



✠ THE HOLY FOREFATHERS ✠

The Church prepares its children for the Feast of the Lord's Nativity with a special fasting period. Its purpose is to increase the vitality of our prayer and worship, to deepen our faith and to discipline the flesh. Simply, it serves to draw us nearer to Christ.



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 30th – 30th Sunday After PENTECOST – Tone 6

(Commemorating the Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Colossians 3: 12-16

Today's Gospel Readings:

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

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 For Thought:

— God Gives Grace for Each Day —

People miss the joy of the present because they live in the future. We can make plans for tomorrow. We can have hope for tomorrow. But it is wrong for us to borrow tomorrow's trouble, which may never come, and to add it to our burden for today. "The load of tomorrow added to today makes even the strongest falter," said Carlyle. There will be trouble enough in the tomorrows, but there will also be God's grace and strength to help us meet those troubles. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow," said Jesus, "for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day" (Matthew 6:34).

When a high school student was given his algebra book at the beginning of the school year, he glanced at the last chapter and saw some of the complex problems which he couldn't even begin to solve. He was ready to give up on the course, but as the school year progressed, he learned that if he took the book chapter by chapter and day by day doing his work diligently, then, when he came to the difficult problems at the end of the book, he will have developed the skill to be able to solve them.

The best thing about the future is that it is offered to us by God one day at a time.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** JOIN us for the Steeler Party – at 3PM – posno goodies galore, large-screen TV's, great fellowship – and a BIG Victory!
- (1-A) Today's Prospora (Church Bread) was sponsored by Diane Brady, Joanne Gummo, and Mike Mochan.
- (2) **THIS WEEK** – Choir Rehearsal for Christmas – **this Wednesday** at 7 PM!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Katie Elizabeth Repasky Nick Trbovic Donna Moss-NH Violet Petrovich - H
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
+Carl Magdic +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!
2nd Day of Christmas – the 8th: 9:30AM Festal Liturgy!
3rd Day of Christmas – the 9th: St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr – 9:30AM Matins!
- (7) **Please NOTE:** Our Church Health Team 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!”

This season casts light on the long period of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Saviour. It therefore takes us back to OLD TESTAMENT times and focuses our attention on the great people of faith who waited for the coming of the Messiah. Two Sundays are especially set aside for this theme: the Second Sunday before the Nativity & the Sunday before the Birth.

The icon on our bulletin depicts the HOLY FOREFATHERS, commemorated on the second Sunday before the Nativity. On this day we remember the Old Testament patriarchs, prophets, and fathers of Israel, from Adam himself through Abraham and Moses, and down through the Prophets Isaiah and Elijah, even to the Forerunner, St. John the Baptist. The names of all are too numerous to mention. We are reminded of the historical era that preceded the promised Saviour.

The idea is to stress the fact that we are not about to celebrate some myth, legend or story that has come down to us, rather that we observe a historical intervention of the Almighty into human history. This coming of Jesus Christ was foretold, it was awaited, it was prayed for, it was expected, it occurred.

As for the Sunday of Genealogy, tracing the ancestors of Christ, this, too, is a time to look back. It provides a historical perspective to the Event we are about to celebrate. Thus, we come to see that the fasting period before the Nativity has great significance indeed. Looking back at the Forefathers, then at the Ancestors, we finally look ahead to the awesome Birth of the Lord.