



SAINT PAUL
OF THEBES

SAINT JOHN
THE HUT-DWELLER

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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JANUARY 27th, 2019 – 35th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 2
(Commemorating our Glorious Patron Saint SAVA, 1st Arch-Bishop of Serbia)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Ephesians 4: 7-13

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Mt. 28: 16-20/**LITURGY:** Mt: 4: 12-17

Resurrection Tropar: “When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay Hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths, Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out to Thee: ‘O Giver of Life, Christ our God, Glory to Thee!’ “

Slava Troparion: “On the road leading into the life, You were the leader and the first-enthroned, and the teacher! When you came, O Saint Sava, at first you enlightened your Father land, and regenerated it, with the Holy Spirit, as olive trees in the mystical paradise; you planted your own sanctified children! Therefore, venerating you, as the equal of the Apostles and Saints – we entreat you, pray to Christ God, to grant to us, His Great Mercy!

Spiritual Food For Thought:

What is Happiness?

One word that we pollute with many false meanings is the word “happiness.” What is happiness? Happiness is not money. It is not sex. Happiness is not drugs. It is not alcohol. It is not a Caribbean cruise. It is not power or popularity. If the road to hell is paved with good intentions, the road to happiness is paved with countless false and misleading signposts or definitions.

There is only one way to happiness for the Christian, i.e., to know, love and serve the one true God. Happiness is God. Happiness is knowing that you are loved by God. As one Christian confessed, “When I look back upon the seventy years of my own life, I see quite clearly that I owe my present inner happiness, my peace, my confidence and my joy essentially to one fact: I am certain that I am infinitely loved by God.” That is the true Christian definition of happiness: to live for God in Christ and to know that you are infinitely and personally loved by God and that nothing in all creation — not even death — will ever be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. That is true happiness.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** join us for the beautiful Patronal Feast of our Parish – Banquet and lively Discussion after the Holy Liturgy!
- (2) **THIS WEEK** – we will tentatively continue Blessing of Homes this week!
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Nick Trbovic-H 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 V. Rev. Joseph Cervo-H
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 +Helen Medic
- (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!”
- (5-A) **ALSO** - our Church Health Team is looking for volunteers to host our Focus Group Meetings in the following areas: McKeesport-White Oak; Duquesne; Irwin; North Huntington.....if you are interested, let either Fr. Stevo or Mike Vranesevic know!
- (6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Tentative Date of His Grace’s Visit – March 31st!
- Tuesday, February 5th and 12th – Strudel-making at 9AM (Pick up apples the Sunday before to peel)
- Tuesday, February 19th and 26th – Nutroll baking at 9 AM – all for the Fish Frys!
- (7) **Sunday, February 3rd** – Swearing-in of ALL Parish Officers!

SPIRITUAL WEALTH THROUGH MATERIAL POVERTY!

We have all heard the saying that “money can’t buy happiness.” The life of **ST. PAUL OF THEBES** is a testimony to the truthfulness of that adage. St. Paul lived in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Decius in the 3rd century. His parents were wealthy landowners, and when they died, Paul inherited a small fortune. Somehow, however, he became increasingly uncomfortable with the social surroundings he had been thrust into by virtue of his inheritance. Finally, at the tender age of 22, Paul forsook his entire estate and withdrew into the desolate desert region outside of Egypt to devote his life to God. He found a cave, where he lived his life in constant prayer and meditation. It is said that he sustained himself totally from the fruit of a tree and water from a small spring that existed near the entrance of his cave! Like the Prophet Elijah of the Old Testament, Paul was also provided with bread by ravens from time to time.

Paul lived this life of extreme asceticism for over 90 years! One of his few known visitors was St. Anthony the Great, who is commonly called the “Father of Eastern Monasticism.” After seeing this saintly man in his humble surroundings, St. Anthony returned to his monastery and proclaimed to his fellow monks: “**I HAVE SEEN ELIJAH. I HAVE SEEN JOHN IN THE DESERT. I HAVE SEEN PAUL IN PARADISE!**”

The sacred tradition of the Church tells us that when St. Anthony returned to visit his friend, he found that Paul had passed away in his familiar posture of prayer. He died as he lived: on his knees! He fell asleep in the Lord in the year 342 A.D. at the advanced age of 114.