

PARISH NEWS

FROM FATHER'S DESK

*Christ is born! Indeed He is born!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

CHRISTMAS/BOZIC

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.

THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

For Christmas Eve and For Christmas Day we need the following : Altar Boys, People to carry banners and flags, people to set up the hall, someone to decorate the Yule Log (Badnjak), girls for the procession (to throw wheat on the Yule log), Readers for the evening service, help in the kitchen, voices to join our choir and ALL OF YOU TO BE PRESENT. Call the church office to volunteer.

BLESSING OF THE WHITE RIVER

For the past three years on the day of Theophany (19th of January) our church and the Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church have come together and blessed the White River. Traditionally this is the day we in the Orthodox Church go out and bless rivers in our communities. Since it is on a Sunday this year we hope to have many more people participate. The plan is to go to the river immediately after Divine Liturgy, meet with the parishioners and priests from the above-mentioned church, bless the river as usual, and come back to our church for a pitch-in luncheon. Please join us for this special event and bring a favorite dish to share for lunch. It is an experience you don't want to miss.

THE ALWAYS BURNING LIGHT

Many of you may not know that usually inside the altar on the Holy Table there is a candle or a vigil lamp which burns at all times. This candle is lit on the day of the consecration of that church and is kept lit in many cases for centuries. The main reason for this practice is because of the fact that on the Holy Altar Table there is a relic of a saint and the pre-sanctified gifts (Communion for the sick). Also, divine services are served on that table. To this point, the only time we had a candle burning on the Holy Table at our Church for a long period of time was during Great Lent. This year (2003), I will light the seven-day candle on Christmas Eve with hopes that the flame will never be extinguished. It is customary that people donate these candles for the health or repose of their loved ones. If any person would like to donate the expense for a candle please call the church office at (636-1404). The candles are \$10.00 or whatever you can afford. A note

for skeptics: these candles are fire proof and I will place them in another fire proof 7-day candle holder.

BLESSING OF HOMES

Please read the article inside the bulletin.

Special note: While blessing homes, I am going to take a few pictures of various Icon Corners and then publish them in our bulletin in order to give an idea to those who are looking forward to establishing their own. **What is an Icon Corner?** Icon Corner, simply said, is your home altar. It should be set on the east wall of your home so that when you stand to pray, you are facing the east. On that wall, you should have an Icon of Christ, Icon of the Mother of God, an Icon of your Patron Saint, and any other icons you may have. Over the icons you should have a vigil lamp. Under the icons you should have a table and on it you should have a bible, a prayer book, the prologue (Lives of Saints), a bottle of holy water, a censor and some incense.

Note: The vigil lamp should be lit on Sundays and special feast days.

ST. SAVA DAY CELEBRATION

This will be held on January 26, 2003. We hope to have a successful celebration. This will only be possible if you make sure that your children participate, specifically during the three practices which will be held on the following dates: Sunday, January 5, at 12:00 p.m., Sunday, January 12, at 12:00 p.m., and on Saturday, January 25 at 12:00 p.m.

The poems will be sent to you by the end of December. Please have your children participate. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS/LAND DONATIONS

Please know that your Christmas donations will go toward the building of our new home. Please give a nice Christmas present to your church.

Recently as I was talking to some of our parishioners, and I mentioned that I noticed that many people spend up to \$400 for Christmas presents. To my story someone added "I spend at least \$1,000.00." How much then should we give to the Church of Christ? How much should we offer to our Lord who blesses us with so many things?

Note: The donations towards the paying off of our land are still being received. The list of names will be printed in the next months bulletin. We now have 42 families who are contributing monthly to the paying off of our land and building of our new home.

CHURCH SLAVA

We had over 150 souls present for this occasion. The Kumovi for next year will be Sveto and Millie Arsich. We thank this year's Kuma, Violet Ljubica Guynn, for performing this honor for this year, and we thank the new Kumovi for accepting the honor for next year.

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COVEKOLJUBLJE/IOCC

Please consider the following. Many of us in the past and also in the present have contributed to different humanitarian organizations locally, and many times we have questioned whether or not that help goes where it is necessary. After a few years of contributing, some of us have found out that the money we gave went in support of abortion and other things of that nature, which are strictly forbidden by our church.

Until recently, we didn't even have an Orthodox organization of the same caliber, but now we do. Thus, if you would like to contribute to an organization that helps people locally as well as overseas, regardless of their ethnic or religious status, please send your donations to: International Orthodox Christian Charities, P. O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21298.

On the other hand, if you would like to send your donation specifically for people of Serbia, please send it to our Diocese: Covekoljublje, P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, Illinois 60046.

GIVE AND YOU SHELL RECEIVE!

KOLO CHRISTMAS DINNER

Like every year, our Ladies had a Christmas Dinner in the month of December. Over 30 of our sisters were in attendance and the evening was enjoyed by all. Make sure you join them next year. God bless our sisters.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE NEW YEAR

BLESSING OF CARS

Since we spend a lot of our time in cars, this spring I am looking forward to announcing a day on which I plan to bless them. This service is short but beneficial, and it will be held on our new property.

