



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

AUGUST 25th – 10th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 1
(Commemorating the Saints We Welcome Today With Their Precious Relics!)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 1 Cor. 4: 9-16

Today's Gospel Readings:

LITURGY: Matt. 17: 14-23

Troparion: "When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most-Pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The Powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: 'Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!'"

Kontakion: "As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: 'Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!'"

Spiritual Food: We hope that ALL of you will become more active as we enter Phase 2 of Our ONCD (Orthodox Natural Church Development) Program – one that **offers Three Important Ministries** for everyone to take part in, as we move forward in September: Technology, Activities & Welcoming, and Faith & Liturgics! Check out the Dates and Locales for the next round of Focus Groups and **GET INVOLVED!**

Thursday, September 12th: 1 PM – Denise Englert's Home

Monday, September 16th - 7 PM - Mike Vranesevic's Home

Tuesday, September 17th - 7 PM - Dan Pacura's Home

Friday, September 20th - 7 PM - Lyle Washowich's Home

REMEMBER: The more that ALL of us can take part in the Process of Coming Together For the betterment of our Community, the more the Future is secured for our beloved Church!

- Sign up for STUDY Groups for our Men and Women, continuing in September!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** By the Grace of God, we are blessing our four new Relic-Icons, St. Anastasija Of Serbia, St. Theodore the General, St. Ignatius of Antioch, and St. John of Rila – and a **luncheon will follow after Church!**
- (2) **THIS WEEK:** Tuesday – Great Vespers/Litiya – Eve of Dormition of Theotokos – 6PM!
(2-A) **WEDNESDAY: Feast of Dormition of the Theotokos – 9:30AM Liturgy...**
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Steve Kracinovsky Helen Trkula Gary Popovich Mileva 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
- (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, St Belonick,
+Rast.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
- (5) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
- **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!
- (6) **REMINDERS: Note the upcoming changes in our Church-school format:**
- Matins is moved up to 9AM – till 9:40AM – so that Fr. Stevo can be with our Children in the Hall – until 10AM – children will then come up to Church around 10:20 AM!
- We are starting a 'childrens' choir to sing some short responses in Liturgy – thx to Mary Magdic for volunteering her skills to see this ministry!
- **ALSO**, during the time between Matins ending and Divine Liturgy starting – we will have an **Adult Edu Class downstairs** – ALL our welcome to join in and LEARN! (More details to follow)
- **START-UP Date is September 15th** – and a Parish Cook-Out planned afterwards!
(Please RSVP as to what you can offer as side dishes for the day!)
- (7) **CHOIR REHEARSAL: This coming WEDNESDAY evening at 7 PM!**
- (8) **COME and ENJOY: Thursday night, September 12th**, as our Parish will host the Internationally-acclaimed KONEVTS Quartet from Russia for a concert of both Serbian folk music and Liturgical Hymns – in Church, with a reception after in the Hall – plan on being on time (7PM) as we expect a large Pan-Orthodox following to join us!

GOD'S UNIVERSE

We recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of mankind on the moon. It certainly brought a renewed interest in the creation and order of the universe. Sophisticated instrumentation is being utilized to fathom the mysteries of "the beginning." Scientists have been studying the origin of the universe for ages, and theologians have often spoken and written about it.

One of the great hierarchs of the Church in the 4th century, St. Basil the Great, devoted a series of sermons to the theme of Creation. These discourses have come down to us in a book called "Six Days." He begins the first homily: "It is right that anyone beginning to narrate the formation of the world should begin with the good order of heaven and earth, which was not spontaneous, as some have imagined, but which drew its origin from God."

"What ear is worthy to hear such a tale? How earnestly the soul should prepare itself to receive such high lessons? How pure it should be from carnal affections, how unclouded by worldly disquietudes, how active and ardent in its researches, how eager to find in its surroundings an idea of God which may be worthy of Him!"

St. Basil ends his sermon on the first day of creation by offering a benediction: "May the Father of the true light, Who has adorned day with celestial light, Who has made the fire to shine which illuminates us during the night, Who reserves for us in the peace of a future age a spiritual and everlasting light, keep you from stumbling, and grant that you may walk honestly as in the day . . ."

Today, God Blesses Us With The Relics Of These Saints!



