

# PARISH NEWS

## FROM FATHER'S DESK

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

To all the Orthodox Christians, specifically those of you who are my spiritual children. Please know that you are in the Church which Christ himself established. This Church is Holy, Authentic, Has the Fullness of Faith and everything that is necessary for Salvation. For those of you who came in to the Orthodox Church give thanks to God and please forgive us who were born into it for sometimes we are not being the best examples as we should. Also note that the church is NOT defined by the sinful members there of. Being it a fact that we live in a world surrounded by brothers and sisters who do not believe the same as we do (there are 30,000 Denominations in U.S.), sometimes we may have dough's, especially when we are asked questions that we cannot answer. If you are addressed with a question that you cannot answer about your faith, please know that there is an answer. You just have to find it. People of God, let us give thanks to the Lord Jesus for being part of His Church.

### PLEASE HEAR ME!

-If you are, God forbid, thinking about divorce, please consider the following saying: Divorce is a family suicide.

-If you are divorced at this time please consider it a cross and know that you are always married to the Lord. Keep His commandments and God will bless you.

-Those who are living in Harmony and blessedness please give thanks to the Lord for that and let us make sure that we don't judge others "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged;" (Matthew 7:1) and also "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgments." (John 7:24).

### Tentative Schedule for BLESSING HOMES

-Between the 7<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of February I'm blessing homes on the South East and North East of Indianapolis as well as New Palestine & Greenwood.

-Between the 14<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of Feb. I'm blessing homes on the North West and South West of Indianapolis as well as in Speedway, Camby, Mooresville, Greenwood & Martinsville.

-Between the 21<sup>st</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> of February I'm blessing homes in Zionsville, Carmel, Westfield, Noblesville, Fishers & McCordsville.

-Between March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup> I'm blessing homes in Danville, Avon, Plainfield & Roachdale.

\*\*\* Brownsburg, Pittsburg & Clermont, I'm blessing homes during bad weather since they are close to my home.

\*\*\* Out of town homes, I'll be blessing on weekends: Lafayette (March 5<sup>th</sup>), Bloomington (March 26<sup>th</sup>), Anderson, Muncie, Marion, Shelbyville, Pendleton, Terre Haute, Kokomo, Seymore & Louisville KY.

\*\*\*Please make special arrangements to accept me into your home when I'm in the area & please make every effort NOT to reschedule unless you really have to. Thank you.

### HISTORY OF BLESSING OF HOMES

In the past, as far as we know, priests blessed 25-35 homes a year. These are the statistics now:

1998	About 60 homes
1999	80-90 homes
2000	110 homes
2001	158 homes
2002	160 homes

2003	130 homes *
2004	144-162 homes

\* During this particular year, not all of the out-of-town people were called due to the bad winter.

**CHRISTMAS: Special thanks** to those who took a day off and came to Church on Christmas (January 7<sup>th</sup>). We had in attendance over 150 souls. May God bless you especially. The Lucky founder of the Coin was Branka Radlovic and the First Visitor was Branislav Jordanovic. Congratulations to both of them!

**SERVICES:** Please note that I will NOT serve the Akathists and Vespers during the months of February, March & April due to blessing of homes.

### Annual Meeting – Second Announcement

Whether you are a member or parishioner, this should concern you. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at our Church on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Being it a fact that we have bought the land for our new home, paid it off, and have the Architectural plans in our hands its time to continue and realize our goal. Please make an effort to be there and help out, last chance to be involved. We are all obligated to contribute as much as we can – our presence for this meeting is very important – "The future is built by the present!"

We may choose and wait for someone else to do that for us, but the question is, what if everyone feels this way and what if our fathers felt this way many years ago, we wouldn't have a place to gather in today. Therefore, we do owe it to the future generations and to God and to ourselves. Think about it, please.

### Pray for your Church Family

#### Please pray for the health of:

Marko Milatovich, Sammy Dotlich, Diana & Corina Fischetti, Jason, Elena Milovac, Hadad, Lazar Prodic, Chester Tasich, Paul & Tina Stoyanovich, Kathryn Ralic, Anna Ralish, Patty Staletovich, Milan Knezevic, and Angelina Yefitch.

\*If you would like to add or delete a name on the list, please call the Church office.

### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

⊗ = under 80      ⊙ = over 80  
 ⊗⊗ = 80      ⊙⊙ = over 110

December 26	60 souls	⊗
January 2	73 souls	⊗
Christmas Eve	213 souls	⊙⊙⊙⊙
Christmas (Working Day)	157 souls	⊙⊙⊙⊙
January 9	70 souls	⊗
January 16	71 souls	⊗
January 23	165 souls	⊙⊙⊙⊙

### KOLO NEWS

We still have cookbooks for sale as follows:  
 "500" Cookbook (500 Miscel. Recipes) \$10.00  
 Lenten Cookbook (over 200 recipes) \$8.00

### CHOIR NEWS

No news is sometimes Good news. God bless the Choir members.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Religious education for our Sunday School Children has started again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. Please bring your children to Sunday School.

# PARISH NEWS

## Sunday School Events:

### St. Sava Day Celebration Great Success !!!

St. Sava Day was a huge success. We had 61 participants and around 70 children present. Thanks be to God.

We thank the Kumovi for all they have done for the St. Sava Day Celebration: The Ljoljic Family. Ziveli!!! We thank Veljko Ralevic for volunteering to be Kum for next year's celebration, and we thank Milica Lalich for volunteering to be Kuma for the following year. It's amazing; we now have a waiting list--Glory to God!

### Altar Server Meeting—February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Children's Summer Camp

In the month of July at the Monastery of New Gracanica in Illinois.

### Sunday School Attendance Chart

Please notice this attendance chart, which is posted in the lobby of our Church, so that you can see when your children attended Sunday School.

### YOUTH ORGANIZATION

We have had a couple of meetings and things are going great. We start with a prayer, then we have bible study, then we do a project, and, lastly, we play a game. A picture of one of our get-togethers is inside this bulletin.

### BULLETIN SPONSOR – THANK YOU!

In thanks to God for all that He has done for our Family. Slava Tebi Boze, slava Tebi!

**Sponsored by the Ljoljic family in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Jelenas parents. Ziveli na mnogaja ljeta!**

**Note:** In order to sponsor a bulletin, we are asking for a donation of \$200.00 or whatever you can afford.

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

February 6: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch  
February 13: Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth  
February 20: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch  
February 27: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsich  
March 6: Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas  
March 13: Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner  
March 20: Djordje Mikic, Petar Hood, Matthew Toth  
March 27: Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletoich, Alec Mandich  
April 3: Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

Any Altar server who cannot attend Church the day he is scheduled is to find a replacement and notify Fr. Dragan at 636-1404.

### FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

"Lift your eyes and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see, I gave to you and your descendants forever." Genesis 13:14 & 15

**Note from Fr. Dragan:** Unfortunately, there are people out there who allow themselves to make comments to Orthodox Christians as to how the Bible

should be interpreted. Sometimes they go so far as to say that the Bible does not allow many things that are part of our faith. The answer, with all due love and respect, should be The Bible was given to the world through the Orthodox Church. Therefore, everything that is in there, we believe and follow. If anyone reads from it and it seems contrary to what we believe, there could be two reasons: 1) they took it out of context, or 2) they are misinterpreting it or rather are interpreting it the way they choose.

### SAYINGS

"If you want to make God laugh, just tell him what you are planning for the future."

"The will of God will never take you there where the grace of God will not protect you."

### THE PARISH HOME HAS BEEN REMODELED

The work on the Parish Home has been completed. Yeah!!!

Any donations for this project would be greatly appreciated. Call the Church office, please.

### Note from Fr. Dragan and Popadija Vesna

We would like to thank all of you members and parishioners for remodeling the Parish home for us. It feels like a new home now. We appreciate it very much and the kids love it.

As a sign of gratitude we'd like to invite you to an OPEN HOUSE on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2005 (Saturday) between 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. We are also doing this because there are many folks from Church that have never been to our Parish Home. Please, please, please DON'T BRING any gifts. We only need your presence there, and we would like to express our thanks to you. Thank you for coming.

### Ambassadors for Children (AFC)

This is a not-for-profit humanitarian organization in Indianapolis. Ambassadors for Children partners with Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine (of Serbia) Foundation to work with the children at the Center for Infants, Children, and Adolescents in Belgrade. This orphanage houses over 700 children from infants to teenagers. The Serbian Orthodox parishes in the Midwest have been approached by this organization about a trip being planned for volunteers to Belgrade from June 18-25, 2005. Volunteers joining AFC in Serbia will spend their days with the children playing games, working on facilities projects and teaching English. The AFC group will also bring needed donations of hygiene items, school supplies, clothing and shoes. It will be a great opportunity to visit Serbia, experience the culture, and help the children. It may also be arranged for individuals or families to extend their trip to allow time for visiting relatives and friends.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, contact Rachael Yates, Mission Director, Ambassadors for Children, c/o Ambassador Travel Club, 7337 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46231. Telephone: 317/248-8102

### Memory Eternal to:

-Grandmother of Branko and Branka Radlovic who passed away on January 14, 2005.  
- Father of Cheryl Tasich who passed away recently.

