

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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June 27th – 5th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 4

(Remembering the Saints, the Prophet Elisha and Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople)

Today's Epistle

Readings: Romans 10: 1-10

Today's Gospel

Readings Mt. 8: 28-9:1

Troparion: "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!'"

Kontakion: "My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!"

Meditation:

Facing East

It is customary to pray facing East since Christ is called "the East" (Luke 1:74) and the Sun of Righteousness and justice" (Mal. 4:2).

Origen says that we ought to pray Eastward in order to show that our whole life is oriented toward the dawn of the Light of the World: Jesus.

St. Basil writes that in facing East to pray, we show that we are seeking the ancient homeland, the Paradise of God, that God planned in Eden, toward the East.

So it is that our bodies are traditionally buried facing east and not west, the sunrise and not the sunset, the morning and not the night. They are like a vast army looking out for Him, Who was risen, and waiting His call to summon us to the resurrection.

Thus originated the custom of praying facing East, the place of the rising sun, the direction from which the Lord will finally come again (Matthew 24:27). This is why our Orthodox Churches are traditionally built facing East. We pray standing and waiting for the Parousia, the Coming of our Master. We stand, says St. John Chrysostom, because we are ready to walk with Christ, ready to do His work, and joyfully awaiting the Second Coming, the great event that will consummate the union with Him already experienced in prayer and the Eucharist.

Special Announcements Today – For Your Benefit!

(1) **TODAY:** we welcome Fr. Deacon Ned Trbovich back in our midst to lead us in prayer!
God bless him and his dear family!

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

Dawn Mrvos-H Gladys Mrvos Mika Rocknage George Rocknage Pat Miljus
Darinka Grba Louise Popelas-NH Mara Gasparovic-NH Milan Vranesevic-NH
Miles Milkovich Smilja Blagovich-NH Bertha Cervo-NH Mimi Pavlovich-NH

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

+ Arlene Crnkovich +Ljubica Trbovich +Milena Dokmanovich +Amy Pacura
+Bertha Lalich +George Torbic +Patr. Pavle +Arch-Bishop JOB +Smilja Vuckovich
+Sophie Strager +Sophie Vranesevic

(4) **IMPORTANT MESSAGES:**

- **THIS WEEK: The Lenten Fast for Sts. Peter and Paul continues – until July 12th!**
(Do your best....and if you 'slip', come for Holy Confession and Holy Communion!)

- (a) **REMEMBER:** as a way of 'speeding up the Divine Liturgy', especially when we have many communicants – we will all say the Prayer before Holy Communion when Father says it BEFORE he receives – he will lead us! (So, this means when he invites us up, "In the fear of God..." we will just come forward having already said the prayer before this!)
- (b) **PLEASE:** come to Church regularly AND get your 2010 Stewardship Pledge Card in – AS WELL AS try bringing a family-member or friend back to Church – We Need Them All!
- (c) **Reminder #1: this is God's House – ACT accordingly** – no talking, chewing gum, sleeping or talking on the cell phones! Show Him that you understand His House is a place of Holiness and Honor!!!

(5) **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- (a) **JULY 18th: 2nd rehearsal** for Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh to sing at the Pirates Game, at **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 903 Ann Street, Homestead at 2:30 PM!**
(Come practice with us!)
- (b) **July 7th:** Nativity of John the Baptist; **July 12th –** Sts. Peter/Paul – 9:30 AM Services!
© **July 24th –** Yovetich/Villa wedding – Fr. Stevo away in Shadeland July 25th-30th!
- (d) **DIOCESAN DAY:** Bus Trip To Shadeland For Church Consecration – August 8th!
(Sign Up NOW at Tutors' Desk!)
- (e) **August 11th-15th –** Fr. Stevo away for Youth Conference in Milwaukee!