



**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!)**

**Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest**

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**FEBRUARY 1st, 2019 – 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 3**  
**(Commemorating the Ven. Maximus the Confessor, Neophytus & Agnes, the Martyrs)**

**Today's Epistle Reading:**

**EPISTLE:** 2 Cor. 6: 16-7:1

**Today's Gospel Readings:**

**MATINS:** Mk. 16: 9-20/**LITURGY:** Mt: 15: 21-28

**Resurrection Tropar:** “Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; for the Lord has shown Strength with His Mighty Arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world, His Great Mercy!”

**Kontakion:** “On this day, Thou didst rise from the tomb O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day, Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs, they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy Power!”

**Spiritual Food For Thought:**

**————— The Goal That Fulfills —————**

If one could ask the sun, “O sun, when are you most happy?” it would reply, “I am most happy when I am doing that which I was made to do: shine.” If one could ask a pen, “O pen, when are you most happy?” it would reply, “I am happy when I am writing. That’s why I was made.”

Man, too, has a purpose, a goal in life. And it is only as he lives in accordance with that goal that he finds contentment.

What is man’s goal in life? For what purpose was he made?

The goal for which we were made is contained in the first and greatest Christian commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, heart, soul and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.”

This is our God-given goal for living.

As in bowling, the ball is placed in line with the pins before one throws it, so everything in life should be “lined up” with this one great goal: love of God and love of man. Not only is it a great antidote to fatigue, boredom and depression, but it also provides life with its most exalted mission.

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we will administer the Oath of Allegiance to ALL our Parish Officers – pray for them all that they be guided by the Holy Spirit to lead us to Christ by their example!
- (1-A) You can take apples home to peel for the Strudel-making **this Tuesday – 9AM!**
- (2) **THIS WEEK** – we will tentatively restart our Blessing of Homes – a week behind!
- (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  
Mark Vojnovich-NH Helen Mochan Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea 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 Truhovich,  
+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 31<sup>st</sup>!
- Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – Strudel-making at 9AM (Pick up apples the Sunday before to peel)
  - Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – Nutroll baking at 9 AM – all for the Fish Frys!

## THE CHAINS OF ST. PETER

**T**he Acts of the Apostles tell the amazing story of the growth of the Church in its earliest years. The Christian Faith spread from country to country, and from people to people. But in those years, there was persecution, suffering and death, too. The rulers of the Roman Empire, along with the enemies of Christ, made life difficult for those involved in the spread of the Gospel.

Wicked King Herod had the Apostle James, brother of St. John, killed by the sword. And then he had St. Peter arrested and put into prison. However, the Christian faithful did not abandon those who were persecuted. They gathered, even at night, at the home of Mary, mother of John Mark, to pray to the Lord for aid. As for Peter, he was guarded by four squads of Roman Soldiers, in fact he slept at night between two of them, bound with chains, and with sentries at the doors.

It was then that a brilliant light pierced the prison cell, and an Angel of the Lord appeared, woke Peter up and the chains fell off his hands. They hurried out past the guards, out of the prison and into freedom. At first Peter thought it was all a dream, but soon came to realize that the miraculous event was real. He went to the home where Christians met for prayer, and there amazed them with his presence. It is this event that is commemorated by the "Chains of Peter" in the Church Calendar.

The icon vividly depicts the scene as the Angel of God takes St. Peter by the hand and leads him out of the prison, even as the chains fall to the ground and the guards slumber on. Of course, Peter went on spreading the Gospel and the Faith until his death for Christ.