On the same note, you should be receiving a prayer card in the near future with an icon of Christ and the Mother of God to hang on your rear view mirror and use it when ever you are able - NOT WHILE DRIVING. Fr. Dragan

ATTEND SERBIAN SCHOOL

To this point, Serbian School, which is held almost every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. , was only open to Church school children. Beginning with the New Year, it will be open to anyone wanting to learn Serbian—children and adults alike. Come and learn.

PERSONAL LECTURES BY FR. DRAGAN

To this point I have been giving lectures on our Orthodox Faith as well as Pre- Wedding counseling to people who are preparing for Baptism, Christmation

and Marriage. Starting with the new year I will be more then glad to meet with any of you and teach you more about your faith and or heritage. Call me.

CHOIR ANNUAL MEETING

We have not had an annual meeting in December. To find out the date when the meeting will take place please call Dara Todorovich (507-0223) and/or the Church office at: 636-1404.

Happy Birthday to our Bulletin Sponsor

Kaitlyn Suder the daughter of Rick and Kim Suder has celebrated her first birthday last month. For this reason she decided to sponsor the Decembers Bulletin. Zivela na mnogaja ljeta!

Thank you for your donation and may God grant you many, many, many joyous years.

Anyone ells who would like to be the sponsor for the next month please call the Church Office: 636-1404.

YEAR- END REMINDERS

* Diocesan 2003 Calendars are for sale at the candle stand at our church. Please see one of our Tutors.

* If you have not paid your membership dues for this year, this will be the last reminder in order to maintain your voting privileges for the annual meeting scheduled in **February 2003**. If you are financially unable to respond, please call Fr. Dragan to make arrangements. (Your conversation will be confidential.)

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of: Nikola Petric (child) Chett Tasich, Dragica Kerr, Carol Guynn, Nikola Marich, Jovan Vuynovich Angeline Yefich, Todor Stanjevich and Zivko Maric.

If you would like to include your name on the list please call the Church Office: 636-1404.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The food which we have collected from you was distributed to two of our needy families and several needy families from our neighborhood. We thank all those who have participated in this project and especially those who prepared and distributed these items.

SABOR/CHURCH LATTY ASSEMBLY

This meeting was held in the month of November of this year in our Diocese. 150 people met, including around 40 priests, to discuss the needs of our parishes. We had two delegates suggested by the Parish Council who went with Fr. Dragan and Rich Suder to this event. Many good things came out of this meeting and we are

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looking forward to the upcoming changes for the good of our parishes.

BUILDING/FUNDRAISING/PLEDGE COMMITTEE

The following people are part of these committees: Fr. Dragan, Rick Suder, Mirko & Marija Milivojac, , Chuck Schuster, Peter Rankovich, Xenia Vekovic, Mitch Sever, Ronald Salatich, Bob Djordjevich, Kathryn Ralich, Stanley Cvetkovich, David Rayman, Svetislav Arsich, Dan Guynn, Jordan Vukas, Nicholas Babich, Darcy Lash, Milan Milivojevich and Butch Kresojevich.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please call the church office.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

☺= under 80 ☺☺=over 80
☺=80 ☺☺☺= over 110

11/24/02	87	souls	☺
12/1/02	69	souls	☺
12/8/02	111	souls	☺☺
12/15/02	130	souls	☺☺☺
12/22/02	97	souls	☺

PCCIOCC

We will have a Pan Orthodox service for sanctity of life on January 22nd at Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church at 7:00 p.m. located on the South West Corner of 16th St. and Delaware.

Also, some time ago, it was brought to our attention that on 16th Street, where there are four Orthodox churches, there is an Abortion Clinic; thus, we decided to hold a short service in front of it on the same date at 12:00 p.m.. We will meet at the St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at approximately 11:45 a.m. Please join us for these prayers.

Please note: On the pocket calendar of Central Indiana Orthodox Christian Churches the date submitted for Pascha (Easter) was incorrect. The correct date is April 27th.

95th Birthday

Last month, our dearly beloved Anna Ralich celebrated her 95th birthday. We wish her many more wonderful years to come. She is the mother of Kathryn Ralich.

SERBIAN NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

The celebration of the Serbian New Year's Eve will take place on January 11th, 2003 at 8:30 p.m. at our social hall. For more information call Sveto Arsich (852-7291) or our Church Office (636-1404). Come and enjoy the traditional serbian food and music.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUT OF TOWN DONNORS

Thanks goes to Jim and Goga Tasich from Atlanta GA for their donation of Cooking Oil which will last us for a while. Thank you for thinking of us. God Bless.

GIFT FROM YOUR CHURCH

On Christmas Eve, each family will receive a pen with the name of our church on it (to remind us to visit it more often), the name of our spiritual father and his cell phone number (so that we may call him at any time we are in need), and Jesus' prayer (to remind us to use it more often). We are looking forward to seeing you.

Note: On Slava day we gave away wall calendars. If you did not receive one please know that you can pick one up on Christmas Eve January 6th or when ever you are in church. We owe special thanks to Monnie Dotlich the sponsor.

GOD'S MIRACLES

We wish to introduce to you the youngest member of our church family: Milan Loncarevic born in November. Parents: Nedjo & Zeljka.

SPECIAL NOTE:

To contribute to the parish news please call the church office at: 636-1404. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

One of the shortest but the most powerful prayers used in the Orthodox Church. The Jesus' Prayer: **Our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner.** Use it daily.