

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



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

JUNE 9th – 7th Sunday Of PASCHA – Holy Fathers of the 1st Ec. Council – Tone 6
(Remembering the Hiero-Martyr Therapontis of Sardis)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: ACTS 20: 16-18, 28-36

Today's Gospel Readings:

LITURGY: John 17: 1-13

Troparion: “The angelic powers were at Thy Tomb, the guards became as dead men; Mary stood by Thy Grave, seeking Thy Most-Pure Body; Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it; Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life, O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, Glory to Thee !

Kontakion: “The Apostles’ preaching and the fathers’ doctrines have established one faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.”

(The Troparia For The Feast Of Ascension will also be sung!)

Spiritual Food: Too often, we Orthodox Christians make the mistake of ‘taking our Faith for granted’ – that is, we live life as if all we have to do is the ‘minimum’ in living out our Faith (and we determine what that is) to bring us salvation. NOTHING could be farther from the Truth – and that is why we need to be active in the ONCD Program we are currently doing – including our Focus Groups and our Support Groups!

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

- THIS Friday, June 14th – 7 PM – Lyle Washowich’s Hom
- (If interested, Contact Michael Vranesevic to register: .)

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...

Sign up NOW for our Support Groups for our Men and Women, beginning this month!

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

- (1) **TODAY: Please pick up some apples to peel** – there are (4) FOUR boxes that need to be peeled, and if everyone can take a handful, we can get it done fast! They need to be peeled to make strudel **for THIS Wednesday at 9 AM** – and also, we will be making palachinke for BOTH the Kolo Slava (this Sunday) and for the Village - so please, **DO YOUR PART** for our Church for International Village!
- (2) **THIS Saturday the 15th:** Parish Parastos at 9 AM – Blessing graves at McKeesport!
Great Vespers of Pentecost – 6 PM!
- **THIS Sunday, the 16th: PENTECOST** – HT Kolo Slava Today – Palachinke brunch!
- **NEXT Monday the 17th:** Pentecost Matins at 9:30AM!
- (3) **Fr. Stevo will be away** from June 17th through the 21st – Fr. Michael Zak will be on call in case of EMERGENCIES – please call him at: 412-461-3264.
- (4) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Helen Trkula-H Gary Popovich Katie Repasky Danijela Belo Margaret Ivkovich
Rick Crnkovich Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Dorothy Medic Keith Bedell
Melva Buzzelli-NH Protta Adam Yonitch Protta Paul Lazor Protta Joseph Cervo
Helen Mochan Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea Eugene Gould John Ratesic
- (5) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Donna Moss + Anna Pacura +Mark Vojnovich +Nick Trbovic +Ann Suzich
+Lucy Pcholinski +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
- (6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
- **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!
- (7) **Have you signed up for our SUPPORT GROUPS yet** – we hope to begin them again this month, at Twin Oaks – so sign-up NOW!

(This will be a great way to bring 'new people' into our Community – Spread the Word!)

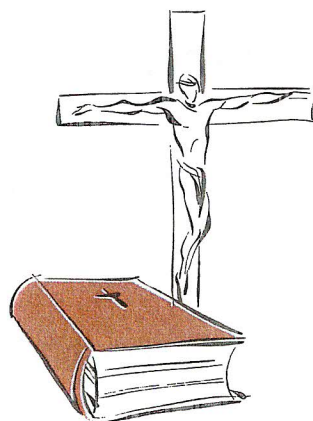
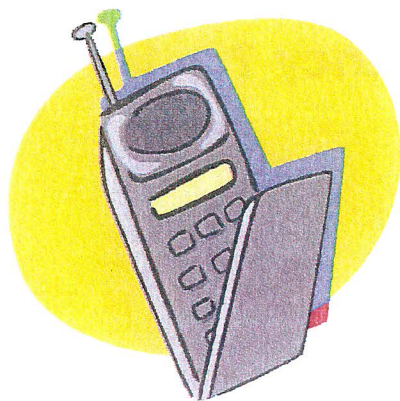
“LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

The time had come for our Lord to bid farewell to His Apostles. For three years, Jesus had prepared them for this inevitable day. They had listened intently to His preachings. They had seen Him work miracles. They observed Him carefully as He set the perfect example of how to live a righteous life. Yes, they were nearly ready to begin the work that Christ had commissioned them to do when He said **“GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS.”**

Christ knew that this assignment was not a simple one. He was aware that these loyal men would be met with hostility and even persecution. So as He physically departed from their midst when He ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives, Jesus left them with this comforting assurance: **“LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.”** Jesus had promised His Apostles that He would send them the Holy Spirit, Who would give them the strength, courage, and guidance necessary for them to accomplish their missionary objectives. They were called upon to put their trust in their Master one final time and return to Jerusalem until that blessed moment when the Comforter would come to them.

Angels encouraged the Apostles with these words as Christ vanished from their sight: **“MEN OF GALILEE, WHY ARE YOU STANDING HERE STARING AT THE SKY? JESUS HAS GONE AWAY TO HEAVEN, AND SOME DAY, JUST AS HE WENT, HE WILL RETURN!”** This is the day that we **ALL** wait for!

IT IS ALL A MATTER OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES!



Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

— O V E R —

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency ?

This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing.

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you!

**Now ask yourself this question: which of the two, my cell-phone, or my Bible, can bring my soul closer to God?*

So, which one do you need to utilize more in your life?