

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."*

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The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa
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*(PLEASE VISIT OUR Parish Website, and Also Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)

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December 22nd – 27th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 2

(Remembering the Conception of the Righteous Anna – Mother of the Theotokos)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Ephesians 6: 10-17

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk. 24: 12-35/LITURGY: Luke 13: 10-17

Troparion: "When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal! Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths, Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out to Thee: 'O Giver of Life, Christ our God, Glory to Thee!'"

Kontakion: "Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! Anf the world, O My Savior, praises Thee forever!"

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 next Sunday - "The Baptismal Liturgy" is our topic - come join us at the front of the Church to learn more!

UPCOMING Church Health Ministry Mtgs: Wednesday the 18th of January – Faith And Liturgy Workshop at 7 PM/Wednesday the 29th of January – Activities & Welcoming Workshop at 6:30PM in the Hall!

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: with only 2 & ½ weeks remaining before Christmas, far too many are still In need of Holy Confession – please make arrangements with Fr. Stevo so you can receive the Holy Mystery of Communion on Christmas Day!
- (2) **The Last Christmas Collection for the Needy will be taken today – HELP Please!**
- (3) **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
Ann Vunovic-NH Beverly Stipanovich Dorothy Medic-NH Margaret Ivkovich
Melva Buzzelli-NH Prota Adam Yonitch Prota Paul Lazor Prota Joseph Cervo
Vlade Baskot Timothy & Gregory Melva Dandrea John Ratesic
- (4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Keith Bedell +Mika Rocknage +Betty Karlovich +Joseph Stercula +Donna Moss
+Barbara Tomac +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 +Hubert Witte
- (5) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
- **NEXT Sunday, December 29th:** Join us for the beautiful Baptismal Liturgy of our catechumen, Jon Mohny, who will be welcomed into the Holy Orthodox Faith – Come and lift him in prayer that day!
- (6) **2020 Wall Church Calendars (FREE) and Pocket Calendars (\$2) are at the Tutor's Desk!**
- (7) **Sunday, January 5th:** Sunday before Christmas – Matins at 9AM/Liturgy at 10 AM!
- (8) **Sunday, January 12th:** Baptism of Milena Kathleen Kracinovsky after Liturgy!
- (8) **CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**
- **Monday, the 6th:** Royal Hours Of Nativity – 9:30AM, followed by Liturgy of St. Basil.
EVENING: Blessing of the Yule Log (Badnjak) at 7:30PM – Festal Vigil at 8 PM!
(Join us after Church for the wonderful Fellowship and Refreshments)
- **Tuesday the 7th:** Nativity of our Lord – 10AM Festal Liturgy!
- **Wednesday & Thursday** – the 8th and 9th: 9:30AM Services!