

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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February 21st -37th Sunday – 1st Sunday Of Lent – Triumph Of Orthodoxy
(Remembering – the Great-Martyr Theodore Stratelates; the Prophet Zechariah, St. Sava the 2nd)

Today's Epistle

Readings: Hebrews 11: 24-26; 32-12: 2

Today's Gospel

Readings John 1: 43-51

Resurrectional Troparion (Tn. 4): “When the women disciples of the Lord, learned from the Angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: ‘Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!’ “

Festal Troparion (Tn.2): “We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thy good will, Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: ‘Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, for Thou didst come to save the world!’ “

Today's Meditation: Today, we celebrate the **Triumph of Orthodoxy!** On this day in 843, the icons of the Faith were officially returned to the Church, as was decreed at the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787....a violent, almost evil conflict had raged for years (the Iconoclast Controversy), with brutal attacks, torture and even murders done in the name of preventing icons from being venerated in the Churches. At the heart of the debate (and one that most non-Orthodox Christian faiths still hold to) was the belief that God could NOT be depicted in human form....but the Church in her wisdom, led by St. John of Damascus, affirmed that since the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, DID become man, and took on ALL humanity, and perfected it, his image, along with those of the blessed Saints who came after Him, COULD INDEED be depicted in written (icon) form....Icons can be VENERATED, but not worshipped – meaning that we can pray to Christ, the Theotokos, or the Saint depicted on the icon, but we must NOT worship it – reverence only goes to God and His Heavenly community of Saints surrounding Him! **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR US?** Because far too many of us take for granted the Icons in our Church – treating them as if they are pictures to be admired....THEY ARE NOT! They are considered “**Windows to Heaven**”, i.e., that by gazing upon them and meditating on what they represent, we can gain a deeper understanding of just what the Heavenly Kingdom entails, in the person of the Saint depicted, or the event shown on the icon! In addition, **pay attention women of the Faith:** the proper way to venerate the icon is to do so without wearing lipstick – I know, that sounds so old-fashioned – but please remember the lipstick leaves smudges that are unsightly and truly “block out” the beautiful ‘window’ we are gazing upon in the icon – so try to be careful and do NOT use lipstick when venerating the icons.....of course, this does NOT mean avoiding venerating the icon altogether – it just means do not use lipstick to do so.....if we can observe this simple ‘sign of obedience in the Faith’ our icons will truly be the “Windows to Heaven”!

Special Announcements Today – For Your Benefit!

(1) **TODAY:** we will celebrate the ‘Triumph of Orthodoxy’ with our Icon-procession right before the end of Church – ALL children and parents are welcome to participate in this wonderful event!

(1-A) **Special thanks to:** all of the Altar Servers who helped His Grace serve the Divine Liturgy last Sunday – SUPER job! And to all who were present and offered up prayers and cards on Fr. Deacon Christopher’s behalf – a big “**Thank you and God Bless You!**”

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

Patriarch IRINEJ Arlene Crnkovich Gladys Mrvos Bertha Cervo Bertha Lalich
JoAnn Korach Mika Rocknage Darinka Grba Louise Popelas-NH
Mara Gasparovic-NH Milan Vranesevic-NH Dawn Hamm Mildred Miljus
Nick & Dorothy Trbovic Fr. Deacon Christopher/Andreja Rocknage Pr. Michael Lewis

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

+Ljubica Trbovich +Richard Sinsel +Nicholas Vuick +Amy Pacura +Ruby Petrisko
+George Torbic +Patr.Pavle +Arch-Bishop JOB +Smilja Vuckovich +Sophie Vranesevic

(4) **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:**

TUESDAY: our Education Class for Great Lent begins – 7 PM (weather permitting!)

Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 6:30 PM – Pot-luck meal afterwards!

Friday: Fish-Fry – 11 AM to 6 PM!

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

(6) **UPCOMING EVENTS:** NUT-ROLL BAKING Begins THIS Wednesday, the 24th!

(7) **PLEASE:** do your part in coming to Church regularly AND getting your 2010 Stewardship Pledge Card in as soon as possible!

(8) **SPECIAL EVENT TODAY:** JOIN US! The Pan-Orthodox Doxology is at 4 PM in Canonsburg – All Saints Greek Orthodox Church!

(9) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Fish Frys EVERY Friday during the Lenten Season; Pre-Sanctified Liturgy every Wednesday At 6:30 PM, EXCEPT March 10th – that week, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be that Friday the 12th!

(10) **REMINDER:** IF you wish to rent the Church hall, you must abide by the Church’s Calendar Year, with the Fasting Seasons, etc. – NO EXCEPTIONS – if interested, please call Helen Barna @ 1-724-225-0645.....