

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



It was God's angelic messenger, Gabriel, that announced to the Holy Virgin the awesome news of the Saviour's upcoming birth. At that time, he also proclaimed the name of this Child. He said, "Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS." His name means "Saviour."

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

January 5th – Sunday Before The Nativity – Tone 4

(Remembering the Holy Fathers, the Ten Martyrs of Crete & St. Nahum of Ochrid)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 20: 1-10/**LITURGY:** Mt 1: 1-25

Troparion: “When the women disciples of the Lord, learned from the angel the joyous message of His Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: ‘Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!’”

Kontakion: “My Savior and Redeemer as God, rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell; and, as Master, He has risen on the third day!”

(The Troparion for the Preparation of the Nativity will also be sung!)

FOR YOU: This afternoon, once again, our Parish will have the Blessing to welcome (3) New Relic-Icons, again hand-written by Mrs. Olga Foight: St. Lazar of Serbia, St. Sofia of Kiev, and St. Jonah of Odessa! We will offer a short prayer tomorrow on their behalf!

UPCOMING Church Health Ministry Mtgs: Wednesday the 15th of January – Faith and Liturgy Workshop at 7 PM; Monday the 27th – Technology Ministry Meeting 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) This week – CHRISTMAS WEEK:** The services are as follows –
Tomorrow (Christmas Eve) – 9:30AM Royal Hours/St. Basil Liturgy
Tomorrow night – Blessing of Badnjak – 7:30PM/Festal Vigil – 8 PM!
TUESDAY – Christmas Day (Bozic) – 10AM Liturgy!
WEDNESDAY – Synaxis Of Theotokos – 9:30AM Festal Liturgy!
THURSDAY – Feast Of St. Stephen – 9:30AM Matins!
(NOTE: There is NO fasting from January 7th – January 17th!)
- (2) SATURDAY the 11th** – Confessions at 5 PM – Vespers at 6 PM!
- (3) SUNDAY the 12th:** Baptism of Milena Kathleen Kracinovsky – after Liturgy!
- (3) Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
George Rocknage Nancy Belich Bruce Bennet Mary Sayers Helen Trkula
Gary Popovich Danileja Belo Terri Soffa Katie Elizabeth Repasky
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 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:**
- **Saturday, January 18th:** Eve of Theophany – 9:30AM Church & Bless Waters!
(Blessing of Homes begins this afternoon – Check Your Schedules)
 - **Sunday, January 19th:** Theophany of Our Lord – 9AM Matins – 10AM Festal Liturgy!
 - **Monday, January 20th:** Feast Of St. John the Forerunner – 9:30AM Matins!
 - **TUESDAY, January 21st** – Serb-Fest Planning Meeting – 7 PM – Church hall!

St. Matthew in his Gospel tells something of the meaning of this name when he quotes Gabriel: "you shall call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." The chosen name, Jesus, depicts exactly the chosen work of the Lord. Why did God become Man? Why did He leave the heights of heaven and dwell in the depths of earth? Why did the Creator take upon Himself the frailties of the creature? He did it to save mankind, to do something for people that they could not do for themselves. He came to save.

St. Paul takes up this wonderful theme of the name and work of the Saviour when he writes in his Epistle to the Philippians: ". . . Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied



Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

As for the word "Christ," which has come to be used as a proper name for our Lord, it really is His title. This is the name that identifies Him. The word means "The Anointed One." It refers to the Messiahship. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Saviour. Let Him enter our hearts and truly make this day a holy and joyous one.

God Again Blesses Us With The Relics Of His Saints!



St. Sophia Of Kiev

The Holy Abbess Sophia (Grineva) was born in Moscow in 1873. Living close to the Optina Monastery, she always visited there, and was told by several of the nuns there that she too would become an Abbess. Gifted with a wonderful voice, Sophia, she studied at the Kiev Conservatory, where her professors promised her a glittering future in music.

Just before graduating at age 22, she fell severely ill and lost her voice; in despair, she asked for, and received her share of her father's inheritance, and, along with ten other young women, founded a community dedicated to the Holy Trinity in a remote and deserted wooded area. She was guided by several Holy men: St. John of Kronstadt, Elder Ambrose of Optina, and the Elder Barnabas Of Gethsamene skete.

As her health worsened, she left the convent and was given over to spiritism (the belief that departed souls regularly interact with the living) but finally, near death, was given Holy Unction and miraculously recovered! She later founded the Spiritual Community "Joy and Consolation" near the St. John the Almsgiver Church, as well as the Protection Convent near Kiev.

