

PARISH NEWS

FROM FATHER'S DESK:

Congratulations to our Ktitor -Veljko Ralevic

As most of you know from our bulletin board, we have one of the four Ktitors in our diocese. A Ktitor is a person who, with his or her own means, builds a church or monastery. There can be more than one ktitor for one church. These individuals are especially mentioned during the Divine Liturgy and their names are engraved in the history of that church. By building a church on earth they have built a home in heaven that awaits them. Our church family is very proud of Veljko, who has always been a gracious Kum for St. Sava. To quote him in a conversation with me " I was never married and I have no children to leave behind. But what I can leave behind is a church to my people, my faith. Most of the money I have acquired I gave to build it without anything in return." **What an example we all can learn from, especially as we move toward our future.**

BOZIC:

I was pleasantly overwhelmed that 99% of the faithful in attendance on Christmas Eve were in church 10 minutes before the service started. Thank you and please make an effort to practice this regularly.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who took the day off to observe the day of the birth of our Lord. The entire Christmas celebration attendance and fellowship exemplified the true meaning of Christ's birth. Our traditions were followed and the outcome of the first visitor or polozanik was Yovanka Savich and the finder of the coin in the cesnitca was Daniel Loncarevic. Congratulations to them both!

BLESSING OF HOMES

Please refer to the short letter in our bulletin and expect my call.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS, SLAVA DINNER AND BOZIC DONATIONS

You are a perfect example of how to give to your church. As the Bishop's deacon I was privileged to have visited many parishes and observe their ways of giving to the church. Once again I have to say in our Diocese and probably in the midst of many Orthodox churches, you are an example. Our weekly offerings in the past year, for the most part, are averaging \$1000. Our Christmas and slava donations are better than ever. This is very important to me because I know when you give to

church and to the poor and needy you receive a special blessing and every Father is happy when he knows his children are blessed.

SPECIAL NOTE #1:

Everything that is holy should be disposed of properly if you cannot keep it anymore. This includes all items that have been blessed with Holy Water and specific prayers. Please find below the proper disposal methods:

Holy water should be poured on the grass, on flowers or in potted plants – **NOT** in the sink.

Wheat, Holy bread, Slava bread, Pascha eggs, Badinaks, pussy willows should be thrown on the ground where they can decompose naturally.

Icons should be returned to church.

SPECIAL NOTE #2:

Aside from many other important feast days, there are two on which we should never break the fast (not eat meat or dairy). These are Great Friday (strict fast) and Christmas Eve Day (regular fast).

CHOIR CAROLING:

On January 5, our choir had a wonderful day Christmas caroling as they do every year. It is important for you to know that this year they made it a point to visit our church family members who were in the hospital, nursing homes and at home and not feeling 100%. The Christmas caroling cheered them up as well as warmed the hearts of the choir members. Thank you, Jovan Duchich Choir, for outreaching to your family on that day! What a shining Christian example.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

When planning your children's summer activities, please remember Diocesan church camp

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

	⊗= Under 80	⊙=over 80	
	⊖=80	⊙⊙= over 110	
12/23/01	78	souls	⊗
12/30/01	71	souls	⊗
1/06/02	62 DAY	souls	⊗
1/06/02	200-250 NIGHT	souls	⊙⊙⊙⊙
1/07/02	72	souls	⊗
1/13/02	80	souls	⊙
1/20/02	94	souls	⊙
1/27/02	200	souls	⊙⊙⊙

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH SKI TRIP:

The ski trip that was planned for December was changed to skating in downtown Indy due to the mild winter we are having. The 18 participants had a great time but are looking forward to rescheduling this outing.

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING:

Please be reminded that the membership annual meeting will be held on February 10 after the Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, as you are part of the future of this church family.

PLEDGE COMMITTEE:

As we mentioned in last month's bulletin, our pledge committee is in the process of developing our pledge program. In order to be successful, much thoughtful planning is required, so in the meantime we have set as our first goal, obtaining 30 families to commit to donating \$80 - \$100 monthly to offset the interest cost on our property. To date, the following families have made this commitment to go above and beyond their regular donations to assist our church in its time of need.

Fr. Dragan & Popadija Vesna Petrovic
Chuck and Vera Schuster
Mirko and Marija Milivojac
Rick and Kim Suder
Belinda Sharkey
Bogdan and Dorothy Milivojac
Milo and Sofia Cvetkovich
Bozidar and Angie Djordjevic
Steve Staletovich
Rudy and Kristina Tanaskovich
Dragica Kerr
Greg & Kim Pasalich

Other names are being finalized and by the end of February we hope to meet our goal of having 30 families registered. To add your name, please contact Marija Milivojac at 862.6692 or Father Dragan or any Parish Council member.

BULLETIN SPONSORS:

As of printing we do not have a sponsor for the month of January. Should you wish to donate to upcoming bulletins, please see our church secretary for your donations.

GOD'S MIRACLES:

We would like to introduce the youngest members of our church family:

Luka Milovac born on 4/5/01, parents Mile & Katarina Milovac

Nikola Kisacanin born on 9/23/01, parents Branislav and Saska

Sidney Radovanovic born on 11/1/01, parents Blagoje & Abby

Rosa Derado born on 12/5/01, parents Nikola and Marcie

Nicholas Schuster born on 12/14/01, parents Chuck and Vera

Katilyn Danica Suder born on 12/30/01, parents Rick and Kim

Congratulations to the parents and may God grant these babies health and salvation!

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Please pray for the health of Nikola Maric, Zivko Maric, Milka Jankovic, Helen Bubalo, Rose Longshore (Petrovich), and Marko Milatovich.

To put your name on the Prayer List, please contact Father Dragan. Also, if we failed to mention anyone, please forgive us and let us know.

TRANSFERRED TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:

May the memory of Mara Fields, our beloved lifetime member, be eternal and may God establish her soul in paradise.

ST. SAVA CELEBRATION

Better than ever! We had between 200 & 250 souls in church. Around 85 children attended, 70 of which participated in the program, which was held in the church. The lunch after the program came at exactly the right time. As dessert (aside from the cakes and cookies our sisters made), we had the youngest folklore group dance and they sure cheered up everyone present. Thank you to all who made this event memorable.