



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

October 13th – 17th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 8 (Remembering the Enlightener of Armenia, St. Gregory)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: 2 Cor.6: 16-7:1

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk. 24: 36-53/**LITURGY:** Mt. 15: 21-28

Troparion: “Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial, to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: ‘Glory to Thee!’ “

Kontakion: “By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead, and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One!”

FOR YOU: We hope that all of us will take an ACTIVE role in getting involved and providing input for our Parish Leaders now, as we are moving forward in addressing our Focus Groups setting up Goals for our three Important Ministries (Technology, Activities, Welcoming/Faith, Liturgy) in our Community, with the dates of the initial meetings below:
(There are still openings on each of our Ministry Committees!)

Monday, October 28th: Technology Ministry Meeting – 7 PM – Church Hall

Wednesday, October 23rd: Faith/Liturgy Ministry Meeting – 7 PM Church Hall

Wednesday, October 30th: Activities/Welcoming Ministry – 6:30 PM Church Hall

- Sign up for STUDY Groups for our Men and Women, continuing in this month!
(Women's STUDY Group - the 15th; Men's the 29th - at 7 PM At Twin Oaks)

NOTE: We will hold our Adult Education Discussions EVERY OTHER Sunday,
So our next Session will be next Sunday– feel free to join the group at the front of the Church to share in this wonderful opportunity!

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

- (1) **TODAY:** Join us as we celebrate our Sisterhood Slava in Church – Luncheon at Luciano's After the Holy Liturgy!
- (1-B) **NEXT SUNDAY:** We will hold a Memorial Service for +Joseph Stercula after Church...
- (2) **THIS TUESDAY:** Our Nut-roll Baking continues! – 9AM!
- (2-B) **ALSO TUESDAY:** Our Women's Study Group – 7 PM at Twin Oaks! (Our Topic: The Liturgical Year Of Our Orthodox Faith!)
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Diane Stanesic Mary Sayers Helen Trkula Gary Popovich Katie Repasky
Danileja Belo 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 James King
- (4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Joseph Stercula +Dean Trbovic +Donna Moss +Anna Pacura +Mark Vojnovich
+Nick Trbovic +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 +Ann Suzich
+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:** temporarily suspended while Fr. Carpenter recuperates.....
 - **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!
 - **OCTOBER FAITH STUDY GROUPS:** the 15th – Women/the 29th – Men – at Twin Oaks!
 - **CHOIR PRACTICE:** Tuesday, October 22nd – 7 PM – (For Our Church Anniversary)
 - **Saturday, October 19th:** **OLDIES DANCE – 7 PM** – Door and Chinese Auction Prizes needed for this wonderful event!!
 - **October 20th:** Our Kolo will be selling palachinke after Church as a fund-raiser – HELP!
 - **October 27th:** Church-School Activities Day – Join us for Hayride/Escape Room!
 - **NOVEMBER 1st:** Our Church Celebrates our 118th Anniversary – JOIN US!

A LONG AND FRUITFUL LIFE

The Church honors many saints who, despite their attempts to flee the world and live in relative obscurity, attained notoriety throughout the ages. One such saint is the Venerable KYRIAKOS THE HERMIT. Kyriakos was born in Corinth in 448 A.D. There were several bishops in his family, and it was assumed that Kyriakos would also rise quickly through the ranks of the clergy and would, one day, ascend to the lofty level of the episcopacy.

Kyriakos, however, saw his life in a different light. He took a literal interpretation of Christ's words – "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself . . ." – and totally embraced the monastic way of life. Living among the ascetic communities in the rugged wilderness surrounding Jerusalem, Kyriakos was content to spend his time in prayer and fasting. It is said that he ate once a day, partaking only of vegetables. To deepen his contemplative nature, the venerable hermit went through a period of self-imposed silence that lasted 10 years!

At the age of 40, Kyriakos was ordained to the priesthood. It was only after his superiors promised this would not disturb his desired lifestyle that he accepted ordination. Some 30 years later, Kyriakos left the monastery in which he was dwelling for the isolation of the desert region of Natufa. Still, he was never completely alone. Word of his holiness spread, and many pious pilgrims visited Kyriakos in the desert, seeking his wise counsel.

A few years before his death, this amazing monastic came "back to civilization" and settled in the community of St. Chariton. Finally, Kyriakos fell asleep in the Lord in 557 A.D.

The Challenge of Change

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



The tenth chapter of the Book of Acts tells of changes and growth in the early Church.

As people with varied backgrounds joined the Church, those who were already members had to find ways of worshipping in harmony with these newcomers. Sometimes their ideas of what God wanted from them also had to change, as the apostle Peter would learn.

The tenth chapter begins with Peter's vision of a large sheet being lowered by its four corners from heaven. Animals, some considered unclean in Jewish law, are contained in the sheet: "all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air." A voice telling Peter to "kill and eat" is followed by his protest that he has never eaten anything profane or unclean.

But when the voice tells him that he must not call profane anything that God has made clean, Peter begins to realize that his understanding of God's will needs to change. He will soon say, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality." So he preaches the Gospel to the Gentiles, people who were not raised as he was in the Jewish law.

Then comes another attitude-changing event: the Holy Spirit falls upon those listening to Peter. And "the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God." The faithful believers of Jewish background are shown that God's grace is for others as well as themselves.

It isn't an easy fact for them to take in. The first verses of the eleventh chapter of Acts describe the reaction of the apostles and believers in Judea, hearing of the Gentiles' acceptance of God's word. They criticize Peter: "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

The Church would face similar challenges many times again. In the third century, for example, the question arose of what to do with those who had "lapsed" during the persecutions in the Roman Empire. How were they to be received back into the Church, if they were received at all? Many Christians at that time had lost eyes, limbs and health because they refused to deny their faith. How would they live in harmony with those who had escaped persecution by recanting? So serious was this question that Church leaders devised three categories of the lapsed: those who had actually sacrificed to the pagan gods, those who had offered incense, and those who had purchased certificates stating that they had complied with the Empire's demands. The penances were different for each group.

The present world confronts Orthodox Christians with the challenge to love each person while firmly upholding Church teachings that many persons have abandoned. It is no easy task, and the only way to do it is to cling to the assurance, in John 16:33 that Christ gives us: "Be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."

As we face the challenges of today's world, we need to do all we can to adhere to the Holy Tradition of our Faith - given by Christ Himself!