





The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa

901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 Our Web-site: [stsavapa.org](http://stsavapa.org)\*

\*(PLEASE VISIT OUR Parish Website, and Also Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)

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## JANUARY 6<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Sunday Before The Nativity – Tone 7

(Commemorating the Holy Fathers and the Holy Nun-Martyr, Eugenia)

### Today's Epistle Reading:

**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40

### Today's Gospel Readings:

**MATINS:** Jn. 21: 1-14/**LITURGY:** Mt: 1: 1-25

**Troparion:** “By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the Myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy; and Thou didst command Thy Disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!”

**Kontakion:** “The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering And destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: ‘The Savior has come To those in Faith! Enter, you faithful, into Thy Resurrection!’”

### Spiritual Food **When the Time Had Fully Come**

*“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons”  
(Gal. 4:4-5).*

A noted theologian compares the coming of Jesus to the coming of a surgeon to perform life-giving surgery on a patient. God looks down on the world, he says, just as a doctor sits at the bed of a sick person delirious with fever who is not even aware of the doctor's presence. The doctor listens carefully to his breathing and takes his pulse. Then at a particular moment he calls the nurse and says, “Now is the time. Get him ready for surgery immediately.”

Like a doctor, God stood by the side of suffering humanity for centuries listening carefully to man's spiritual breathing and taking the pulse of his soul. Suddenly, “when the time had fully come,” He decided that the time had come for surgery. It was to be such delicate surgery that the Master surgeon decided to come down from heaven to perform the surgery Himself.

### Troparion

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who have been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and to recognize in You the One who rises and who comes from on high. O Lord, glory to You!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** JOIN us tonight for the marvelous Christmas Eve service, beginning at 7:30PM with the Blessing of the Badnjak (Yule Log), followed by the Festal Vigil at 8 – then our great fellowship in the Church Hall after!
- (1-A) Today's Proshpora (Church Bread) was sponsored by anonymous stewards!
- (2) **THIS WEEK – TOMORROW - CHRISTMAS:** Festal Liturgy at 10AM – JOIN US!  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas** – the 8<sup>th</sup>: 9:30AM Festal Liturgy!  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas** – the 9<sup>th</sup>: St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr – 9:30AM Matins!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**  
(H) Nick Trbovic Donna Moss-NH Katie Repasky Violet Petrovich 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
- (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) **Please SHARE With Our Friends** 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!”*
- (6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – Eve of and Feast of Theophany – The Blessing of homes will begin that Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> after Church at 9:30AM!
- **OUR CHURCH SLAVA:** Sunday ,the 27<sup>th</sup> – Matins at 9:20/ Liturgy at 10 – Banquet after!



## GOD'S GREAT GIFT TO MANKIND



**T**he giving of gifts is an important part of our observance of the Nativity of Our Lord. One of the main hymns of the Church for this feastday deals with this matter of gift-giving: "What shall we bring to You, O Christ, when You are born on earth for our sakes? For each of the creatures . . . brings thanks to You: Angels their songs, the Heavens a star, the Wise Men gifts, the Shepherds wonder, the Earth a cave, the Wilderness a manger but we? We . . . a Virgin Mother."

These same sentiments are expressed in the icon of the Nativity. The Angelic Choir proclaims glory to God and peace to men of good will, the Heavens open to let a star pierce the darkness of earth and point its fingers of light to the Newborn King. The Shepherds wonder at the miracle that has come to pass, the Earth offers a cave, a bleak wound in the land symbolizing the sin that engulfs mankind; the Wilderness offers its refuge where man can come and feed on the Bread of Life.

But we? Humanity offers the Mother, the One full of grace and faith, the Handmaiden of God who accepts His will and becomes the Temple for the Only-Begotten Son of God. To all this the icon adds the presence of Joseph, who will care for the Child; the animals, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah; and the three Wise Men who came to present gifts.

In the center is the Christ-Child, born in a type of tomb, wrapped in swaddling clothes that are not unlike the garment of burial. Yes, even in birth we are reminded of the destiny that awaits the Lord: to die that we might live!