



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!)**

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DECEMBER 23rd – 30th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 5 **(Commemorating the Holy Martyr Menas & those with him; St. John of Serbia)**

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Colossians 3: 12-16

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 20: 11-18/**LITURGY:** Lk. 18: 18-27

Troparion: “Let us the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit; born for our sakes from a virgin. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to destroy death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!”

Kontakion: “Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to Thee: ‘O Lord, save us!’ “

Spiritual Food For Thought: Think about this the next time you feel unloved by God:

————— Humble But Not Inferior —————

God wants us to be humble but not inferior. St. Paul freed his disciple Timothy from his sense of inferiority when he wrote to him, “Let no one despise your youth” (I Timothy 4:12). Elsewhere, he said to Timothy, “God did not give us a spirit of timidity but of power and love and self-control” (II Timothy 1:7). And just look at what Jesus did to Zacchaeus’ sense of inferiority. Hiding up there among the thick leaves of the sycamore tree, Zacchaeus must have felt like a tiny mouse in a huge metro dome. But Jesus noticed him, and He called out to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” If only we could have been there to see Zacchaeus at that very moment. He must have straightened himself up to his full total of inches, flung his shoulders back and with a light appearing on his face that had never been there before, he must have said to himself, “Jesus is not ashamed of me! He is glad to walk with me! He even called me a ‘son of Abraham’, and He is coming to be a guest in my home.” At that moment, Zacchaeus was cured of his inferiority.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we will take our **FINAL 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! (Even after helping five families this past week, we still have several local ones desperately seeking help for their Christmas....)
- (1-A) Today's Prospora (Church Bread) was sponsored by Timmy Cooke, Carol Buck, and Mike Mochan! (And St. Nicholas Day Liturgy's Church Bread was made by Violet Petrovich)
- (2) **NEXT WEEK** – Come join us for the Steeler Party – after Church – posno goodies galore, large-screen TV's, great fellowship – and a **BIG Victory!**
- (3) **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-NH Child Danijela Belo-H
- (4) **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
- (5) **LAST DAY FOR CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS:** Saturday, January 5th at Vespers!
- (6) **Christmas Services:** Sunday the 6th – 7:30PM – Yule Log/8 PM – Festal Vigil!
Christmas Day – the 7th: Festal Liturgy at 10AM – JOIN US!
- (7) **REMEMBER:** Our Church Health Team (that is sponsoring next week's Steeler Party) has affirmed this strong **Mission Statement** for our Parish that is focused on bringing the 'masses' into our community in ways that are loving, compassionate, and welcoming:

“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!”

BELOVED SAINT NICHOLAS

The Church knows Nicholas as a Saint, a Wonderworker, the Archbishop of Myra and a true shepherd to his flock. As the patron of children, he is perhaps the most beloved and popular saint in all of Christendom.

He was born in Patara, a town in Asia Minor, now in southern Turkey. Nicholas is said to have begun to fast from his cradle, refusing nourishment on Wednesday and Fridays, except after sundown. He lost his parents, Theofanes and Nonna, when young but distributed their wealth to the poor.

He felt called to the Priesthood, and was ordained by his uncle, the Bishop of Myra. Nicholas later succeeded him and became the Archbishop of that busy seaport community. He was a beloved hierarch, serving God and faithful with complete devotion and dedication.

Stories abound about the wonders wrought by this saint. The most popular seems to be the incident of the father with three daughters. He was unable to provide them with funds for a marriage dowry and was about to send them into the streets. Nicholas came to their home at night and threw a bag of gold through the window. The saint repeated the act a second, then a third time. The father watched and found out who his generous benefactor was.

A Greek historian wrote about this famous saint over 1,000 years ago: *“Wherever there are people, in the country and in the town, in the villages and isles, in the farthest parts of the earth, his name is revered, and churches are built in his honor . . .”* We could write the same of him today.

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