

The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport-Duquesne, Pa.
901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 – Our Website: stsavapa.org

Very Rev. Stevan (Stevo) G. Rocknage, Pastor

Parish Phone: (412) 672-1872 Hall: (412) 664-0820 E-mail: FrStevoR@aol.com

January 3rd - 30th Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday Before The Nativity
(Remembering – the Holy Ancestors of our Lord; the Martyr Juliana of Nicodemia, and the
500 men & 150 women with her)

Today's Epistle

Reading: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Today's Gospel

Reading: Matthew 1: 1-25

Troparion: "Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the 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: "Thou didst descend into hell, O My Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to Thee: 'O Lord, save us!' "

(The Troparion for the Fore-feast of the Nativity will also be sung)

Today's Meditation:

"To Redeem Them"

"When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son. . . " Why? For what purpose? Surely, all that long and careful preparation through the centuries must have had a tremendously great purpose. Such a great sacrifice on the part of God the Father must have had an exalted purpose. St. Paul reveals the purpose: "to redeem those who were under the law." To redeem sinners under the sentence of death. That was the way Paul put it. "To all who received him. . . he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:11). That was the way the Apostle John put it. Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, made "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). That was the way Peter put it. And Jesus put it this way: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost"

St. Gregory of Nyssa put it this way:

"Do you ask why God was born among men?"

"Here is the reason for God's presence among men. Our nature was sick and needed a doctor. Man had fallen and needed someone to raise him up. He Who had ceased to participate in the good needed someone to bring him back to it. He who was shut up in darkness needed the presence of life. The prisoner was looking for someone to ransom him, the captive for someone to take his part. He who was under the yoke of slavery was looking for someone to set him free. Were these trifling and unworthy reasons to impel God to come down and visit human nature. . . ?"

Special Announcements Today – For Your Benefit!

(1) TODAY: is the Sunday before the Nativity of Our Lord – **please make EVERY EFFORT** to be here for the Christmas Services – beginning this Wednesday morning, and continuing through the rest of this week! Refer to your Christmas Bulletins for times!
(1-A) Fellowship Hour sponsored by the Buck and Young Families!

(2) Please keep the following loved ones in our prayers:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Arlene Crnkovich | Dawn Hamm | Bertha Cervo | Bertha Lalich |
| JoAnn Korach | Mika Rocknage | Mildred Miljus | Louise Popelas-NH |
| Ljubica Trbovic-NH | George Rocknage | Mara Gasparovic-NH | Milan Vranesevic |
| Vlade Baskot | Pr. Michael Lewis | Boya Kecman | Cpt. Michael Repasky |

(3) As well as those who have fallen asleep in the Lord:

+ Ruby Petrisko +Nicholas Vuick +Amy Pacura +Melva Stankovich +George Torbic
+Patr. Pavle +Arch-Bishop JOB +Smilja Vuckovich +Natasha Kavic + Sophie Vranesevic

(4) THIS WEEK: Choir Rehearsal – **Monday at 7 PM** – Be there to practice for Christmas!

- **NEXT Saturday morning** – St. Stephen Day – 9:30 AM Services!

(5) OUR 'FELLOWSHIP HOUR' After Church: No one has signed up for the New Year dates – let's go – it is a great way to solidify the 'bond' we share with each other!!

PLEASE SIGN-UP IN BACK OF THE CHURCH!

(6) UPCOMING EVENTS: Parish Leadership Training Seminar – Wednesday the 13th – 7 PM;
All Officers of the Parish SHOULD be there please!

(7) YOUTH GROUP: will meet after Christmas at Dana Buck's home - You will be contacted about a date! We will discuss several ethical issues at that time!

(8) ATTENTION CHILDREN: we will be making Christmas 'luminaries' for our Church to celebrate our Christmas – please see Joyce for details!

(9) PLEASE: do your part in coming to Church regularly AND getting your 2010 Stewardship Pledge Card in **BEFORE** the end of January, if possible!

(10) SPECIAL THANKS: To all who helped out with the Troop Treats - great job!