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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa**

901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 Our Web-site: [stsavapa.org](http://stsavapa.org)

*Very Rev. Stevan (Stevo) Rocknage, Parish Priest*

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**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost - After Epiphany -Tone 7**

(Remembering: Holy Martyrs Polecats & Hiero-martyr Philip, Met. of Moscow)

**Today's Epistle Reading:**

Ephesians 4: 7-13

**Today's Gospel Reading:**

Matthew 4: 12-17

**Resurrection**

**Troparion:** By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!  
To the myrrh bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy; and Thou didst command  
Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great  
mercy!"

**Resurrection Kontakion:** "The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ  
descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets  
rejoice and cry: 'The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the  
Resurrection!' "

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**Be The Church**

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**Spiritual**

The Church is more than a building, it is people; believing people; baptized people, chrismated people, surrendered people, people in whom Christ dwells, people who listen to and obey the voice of God, people who have truly committed their lives to Him as Lord, people who have a personal praying relationship to Him, who listen to and obey His voice.

As Bishop Dmitri writes the Church is "the company of those who have put on Christ by being baptized in Him, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Chrismation, forgiven of their sins in Confession, and nurtured by the Heavenly Food in the Holy Mystery of His Body and Blood. . . The Church is a divinely instituted unity of people, united by the Orthodox Faith, the law of God, the hierarchy, and the Holy Mysteries. It is the Mystical body of Christ."

Someone said, "The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when the Church — God's people — strengthened by preaching and sacrament — go out the church door into the world to be the Church. We don't merely go to church; we are the Church."

Recently a student was telling his pastor about a conversation he had with a fellow student in the dormitory. The fellow student did not believe in God. The student said to the pastor, "How can I get this fellow to church, so he can get some help?" The pastor replied, "Don't try to get him to come to church. He'll probably refuse anyway. You must be the Church to him where you are . . . in the wash room, in the locker room, in the class, in the dorm, on the playing field. You are the Church to that fellow student."

The reason we come to church every Sunday is to listen to Christ, to praise Him, to receive Him within us that we may go out into the world and be the Church for the rest of the week.

## Today's Special Announcements and Upcoming Activities For You:

- (1) **TODAY:** we will confer the Blessing of the Oath of Office to ALL Parish Officers, and ask God to Bless them throughout this New Year!
  
- (2) **Please pray for the health and well-being of the following loved ones:**  
Ellis Cannon   Melva Lugares   Dawn Hamm   Nick Trbovich   Milkie Trtica  
Mara Gasparovic-NH   Smilja Blagovich-NH   Mimi Pavlovich-NH   George Rocknage  
George/Alona Evanovich-NH   Boya Kecman-NH   Mika Rocknage
  
- (3) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**  
+Betty Vojnovich   +Betty Milkovich   +Delores Craven   +Bertha Cervo   +Milan Vranesevich  
+Mildred Miljus   +Amy Pacura   +Arlene Crnkovich   +Peter Miljus   +Mildred Dokmanovich  
+Sally Vranes   +Priscilla Torbic   +Ann Siebert   +Arch-Priest Michael Lewis
  
- (4) **SPECIAL ITEMS TO TAKE NOTE OF:**  
- **THIS WEEK:** Blessing homes continues - check your Christmas Bulletin for schedule!  
- **FRIDAY:** Feast-Day of our Patron Saint Sava - 9:30 AM Services!
  
- (5) **REMEMBER THAT:** the sole purpose of the Holy Liturgy is for our participation in the Holy Mysteries of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - don't let the devil deceive you into staying away from the BEST medicine your soul will ever see
  
- (6) **NEXT SUNDAY:** Our Church Slava - join us for Liturgy, Banquet and Program!
  
- (7) **SPECIAL NOTE:** our "Christmas Outreach Project" of taking hams and turkeys down to the Orthodox Pantry on the South Side last December 22<sup>nd</sup> was a WONDERFULLY successful event! Thanks to our donations and our Kolo's help, we were able to take down over 60 items, in addition to having 10 volunteers work the pantry from 5:45 to 7 PM that evening. **To the few of you who were critical of our "being disorganized", I suggest that you get involved with this wonderful ORTHODOX Ministry and see the "fruits of God's Laborers" manifested in the eyes of those helped!**  
- As a result of the above experience, **we will have a regular container set up downstairs to collect food supplies (dry goods, etc.), that will be taken down monthly to the Pantry....in addition, our Outreach Committee will determine which Thursday of the month to serve as volunteers at the Pantry! JOIN US!**
  
- (8) **SUNDAY, February 5<sup>th</sup>:** we have invited a special group of youth to come in and give us a presentation on "Bible Challenge" that our Church-school will undertake in May - join us for the luncheon after Church with their presentation!
  
- (9) **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>:** Forgiveness Sunday - we will host the Lenten Vespers at 5:30 PM!

## THE NEED TO BE APPROACHABLE

**H**ave you ever noticed how approachable Christ was when He walked the earth? People flocked to our Lord for many different reasons. They wanted to be healed ... they wanted to be helped ... they wanted to be taught ... they wanted to be accepted ... they wanted to be forgiven. It didn't matter why someone felt compelled to see or talk to Him. Jesus had time for everyone. Remember the story of Christ hurrying to see the ill daughter of Jairus, and He is slowed down by the woman who only wanted to touch His garment so that she could be cured of her affliction? Do you recall another incident where the Apostles tried to keep women from bringing their children to see Jesus, and our Lord rebuked them with these words: "Let the little children come to Me..."? This was a characteristic of our Lord's ministry: if someone needed something, He was there for them, even if they were the undesirable element of society that most people would shun. When someone would open their heart to Christ, He would welcome and accept them with open arms.

As followers of Jesus, we, too, must learn from His Divine example and be approachable as well. We must guard against being so focused on our own needs that we have no time for others and their needs. It is our Christian obligation to make ourselves available to others, even if we are busy and tired. Although duties may vie for our energy, we must not pass by a hurting soul whose burden we may lighten. Never lose sight of the fact that doing so will go a long way in determining who will be welcome in the Kingdom of Heaven!

*Icon by Nataliya Zharsky  
from The Prosopeon School of Iconology*

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