



The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa  
901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 Our Web-site: [stsavapa.org](http://stsavapa.org)\*  
**\*(PLEASE VISIT OUR Parish Website, and Also Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)**

*Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest*  
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## **December 29<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 3** (Remembering the Holy Prophet Haggai & St. Theophania the Empress)

### **Today's Epistle Reading:**

**EPISTLE:** Colossians 3: 4-11

### **Today's Gospel Readings:**

**MATINS:** Lk. 24: 36-53/**LITURGY:** Luke 14: 16-24

**Troparion:** “Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world His great mercy!”

**Kontakion:** “On this day, Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day, Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs, they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy Power!”

**FOR YOU:** This morning, we are given the most wonderful of Blessings from our Lord to welcome into the Holy Orthodox Faith through the **Holy Mystery of Baptism the servant of God, Jon Mohney!** This is a great opportunity to “reboot” spiritually as you revel in this most ancient of Holy Traditions with the celebrating of the Baptismal Liturgy – wherein the actual Baptism and Chrismation takes place in the midst of the Divine Liturgy! We ask that you lift up our newest “Warrior in Christ”, Jonathan, in prayer, along with his family and friends – and we will greet him with the joyful, Mnogaja Ljeta!” at the conclusion of the Holy Liturgy!

**UPCOMING Church Health Ministry Mtgs:** Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January – Faith and Liturgy Workshop at 7 PM; Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> – Technology Ministry Meeting at 7 PM; Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nadajames1960@yahoo.com)! (Or call her at: 412-751-5450)

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

- (1) TODAY: with only 1 ½ weeks remaining before Christmas, far too many are still in need of Holy Confession – please make arrangements with Fr. Stevo!
- (1-A) We will offer a special prayer today for our Brethren in Montenegro who are being persecuted!
- (2) **THIS Thursday: Feast-Day of St. Ignatius Of Antioch** – 9:30AM Matins – and our (3) new Icons (St. Lazar of Serbia, St. Jona of Odessa, and St. Sophia of Russia) will be brought to the Church by Olga Foight, our Iconographer – JOIN US!
- (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 Protá Adam Yonitch Protá Paul Lazor Protá 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 Kotorcevic +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) **2020 Wall Church Calendars** (FREE) and Pocket Calendars (\$2) are at the Tutor's Desk!
- (6) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
**NEXT Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday before Christmas – Matins at 9AM/Liturgy at 10 AM!  
- **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>:** Baptism of Milena Kathleen Kracinovsky after Liturgy!
- (7) **CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**  
- **Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup>:** 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 7<sup>th</sup>:** Nativity of our Lord – 10AM Festal Liturgy!  
- **Wednesday & Thursday** – the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>: 9:30AM Services!

## GAINING SALVATION BY LOSING A LIFE

**F**or many, the road leading to Christ is a long and winding one. Some of the Church's most revered saints initially lived sinful, shameful lives. The saints depicted on the cover of today's Bulletin – **BONIFACE** and **AGLAE** – bear witness to this.

Boniface and Aglae were both pagans living in an immoral relationship. Aglae, a very superstitious woman, convinced Boniface that he should travel to Asia and bring back a relic of a Christian martyr, which she thought would bring them good fortune, and would protect their household from evil.

Soon, Boniface arrived in Tarsus, where he witnessed a great number of Christians facing terrible torture for their beliefs. He was greatly moved by what he saw, repenting, not only for the unthinkable mission that had brought him to Tarsus, but for all of the sins of his life! Boldly, Boniface cried out among the other martyrs: **"I, TOO, AM A CHRISTIAN!"** Arrested immediately, Boniface was tortured and executed as well.

The servants who had accompanied Boniface to Tarsus brought his body back to Aglae. Prior to their arrival, an angel appeared to her, revealing to Aglae all that had happened. The angel left her with these words: **"TAKE HIS BODY BACK, FOR HE IS NOW THE GUARDIAN OF YOUR SOUL AND THE PROTECTOR OF YOUR LIFE."**

How ironic it is that the relic Aglae was to ultimately receive was that of her beloved Boniface! She buried his body and built a church over it. Giving away her many worldly possessions, Aglae embraced Christianity, and spent the rest of her life in penitence.