

# PARISH NEWS

## **-FROM FATHER'S DESK**

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

#### **BLESSING OF HOMES**

Blessing of homes has begun. Please expect my call. Please note that the way I try to bless homes is by neighborhoods, by day or by week. Therefore, I would appreciate your making an effort to go along with my schedule. I understand that there will be times when this will not be possible. Please note that I bless homes between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Also please know that rescheduling disturbs my whole schedule. Thank you for your understanding.

#### **Guidelines to observe when the Priest comes to bless your home:**

*A candle, an icon (or cross) and a bowl of water should all be placed on the table facing east.*

*All radios, TVs, phonographs, etc., should be turned off.*

*All who are present in the house should come together by the table.*

*Those who wish to join in responding to the service are encouraged to do so.*

*The first names of the members of the household should be clearly printed on a piece of paper.*

*The doors of all rooms should be opened.*

*Pets should be restrained.*

**NOTE:** The Holy Water should be saved and treated with the proper respect. It could be used in food during the year.

**NOTE:** When transferring the Holy Water to another container, you should first wash the original container over grass or a plant in order that none of the remaining droplets go down the sink.

#### **PETITION/PLEA FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER**

- Weekday liturgies (Church empty)
- Vespers (Church empty)
- Akathists (Church empty)

Why have we forgotten that these services exist and we as Orthodox Christians are obligated to partake of them if we are able?

I am looking for people to make a commitment and a special offering by coming to these services. This will be a benefit to you and yours. At this time we only have 3-5 households who participate and it would be God pleasing if we had others make an effort to be there also. Please consider this.

My Grandma recently told me a true story about many people in the old county who walked to and from church (about 8 miles) for liturgy on certain feast days. This would be at least one person from the household. They would start their walk early in the morning while it was still dark and many times during very bad weather. Since we are living in a place and a period of time where we have many conveniences, let's try to come to church more often aside from Sundays.

#### **Believe it or Not**

Recently I asked one of the funeral directors, "When is the busiest time for you?" His reply was, "Believe it or not, around the holidays." I questioned whether it was because of a lot of excitement, overeating or excessive drinking. His answer was stunning. "No, it's mostly because of sadness and loneliness, specifically of those in nursing homes."

Do you have a family member, friend, or relative in a nursing home or a hospital? If so, try to be with them as much as possible.

#### **Evening Liturgies**

I will serve evening liturgies (pre-sanctified) on Wednesdays throughout the Great Lent. For those who would like to partake of Holy Communion in this liturgy, there is a general rule to observe: Abstain from eating or drinking 8 hours prior to receiving Holy Communion.

#### **Cantor Course**

I will hold cantor lessons throughout Great Lent on Wednesdays after the Presanctified Liturgies and Saturdays before vespers. See calendar for specific time and dates.

Also, for our Sunday School children, I will hold short cantor classes on certain Sundays during lent. Our main focus will be to learn the Troparion for Pascha and other Paschal Hymns.

#### **Lenten Vespers & Lectures**

This year, as always, the Orthodox Churches in Central Indiana will organize Lenten Vespers with lectures and Lenten dinners. I encourage you to attend as many as possible.

#### **Forgiveness Sunday**

On the Sunday before Great Lent, it is a tradition of our church to ask for forgiveness of each other just like the priest asks for forgiveness from his people every time he serves Liturgy. Please ask everyone's forgiveness before Lent starts. Especially make an effort to ask for forgiveness of the family members, church family, friends, neighbors, people at work...regardless of whose fault it happens to be. When we recite the Lord's Prayer, we say God forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. For this reason, if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others.

#### **Great Lent Begins the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February**

Great Lent is approaching and this means a great change for us, both spiritually and physically. The week before the beginning of lent is Cheesefare week preparing us physically, then the Forgiveness Sunday preparing us spiritually. These special times completely overcome us and launch us off into the world of spiritual physical and psychological cleansing and uplifting. All this will help us to be completely involved in the suffering and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a wonderful faith we have. Glory and thanks to God. It is an obligation of every baptized Orthodox Christian to partake of the two most important sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion during this special time of the year. For more information on any of the above-mentioned, please call me.

