

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Parish Priest: V. Rev. Fr. Stevan Stepanov

February 7, 2010

THE FINAL OPENING CEREMONY

*All nations shall come and worship before You,
for your judgments have been manifested.-Revelation 15:4*

Some words used to describe the opening ceremony of the 2008 summer Olympics were *awesome, breathtaking, and extravagant*. One commentator observed, "This shows what happens when you give an artist an unlimited budget."

When I heard this, I thought, *that's what God did at creation!* He held nothing back. The resulting universe is *stunning in beauty, staggering in complexity, extravagant* in all regards.

The Olympic ceremony was perfect in its precision; but if just one drummer or dancer had decided to alter the artist's vision, the whole ceremony would have been flawed.

That's what happened shortly after creation. Unlike the Olympic producer, God allowed free choice and His work of art was marred by Adam and Eve's idea of a better way. In Isaiah's words, "We have turned, every one, to his own way" (53:6).

God's solution to our waywardness was unimaginable: The artist paid the price to recreate what we ruined. One day, there will be another opening ceremony, and everyone in heaven and on earth will bow at the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:10). And those from every nation who have accepted God's plan in Christ will worship together in the flawless New Jerusalem (Rev. 15:4) -Julie Ackerman Link

*Yes, God was so great in creation,
But greater, much greater in grace!
For when man had sinned and had grieved Him,
He sent Christ to die in his place! -Bernard*

We have all eternity to praise God—start today!

Stichera of the Triodion

The trumpets shall blast and the tombs be emptied, and all mankind shall arise trembling with fear. Those who have done good shall rejoice with gladness, expecting their reward; those who have done evil shall tremble mightily, moaning and shaking as they are sent to their pain and separated from the elect. Wherefore, O Lord of Glory, be compassionate towards us and make us worthy to be counted among those You love, for You are good.

Kontakion

O God, when You shall come down upon earth in your glory, every creature shall tremble before You. A river of fire shall flow before your judgment-seat, the books shall be opened and all secrets revealed. On that day, O Just Judge, deliver me from eternal fire and make me worthy to stand at your right!

TODAY IS MEAT-FARE SUNDAY

*The Last Judgment is commemorated on this day.
It should lead us to have compassion and love for another.*

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VISITS

Feb. 2nd Beaver Elder Care: Ann Karas, Diane Crevar
Friendship Ridge: Sara Jerich, Jeany Kalember, Millie Markovich, Nick Maravich, Pauline Stolkovich
Feb. 5th Beaver Elder Care: Diane Crevar, Ann Karas, Serge Reback
Medical Center: Dayna Milich, (Sarah) Sophie Schukart
Trinity Oaks: Martha Jackson

Remember in your prayers those in hospitals, nursing homes, the homebound and those recuperating at home.

THE CALENDAR of the Serbian Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood for 2010 arrived there are just a few copies left. It is available at the tutors room for a donation of \$20.

**ETERNAL LIGHTS ARE NOW \$35 PER YEAR, PLEASE SEE ANY TUTOR
AND MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Schedule of Lenten Services for 2010

February 14	Cheese-fare Sunday	Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	Pittsburgh	5:30 pm	Fr. Stevan Stepanov
February 21	1 st Sunday of Orthodoxy	TO BE ANNOUNCED			
February 28	2 nd Sunday of Great Lent	St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church	Aliquippa	5:30 pm	Fr. Rade Merick
March 7	3 rd Sunday of the Holy Cross	St. George Serbian Orthodox Church	Midland	5:30 pm	Fr. Rodney Torbic
March 14	4 th Sunday of St. John the Ladder	St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church	Monroeville	5:30 pm	Fr. Dejan Obradovic
<i>Friday, March 19</i>	<i>SECOND VIGIL SERVICE AKATIST</i>	<i>St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church</i>	<i>Aliquippa</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	
March 21	5 th Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	St. George Serbian Orthodox Church	Masontown	5:30 pm	Fr. Milan Pajic
March 28	PALM SUNDAY	Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	Pittsburgh	5:30 pm	Fr. Miladin Blagojevic