

# PARISH NEWS

## **FROM FATHER'S DESK**

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

### **POSSIBLE WAR**

My dear spiritual children,  
We are all consciously or unconsciously affected by what goes on in the country we live in. The present situation is that outsiders are threatening with terror and the insiders are leading us to war. Without going into the politics, it is my obligation as the spiritual father of this community to advise you in the best way I know. Please pray for those who are in the position of making decisions relating to this that God may grant them wisdom and a pure Christian mind. Please pray for soldiers and the men and women in civil authority that God might protect them and teach them to always do what is pleasing unto Him. Pray for all mankind and our well-being. Pray that God may have mercy on us and protect us and save us.

**Special Note:** If you are presently not a practicing Orthodox Christian, this is the time to establish a relationship with God whom we all need so much.

### **Forgiveness Sunday**

On the Sunday before Great Lent, it is a tradition 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 10<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH**

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 items, 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.

### **New Antiminsion in our Altar**

Antiminsion is a piece of rectangular cloth with the image of Christ's Burial imprinted on it, and it must have relics of a Saint in it. Without these relics, the Divine Liturgy cannot be served. Ours was old and we didn't know from which saint we had the relics. Now, thanks to our Bishop Longin we have received a new Antiminsion and we know whose relics are in it. We are very fortunate to have the relics of Saint and King Lazar – a saint from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

You might have noticed that a few Sundays ago, at the beginning of Liturgy, I along with Fr. Mikic, went to the Bishop's throne where the Antiminsion was, censed it and carried it in through the Royal Doors onto the altar table. I then left the Royal Doors open throughout the whole service out of respect for this Great Saint. May God Bless us and protect us through his prayers.

### **Blessing of Homes**

I am continuing to bless homes and trying to contact all parishioners. If I haven't contacted you by the middle of April, please call me. Please note that I have been delayed due to the unreasonable weather conditions.

### **Personal Experience in Giving**

Before I became a priest, but after I graduated from the Seminary I lived in Chicago and belonged to Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church on Palmer Square. I used to be offended and bothered by so many pleas from so many avenues: Church, K.S.S., Church Choir, Diocese, IOCC, and other humanitarian organizations who were asking for help for either the suffering people of Serbia, the suffering people or certain needy individuals in America. Honestly, this used to be a burden, someone constantly asking for contributions. Unfortunately I had this feeling for quite a while until I realized that these were all **opportunities** for me to give, and that I should be thankful to God for that, because when He

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gives us the opportunity to give and we do, He then, in turn, rewards us greatly (blesses us). Therefore, please take advantage of these opportunities and give cheerfully and don't let it be a burden to you. After all, the only things we can take with us when we leave this world are the good deeds.

## **EVENING LITURGIES**

This is the first year that 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**

As it has been a practice, I will hold cantor lessons throughout Great Lent on Saturdays before Vesper Services. 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 dinner. I encourage you to attend as many as possible. The Theme for this year is "The Sanctity of Life." Please see Church Bulletin or enclosed Flyer for additional information.

## **AN APPEAL TO ALL OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST**

Very recently, Sasa Nedic, a graduate seminarian of the St. Sava School of Theology in Libertyville, IL, has been diagnosed with a cancerous life threatening illness lymphoblastic lymphoma, stage IV. Recently he underwent a bone marrow transplant and will remain hospitalized for approximately 3 more weeks. He is battling an infection and needs all of our prayers. A fund has been established for Sasa Nedic through the St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church - Mission Help Fund, in order to help Sasa with the tremendous financial burden that has fallen upon him by not being able to work for the next six months and due to the fact that he has no immediate family living in the USA. If you have any questions, contact Radovan Jakovljevic 708/832-4874 or 708/474-8417. Contributions may be sent to:

St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church  
Sasa Nedic - Mission Help Fund  
18550 Stony Island Avenue  
Lansing, IL 60438

For your information, someone in our parish found a diamond bracelet, and it has been turned over to our Church. A Silent Auction will be held on this item, and the proceeds will be sent in care of the Sasa Nedic-Mission Help Fund as a contribution from our Church. The bracelet has been appraised for \$1,200, and we already have a bid for \$500 on it. If you are interested in participating in this Silent Auction, please contact the church office.

## **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 2003**

Every year, the Orthodox people from all the Orthodox Churches in Central Indiana gather for the Celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We gather in prayer and stand united. This year's celebration will be at the Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church, 1516 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, at 5:00 p.m. Please come and be part of this gathering of your brethren of the same faith.

## **KSS ANNUAL MEETING—3/9/03**

The Circle of Serbian Sisters will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 9, after the Divine Liturgy. Please try to attend.

## **CHOIR ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18, 7:00 P.M.**

Our church choir will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. All members are asked to be present. Non-members are welcome to join and attend. For information call the church office at 636-1404.

## **SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

☉= under 80	☺=over 80
☉=80	☺☺= over 110
2/2/03	93 souls ☺
2/9/03	96 souls ☺
2/16/03	55 souls ☉
2/23/03	60 souls ☉

Note: To those people who didn't come to Church during the two Sundays we had snowstorms, this was a great opportunity for you to utilize your Icon Corner. If for any good reason you are unable to come to Church on Sunday and/or feast day, light a vigil lamp or candle in front of your Icon Corner, pick up your bible and/or your prayer book and read them prayerfully.

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## **ANNUAL MEETING-MARCH 2, 2003**

Please be reminded that the annual meeting has been rescheduled for March 2, following the Divine Liturgy.