Her fame grew in the realm of the Church, until the Russian Communists arrested her and sent her from one Prison to another, and she finally reposed in the Lord on April 4th 1941.



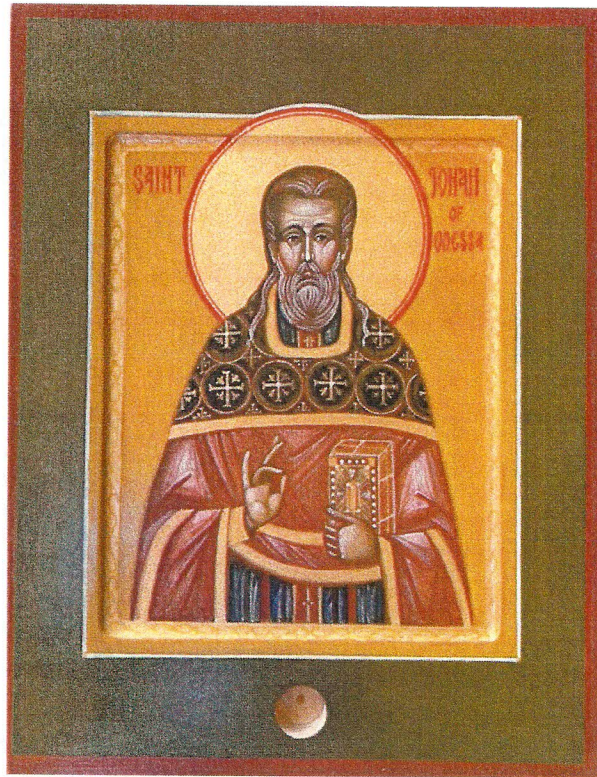
St. Prince Lazar Of Serbia

Born in 1329, Lazar Hrebeljanovic was a famed medieval Serbian ruler who created the largest and most powerful state on the territory after the death of first, Emperor Dushan, and then Emperor Uros V.

Tsar Lazar was able to petition the Patriarch Of Constantinople to heal the schism between the two Churches (1352) and full communion was re-established in 1375. Prince Lazar also restored the monasteries of Hilandar on Mt. Athos and Gornjak, and built the Ravanica and Lazarica monasteries. He also was a great benefactor of the St. Pantelemon monastery on Mt. Athos.

He was married to Tsaritca Milica, and they had seven children: Mara, St. Stefan Visoki, Prince Vuk, Dragana, Teodora, Jelena, and Olivera.

St. Lazar is best known for his long-standing battle with the Turkish powers, culminating with the famed Battle of Kosovo on June 28th, 1389 on the Field of Blackbirds (Kosovo Polje). Serbian tradition has it that he was visited by an Angel of God on the eve of the battle and was given a choice: win the battle and have an earthly kingdom, or lose the battle and gain the Heavenly Kingdom. He opted for The latter, and died in the Battle, and was beheaded. His relics lie in the Monastery Ravenica in Central Serbia.



St. Jonah Of Odessa

St. Jonah (Atamansky), Hieroconfessor of Odessa, was born in Odessa in September of 1852. His parents died when he was very young, and he spent many months at the cemetery where his parents were buried. Later, he began wandering the streets, feeding off the the contents of refuse thrown away, and sleeping at night on the garbage dumps outside the city.

Finally, both his former nanny and his uncle had pity on him, giving him shelter and sending him to school, where he was noticed for his good qualities and gifted voice. As he grew, he matured into a God-fearing and religious man, and in 1884, he was ordained a Deacon; in 1886, a Priest. Fr. Jonah served parishes: in Kardashovka, and later, the Odessa Dormition Cathedral, and finally the maritime port Church of St. Nicholas.

Greatly loved by his faithful flocks, he always kept his home open to all people: he knew people well, could read their thoughts and penetrate into their souls, finding good in people that no one else saw. Thousands of people were cured of physical and spiritual infirmities through his constant prayers. He built a hostel near his St. Nicholas Church where many vagrants, travelers and demon-possessed people whom he cured found refuge. He was considered the "2nd John of Kronstadt" - and it was often reported that many demon-possessed people would shriek and cry as they were brought to him at the Holy Chalice, but after he communed them, they would return quiet and normal!

St. Jonah died after a long and painful illness on May 30th, 1924, and was buried near the St. Nicholas Church - many miracles have taken place in his name throughout the land!