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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

March 1st – 37th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 4 (Cheese-Fare)

(Today is FORGIVENESS Sunday – Calling ALL to Ask forgiveness of each other!)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Romans 13: 11-14, 4

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk 24: 1-12 **LITURGY:** Mt. 6: 14-21

Troparion: “When the women disciples of the Lord, learned from the Angel the joyous message of Thy 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: “O Master, Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue, who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor: strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: ‘Have mercy on me, a sinner, O Merciful Lord!’”

CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRY MEETING DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

A BIG DAY - on Sunday, May 17th: A special Presentation of ALL Ministry Teams and their specific Ministry Goals to our Parish and our College Students who will be invited to be with us that day – an important day in our journey to a stronger, spiritually healthier future – **BE THERE!**

REMINDER: Our beautiful **Pre-Sanctified Liturgy** will begin **THIS Wednesday March 4th**, With Confessions at 5:45 PM, and the Liturgy at 6:30 PM – **JOIN US!**
(If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please avoid eating from Noon till the service)

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Jim and Diane Brady – in their Stewardship of making New Vesper Books for our Parish – God Grant You Many Years!

REMINDER: Each Friday is our **FISH FRY** –from 12-6 PM, and remember that our Prep Day is each **THURSDAY** to help prepare our delicious **MENU** – **BE THERE!**

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

- (1) TODAY: we will have an abbreviated **RITE OF FORGIVENESS (Fr. Stevo will explain) at the end of Liturgy**; then, the **40-day Parastos for +George Rocknage**, followed by a delicious luncheon in the Hall from Fr. Stevo's family – JOIN US!
- (1-A) **Great & Holy Lent begins tonight** – so, this **FIRST** week of Lent, we will have The Great Canon of St. Andrew – Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 6:30PM; and On Wednesday, the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts at 6:30 PM – with our Pot-Luck Dinner after – join us!!
- (2) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
William Packosky Nancy Belich Marianne Hantz Helen Trkula Gary Popovich
Danileja Belo Katie Elizabeth Repasky 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
- (3) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Dan Petrovich +George Belancik +George Rocknage & +Mika Rocknage
+Barbara Tomac +Joseph Stercula +Anna Pacura +Mark Vojnovich +Nick Trbovic
+Protas: Dr. Filipovic, Den Pavichevich,, +Rast.Trbuhovich,, +Vaso Sokolovic,
+Carl Magdic +Ray & Donna 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
+Keith Bedell +Arlene Crnkovich +Hubert Witte +Seya Maybee
- (4) **Stewardship Pledges For 2020** – Have You Turned Yours in yet?????
- (5) **"SERB-FEST" NEWS:** Our Parish Festival – officially named, "A Taste of Serbia" has A LAUNCH DATE: October 2-4th, 2020 – please mark your calendars, and SAVE the date, As well as pass the word amongst all your family and friends! Remember: YOUR help is needed to make this inaugural event a success – more details to follow soon!!
- (6) **OUR PARISH IS HOSTING:** A Western PA Youth Retreat, on Saturday, April 4th, "The Game of Life – Navigating Today's Twists and Turns" – and we anticipate a fine turn-out of Orthodox Youth here that day!
- (7) Our **LENTEN EDUCATION CLASSES begin on Monday the 16th** at 7 PM – JOIN US!

THE MIRACLE OF THE BOILED WHEAT

The two saints depicted on today's Bulletin share the same name: Theodore TYRON and Theodore STRATILATES. Their lives were quite similar as well, for both were originally officers in the Roman Army before pledging their allegiance to Christ. Both suffered martyrdom for their convictions.

Although they were not acquainted with each other in life, they are said to have shared an important role in a great miracle AFTER their death! In the early Church, it was a common practice for Christians to cleanse themselves spiritually and physically during the first week of the Great Fast. Indeed, the Church still refers to this time as the WEEK OF PURIFICATION. In 362 A.D., the Emperor Julian the Apostate, a bitter enemy of the Church, secretly had all of the food supplies in the marketplace sprayed with the blood of animals sacrificed to idols in an attempt to defile the fasting efforts of the Christians.

The Lord intervened, however, causing Theodore TYRON and Theodore STRATILATES to appear in a dream to Aphoxius, the Archbishop of Constantinople, revealing this diabolical scheme. The hierarch was instructed to inform the faithful to avoid the polluted food and to sustain themselves only on boiled wheat. Julian's plot was foiled, and the Christians remained pure in their Lenten abstinence.

For this reason, the first Saturday of Great Lent is traditionally referred to as "Theodore Saturday," a day when this wonderful miracle is remembered. This is also the basis of the custom of preparing the boiled wheat, known as KOLIVA, for memorial services in the Church.