We thank Virgil & Dorothy Cross for the lunch they donated on February 16<sup>th</sup>. In advance, we thank Rick and Kim Suder for offering to prepare Cincinnati Chili the day of our Church Annual Meeting.

## **LENTEN COOKBOOK---(Kolo Project)**

Our Kolo is still in the process of compiling Lenten recipes for this project and would appreciate your sharing some of your Lenten recipes with us. Please send them to the attention of Angie Devitt, 1310 North Keystone Avenue, Indpls., IN 46201 or drop them off at the church office. It would be appreciated if you would print or type the recipes. The final deadline for submitting these recipes is April 1, 2003.

Please note that when you send us a recipe, your name will appear in the cookbook as one of the contributors.

## **PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Please pray for the health of:

Milan Mandich, Zivko Maric, Dragica Kerr, Nikola Marich, Caroline Cohen, Sasa Nedic and Angeline Yeftich.

If you would like to include your name on the list, please call the church office.

## **ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

We have now received this Icon. We would like all members and parishioners to sign this icon prior to presenting it to the New Gracanica Monastery. Therefore, if you have not yet signed it, please do so.

## **FROM 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.

Additionally, **annual donation statements** have been sent, and we apologize for the delay. This was an enormous job and we truly, truly thank Belinda Sharkey for completing it. If you did not receive your statement or if you should find an error, please contact the church office so that we may rectify the situation. We appreciate your continued patience and support.

Reminder! Weekly offerings and other donations are recorded individually when they have been made by 1) Personal Check or 2) cash in an envelope marked clearly with the donor's name. Please follow these instructions.

## **Did you know?**

--Angie Devitt helps Father in the office at least one day a week.

--Cristina Tanaskovich and Kara Mozina maintain our bulletin board regularly.

--Christian and Nada Jimenez donate the mailing expense two times a year for the Community Card.

--George Stanjevich donates the printing of all the envelopes we use.

--Judy Gajic pays for the Little Falcons children's books, which are then given to our children.

--Cari Sovic donates the mailing each month for the Altar Boys' Schedule.

--Kara Mozina donates the cost of mailing out our Sunday School Bulletin.

--Stanley Cvetkovich uses his equipment and donates his time to always keep our parking lot clear of snow and ice. His brother Alex helps out with that project also.

--Alex Cvetkovich dry-cleans everything for us.

--Mira Skoric does all the sewing and alterations for us.

--Although you may already know this, Milo Cvetkovich and Bogdan Milivojac still continue to make candles for the church.

**Special thanks to all those who were mentioned above as well as those we may have forgotten to mention.**

## **HELP! WE NEED A CHOREOGRAPHER**

Since Popadija Vesna is expecting a child in March, we are looking for a person to volunteer some time to teach our children Serbian folkore dances. Practices would be on Sundays after church. Please call the Church office if you are interested.

## **GOD'S MIRACLES**

We wish to introduce to you the youngest member of our church family: Jared Michael born on January 31. Parents: Phil & Tracy Michael.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH SOCIAL**

What? Hockey Game—Indy vs. Memphis  
When? Saturday, 3/1/03, 7:00 p.m.  
Where? Conseco Fieldhouse  
We plan to meet at the entrance of the Fieldhouse at 6:30 p.m. We have 40 tickets, thanks to Steve Staletovich and George Stanjevich. They donated these tickets in the name of a child (Jackson) who is very ill. Please pray for him. Be sure to call the Church office if you plan to attend (636-1404)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER SOCIAL**

Sunday School children will have a social outing on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. We will meet at church at 1:00 p.m. and be at the IMAX Theater at 1:45 p.m. when the children's movie "Lion King" begins. After the movie, we are coming to the church for dinner. Parents, you will be able to pick up your children by 5:00 p.m. It's free—sponsored by our Sunday School.

## **SEVEN-DAY CANDLES**

If you are interested in donating a candle to burn on the altar table where Divine Liturgy is served in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one, you may purchase it at the candle room window.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2003**

Included herein is a Calendar of Church events for the entire year. Save this to remind you of forthcoming events. Please note that occasionally a date may have to be changed.

## **ETERNAL FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF TODOR STANJEVICH**

First of all, we at St. Nicholas Church are very grateful to the Stanjevich Family for having asked that their friends and family donate to our Church Building Fund rather than spend money for flowers. Approximately \$4,000 has been collected as of this date. This we call Eternal Flowers, which is then invested in something good. Thank you, Thank you!!

Secondly, the Stanjevich Family would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers for the salvation of his soul as well as for the donations you gave in his name. May his memory be eternal and may God grant him eternal life in His kingdom. Marija Stanjevich and Family would also like to thank all of you for your phone calls, cards and everything.

## **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.

## **FISH FRYS**

Fish Fry Season is upon us. Please see the flyer 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 prep; Lenten baked goods, servers, refreshment tender, cash donations & ticket sellers. Please see Dorothy Mlivojac or call the Church Office.

## **DUHOVNO VECE**

We will be holding talks (in Serbian) about our faith through poetry of the departed Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic. Our main focus will be to have present our brethren who recently came from the old country. These talks will be held after the pre-sanctified liturgies on Wednesday evenings.

## **BULLETIN SPONSORS**

For the health of their new born: Phil & Tracy Michael.  
Should you wish to donate to upcoming bulletins, please call church office or send a donation directly to our church.

## **CHILDRENS 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.