

DECEMBER 22, 2019

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About Serbian Children's Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day -Knowing that the Birth of Christ is a fulfillment of the past, a the reality of the present and promise of the future, the Serbs, in their preparation for the solemn celebration of the Christmas Holiday want the entire family to participate in demonstratively incorporating itself for the most important and climactic day – the Christmas Feast.

Just as the blood relationship between parents and children is indissoluble, the religious tie between true Christians and Christmas is inseparable. This is the reason why our calendar proposes three holidays before Christmas: Children's, Mother's, and Father's Day. In doing so, we remember the holy children, the holy mothers, and the holy fathers: we link children with parents and parents with children. All three of these observances have one and the same purpose: REMEMBRANCE and TYING.

In celebrating **CHILDREN'S DAY** we remember all the holy children of God, those innocent creatures of God who Christ Cites as the prime example to those of us who want to enter the kingdom of heaven. For He said: "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 18, 3).

Then he continued: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come to me: for such is the Kingdom of Heaven " (Matthew 19, 4). And He concluded: "Whosoever offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18,6).

When we cease to be children physically, we lose the receptiveness, naturalness, and candor characteristic of children, which, if properly nurtured, may inspire divine feelings of happiness, ecstasy, and charity. Through proper education, the children learn to respect their parents, and concomitantly, earn the reputation of being good children and good Christians.

In our celebration of **MOTHER'S DAY**, we dearly remember all the holy mothers from the past history of the Christian Church plus those from our own Serbian Orthodox Church. If there were no holy mothers, many of the Saints would not have been pious, virtuous people, nor would they be commemorated in our calendar today. "Mother" is a holy Name. She suffers much for children both spiritually and physically. Like Christ, her love is inexhaustible. Why did Christ give Himself to be crucified for the sinners? Because He saw in every sinner some good under the shadow of evil. In like manner, only the mother can see something good in her most corrupt son or immoral daughter. And it is very hard to understand Christ's Love for mankind if we do not properly understand the love of a mother for her children.

In celebrating **FATHER'S DAY** we remember with esteem all the holy fathers from both the old and new Church. We also remember all the Serbian fathers who gave their lives for "the Holy Cross and golden freedom."

Psychology and Religion agree that a child receives its first idea about God from its parents. And the role of the father is vital in developing that idea. Traditionally, one of the first things we teach our children is to cross themselves and pray, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

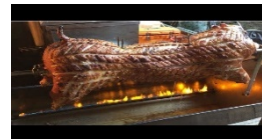
The Scripture Reading Epistle - Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel - Luke 13:10-17

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Visits: Esther Milich and Violet Smolanovich - Rochester Manor + Villa/ Marie Rebich and Linda McGeehan, Heritage Valley Beaver/ George Vula - at home

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Donation Drive For Children in Kosovo, Serbia-With the blessings of His Grace the Right Reverend Irinej, Bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America, the Department of Christian Education is organizing a collection of winter clothes and monetary donations for the children of Kosovo and Metohija. Winter clothes are intended for children ranging from babies to 18 year-olds, which includes kid and adult sizes. Items should be new, or if second-hand, in very good condition. Monetary donations should be mailed to the Department of Christian Education at 65 Overlook Cir, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Please indicate that the donation is for the "Let's warm their hearts" endeavor. For more info please take a flyer or visit: <https://easterndiocese.org/> The Drive ends on January 12th 2020.

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Vesper Services are held regularly on Saturdays at 5:30 PM during Advent. **Bible study** following the service. **Confessions** by appointment.

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ST. ELIJAH CORNERSTONE MEN'S CLUB: is now taking orders for their **Holiday BBQ Pigs!** \$8 per pound for whole pigs, \$12 per pound for all other orders. All orders must be picked up the morning of **January 6th between 9am and 12:30 pm at the Picnic Grounds.** Call Danielle Milanovich at 724.777.6856 **before December 31st** to place your order!



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CHOIR NEWS: The Choir wished to thank everyone who purchased psenica's and Christmas candy, it is truly appreciated!

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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>



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There will be soup and pogaca available following the Divine Liturgy today,

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Fellowship & Ministry Committee: Announcing our new project-"**Hristos Se Rodi Od Srca**". We want to show our home-bound/elderly parishioners that we are thinking of them during the Christmas Season. Downstairs on the Advent Tree will be tags with gift ideas for our parishioners. Please pick a tag to buy a small gift for one of our elderly loved ones. Tags will be available on **12/22 & 12/29**. Gifts will need to be returned to the basement of the church no later than **1/5/19**. Thank you!

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Our Annual Church Assembly is today following the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Please join us for this very important informative meeting!