If you have never held fast before, this is a good time to start. Begin by not eating meat and dairy/egg products until Pascha (Easter). At the same time, enhance your prayers and decrease your daily sin. Then, and only then, will you be able to understand the suffering of our Lord and truly celebrate His Resurrection. May God bless you on your journey.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2004-05**

**LAST CALL!!!** 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 the 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. **If you are interested in knowing more about how the church functions read the articles in this month's bulletin.**

#### **Sunday of Orthodoxy 2004**

Every year, the Orthodox people from all the Orthodox Churches in Central Indiana gather for the celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

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We gather in prayer and stand united. This year's celebration will be at the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Vespers. Please come and be part of this gathering of your brethren of the same faith.

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

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

1/4/04	107 souls	☺
1/6/04 (Christmas Eve)	261 + souls	☺☺☺☺☺
1/7/04 (Christmas)	120 souls	☺☺
1/11/04	90 souls	☺
1/18 /04	107 souls	☺
1/ 25 /04	185 souls	☺☺☺☺

## PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:

Patty Staletovich, Kathryn Ralich, Anna Ralish, Helen Elison and Angeline Yefich.

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

## BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Marija Stanjevic and family in memory of +Todor.**

Note: In order to sponsor a Bulletin, we are asking for a donation of \$200.00 or what ever you can afford.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Children's Summer Camp

Summer Camp at the New Gracanica Monastery will be held, as always, in the month of July. Parents, please mark this on your summer planning calendar.

### Sunday School Winter Social

Please look forward to a possible social event for our Sunday School Children on Sunday the 22 of February.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** During the month of February, the children will be learning about *The Holy Cross, Relics, Icons.*

The **Family Sunday** will be February 22 – NO Sunday School. The Family Sunday is the day when the parents and the children together participate in the entire Divine Liturgy – NO Sunday School that day.

## YOUTH GROUP

The purpose of our Youth group is: fellowship, education, worship and service. The meetings are held the second Friday (at 7:00 p.m.) of each month. If anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 is interested in being part of this group, please call the Church office.

**NEWS:** Stay Tuned as the Orthodox Youth of Central Indiana is being organized. The goal is to get the young people of our Orthodox parishes to meet at least once a month.

## ALTAR SERVERS' SCHEDULE

**Feb. 1:** Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas

**Feb. 8:** Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner

**Feb. 15:** Djordje Mikic, Peter Hood, Matthew Toth

**Feb. 22:** Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletovich, Alec Mandich

**Feb. 29:** Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

**Mar. 7:** Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth

**Mar. 14:** Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

**Mar. 21:** David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsic

**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 374-3414.

## ST. SAVA CELEBRATION

It was a wonderful day with more than 200 souls in attendance. 77 children were present and 62 participated in the program. Everyone enjoyed the program and all of the children received presents.

We are grateful to the Ljojic Family for volunteering in advance to be the Kumovi next year. And again and again we are grateful to the Kumovi of this year who made this whole event possible.

## GOD'S MIRACLES

We wish to introduce to you the youngest member of our church family: **Jessica Sarah Godfrey** born on January 28, daughter of Alexander & Patricia Godfrey. Congratulations!!! Zvela na mnogaja jeta!!!

## THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS YEAR

1. Building of our new home
2. Updated Parish Directory
3. Prayer cards
4. Marriage Enrichment Seminars

## KOLO NEWS

### Lenten Cookbook--\$8.00 each

Our Kolo has Lenten cookbooks for sale, which will be very useful during the forthcoming Lenten Season. Featured in the cookbook is an informative article by Fr. Dragan about fasting. If you already have one of these cookbooks, consider buying one as a gift for a friend. Contact Perette Ogrizovich, Angie Devitt or any Kolo member if you are interested in making a purchase. You may also call the Church Office.

## 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 (in English).

## Rehearsal Schedule for Central Indiana Choir for Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

Feb. 1 – St. George Orthodox Church  
4020 N. Sherman Dr.

Feb. 8 – Joy of All Who Sorrow Orth. Church  
1516 N. Delaware Ave. (Downtown)

Feb. 22 – St. John the Forerunner Orth. Church  
1427 S. Blaine Ave. (Exit I-70 at Harding St., go south to light at Morris St., turn right. Turn left on Blaine.)

Each rehearsal will be from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Special Note:** We encourage our members to participate.

**LOOK FORWARD TO IT:** We are planning on holding a Cevapcic Dinner on Saturday evening, February 21 between 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. . Come and join us for some good food and lots of socializing prior to the upcoming Lenten Season. Everyone is welcome—please invite your friends!

## 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.

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## **BLESSING OF THE WHITE RIVER**

On January 19, around 30 Orthodox faithful and clergy participated in the Blessing of the White River. After the service, most of the people came to our Church for brunch. It was a wonderful experience that was enjoyed by all.

