



Do not be alarmed.
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified.

He is Risen!

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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MAY 12th – 3rd Sunday Of PASCCHA – Sunday Of Myrrh-Bearers – Tone 2
(Remembering the Great Serbian Saint, Basil of Ostrog the Wonderworker!)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: ACTS 6: 1-7

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Mk. 16: 9-20/**LITURGY:** Mk 15: 43-16: 8

Troparion: "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!'" "

(The Troparia for the Righteous Joseph and the Myrrh-bearing Women will also be sung)

Kontakion: "Thou didst command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ! By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God! Thou didst command Thy Apostles to preach to all: 'The Savior is risen!'"

Spiritual Food: Wanted to share with you a FB Post from Fr. Thomas Soroka, Pastor of the St. Nicholas OCA Church in McKees Rocks, whose Church has been transformed from a dying parish of 12 years ago to a vibrant, thriving parish now, as a result of the ONCD Program that we are now implanting....**please read the hand-out in the Bulletin** this morning as it makes several salient, CRUCIAL points that ALL of us need to take to heart, ok? And, in the context of his message, we affirm the following:

You are invited, welcomed, accepted, and loved at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church regardless of your present or past status in the Orthodox Church; your current family or marital situation; your past or present religious affiliation; or your personal history, age, background, race, or color...

Here are the Dates and Times for the Upcoming Focus Groups:

- Thursday, May 16th – 7 PM – Dan Pacura's Home ([REDACTED])
 - Thursday, June 6th – 1 PM – Denise Englert's Home ([REDACTED])
 - Tuesday, June 4th – 7 PM – Mike Vranesevic's Home ([REDACTED])
 - Friday, June 14th – 7 PM – Lyle Washowich's Home ([REDACTED])
- (If interested, Contact Michael Vranesevic to register: [REDACTED])

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

(1) TODAY: "God Grant All our 'Moms' a Blessed Mother's Day!

Join us downstairs for our celebration of Mother's Day with cake and coffee!

(1-A) We will take our regular monthly collection for the needy families – HELP THEM!

(2) JOIN US: Pan-Orthodox Paschal Liturgy HERE – NEXT Saturday the 18th – 9:30AM!

(We will have visiting clergy and laity, and our Choir is singing the responses! Plus, A delicious luncheon is planned after Liturgy in the hall – please be a part of this celebration!)

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

Helen Trkula Gary Popovich Donna Moss-NH Katie Repasky Danijela Belo
Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Keith Bedell Margaret Ivkovich
Melva Buzzelli-NH Protá Adam Yonitch Protá Paul Lazor Protá Joseph Cervo
Helen Mochan Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea Matthew Schaffer John Ratesic

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

+Desa Bunovich +Mark Vojnovich +Nick Trbovic +Stella Stipanovich +Ann Suzich
+Lucy Pcholiniski +Protas Dr. Filipovic, Den Pavichevich, St Stepanov/
+Rastko Trbuhovich, +Vaso Sokolovic/Zvonko Kotorcevic +Carl Magdic
+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 +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +Helen Medic

(5) MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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

- **Sunday, May 19th:** Parastos for +Nick Trbovic and +Mark Vojnovich – after Holy Liturgy!

- **Sunday, May 19th:** We will celebrate our Teachers and Aides!

- **Friday, May 24th:** Sts. Cyril and Methodius – 9:30AM Paschal Matins!

- **Sunday, June 2nd:** Parastos For Departed Members of Vranesevic/Cheran Families!

(6) THURSDAY, June 6th: Ascension of our Lord – 9:30AM Festal Liturgy!

◆ ◆ **COMING TO THE TOMB** ◆ ◆

The icon we present today depicts the **MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**. They are approaching the tomb of our Resurrected Lord, not knowing what to expect. The scene adheres to the Gospel accounts. St. Mark says: "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came to the sepulcher at the rising of the sun."

