



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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MARCH 10th, 2019 – Sunday of Forgiveness – Tone 8

(Cheese-Fare Sunday-We Remember Saint Tarasius, Arch-Bishop of Constantinople)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Romans 13: 11-14: 4

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 20: 11-18/LITURGY: Mt. 6: 14-21

Sunday Troparion: “Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial, to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to Thee!”

Kontakion (Tn.6): O Master, Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue, who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor: strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: ‘Have mercy on me, a sinner, O Merciful Lord!’ “

Spiritual Food For Thought: As we draw ever closer to the Holy Lenten Season, perhaps it is a good time to note that there are many opportunities to grow spiritually this Holy Season, as the following invitation suggests:

LENTEN RETREAT – Saturday, April 6th, 2019: St. Nicholas in Monroeville

THEME: Connecting Our Orthodox Faith With Our Daily Challenges

SPEAKER: Rev. Hieromonk Maksim – Spiritual Father of the New Monastery Marcha

Registration and Breakfast at 9AM: Presentation begins at 10 AM

PLEASE RSVP by Sunday March 31st to: Martha Springborn at 412-860-9976

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and grow in our Faith as we move ever so Slowly to the Holy Week and the PASCHA of our Lord! Do not miss out on this chance!

TODAY: We will begin our Lenten Journey with the Rite Of Forgiveness!

(Also today: we will take our Monthly Collection for those in need – help!)

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

- (1) **TONIGHT:** Join us for the Lenten Vespers here at 5 PM with visiting parishioners from surrounding areas, followed by our Lenten dinner! (Baked goods needed)
- (2) **TUESDAY** – we will be making nut-rolls for our Fish-Frys – 9 AM!
- (3) Our Fish-Fry continues this FRIDAY from 12 to 6 PM – You are needed!
- (4) **MONDAY:** Great Canon of St. Andrew – 6:30PM!

- (5) **Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts** – WEDNESDAY at 6:30PM – Pot-Luck after!
- (6) **THURSDAY (14th):** Choir Practice for Bishop's Visit - & Pre-Sanctified – 7 PM!

- (7) **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
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 Matthew Schaffer

- (8) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Stella Stipanovich +Lucy Pcholinski +V.Revs. Dr. Filipovic & +Dennis Pavichevich
+Carl Magdic +Martha Zivkovich- +Ray Moss +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

- (9) Please SHARE with your friends regarding our ONCD Program that: NOW is the Time to start signing up to be a part of the Focus Groups for Phase Two! Sign up at the Tutors' Desk...or go to our St Sava Web-page at): stsavapa.org/oncd.html

- (10) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** CONFIRMED of His Grace's Visit – March 30th/31st!
(Schedule "Clean & Decorate The Church Day" – Saturday March 23rd – 10 to 2 PM)
- **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 – and try to receive Holy Communion then!)
- **Sunday, April 14th:** Bus Trip To Johnstown Vespers – Bus leaves here at 2:45PM!
(Sign-Up Sheet Forthcoming at The Tutors' Desk!)

- (11) **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!

FAITHFUL TO CHRIST

An amazing story of faithfulness to Christ comes from a most unusual source - 40 soldiers who suffered martyrdom rather than deny their faith. The Roman Emperor Licinius, about the year 320, issued an edict ordering every Christian believer, under the penalty of death, to abandon his religion. In the imperial army were 40 men, stationed in Sebaste of Armenia, brave and distinguished soldiers, who refused to offer sacrifice to the idols.

The 40 went to their commanding officer, confessed their Christianity, and were promptly cast into prison. A week later they were hauled before a magistrate, who sentenced them to be stripped, scourged, and then forced to remain on a frozen lake to suffer and die. On the shore a fire was built, with a hot bath, to entice the soldiers to renounce Christ.

The men huddled together in the bitter cold, prayed, and suffered as one. Their battle cry was, "40 wrestlers we have entered the arena, let 40 victors receive the prize." The prize was the crown of glory for suffering martyrdom. One by one they froze and fell asleep in Christ.

Suddenly one of the soldiers, unable to withstand the temptation of the fire, crawled to the shore and abandoned his buddies. But at that moment one of the pagan guards, inspired by the example of courageous faith by the 39, proclaimed himself a Christian and went to join the martyrs. Thus, the total of 40 was kept intact.

The names of these martyrs are recorded in lists of Christian saints. A prayer in the marriage service mentions them, reminding the bride and groom to be faithful to each other and to Christ to the end of their lives.