



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 15th – 2nd Sunday Of Great Lent – Tone 6 – St. Gregory Palamas
(Today the Church Remembers the Hiero-Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Heb. 1: 10-2:3

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Lk 24: 36-53 **LITURGY:** Mk. 2: 1-12

Troparion: "The angelic powers were at Thy Tomb, the guards became as dead men! Mary stood by Thy Grave, seeking Thy Most-Pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it; Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!"

Troparion: "O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church! Its Confirmation! O ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians! O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace! Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

TODAY: We will offer a short Moleben for the Coronavirus Pandemic and you will all be anointed with Holy Oil – Come and Receive!!

CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRY MEETING DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

A BIG DAY - 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!

REMINDER: Our beautiful **Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** continue **THIS Wednesday** with Confessions at 5:45 PM, and the Liturgy at 6:30 PM – JOIN US!

(GREAT turnout last week – Keep it up!)

(If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please avoid eating from Noon till the service)

REMINDER: Starting **THIS Friday**, our **FISH FRY is TAKE-OUT only!**

(ALSO: Our St. Sava Parish has made it to **Round 3 "Elite 8"** of the **2020 Pittsburgh Ultimate Fish Fry** tournament bracket! Please visit theincline.com to cast your vote – BUT, no late than Tuesday, at noon - March 17th!!!)

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

(1) FROM HIS GRACE, Our Bishop IRINEJ:

“Due to the dangers of covid-19, **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**, ALL coffee hours are cancelled, as well as Church and Serbian school classes, parish meetings, joint vespers and lectures, but the Divine Liturgy, of course, remains!”

(1-A) For us, this means: no Adult classes, no fellowship hour, no Choir rehearsals, no pot-luck dinners, but we are having NUT-ROLLS Tuesday and our Prep Day for Fish Fry on Thursday!

(2) TODAY: we welcome Fr. Deacon Ned Trbovich – helping Fr. Stevo today!

(3): SPECIAL THANKS to ALL who have helped at the Fish Fry – BUT, we are in desperate need of more **donated BAKED GOODS** for the dessert table – PLEASE DONATE!

(4) 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 LuAnne
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

(5) 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 +Tammy Alexander +Arlene Crnkovich +Hubert Witte
+Smilja Blagovich

(6) Stewardship Pledges For 2020 – Have You Turned Yours in yet?????

(7) "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!!

✠ CLEANSING OUR SOUL AND BODY ✠

Once again, the time of Great Lent is upon us, when every Orthodox Christian will enter an intense period of spiritual discipline. During these 40 days, the Church implores us to do certain things:

FASTING: At this time, we will be called upon to Fast. It must be understood, however, that fasting means more than merely abstaining from meat and dairy products. Fasting also means a strict curtailing of our social activities. We are reminded “earthly pleasures” can easily interfere with our concentration on the Passion of our Lord. The term “fasting” applies as well to having a stricter control over our thoughts, words and deeds.

PRAYING: During Lent, a great emphasis is placed upon Prayer. Special services, such as the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the Akathist to the Mother of God provide us with the liturgical means of becoming closer to our Saviour as we approach Pascha.

REPENTING: Above all, we will be asked to Repent during the Lenten Season, and to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist as we prepare to proclaim His Resurrection at the conclusion of our 40-day journey. We must all obey Christ’s command given to His Apostles at the Mystical Supper: Do this in remembrance of Me.

While Great Lent is often characterized by its dark liturgical colors and mournful hymns, we must remember the words of one of the sticheras from Forgiveness Vespers: “Let us enter the season of Lent in the spirit of joy, giving ourselves to spiritual strife, cleansing our soul and body as we limit our food, living on the virtues of the spirit, rejoicing all the while with spiritual joy.”

Answers To Questions From The “Question Box”!

(1) Are all non-believers banished to hell after death?

At first glance, this is an easy answer: Yes! The Holy Tradition affirms only those who are of the “One, True Faith” are capable of finding salvation. HOWEVER, the same Tradition does affirm that ONLY God determines whether a soul is lost or saved – not any earthly Institution. What does this mean for us? To NOT be judgmental of those “outside our Faith”, but rather be living examples of Christ that can draw them to our Faith!

(2) If the above answer is “Yes”, why then does God teach us to “Love our enemies”?

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be “followers of Christ” – to do HIS Will on this earth Not our own, and to emulate Him in all our behavior. Thus, as Christ Himself forgave His Enemies (from the Cross) we are called to do the same!

(3) Why is Confession so important? In other words, can I not talk to God directly without The Priest involved?

Holy Confession is given to us through the Church – the Body of Christ - Only in the Spirit of This can one truly be forgiven. Why? In the early Church, Confession was a public Sacrament: The person would get up before his peers and state his sins, asking forgiveness, which was granted because it was the Grace of God within that Body that forgave him. As the Church Grew in number, it was unrealistic to have the hundreds of faithful do public confession, so The Priest was tasked to “represent the Body of Christ” and hear the confession, but it still was the GRACE of GOD that forgave the person, not the priest.

As to the second part of the question, yes, a person can confess in private prayer to God, But what is lacking in that prayer is accountability – we can confess our innermost thoughts to God, but not have any guidance or direction on how to repent of a particular sin. In the person of the Priest, Pastoral Guidance and Direction is given, WITH the expectation that the Pastoral Counsel will be followed! Being accountable to a Spiritual Father is a sure-fire way to prevent us from feeling “off the hook” because we confessed directly to God and we did what was expected of us!