



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

December 15th – 26th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 1

(Remembering Holy Hiero-martyr Clement & The Leave-Taking Of The Theotokos Feast)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Ephesians 5: 9-19

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk. 24: 1-12/**LITURGY:** Luke 12: 16-21

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 loves 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!’”

FOR YOU: As the Holiday Season draws ever closer, perhaps NOW is the time to set aside a block of time for you, your family, etc., to get away from the hustle and bustle of the Season and do something for your souls! A great way to start is our **Saturday night Vespers**, a short **25-30 minute** spiritual experience that will put you in a good frame of mind to focus on the most important things in life: **God, Family, and Our Souls!** In addition, find the time to reach out to others, those God has put in our lives who are in need, and do something for them! You will be glad you did – and your soul will rejoice!

NOTE: Our Adult Forum Session meets TODAY - “St. Nicholas & Santa Claus” is our topic - come join us at the front of the Church to learn more!

ATTENTION: Our “Faith/Liturgy” Committee will be updating our ‘ancient’ Parish Directory beginning in January – you will be asked if you want to be listed in it (name, Address, phone number, etc.) – by contacting Nada James: nadajames1960@yahoo.com! (Or call her at: 412-751-5450)

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

- (1) **TODAY:** is our Parish Advent Celebration – join us after Liturgy for a delicious Lenten Buffet, Children's Presentation, and a special 'someone' visiting us as well!!
- (1-A) **ALSO:** Stop downstairs and pick up the 'Wheat Containers' for Christmas – a wonderful tradition in our Serbian Ethos.
- (2) **HELP needed:** we are making up small 'gift bags' for the needy – downstairs!
- (3) **The Christmas Lenten Fast is here** – Confessions on Saturdays between 5 and 6 – (or, if necessary, call for an appointment) **but stay for Vespers please!**
- (4) **THIS THURSDAY:** Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – 9:30AM Liturgy!
(Confessions heard from 8:45-9"15AM)
- (5) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
George Rocknage Nancy Belich Bruce Bennet-H Mary Sayers Helen Trkula
Gary Popovich Madelyn and Katie Repasky Danileja Belo Terri Soffa Keith Bedell
Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Dorothy Medic-NH Margaret Ivkovich
Melva Buzzelli-NH Protta Adam Yonitch Protta Paul Lazor Protta Joseph Cervo
Vlade Baskot Timothy & Gregory Melva Dandrea John Ratesic
- (6) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Barbara Tomac +Mika Rocknage +Betty Karlovich +Joseph Stercula +Hubert Witte
+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
+Sharon Young +Amy Pacura +Sophie Vranesevic +Dorothy Shumkaroff
+George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich
- (7) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- **Saturday, December 21st:** "Carol Sing" at the Serbian Club on the South Side – join us to hear our Choir, Tsar Lazar Male Chorus, St. Elijah and Hoily Trinity Choirs! (7 PM)

- **Sunday, December 29th:** Join us for the beautiful Baptismal Liturgy of our catechumen, Jon Mohney, who will be welcomed into the Holy Orthodox Faith – Come and lift him in prayer that day!
- (8) **2020** Wall Church Calendars (FREE) and Pocket Calendars (\$2) are at the Tutor's Desk!

THE WORD "CHURCH" HAS PROFOUND MEANINGS



In old Testament times, Almighty God commanded that a special place be set aside and dedicated for worship and prayer. God gave specific instructions for the construction and decoration of that temple. The Bible records that people gladly responded by giving for this purpose.

A church is the **HOUSE OF GOD**. Large or small, ornate or simple, it is the dwelling place of the Almighty. Our Lord once said: *"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I amongst them."* So, we try to make the church a lovely place, inside and out. We decorate with icons and furnishings. In truth, we try to make the temple building *"a heaven on earth."*

It is necessary to comment that the word "church" means much more besides a building. People make up a parish, people who believe that *"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* The Church is a world-wide community of faithful which carries on the work of Christ, fulfilling His command: *"Go and teach all nations . . . baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."*

Let us, then, love the church, our birthplace into the Christian life. May we embrace the spirit of one of the Psalms: *"I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord."*

This Holy Christmas Season, Read The Meditation Below, and ask yourself this question:
“*Am I doing all I can to be an active part of our St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church?*”

“ *My Church Needs Me Now More Than Ever!* “



My Church, the one I visit this Holy Season, is composed of **people like me**,
We ALL make her what She is, or is not:

She will be friendly, **IF I AM.**

Her pews will be filled, but only **IF I HELP FILL THEM.**

She will do great service in the community, **IF I SERVE HER.**

She will make generous donations for many worthy causes,

IF I am a generous giver to Her.

She will bring other people into Her Worship and Fellowship,

IF I bring them along with me.

She will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and Faith,

And one with a noble spirit, **IF I, who make her what She is,**

Am filled with these very same traits.

Therefore, with the help of my Heavenly Father, I must

**Do what is right: Come to Church, Make Her an Active Part of My Life,
Dedicate myself to serving Her, and Realize how much better off I will be!**