of Isidore, surrounded by angels. *"Peace be with you, Myrope,"* he exclaimed. *"You will soon receive the crown prepared for you."* That evening, she fell asleep in the Lord. Immediately, a myrrhlike fragrance filled the entire prison. Myrope's vision had come true – the "crown of martyrdom" was now hers.