

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:** <u>frstevor@aol.com</u>

JUNE 16th - PENTECOST - Descent Of The Holy Spirit - Tone 8

(Remembering the Martyr Lucillian and those who suffered with him)

Today's Epistle Reading: Today's Gospel Readings:

EPISTLE: ACTS 2: 1-11 **MATINS:** Jn. 20: 19-23/LITURGY: John 7: 37-52, 8: 12

Troparion: "Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God! Who has revealed the fishermen as most wise: by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit! Through them, Thou didst draw the world into Thy net! O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!"

Kontakion: "When He came down and confused the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity! Therefore, with one voice we glorify the most-Holy Spirit!"

Spiritual Food: If all there is in life, as today's atheistic society would have us believe - is that life is a journey from birth to the grave, with no hereafter, and therefore, take what you can from all that life has to offer before it is too late – then what use is there of believing that the Holy Spirit completes us as Creatures of God, created in HIS Image? The answer, of course, is that society is doomed in this belief because, in fact, we **are graced** to have the Holy Spirit so that we CAN, and DO, obtain eternal life in Christ when we transition from this world to His Kingdom!

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!

(I realize that the Summer is upon us, but our Support Groups only meet once a month!)

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

- (1) **TODAY:** is our Holy Trinity Kolo Slava with our Palachinke brunch after JOIN US! (**TOMORROW the 17**th: Pentecost Matins at 9:30AM! Blessing of graves by appt after!)
- (2) Fr. Stevo will be away this Tuesday through Friday Fr. Michael Zak will be on call in case of EMERGENCIES please call him at: 412-461-3264.
- (3) 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 Dennis McNamara Melva Buzzelli-NH Prota Adam Yonitch Prota Paul Lazor Prota Joseph Cervo Helen Mochan Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea Eugene Gould John Ratesic

- (4) 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 Kotorcevich +Carl Magdic
 - +Ray Moss +Ann Cervo +Helen Lia +Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach
 - +Anka Kresovich +Louise Zivkovich +Mimi Pavlovich +Nick Pilipovich
 - +Kh. Stefanie Yazge +Mika Rocknage +Sharon Young +Amy Pacura
 - +Sophie Vranesevic +Dorothy Shumkaroff +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich
- (5) MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
 - St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive: bring in donated goods basket in foyer of Entrance!
- (6) Have you signed up for our SUPPORT GROUPS yet we hope to begin them again this month, at Twin Oaks so sign-up NOW! (Tuesday, July 23rd – Women's Group – Tuesday, July 30th – Men's Group – 7 PM – Both)

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

- (7) FRIDAY, June 28th: Feast Of Vidovdan the Battle of Kosovo in 1389 join us for Festal Matins at 9:30AM this is THE Quintessential Serbian People's Feas-tDay!
- (8) TUESDAY June 25th: Fr. Stevo & Prot. JoAnn's 42nd Wedding Anniversary!

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The icon for the feast of PENTECOST has traditional elements that teach the spiritual structure of the Christian Church. Against the background of a temple, the Apostles are depicted in a circular form, giving the impression of unity.



But if the icon is a representation of the Church, then it must have more than Apostles depicted. And this is the case. Among the twelve are a number who were not of the original Twelve. There is St. Paul and the Evangelists Luke and Mark (who hold Gospels). The Apostles bear scrolls, for they are essentially teachers of Good News.

The Acts, describing the historic Descent of the Spirit, speaks of the multitude present on that occasion. Ancient icons did, in fact, depict multitudes in the lower central portion of the icon. This has been replaced by the strange symbolic figure of a king. The man is in a dark place, for the world before Christ was lacking faith; he is depicted aged, for the sin of Adam has aged him; the crown signifies sin, which ruled the world; the cloth he holds, with the twelve scrolls, signifies the Twelve Apostles who brought light to the world through their proclamation of the news of Jesus Christ.

Because Pentecost was the baptism of the Church by fire, we see the rays of fire descending upon the gathered group. And so we have, finally, the fulfillment of the revelation of the Holy Trinity: the Father as Creator, the Son as Saviour, and now the Holy Spirit, come as Comforter & Sanctifier of the Church.

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To All Our "Fathers", "Djedas", Great-Grandfathers, and Godfathers:

Today is the Day that we give thanks to all of you Who were instrumental in helping us achieve our Dreams, hopes, and futures!

Today is the day we honor all of you for your Constant sacrifices on our behalf so that we could Have a better life than you could ever dream!

Today is the day we remember those times when You stood by us, when you challenged us, and Even when you corrected us - for it was in those Times when we realized the depth of your love!

Finally, today is the day that we thank God for His Gift of YOU to all of us - a Gift that we will Always treasure, as your son or daughter!