## **Special Thanks to:**

Aleksandra Peselj, David Rayman, Milos Mikic, and Melanie Seat for distributing food to the needy around Christmas time.

Veronica Maric for her generous donation to our Building Fund, our Church Library, and to the St. Xenia Metochian Monastery in memory of her husband, Zivko Maric.

Rade and Fannie Savich for donating the candy to our children for St. Sava Day.

Miroslav Mizdalo for repairing all of our church pews.

Milo & Sofia Cvetkovich for buying candy canes for all of the children present for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Bob and Angie Djordjevich for donating the food from their Slava to the Wheeler Mission in the name of our Church. Our Church makes such donations of food to the hungry and needy at various times.

## **Christmas/Bozic**

The entire Christmas celebration, attendance and fellowship exemplified the true meaning of Christ's birth. Our traditions were followed, and the first visitor was Bozidar Djordjevich and the lucky finder of the coin in the Cesnica was Millie Lalich. Congratulations to both of them!

**From Fr. Dragan:** I would like to extend my thanks especially to those who took the day off to observe the day of the birth of our Lord. The attendance this year was better than ever considering it was on a workday.

## **Memory Eternal to:**

+Nikola Maric, long time member and benefactor.  
+Vladimir Pacolt, son of Stefan and Zdena Pacolt.  
+Bozo Proclani, father of Nada England.  
+Svetozar Putnic, brother of Ksenia Vekovic.  
*May God establish their souls where the just repose.  
Let us pray for them.*

## **40-Day Parastos for +Nikola Maric**

This will be held on Sunday, February 1, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be served in his memory.

## **One-Year Parastos for +Todor Stanjevich**

This will be held on Sunday, February 15, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be served in his memory.

## **Memorial Saturday--February 14**

At the entrance of one of the cemeteries in Germany, the following is inscribed: "Please pray for us, don't simply pass by, because soon you will be one of us."

Consider this seriously, and please come to Church on this day at 9:00 a.m. so that, through this memorial service, you will be remembering your departed loved ones. Pitch-in brunch.

## **FISH FRYs**

It's that time of the year again! Our goal is to do even better, financially, than in past years. Please, you can make this happen. Come and bring friends! Unfortunately, during the past four years, the representation from our parishioners was not so good.

Please see calendar for dates. We will be soliciting all members and parishioners for help during this fund-raising project. We need help in the following areas, set-up/clean-up, kitchen—food preparation; Lenten baked goods, servers, refreshment tender, cash donations and ticket sellers. Please see Dorothy Cross or Vera Schuster.

## **Marriage Enrichment**

At the present time, Fr. Dragan is contemplating having gatherings of married couples, by neighborhood, to view a special videotape regarding marriage, followed by a group discussion. One couple in a particular neighborhood would be asked to invite several couples in the neighborhood to their home, with each couple bringing a covered dish. It would be an informative evening, with long-time married couples being able to offer words of wisdom for a happy marriage to younger couples, plus it would be a time to socialize and to become better acquainted with other couples from our parish. This is just in the planning stages, and our married couples will be contacted by Fr. Dragan as soon as this program is finalized. If you should be interested in more information about this, please call Fr. Dragan at the Church Office (636-1404).

## **Stone Chapel on our new Property**

There is going to be a delay on this project due to complications because of city regulations.

## **Attention all Members & Parishioners**

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 8. The major topic for discussion will be the Building of our new home. We look forward to your participation.

So far, we are planning for the following:

On our land—a New building, a Church, parish home, and a picnic area. In our new building (which is a priority)—Church, social hall, classrooms, and offices.

## **From the Financial Secretary**

**Membership Dues:** Your Church would appreciate it if you could try to pay your dues at the beginning of the year as it helps your church in many different ways.

## **Important Notice**

We especially need to help each other. If there is anyone in the parish who needs a job or is offering a job, or knows people who need employees, please contact the Church Office. We may be able to make a match and in such a way help each other.

## **Special Note**

In the event you should like to submit something for the Parish News, please call the Church office: 636-1404. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

I AM NOT AFRAID OF STORMS, FOR I AM LEARNING HOW TO SAIL MY SHIP.

CONTENTMENT COMES NOT FROM GREAT WEALTH BUT FROM FEW WANTS.

GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY WORK.

WHEN LIFE'S PROBLEMS SEEM OVERWHELMING, LOOK AROUND AND SEE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE COPING WITH. YOU MAY CONSIDER YOURSELF FORTUNATE.