# PARISH NEWS

-Mickey Weist, stepfather of Kathy Milovac, who passed away recently.

May God establish their souls where the saints repose and give the family strength to endure this temporary separation. VJECNAJA PAMJAT.

**PARASTOS** for Jovan Vuynovich will be held at our Church on February 13<sup>th</sup> after the Divine Liturgy. Lunch in his memory will be served. The family invites you to attend.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2005-06

The 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 issues of our church as well as maintain the Church Property. If you have been a member, in good standing, of our Church for at least one year and are interested in being a part of this wonderful group of volunteers (stewards) for the coming year, please call the Church office: 636-1404. The Parish Council is elected at the Annual Meeting and is approved by our bishop. Your talents will be welcomed. Thank you for your consideration.

## Who is a member in good standing?

A person who is a practicing Orthodox Christian (comes to Church regularly and partakes of the Sacraments of the Church). A person who has satisfied his/her financial obligations to the Church and/or is a good steward.

## BOOK STORE—WHATS NEW?

Thank you, for your purchases from our bookstore over the Advent season. We are so pleased that so many have chosen religious and faith based items as gifts for family and loved ones.

We still maintain a good variety of books. A good book makes an exceptional gift. Books about Saints open the eyes of the reader to our incredible examples of righteous living. Some Saints were committed in faith from their earliest years. Others became Saints through extraordinary life changing events. We probably have a book about your family patron Saint. Have you considered adding a reading about your patron Saint as part of your Slava celebration? We also have books about the Saints written for our young readers.

We also, have many books about our Orthodox faith. Gifts of these kinds of books cannot help be effect the Faith of the readers. We have introductions and basic explanations or what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. We have books that answer questions and discuss of Faith not only as a 2000+-year-old commitment, but how it exists and sustains us in a modern world. We have books about women in faith. There are books, which will explain and motivate you to participate actively in the Divine Liturgies and all services we celebrate.

Of all the gifts available from our bookstore, the greatest treasures remain on the shelves waiting for you. Please consider these enlightening options as gifts for all those you love. What greater gift can you give than increased faith, understanding, and wisdom that come from our books of faith?

Can we help you find something? See Terri Fields, Judy Gajic, Sofia Fields, or Jim Fields. Your brothers and sisters working for you in the Bookstore

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AND PARISHIONERS

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make every effort to be there. The future of this Church is in your hands. We hope you will take this invitation seriously and will come. Thank you.

\* 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 2005 Annual Meeting.

## BLESSING OF THE WHITE RIVER

It was, as every year, a great experience. We thank the faithful of the Joy of All who Sorrow for having us for a delicious luncheon afterwards.

## TSUNAMI – to help those who suffered recent tragedy

If you would like to send in a donation, please send it to our Diocese who will then send it where it is most needed: **P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, IL 60046** (write in the memo space: "Tsunami")

## MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

From the Constitution of the American-Canadian Diocese. Article 67:

The minimal religious duties of the members of a Church-School Congregation are as follows:

1. To guide themselves in their life and work by the principles of Holy Orthodoxy;
2. To regularly attend the Divine Services;
3. To keep the Fasts prescribed by the Holy Orthodox Church;
4. To partake of Holy Confession & Holy Communion;
5. To have all religious services performed by their own priest;
6. To raise and educate their children in the Orthodox Faith and Tradition;
7. To respect their bishops, priests, Diocesan and Church-School board members and all elected church bodies and organs;
8. To cooperate in everything that is conducive to the betterment of the Church-School Congregation and the Diocese;
9. To fulfill their financial obligations with respect to the Church-School Congregation and the Diocese.

**Note from Fr. Dragan:** If at the present time you are not fulfilling all of the above, it is important that you are at least working towards them.

If you are not an Orthodox Christian or if for some reason you cannot satisfy the above, you are considered a Supporting member.

We appreciate your support.

## DO YOU PRAY?

Private prayer should be a part of daily life for every Orthodox Christian. We often do not find time to do so daily and our spiritual—not to mention emotional life—suffers. Praying first thing in the morning starts the day off right and ensures that the cares of the day will not choke out the time and energy necessary for prayer. In the evening prayers we thank the Lord for the day He has given us and we ask Him to protect us during the approaching night. One needn't follow a set formula, but even those experienced in prayer often follow one as a way of eliminating distraction and the excuse of "not knowing what to say." A private place away from noise and distraction should be chosen. Often that place is the home icon stand or corner. The set of prayers in the Parish Directory are presented as short and simple text for morning & evening prayers. Use it regularly. Additional prayer books are available through the parish bookstore. Please make sure that prayer is part of your every day life.

