

# PARISH NEWS

## -FROM FATHER'S DESK

### IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

*Christ is born! Indeed He is born!*

I know it's a work/school day, but please make an effort to come for liturgy on Christmas Day, January 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a perfect opportunity to prioritize rightly. We owe it to our Lord. For a special letter to be excused from work or school, please call me as soon as possible.

\*\*\* Many people, especially parents who have little ones, have a lot of fear in them specifically in regard to this deadly flu which is going around. In fact, one of the parents asked what she should do. My answer was: "Whether or not you had a flu shot, the best thing to do is to come to the house of God regularly and partake of His Body & Blood--Communion and other Sacraments. No one can protect us better than our Creator. There is no better medicine than Holy Communion. Then and only then can we know that we did everything to prevent misfortune from happening.

LET US NOT ALLOW THE EVIL ONE TO TEACH US OTHERWISE.

\*\*\* Recently I spoke to a lady who converted from being a Protestant to being a Roman Catholic. When I asked her how she liked it, she replied, "Most of all, I really enjoy Fr. Michael." What about Christ? Who should be the center of attention & attraction--the priest, parishioners, or Jesus?

Please make sure that the reason for your coming to Church is, first of all, Christ.

\*\*\* Is there anyone out there who has been given a second chance in life? If so, it's because God wants you to do good in His name. Are you doing it?

### Christmas Gift to My Church

With the angels, shepherds and Magi, we come to the manger in awe to worship and to offer our gifts to the newborn King. O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

Giving His only begotten Son was not the only thing God has given to us. He gave before that event and He has been giving from that event thus please let us give something back.

Included in this mailing is an envelope for your donations. Thank you!

Your Christmas Gift will help build our new home and help with future growth and extraordinary repairs. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### CHURCH SLAVA

Close to 200 souls were present both in church and for the banquet. V. Rev. Petar Petrovic from Cincinnati, Rev. John Cohen & Fr. Dragan served the Divine Liturgy and Fr. John gave the sermon. The response from our choir was angelic. The meal, prepared and donated by the Kumovi Sveta & Millie Arsich, was delicious. Wall calendars were given to everyone present. The Kumovi for next year will be Bogdan, Dorothy, Mirko, Marija, Nina & Dara Milivojac. May God Bless all!

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2004-05

Our hope is that all of the Parish Council Members will remain on the Council. In any case, we are always looking for more help. For your information Parish Council members are responsible for social and financial needs of our church. If you have been a member of our church for at least one year and are interested in being a part of this wonderful group of volunteers for the year 2004-05, please call the church office at 636-1404. The Parish Council will be elected at our Annual Meeting, which will be held in February, and approved by our Bishop. Your talents will be welcomed & your names will always be remembered. Thank you for your consideration.

Some of the accomplishments in our Church under the leadership of our Last 3 Presidents: Stephen Staletovich, Vera Schuster and Rick Suder, along with the rest of the Parish Council members.

Under the leadership of these great individuals, many things were accomplished, but only few will be mentioned.

Steve Staletovich--Acquired a priest for our parish, which was without a leader for a few months; made sure that the needs of the parish priest and his family were satisfied including: health insurance, monthly income, furnishing of the parish home.

Vera Schuster--Doubling our income (budget), which started rising enormously during her tenure; buying the land.

Rick Suder--Tripling our income (budget); paying off the land.

All of them being examples of Christian virtues at the same time.

**Please let this be an encouragement especially to those who are thinking about being part of the Parish Council for the year 2004.**

### GOOD NEWS

Deacon John Schmidt, who has been serving in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, has now been ordained as a priest. He has helped serve in our Church many times, and we extend our sincere congratulations to him.

### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

☉= under 80	☉=over 80
☉=80	☉☉= over 110
12/7/03	102 souls ☉
12/14/03	82 souls ☉
12/21/03	176 souls ☉☉☉☉☉

### PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:

Patty Staletovich, Nikola Marich, Kathryn Ralich, Anna Ralish and Angeline Yeftich.

**NOTE:** If you would like to include a name on the list, please call the church office.

### BULLETIN SPONSORS

### **Tom Hanes & Family in Memory of Seka.**

### POLICE ANNUAL GATHERING IN OUR CHURCH

Each year in December, we offer our social hall to the policemen and policewomen of our district for their annual gathering. They have extended their thanks to all. This is the least we can do for those wonderful people who protect us daily.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The **Family Sunday** will be January 25. The Family Sunday is the day when the parents and the children participate in the entire Divine Liturgy -- NO Sunday School.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** During the month of January, the children will be learning about *The Divine Liturgy*.

### YOUTH GROUP ESTABLISHED

A month ago, a Youth Group was established. The purpose of this group is: fellowship, education, worship and service. The meetings will be held the second Friday (at 7:00 p.m.) of each month. If anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 is interested, please call the Church office.

# PARISH NEWS

## **ALTAR SERVERS' SCHEDULE**

Jan. 4: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Jordan England

Jan. 11: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

Jan. 18: Milos Mikic, Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok

Jan. 25: Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas, Matthew Toth

**Note:** In addition to their schedule, children are always welcome to serve in the altar.

**Important:** Any altar server who cannot attend church the day he is scheduled is to inform Fr. Dragan at 374-1414.

## **ST. SAVA CELEBRATION APPROACHING -Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>**

We hope to have a successful celebration. This will only be possible if you make sure that your children participate. Rehearsal Dates: 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m., 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. & 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. of January 2004.

Please make sure that your children come to at least two of the rehearsals prior to the St. Sava Day program. Thank you.

The Kumovi for our St. Sava Day celebration will be Chuck, Vera, Alexandra and Nicholas Schuster and Christian, Nada, Christian Alberto Jimenez and Dara Todorovic. Ziveli!!!

## **KOLO NEWS**

Many of the K.S.S. ladies enjoyed a delicious family-style dinner and a gift exchange at the Capri Restaurant on December 9. Kolo President Dorothy Milivojac gave each person in attendance a nice Christmas gift. Special thanks to Dorothy!

## **CHOIR NEWS**

The Jovan Ducic Choir has been holding rehearsals about twice a month. Please try to attend when these dates are announced. Also, we are always looking for new members. Please see Bill Christoff (our director) if you are interested in joining the Church Choir.

All members are urged to attend as many rehearsals as possible since we are in the process of learning new music.

## **ORTHODOX RADIO**

You can now listen to the Orthodox Christian Radio on the Internet. Visit the following site: [www.receive.org](http://www.receive.org)

You will enjoy it very much.

## **HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE**

The food that we have collected from you was distributed to ten needy families. We thank all those who have participated in this project and especially those who prepared and distributed these items. - The Food was distributed by our Youth Group.

## **THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

For Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day, we need the following: Altar Servers, 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. (636-1404)

## **GIFT FROM YOUR CHURCH**

On Christmas Eve, each person will receive a key chain with an icon or a cross. 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 6, or whenever you are in church. We owe special thanks to Monnie Dotlich, the sponsor.

## **BLESSING OF THE WHITE RIVER**

For the past three years on the day of Theophany (19<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 one of our churches 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.

## **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, capital punishment, euthanasia, and many other things of that nature, which are strictly forbidden by our church.

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: **Covekoljubije, P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, IL 60046.**

## **VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!**

**PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2004. AT THIS MEETING IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE PERTAINING TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN OF OUR NEW HOME.**

One of the shortest but the most powerful prayers used in the Orthodox Church.

The Jesus' Prayer:

**O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner. - Use it daily-**