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VENERATION



Third Sunday  
of the Great Fast



**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**

**Rectory:** (412)672-1872      **Hall:** (412) 664-0820      **E-mail:** [frstevor@aol.com](mailto:frstevor@aol.com)

## **MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 –3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Sunday of The Cross – Tone 3** **(Remembering St. Cyril, Arch-Bishop of Jerusalem & Aninas the Wonderworker)**

### **Today's Epistle Reading:**

**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 4: 14-5:6

### **Today's Gospel Readings:**

**MATINS:** Jn. 21: 15-25/**LITURGY:** Mk. 8: 34-9:1

**Sunday Troparion:** “Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; for the Lord has shown strength with His 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 great mercy!”

**(The Troparion of the Cross will also be sung!)**

**Sunday Kontakion:** “Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of paradise; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, didst come and cry to those in hell: ‘Enter again into Paradise!’ “

### **Spiritual Food:**

## **Outstretched Hands**

Sixteen centuries ago St. Athanasius said, “It is only on a cross that a man dies with outstretched hands.” What a magnificent symbolism hides behind those outstretched hands. On the Cross God Himself in the Person of Christ is stretching His hands out to us appealing to us to repent and return to Him, offering to bless us with the forgiveness of our sins, and calling us into the service of His Kingdom.

Meditating on the outstretched hands of Christ a monk of the Eastern Church wrote, “Your feet are nailed to the wood . . . You have no possibility of escape. You are waiting for me at the rendezvous which You have assigned to me. Fastened to the Cross, You come yourself to this waiting. It is possible for me not to come, but You are there and You remain there where You have allowed Yourself to be placed. Your arms are stretched out. They are opened as an appeal to all. They cannot be closed again. The nails keep them there in this gesture which is at one and the same time an invitation and an embrace. In silence they beckon to me: ‘Come.’”

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

(1) **TODAY:** we joyfully welcome His Grace, Our Father Bishop IRINEJ, to our beloved Community – and ask his Arch-Pastoral Blessings and Prayers upon all of us!

(1-A) **TONIGHT:** Pittsburgh Deanery Vespers at St. George's in Midland – 5 PM!

(2) Our Fish-Fry continues this FRIDAY from 12 to 6 PM – You are needed!

(3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**

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-H  
Helen Mochan      Vlade Baskot      Melva Dandrea      Matthew Schaffer

(4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**

+ Nick Trbovic      +Stella Stipanovich      +Lucy Pcholinski      +Protas Dr. Filipovic &  
+Dennis Pavichevich      +Carl Magdic      +Martha Zivkovich-      +Ray Moss      +Ann Cervo  
+Helen Lia      +Alex Stipanovich      +Dan Ikach      +Sophie Vranesevic      +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

(5) 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](http://stsavapa.org/oncd.html)

(6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

-**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Parastos for both +Dan Ikach and +Dorothy Shumkaroff, given by their loving families!

-**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Bus Trip To Johnstown Vespers – Bus leaves here at 2:45PM! (Sign-Up Sheet at the Tutors' Desk!)

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

(8) **April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>:** Lazarus Saturday – Confessions that Friday at 6 PM – Liturgy with Procession around the Church at 9:30AM Saturday – Luncheon after!

## THE CROSS: OUR BEACON ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

**A**s we come to the mid-point of the Great Fast, the Church in her wisdom honors the Cross of Our Lord, to spur us on in spiritual warfare. On the Third Sunday of the Fast, it is the Cross that is set before our eyes and minds as we come to the Lord's temple for worship.

The Cross is a great symbol of the Christian faith. It serves as identification. When located on the height of a building, it reveals that structure to be a house of worship. When worn on a lapel or on a chain, the Cross identifies the person as a follower of Jesus Christ. From the moment we are reborn in the waters of Holy Baptism to the time when we fall asleep in Christ, the sign of the Cross is made a multitude of times over our bodies.

But the Cross also represents a special philosophy of living. In fact, it is the secret of an abundant life. There are many prescriptions for happiness that this world projects on its people. The church has never had so much competition as it has today. Advertising agencies pour forth their ads promising success, happiness and fulfillment, if certain products are bought.

Still, it is the Cross that is life's greatest teacher. It is only as we come to know and understand the Cross that we learn how to live. Jesus said: "Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and come and follow Me." We make a free choice to follow Christ, this in turn involves discipline, a denying of the passions of the flesh which is compared to cross-bearing. Doing this, we live as Jesus lived. We follow Him. We can truly wear a Cross and identify ourselves as one of His!