



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

FEBRUARY 17th, 2019 –Publican & Pharisee Sunday – Tone 5 (Commemorating Sts. Nicholas The Confessor & Isidore of Pelusium)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 2 Tim. 3: 10-15

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk. 24: 12-35/LITURGY: Lk. 18: 10-14

Sunday Tropar: "Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and The Holy Spirit; born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and o 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:

Face Your Fears

If there are places where you are normally afraid to go, do not hesitate to frequent them even at dead of night, armed with prayer. Your fear is a childish and ridiculous thing, but if you give way to it only a little, it will take root in your heart and stay with you. So arm yourself with prayer and when you reach the spot lambast the enemy in the name of Jesus. There is no stronger weapon in earth or heaven than that.

And when you are cured of your fear, sing the praises of the One who has freed you. If you thank him, he will always protect you.

Sometimes only the body is afraid and the fear has not spread to the soul, then you are nearly cured.

The one who serves God, fears his Lord and no other. The one who does not fear his Lord is scared even of his own shadow. — John Climacus

Church Fathers Speak

The simple light of Christ enlightens our intelligence: "Christ is the simple light. The one who has His light shining in his mind is said to have the Mind of Christ." — St. Symeon the New Theologian

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

- (1) **THIS TUESDAY** – we will be making nut-rolls for our Fish-Frys – 9 AM!
(1-A) **NEXT THURSDAY (28th):** Choir Practice for Bishop's Visit - & Lent – 7 PM – in Church!
- (2) **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 Sandy Miller 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
- (3) **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,/
+Vaso Sokolovic/Zvonko Kotorcevic +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +Helen Medic
- (4) Please SHARE with Our Friends regarding our ONCD Program that: **We are NOT trying to do away** with our Serbian Heritage, or customs (which sadly is the gossip making its rounds throughout our ranks), but rather our doing our best to welcome back BOTH the lapsed who have fallen away, as well as the 'new blood' (those who are not Orthodox) as a means of strengthening our Spiritual Health as the "Body of Christ" – just to "clear up" any misconceptions!
- (5) **ALSO** - our Church Health Team have volunteers to host our Focus Group
Meetings in the following areas: McKeesport-White Oak; Duquesne; Irwin; North Huntington If you are interested in signing on as additional hosts, please let either Fr. Stevo or Mike Vranesevic know!
(Interested in participating in our Focus Groups? Go to our St Sava Web-page at):
stsavapa.org/oncd.html
- (6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** CONFIRMED Date of His Grace's Visit – March 31st!
- **Sunday, March 10th** – FORGIVENESS SUNDAY – Vespers here at 5 PM – JOIN US!
- **March 17th:** Sunday Of Orthodoxy – Pan-Orthodox Vespers in Monroeville at 4:30PM!
- **March 24th:** 2nd Sunday Of Lent – Lenten Vespers in Youngwood, Pa – 5 PM!
- **MARCH 30th/31st:** HIS GRACE Here for Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy!
(Please pass the word to family and friends to be here to greet His Grace on his Inaugural visit to our Community!)

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The Law of Moses was fulfilled when the Ever-Virgin Mary and Joseph presented our Lord in the Temple. Let us reflect on what St. Sophronius wrote about this event:

“The true light has come, the light that enlightens everyone who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in His splendor.

Through Simeon’s eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which He prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as He came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen Him present among us and have mentally received Him into our arms, we are called the new Israel.”