

# PARISH NEWS

By Vera T. Schuster

## FROM FATHER'S DESK

**CHRIST IS BORN! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve after our beautiful evening service we will go down to our Fellowship Hall where we will partake in a light Lenten dinner. On the food table there will be a corn bread dish, which is called Chesnica. Inside the cornbread there is a coin, we all take a piece from it and (by our tradition) whoever finds the coin will have a specially blessed upcoming year. We look forward to sharing in this tradition. Last year the coin was found by Ljiljana Ljoljic.

### BOZIC

Here we also have an interesting tradition and it occurs before the Divine Liturgy. The first person who comes to the church in the morning (not including the priest) is considered the "polaznik" (first visitor). The priest greets the visitor and in our case takes him/her into the church. There on a plate is a piece of charcoal (fire) and a piece of yule log (badnjak). The polaznik takes the badnjak and stirs the fire, wishing and praying for everything good in the upcoming year. For his/her early presence and thanks for all that he or she has wished upon our church family, we offer a small present. Come and be that first visitor. Last year, Belinda Sharkey was our first visitor.

**NOTE:** Please make an effort to come for Liturgy on Christmas Day, January 7th. We owe it to our Lord. For a special letter to be excused from work or school, please call me as soon as possible.

### THEOPHANY

For the past two years I have been going to the White River and blessing it on the day of Theophany. This is a church tradition. As Theophany usually falls on a working day, I only have a few people present. This year, however, it falls on a Saturday, and I invite all of you to join me after Divine Liturgy, as we will caravan with our icons and banners to the River. Our destination on January 19, 2002 will be opposite from the Naval Armory, where 30<sup>th</sup> Street and the White River cross.

At the beginning of the new year, I will be calling upon each household to bless your home for the upcoming year. Note: Contributions towards my services are not mandatory.

### CONFESSION AND COMMUNION

Please note that children up to the age of 7 can receive communion if they are baptized in the Orthodox Church without fasting or taking confession. However, when they reach the age of 5, slowly start teaching them how to fast and try to teach them not to eat anything before they come for communion on Sunday.

## CHURCH SLAVA

We had between 200 & 250 souls in attendance for Divine Liturgy on 12-16-2001. The weather wasn't great but the day was beautiful. The Hierarchal Liturgy was served by our Bishop Longin, assisted by Father Petar Petrovic (Father Dragan's Father), Father Mihailo Mikic, our own Father Dragan, and Deacon Milovan Gogic. The responses from our choir were angelic. Our altar boys were around the Bishop like the angels around the throne of God. Before the liturgy started, two readers were tonsured, Mane Bubalo and Robert Foreman, Jr. The church was overflowing with people. Following the Liturgy we had a banquet prepared & sponsored by our Kumovi, Rick & Kim Suder, assisted by our KSS and sweetened by the bean soup of Milo Cvetkovich. All this made it a very memorable day. Our Kuma for next year is Ljubica (Violet Guynn) Despotovic --many years to her.

Thank you to all the participants for coming out to be with your church family.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our choir will be Christmas caroling on January 5. If you would like them to stop by your house, please contact our Choir Director, Bill Christoff.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM YOUR CHURCH

On Badnje Vece you and your family will receive your Christmas gift from your church. This is a wonderful tradition that we have honored over the past few years. This year's gift will be a plastic Holy Water bottle with an image of our Lord's Baptism on the front. Bring your bottle to be filled on Theophany.

# PARISH NEWS

By Vera T. Schuster

## SERBIAN NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Serbian National Defense will be hosting a Serbian New Years Eve celebration on January 13. It will begin with a lunch at 3 p.m. & at 6 p.m. (which is 12 a.m. in Serbia) the new year will be celebrated. For information, call Sveto Arsich at 852-7291. Please come and join together for fellowship and fun.

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who have participated in this worthy project. We will have the collection bin for holiday food donations to help out some of our church family. We plan to distribute the items prior to Serbian Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS AND PASCHA (EASTER) DONATIONS

These are two very special Holy Days in our Church calendar. These are also two great fundraisers for our church as at these times of the year we solicit for special donations. Please consider this in your yearly financial planning and attempt to make a special donation on these feast days. Envelope enc.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- A big thanks goes out to Mane Dotlich, as he generously provided his annual donation of the Church wall calendars.
- Thank you to Daniel Guynn for his design and creation and installation of a wonderful sign that is now located on our property.
- Hvala punto to Bogdan and Dorothy Milivojac for their generous donation of the truckloads of gravel that was placed on our new property. This gravel will allow for parking when our church family visits the property.
- Thank you goes to George and Stacy Stanjevich for their donation of a deep freezer to the parish home.

## WEBSITE ANNIVERSARY

It has been a year since the inception of our website. During the year we have seen improvements, which has made our site one of the best Serbian Orthodox websites on the web. We have had many compliments worldwide on the content of our site. We would like to thank Branislav Kisicani and his wife for

their webmaster role, as well as for the annual fees associated with this website.

[Home.att.net/~st.nicholas.indy](http://Home.att.net/~st.nicholas.indy)

Father's Email: [st.nicholas.indy@att.net](mailto:st.nicholas.indy@att.net)

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

☉= Under 80	☉ =over 80	
☉=80	☉☉= over 110	
12/02/01	80 souls	☉
12/09/01	88 souls	☉
12/16/01	201-240 souls	☉☉☉☉

## BULLETIN SPONSORS

Milo and Sophie Cvetkovich have generously agreed to sponsor the bulletin for the month of December. They ask for God's blessing for the health and well being of the Cvetkovich and the Tasich families. Hvala! Should you wish to donate to upcoming bulletins, please see our church secretary for your donation.

## COVEKOLJUBLJE

Should anyone have interest in supporting our suffering people in Serbia, please contact your church or mail your donation to the Covekoljuble Fund, P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, IL 60030.

## PLEDGE COMMITTEE

Members of the Parish Council will be first to make pledges to pay for the land purchased for our new Church. Beginning immediately, we are soliciting 30 families to join us in pledging \$80 to \$100 per month. This will enable us to make our monthly payments without using any of our operating capital. Please call now to pledge or just say yes when a Parish member calls. Additional donations, in any form, would be appreciated.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 01/6/02 Father's Day and Bandje Vece
- 01/7/02 Bozic
- 01/13/02 Kolo Monthly Meeting
- 01/13/02 SND Serbian New Year's
- 01/27/02 St. Sava Day Celebration
- 02/03/02 Kolo Annual Meeting
- 02/10/02 Annual Membership Meeting