



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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SEPTEMBER 22nd – 14th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 5

(Commemorating the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Galatians 6: 11-18

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Mt. 16: 9-20/**LITURGY:** Matt. 22: 1-14

Troparion: “Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit; born for our salvation from the Virgin! For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection!”

Kontakion: “Thou didst descend into hell, o my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou has delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!”

(The Troparion for Sts. Joachim and Anna will also be sung)

FOR YOU: We hope that now, as we are “picking up steam” in addressing the Focus Groups identification of Three Important Ministries (Technology, Activities, Welcoming/Faith, Liturgy) in our Community, all of us will take an ACTIVE role in Getting involved and providing input for our Parish Leaders – the future is OURS! The more that ALL of us can take part in the Process of Coming Together for the betterment of our Community, the more our Future is solidified for our beloved Church!

- Sign up for STUDY Groups for our Men and Women, continuing this Month!

(Men's STUDY Group - THIS TUESDAY - at 7 PM At Twin Oaks)

TODAY: Join us at 9:40AM for our Education Session continues in Church!

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

- (1) **TODAY AFTER CHURCH:** Parastos for +Amy Pacura and +Mika Rocknage...
- (2) **SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Chuck Hutsko for cleaning up our two candelabras on the two thrones – they look wonderful!!
- (3) **THIS WEEK: CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Friday evening at 7pm!
- (4) **WEDNESDAY NIGHT:** Important Sisterhood Meeting for ALL who are interested in working for future of our Parish, and the Sisterhood!
- (5) **THURSDAY:** Great Vespers – 6 PM (Elevation of the Cross), then **THIS FRIDAY – Festal Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross – 9:30AM (Strict Fast Day!)**
- (6) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Eugene Gould Helen Trkula Gary Popovich Danijela Belo Katie Repasky
Terri Soffa Keith Bedell Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Dorothy Medic
Margaret Ivkovich Melva Buzzelli-NH Prota Adam Yonitch Prota Paul Lazor
Prota Joseph Cervo Vlade Baskot Timothy & Gregory Melva Dandrea John Ratesic
- (7) **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 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
- (8) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
 - **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!
 - **REMINDERS:** Our 'childrens' choir is starting up, to sing some short responses in Liturgy – thx to Mary Magdic for volunteering her skills to see this ministry!
 - **NUT-ROLLS** Begin the first Tuesday in October – the 1st – at 9 AM!
 - **OCTOBER FAITH STUDY GROUPS:** the 15th – Women/the 29th – Men – at Twin Oaks!
 - **Sunday, October 13th:** Sisterhood Slava Day – Luncheon at Luciano's – SIGN UP Now at the Tutor's Desk!
 - **Saturday, October 19th:** **OLDIES DANCE – 7 PM** – Door and Chinese Auction Prizes needed for this wonderful event!!

THE NATIVITY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN

Today we observe the Birth of the Theotokos. It is the coming of a child who was most wanted, prayed for, highly beloved and well-nurtured. The feastday serves as a lesson for our times.

The parents were Saints Joachim and Anna, sometimes lovingly referred to in ancient writings as the “parents of God” because of family descent. He was of the family of King David. Tradition tells of his prayer one day in the temple, of the refusal by a high priest of his sacrifice, and of the subsequent pouring out his heart in prayer and grief. Anna, too, was profoundly sorrowful at the lack of a child in their home.

An Angel of the Lord revealed to them the coming birth of a child, and there was great rejoicing in anticipation. There was born to them a daughter, and they named her Mary (Miriam in Hebrew). All the relatives and neighbors came to share in the joy of the birth. It wasn't long before the Church set the date in its calendar of Feastdays, and the rejoicing in the nativity of the Birthgiver of God has continued to this day.

Traditional iconography of the nativity shows St. Anna partially reclining in bed, eyes focused on the newly-born Mary, held by a midwife. Servants minister to the infant and the mother. A bath is prepared for the child. St. Joachim is depicted with the mother and child.

Surely our times need to learn the lessons this feastday teaches about the sanctity of life, children, parents, and home. Forces are tearing apart these building blocks of society, bringing untold sorrow and tragedy where joy and gladness ought to reign.