# PARISH NEWS

## **ORTHODOX NEWSPAPER, KOINONIA**

Holy Trinity parishioner **James Belt**, of corporate Printing of Zionsville, has launched a new Orthodox newspaper for central Indiana! It is called *Koinonia*, after the Greek word for "fellowship" or "communion." The first issue was published on January 9, 2005, and is filled with interesting articles and information. Copies may be obtained at our church, at other central Indiana Orthodox parishes or any Orthodox-owned or—affiliated business that sponsors the publication. Deadline for the next (Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>) issue is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Comments, suggestions of material for publication may be mailed, c/o James Belt, to **10815 DeAndra Dr., Zionsville, IN 46077** or e-mailed to **jbelt@corpprinting.com**. Let's support and help grow this potentially valuable outreach tool for central Indiana's Orthodox community.

## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

Even though this is an uncomfortable subject to mention, please give some consideration to the following: **REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.**

## **HELPING THOSE IN NEED**

On Sunday, December 26, 2004, David Rayman and Branka Radlovic distributed food and a small monetary gift to over 10 needy families in the neighborhood of our parish. Thanks to all who contributed and especially to David Rayman, who contributed most of the food.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Stanley Cvetkovich for removing the snow from around our Church for "free." He does this for us every year. God bless you Stan!

## **MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA AUGUST 2-12, 2005**

The Orthodox Churches of central Indiana are organizing an August 2-12 trip, 2005 mission trip to the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orthodox Orphanage in Guatemala. Father Dragan Petrovic of the St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church will be the clergyman leading this team to Guatemala. Assisting him will be Michael Young of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Volunteers are being sought to participate in this trip, which will be limited to 15 participants. Anyone 18 or older can participate. As of this date, several people have expressed interest. Therefore, it is important to apply as soon as possible. This mission work involves work with children.

Costs for the trip will total about \$950, though the exact amount has not been determined. Missionaries are expected to raise their own funds from their own parishes, friends and relatives. However, we will help you do fund-raising for this trip as well as the one planned to Serbia. A \$150 non-refundable deposit will be collected at the time of application. Additionally, a mandatory all-day orientation meeting will be held at Indianapolis on Saturday, July 23, to prepare

participants for this 10-day trip. Application forms will be available through the church office. Contact Fr. Dragan for any further information.

## **From Dorothy Stankovich: Dear Church Family,**

Father Dragan is embarking on a mission trip this summer to Guatemala. We are asking members of our church family to donate monetarily what they can so that we can purchase most-needed necessities for the children at Hagar San Miguel Orphanage.

A list of items that are needed are on the Bulletin Board. If you would like to select something to donate or make a monetary donation, we would be most appreciative.

Checks of cash may be made to St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church and identify the contribution as Guatemala Mission.

## **Special Project—March 4, 2005**

We are setting up a booth to explain and invite to the Orthodox Christian Faith the students of Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, on March 4, 2005. PLEASE HELP. Contact Fr. Dragan if you are interested in evangelizing.

## **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS**

The Vesper Service will be held at the St. George Orthodox Church, 4020 N. Sherman Drive, Indianapolis, beginning at 5:00 PM. Telephone: (317)547-9356  
Homilist: Rev. Fr. James Gavrilos, Pastor of St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church, Boca Raton, FL  
Responses will be led by the Combined Choir of Central Indiana under the direction of Stefanie Yazge.  
A reception will follow the Vespers Service.  
\*\*\* Fr. Dragan Petrovic will be chairing this event, please come.

## **LEISURE TIMERS**

This group, started by the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, meets at various times of the year. Ladies and gentlemen (seniors and anyone who has leisure time) are welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be at the Holy Trinity Church, 4011 N. Pennsylvania, on February 16, 2005, 11:30 a.m. There will be a light lunch—soup, salad and dessert, followed by some planned activity. For reservations or additional information, please contact Irene Bovis (228-0650) or Angie Devitt (638-8170).

## **St. Nicholas Tamburitza**

Just a reminder that we have a newly formed tamburitza group, and all interested youth, teenagers and adults are welcome to join this group. Dylan Jensen, who has played with the Duquesne University Tamburitza, is our instructor. Interested individuals do not need to have a prior musical background. Please contact Bob Mandich at 255-9693 for further details.

This group made its first performance at our St. Sava celebration. They sounded great, and our special thanks to the instructor, Dylan Jensen, for making this all possible.