St. Anastasija,
Mother Of St. Sava

Born Anna, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor, she was given in marriage to the Great Zhupan of Serbia, Stefan Nemanja, by whom she had three sons: Vukan, Stefan, and Rastko, the future St. Sava, 1st Arch-Bishop of Serbia. When her husband became a monk (Symeon), she also became a monastic, taking the name, Anastasia at the age of 71, and living out her life at the Monastery of the Most Holy Mother of God near Toplica, She fell asleep in the Lord on June 21, 1200. Her relics are venerated in the Studenica Monastery.

Troparion (Tn. 4):

Abundant in virtue, and adorned with meekness
And piety; you shone forth through the purity of
Your life; therefore, you were granted the grace to
Be the Mother of our people's Luminary! Thus, we
Cry aloud to you: 'Rejoice, O Venerable mother,
Anastasia!'

Kontakion (Tn. 4):

Having been blessed by marriage, and living a life
Of sobriety; you humbly taught your children to
Love God above all else! As you now stand before
Him, intercede for us who cry aloud to you: 'Rejoice,
O Venerable mother Anastasia!'



St. Ignatius Of Antioch,
Carried By God

Tradition holds that Ignatius (born in 50AD) converted to Christianity early in life, and he and his friend Polycarp were disciples of St. John the Apostle. He always called himself 'God-bearer' as local tradition held that he was one of the children that Christ took in His arms and blessed. He, along with Clement I and Polycarp are held to be part of the Apostolic Fathers and their early Christian writings. He was martyred in Rome by lions in 108AD.

Troparion (Tn. 3):

Soaring with love for Him who holds You in
in His hands, You were shown to be a God-
Bearer, O Ignatius. You finished your course
in the West by the mouths of lions, dwelling
in the unwaning day of the heavens. O
righteous Father, entreat our Lord to grant us
His Great Mercy!

Kontakion (Tn. 3):

The day of your glorious struggles heralds the
One to be born of a Virgin; for, thirsting for
His Presence, you hastened to be devoured
by wild beasts; therefore, you were named
God-Bearer, O Glorious Ignatius!



St. John Of Rila

Born in 876AD, named Ivan, he became the first Bulgarian hermit, and was revered as a Saint while still alive by his people. The tradition surrounding his life is that wild animals freely came to him, and birds constantly rested in his hands. His followers built many churches in his honor, including the famous Rila Monastery. He is considered as the Patron Saint of the Bulgarian people, and one of the most famous Saints in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. He died on August 18th, 946AD, and his relics remain in the Rila Monastery to this day, with many miracles ascribed to their Divine Power.

Troparion (Tn. 4):

Your angelic life was the foundation of repentance, A prescription of compunction, and a model of consolation and spiritual perfection, O venerable Father John; You, who lived a life of prayer, fasting and tears, entreat Christ our God to save our souls!



St. Theodore The General

The Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates (The General, or Commander) was born in Asia Minor. Endowed with many talents, he was also handsome. Because of his charity, God Blessed him with the Knowledge of Divine Truth. His bravery was revealed after he killed a giant serpent near Eschaita, that had been terrorizing the people. For his bravery, he was appointed military commander in the city of Heraclea, where he combined his military prowess with his preaching of the Gospel to the pagans there, converting most of the city to Christianity. The Emperor of the time, Licinius, began a fierce persecution of the Christians, and Theodore, in response, destroyed the gold and silver statues to the gods, and gave the money to the poor. The Emperor ordered him to be imprisoned and tortured: after being dragged through the city, he was beaten with iron rods, pierced with sharp spikes, set on fire, had his eyes plucked out, then finally crucified. But, a miracle: God sent an angel who took the Saint off the cross, and healed his body - the next day, the Emperor's men found him alive and unharmed - and all were baptized that same day on the spot of his supposed execution! People who touched him were healed of their infirmities, until the Emperor had him beheaded on February 8, 319.

Troparion (Tn. 4): Truly enlisted with the Kingdom of Heaven, You became an outstanding general for Christ, passion-bearer Theodore! You wisely armed yourself with the weapons of faith, and conquered hordes of demons, revealing yourself as a victorious athlete for Christ! Therefore, in faith we always call you Blessed!