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ST. STEPHEN

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 12th – Sunday After The Nativity – Tone 5

(Remembering the Holy God-Bearing Fathers & the Ven. Theodora of Caesarea)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Galatians 1: 11-20

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 20: 11-18/**LITURGY:** Mt. 2: 13-23

Troparion: “Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit; born for our sakes from a Virgin! For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death; and to raise the dead by His Glorious Resurrection!

Kontakion: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave, to the Unapproachable One! Angels, with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!”

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

FOR YOU: UPCOMING Church Health Ministry Mtgs: GET INVOLVED!!

THIS 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)

SPECIAL NOTE: It was such a joy to see the Church filled this past week for the Christmas Services – seeing both old and new faces! We thank God for ALL the Blessings He gives to Us – and our prayer is that we will continue to do His Will in ALL we endeavor to take on!

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

(1) TODAY: we welcome our “New Warrior in Christ” – Milena Kathleen Kracinovsky!

(2) This TUESDAY – Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil – 9:30AM Matins!

(3) THURSDAY: Making strudel for Fish-frys, at 9AM – please take home apples from the Church Hall Kitchen to peel for Thursday!

(4) 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

(5) 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

(6) 2020 Wall Church Calendars (FREE) and Pocket Calendars (\$2) are at the Tutor's Desk!

(7) 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!**

- **Sunday, January 26th – Church Slava Day – Holy Liturgy and Banquet after Church!**

BOTH DEACON & MARTYR

Saint Stephen was the chief of the seven Deacons selected to assist the Apostles in the daily ministration of the Church and to attend to the help of widows and orphans. His Greek name, signifying a wreath, indicates his Hellenic origin. The Acts of the Apostles tells his story in a moving way. He is referred to as “full of faith and the Holy Spirit,” and his wisdom and spirit was manifested in his speech. He performed wonders in his day.

Stephen was arrested at the instigation of the enemies of Christ and was brought for trial before the Sanhedrin. His eloquent speech cut his hearers to the heart, and he was cast out of the court and stoned to death. In the midst of his suffering and passion, he saw heaven open and our Lord Himself standing at the right hand of the Father, risen as if to welcome the new martyr.

Saul of Tarsus had a hand in the stoning of St. Stephen. It is said that the answer to the prayer of Stephen for his murderers was the conversion of Saul the persecutor into Paul the Apostle.

In iconography, St. Stephen is young and beardless, with the form of a man about thirty. He heads the class of deacons and usually wears the dalmatic. He has been acknowledged as the first martyr of the Christian Church.

Do I Wish To Be A Part Of The Kingdom Of God Forever?



This Holy Season of Christmas, we rejoice that God has once again reminded us of His Love for us in His coming into our world as a little child, born in a lowly manger in a cave outside the village of Bethlehem. But, what should our response be to such a demonstration of Love? For far too many of us, **God's Church and Ministry on earth**, as carried out in HIS CHURCH, (and specifically, our St. Sava Parish) is **ignored or forgotten** about until the "Big Holidays" of the Year come up. Then, we decide to come and "be a part of the crowd", basking in the fellowship and love that is so pervasive at these special times.

Do we believe that such a response to God's Loving Act of taking on our humanity with all its sin is worthy of the gift of Eternal Life? IF we are truly, sincerely intent on being counted as "one of His chosen ones", then **we must make changes** in our life that reflect our willingness to not just talk of our Faith, but act on it through our service and devotion to His Church. This means that we must do our best to:

1. Be a regular participant in the Life of the Church services.
2. Be a regular participant in the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion.
3. Be a regular participant in the WORK of the Ministries God gives us to carry out: giving of our Time, Talents and Treasures to His Church; stepping up and being active in the many, many opportunities to serve Him by serving the Church as best we can.
4. Be willing to set aside the "things of our secular lives" for the "one thing needful" - that which nurtures and nourishes our souls: an active Christian Life!
5. Know the Holy Orthodox Faith personally through study, prayer, and fasting (in word, deed and thought).

Let us all take this opportunity at this Holy Feast of Christmas to look deeply into ourselves and find ways to change our approach to serving our New-Born King that will insure our being counted "worthy Of His Kingdom" forever!