

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

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January 10th - 31st Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday After The Nativity
(Remembering – Joseph the Betrothed, David the King & James, Brother of the Lord)

Today's Epistle

Reading: Galatians 1: 11-19

Today's Gospel

Reading: Matthew 27: 13-23

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!"

Kontakion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of Wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a Star, to adore Thee the Son of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high! O Lord, Glory to Thee!"
(The Kontakion of Christmas will also be sung!)

Today's Meditation – "Now God Has Come to Us"

Dostoevsky, in one of his famous stories, describes the coming of Christmas Day to a Siberian prison camp. From the grim prison the convicts watched the villagers trooping in gay procession to the early church liturgy in the great cathedral. It was Christmas, the great holy day of the year but not for them, the condemned, isolated from the rest of humanity for their crimes. They wept as they huddled together for comfort.

Finally, however, when the long cathedral liturgy was ended, a priest came to the prison, set up a crude altar, and began the liturgy. "Now God has come to us!" the convicts shouted in surprised joy.

"Oh yes," replied the priest, "This is where God lives all year long – among you. You see, He only goes to the cathedral on special occasions."

"And He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people."

A Japanese Christian once wrote, "God dwells among the lowliest of men! He sits on the dust heap among the prison convicts. He stands with the juvenile delinquents. He is there with beggars. He is among the sick; He stands with the unemployed. Let him who would meet God visit the prison cell before going to the temple. Before he goes to church let him visit the hospital. Before he reads his Bible let him help the beggar."

God has changed His address! Christ is truly in our midst.

As the feast of the Nativity of Christ was approaching, the wicked pagan emperor Maximian Hercules surrounded a church filled with Christian worshipers in 302. He ordered them to offer sacrifice to the idols or be burned to death. Recalling the Three Holy Children in the furnace in Babylon, and fired with enthusiasm, twenty thousand were burned to death singing the glory of God.

Special Announcements Today – For Your Benefit!

(1) **TODAY:** the Yovetich family will be hosting our Fellowship Hour! JOIN US!

(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:** Parish Leadership Training Seminar – THIS Wednesday the 13th – 7 PM;
All Officers of the Parish **SHOULD** be present – we will meet in Church!
- **THURSDAY:** Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil Day – 9:30 AM!

(5) **OUR 'FELLOWSHIP HOUR' After Church:** Keep on volunteering!!

(6) **UPCOMING EVENTS:** The Blessing of homes begins on **Monday, January 18th** after Church – please have all tv's and radios off, and a candle, bowl of water, and list of living and departed for Fr. Stevo ready!

(7) **YOUTH GROUP:** will meet after Christmas at Dana Buck's home - You will be contacted about a date! We will discuss a meeting date at the Brady's on the 23rd!

(8) **ATTENTION:** we still have beautiful St. Sava Blankets available – only \$25/each – a wonderful and practical gift and keepsake!

(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 NOTE TO ALL:** the American Church Supply Company that does our envelopes sent out the January ones late – SO, if you have not received your envelopes for January just yet, please go to the Tutor's desk and give them your name and address – Thank you for your understanding!

(11) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** the 24th – Swearing-in of Parish Officers; the 31st – St. Sava Day Celebration! **February 14th** – Forgiveness Sunday AND Ordination of Christopher Rocknage to the Holy Diaconate – be here for this historical event!