St. Matthew records that an "Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone . . . and sat upon it." This is exactly what we see on the icon. From St. John comes Peter's account: he "saw the linen clothes lie, and the napkin that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself." This icon is able to reproduce in visual form what the gospels tell in words. How refreshing it is to experience this good news of the Resurrection!

We also must remember that **WOMEN** played a considerable role in the story of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. They were under the Cross as Jesus died. They watched where He was buried. And they came to the tomb in the morning darkness, seeking to anoint His body. These were the Myrrh-Bearing Women of the Gospels whom the Church honors on this Sunday.

Women were among the first to learn of Christ's victory over death. This is how our Lord rewarded their faith, love, dedication and ministry to Him.

To All Our 'Moms', 'Babas', Godmothers, and Great-Grandmothers!



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*Mothers
hold their
children's hands
for a while,
but their hearts
forever.*

What The Future MAY Hold For Our Parish - The CHOICE Is Ours To Make!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Christ is Risen!" I am passing on this wonderful 'post' that Fr. Thomas Soroka placed on Facebook this past week, to all of you. He begins by referencing two photos (on Facebook) that he included, one of the old St. Michael's RO Church on the North Side being demolished, and the other, of his own Parish in McKees Rocks, full of life and vitality! It speaks volumes about what direction older parishes (like ours) need to consider as the future closes in on them. You might recall that we sent a small group of our Parish Leaders to meet with him almost two years ago to inquire as to how his parish was able to "revitalize" and "turn things around" from where they were ten years ago using the Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD) Program; a program that we have begun implementing in our Parish (we are now entering Phase Two - the Focus Groups). Take some time, read it, and more importantly, PRAY over its message to us!

"The two pictures of the Church building (pre and post destruction) are of the former St. Michael's RO Church in the poverty-stricken (but surrounded by wealth) "Hill District" of downtown Pittsburgh. This past Monday, it was demolished after closure over a decade ago. At closure, there were 3 parishioners. The other picture is of the St. Nicholas OCA Church of McKees Rocks, taken this past Saturday evening, of its congregation, in the poverty-stricken (and NOT surrounded by wealth) "Bottoms" neighborhood of McKees Rocks near downtown Pittsburgh. These pictures are a tale of two Churches.

My post is a PLEA to every parish which may find itself in a "bad area" and now struggling to survive - the message is simple: **No one** is going to fix your problems but you. **No one** is going to come in and magically turn things around. **YOU** must find it within yourselves to change - and **YES**, **CHANGE** will be **PAINFUL**. **YOU** must let go of the idolization of your past. You must stop bemoaning and blaming and **start DOING**. You can not only survive, but THRIVE!

One of the most ancient writings of the church apart from Holy Scriptures is the "Didache" (The Teaching); it begins simply with, "There are two ways, one of LIFE and one of DEATH, and there is a great difference between the two ways." Our struggling parishes, **NO MATTER** the size, must turn away from the 'way of death'. It is the "way we have always done it," or, "it is the way of our people", a way which shuns inquirers and newcomers and protects the "status quo" within.

The way of LIFE, however, is the way that breathes new life into parishes by discovering its own authentic faith in Christ and a hunger for piety which was choked by the worship of the gods of ethnic enclaves and past glories. The way of LIFE is to welcome with sincere love, new-comers and seekers of the Faith, no matter their background, and embrace everyone that God brings into your midst! The way of LIFE is to discover again the glory of our Orthodox Christian Faith, **alive** in Christ, Rich in mercy, sincere in love.

I beg all of you reading this to choose for your parish the Way Of LIFE - Christ is Risen!"

Pan- Orthodox Paschal Liturgy - HERE - Saturday- 9:30AM!

(Our Choir is singing the responses!)



**JOIN US - and Visiting Clergy and Laity from surrounding parishes for a
Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!**

AFTER LITURGY: delicious luncheon prepared by our St. Sava Women!

**Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to share in
The Paschal Joy with our Orthodox Brothers and Sisters!**