



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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JULY 7th – 3rd Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 2

(Commemorating the Birth of John The Baptist)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Romans 5: 1-10

Today's Gospel Readings:

LITURGY: Matt. 6: 22-33; Lk. 1: 5-25, 57-68

Troparion: “When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead; and when from the depths, You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out to You: ‘O Giver of Life, Christ our God, Glory to You!’”

Troparion: “Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honor you in love at your nativity, for by it you ended your father’s silence and your mother’s barrenness,//proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

(The Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 2 Will Also Be Sung)

Spiritual Food: This coming week, our Serbian Orthodox Church, by the Grace of God, will celebrate in Chicago its 800-year Anniversary of Autocephaly – granted in 1219 by the Ecumenical Patriarch – a truly momentous occasion in our lives! Pray for all of our Hierarchs, Clergy, and Laity who will be coming from the four corners of the world to attend! Why is this so important? If not for Autocephaly, there would be no Serbian Orthodox Church in the world! That is also why it is so important to move forward in strengthening our Parish’s Spiritual Health to insure we will be a part of the Universal Church’s future, and, for that, we need YOUR involvement!!

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 in July!

(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:** we remind you to sign up for the Support Groups!
- (1-A) **Work Days For It. Village:** Tuesday the 16th – Nut-rolls; Saturday the 27th – Palachinke – both starting at 9:30AM – Come join in the fun and fellowship for the good of our Parish!
- (2) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Helen Trkula Gary Popovich Katie Repasky Danijela Belo Terri Soffa Keith Bedell
Donna Medich Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Dorothy Medic Margaret Ivkovich
Melva Buzzelli-NH Prota Adam Yonitch Prota Paul Lazor Prota Joseph Cervo
Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea John Ratesic
- (3) **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
+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
- (4) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
- **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!
- (5) **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 – for both)
(This will be a great way to bring 'new people' into our Community – Spread the Word!)
- (6) **NEXT SUNDAY:** (Father) Arch-Deacon Ned Trbovich will be here as Fr. Stevo will be away at the National Sabor of our Church in Chicago!
- (7) **July 12th – July 16th:** Fr Stevo will be at the 800th Anniversary of our Serbian Orthodox Church's Beginning as an Autocephalous Orthodox Church (in Chicago) – then attending our Church in America's National Sabor as well!
- (8) Parent-Teacher's Meeting After Church – **Sunday, July 21st** – Try to Be There!
- (9) **CHOIR Rehearsal:** Thursday the 25th at 7 PM – in the Hall! (Practicing for Concert and New Music)

PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In the fertile region surrounding the Sea of Galilee, the mustard plant was a familiar form of vegetation. Properly nourished, its seeds, which were widely used for seasoning and medicinal purposes, would commonly grow into a sturdy tree that normally measured about fifteen feet in height.

The imagery of great abundance rising from humble beginnings was not lost on our Lord, as evidenced by His famous Parable of the Mustard Seed. "The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed, is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs and becomes a tree." (Matt 13:31-32)

This parable is not meant to provide us with a glimpse of heaven, but rather its purpose is to explain the process of growth involved with spreading the word of God so that we may, one day, be part of God's heavenly kingdom. Christ's ministry began in a small way, with poor, uneducated fishermen serving as His messengers. In no time at all, they spread the Christian faith throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. The work of the Lord often involves seemingly insignificant people and circumstances, but the possibilities for growth are endless because of God's power. Many in Christ's time fully expected God's kingdom to be revealed immediately. Church Fathers remind us, however, that all the glory that awaits us will take time to grow and mature through adversity. Still, when the kingdom of Heaven is fully formed, it will be more wonderful and bountiful than we can imagine!