



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

February 9th – 34th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 1
(Publican & Pharisee Sunday - Remembering the Transfer of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom)

Today's Epistle Reading:
EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Today's Gospel Readings:
MATINS: Mt. 28: 16-20 **LITURGY:** Lk. 18: 10-14

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!'"

CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRY MEETING DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday the 19th: Faith & Liturgy – 7 PM! **Tuesday the 25th:** Technology – 7 PM!
Sunday, May 17th: Presentation of ALL Ministry Teams and their specific Ministry Tasks to our Parish and our College Students who will be invited to be with us that day – a BIG day in our journey to a stronger, spiritually healthier future – BE THERE!

NOTE: **Dorothy Ikach**, from the Activities/Welcoming Ministry Committee, will be making a short presentation this morning to keep us all "in the loop"!

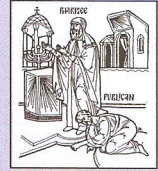
ATTENTION: Our "Faith/Liturgy" Committee is updating our 'ancient' Parish Directory – you will be asked if you want to be listed in it (name, address, phone number, etc.) – by contacting Nada James: nadajames1960@yahoo.com!
(Or call her at: 412-751-5450; Sign-up cards at the Tutors' Desk)

SPECIAL NOTE: I am trying to catch up on House Blessings – still somewhat behind, but I will call you ahead to let you know! **Thx for your continue patience!**

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

- (1) **TODAY:** we announce the joyous birth of Mila and Steve Conley's baby girl, **Amelia Joie Conley**, early Saturday morning – and Congratulations to them and to her new grandparents, Dan and Denise Vranesevic – Many Years!
- (1-A) We will take our **Monthly Collection** for the Needy in our community – do your BEST!
- (2) **THIS TUESDAY, the 11th:** We will be making nut-rolls at 9:30AM! (**HELP Please!**)
- (3) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
William Packosky Nancy Belich Marie Ann Hantz Helen Trkula Gary Popovich
Danileja Belo Katie Elizabeth Repasky George Belancik-NH Mary Sayers
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 Eugene Gould John Ratesic
- (4) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+George Rocknage +Keith Bedell +Mika Rocknage +Joseph Stercula
+Dan Petrovich +Barbara Tomac +Anna Pacura +Mark Vojnovich +Nick Trbovic
+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
+Peter Miljus +George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +Hubert Witte +Seya Maybee
- (5) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
- Our Fish Fry days begin on **Friday the 28th**..... of February!
- **February Tuesdays the 11th, 18th, and 25th** – NUT-ROLL Baking for our Fish-Fry Days!
- (6) **Stewardship Pledges For 2020** – Have You Turned Yours in yet?????
- (7) **Have you contacted Nada James regarding the Updated Parish Directory?**
(Her contact info is in this Bulletin!)
- (8) **"SERB-FEST" UPDATE:** The first organizational meeting of our newly christened 'Taste of Serbia' food and culture festival was held last Tuesday evening in the Church hall. It was well attended by over 20 people. Jim Brady agreed to be general chairperson for the event and several people volunteered to head the various sub-committees. There was a high level of energy at the meeting and many excellent ideas were discussed. More details will be shared with you in the very near future. **The next meeting is scheduled for February 24 at 7:00 PM** in the Church Hall - all are welcome - please get involved!

PERCEPTION IS NOT REALITY!



There is an old saying with which we are all familiar: *"Things are not always what they seem to be."* These wise words certainly apply to the main characters in the Parable of THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE.

In the story, our Lord tells us that two men go to pray in the temple. The Pharisee, a well-respected leader in the Jewish religious community, presents God with a "litany" of his good works: he fasts, he tithes, he lives a spiritual life. The Publican, a despised tax collector, undoubtedly has nothing in his life of which he is proud. All he can offer to the Lord is a simple plea: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The perception of the Pharisee would be that he is a man to be held in high esteem. In reality, he is someone who did all of the right things for the wrong reasons! The opposite could be said of the Publican. While shunned by society, Christ tells us that his sincerity caused him to find favor with God. Truly, *"he who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Luke 18:14)

In his "Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke," St. Cyril of Alexandria writes: *"We must remember that when we pray, we are speaking to the God Who knows all things."* On this, the first of the Pre-Lenten Sundays, let us remember that the Lord is not impressed with prideful boasting, for He knows the secrets of our hearts. Without real humility, there can be no true sorrow for our sins, and no reconciliation with God.