

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 Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)

Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest

Rectory: (412)672-1872 Hall: (412) 664-0820 E-mail: frstevor@aol.com

Sunday, January 26th – Sunday After The Theophany – Tone 6

(Remembering the Martyrs Hermolus and Stratonicus)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Ephesians 4: 7-13

Today's Gospel Reading

MATINS: Jn 20: 19-31/LITURGY: Luke 18: 10-14

PRIEST: Resurrection 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 did capture hell, not being tempted by it; Thou did come to the Virgin, granting life: O Lord, Who did rise from the dead, Glory To Thee!”

CHANTER: Festal Troparion – Tone 1:

When Thou, O Lord was baptised in the Jordan! The worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bear witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ our God, who has revealed Thyself, and has enlightened the world, glory to Thee!”

CHOIR: St. Sava Troparion

(February Calendars are available – please note the ‘work dates’ scheduled!)

Today's Special Announcements and Events In Our Parish:

- (1) We congratulate our ‘KUMA’ for our Slava Today – Carol Buck, and God grant her many years!
(1-A) Join us downstairs for our Banquet and Program!
- (2) **TOMORROW:** Feast Of St. Sava – Liturgy at 9:30AM!
- (3) **Please pray for the health & well-being of our loved ones:**
HRH Princess Katherine Fr. Christopher Rocknage Nancy Belich
Melva Dandrea Dawn Hamm Pat Gould Michael Stepanovich
Donald & Milena Vojnovich-NH Xenia Vranesevich Melva
Lugares Helen Trkula-NH Helen Mochan Jenifer & Nadia Belo
AP Chris Bender AP Jonathan Proctor AP Joseph Abud
Demetrius Yandrich Jerry Repasky
- (4) **Also pray for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+Alex Barna +Eli Yaich (Fr. Stevo's Cousin) +Petar Vukelic
+Milan Drobac +Betsy Cannon +Stevan “Rick” Zivic
+Stella Medich +Melva Buzzelli+Gary Trbovich +Eva Orr
+Katherine Radoicich +Leslie King +Wayne Malovitz
Helen Trkula (Nursing Home – NHunt)
+AP Angelo Artemas +AP Paul Lazor +Arc. Polycarp Ramaeus
+AP Vladimir Demshuk + AP Adam Yonitch +Eugene Gould
+Amelia Opacic +Marsha Cugalj +Vlade Baskot +Joseph Stercula
- (5) **Fr. Stevo Away:** from **February 1st-15th**, he and Prot. JoAnn will be touring Spain and Portugal....**Fr. Mark Resanovich** is serving Liturgy on **Sundays the 2nd and the 9th**... Please welcome him as only we can!

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

On the great Feast Day of THEOPHANY, we commemorate, our Lord's baptism in the Jordan River by John. Have you ever wondered why Jesus was baptized? Why did the Sinless One need to submit to a ritual that symbolized the washing away of sins? St. John himself must have had the same question in his mind. The Gospels tell us that when Christ approached him in the Jordan, he was reluctant to baptize Him, saying: "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" (Matthew 3:14) In the following verse of Matthew's Gospel, Christ answers: "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Therein lies our answer. Jesus certainly did not NEED purification. But by making the purification of humanity His own, He would wash away the sin of humanity, grant regeneration and reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Thus, Christ's baptism was necessary for the fulfillment of all of God's righteousness. St. Gregory of Nyssa puts it beautifully: "JESUS ENTERS THE SINFUL WATERS OF THE WORLD, AND WHEN HE COMES OUT, HE PURIFIES THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH HIM."

The Church refers to baptism as a "new birth." In this "new birth," a true mystery takes place, for in the Sacrament of Baptism, we die, going down into the water to be mystically united to Christ in His death. Then we live again, rising up out of the water in His Resurrected humanity.

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