

PARISH NEWS

FROM FATHER'S DESK

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

Dear spiritual children and friends, when you pray please remember our bishop Longin and me (Fr. Dragan) in your daily prayers. Please know that we need it most.

My dear spiritual children, There are many Hungry & Thirsty (Spiritually Speaking) Orthodox Christians out there. **Are you one of them?** Have you partaken from the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion. These mysteries are of essence to us. Please prepare yourself to the best of your ability and come for the cleansing of your soul (Confession) and for receiving the Body and Blood of Christ (Communion). You must be a baptized Orthodox Christian in order to partake of the Sacraments.

PREPARE FOR LENT

Great Lent begins on Clean Monday, March 14, Lent is a period of abstinence from food and other worldly pleasures, so that we can instead concentrate on prayer, worship and contemplation of our Lord's goodness and mercy. Since abstinence from animal products is part of this Lenten discipline, wouldn't it be a good idea to plan to empty your pantry and refrigerator of these foods—starting NOW??

Tentative Schedule for BLESSING HOMES

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

*** Brownsburg, Pittsboro & Clermont, I will be blessing homes in this area during bad weather since this area is close to my home.

*** Out-of-town homes, I'll be blessing on weekends: Lafayette (March 5th), Bloomington (March 26th), Anderson, Muncie, Marion, Shelbyville, Pendleton, Terre Haute, Kokomo, Seymour & 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.

Blessing of Homes

I want to thank everyone for the hospitality extended to me and for understanding and working around my schedule. To date, 80 homes have been blessed.

If you did not receive a call when I was in your area, there must have been a good reason. Please forgive me, and expect my call when I am in your area again. I will call you.

HISTORY OF BLESSING OF HOMES

Prior to 1998, as far as we know, approximately 25-35 homes a year were blessed.

1998	About 60 homes
1999	80-90 homes
2000	110 homes
2001	158 homes
2002	160 homes
2003	130 homes *
2004	162 homes

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

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

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.

Also, please note that we are trying to have pitch-in dinners after the Pre-sanctified liturgies. If you are able, please bring a Lenten dish.

* LENTEN PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM PLEASE FIND IN BACK OF YOUR PARISH DIRECTORY. This prayer is to be used during Great Lent.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:

Diana & Corina Fischetti, Jason, Elena Milovac, Hadad, Lazar Prodic, Chester Tasich, Paul & Tina Stoyanovich, Kathryn Ralic, Anna Ralish, Patty Staletoich, Milan Knezevic, and Angeline Yeftich.

*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

January 30	98	souls	⊖
February 6	107	souls	⊖
February 13	110	souls	⊕⊕

KOLO NEWS

LENT IS HERE!!!

We have Lenten Cookbooks for sale at our Church (over 200 recipes compiled by our sisters) only \$8.00.

CHOIR NEWS

We are sad to report that we lost two choir members during the month of February: Marko Milatovich, an active singing member, and Savo Kresojevich, a long-time, former member. Both men were charter members of the Jovan Ducic Choir. Our deepest sympathies to their families.

Choir Rehearsals for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers:

Sun., Feb. 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. St. George Orthodox Church
4020 N. Sherman Drive

Sun. Mar. 6, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Ss. Constantine & Helen, 3237 W. 16th St.

We ask all of our Choir members to seriously consider taking part in these rehearsals. This is a wonderful way to get together with the Choir members of other Orthodox Churches in town.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Religious education for our Sunday School Children has started again on the 23rd of January. **The average attendance has been 23 children. This is only 35-40% of registered children attending. Parents PLEASE, PLEASE bring your children to Sunday School.**

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.

Sunday School Events:

Altar Server Meetings to be announced.

PARISH NEWS

Children's Summer Camp

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

YOUTH ORGANIZATION

We have had a few 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. Our next meeting is to be announced.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

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 Staletovich, Alec Mandich

April 3: Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

April 10: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

April 17: Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth

April 24: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

MAY 1 PASCCHA: All Altar Servers invited.

May 8: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsich

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

BULLETIN SPONSOR – THANK YOU!

NO SPONSOR FOR THIS MONTH! WHY?

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

SPECIAL NOTE: If each and every recipient of our Monthly Bulletin gave a dollar a month, it would be more than enough to cover the cost of publishing and distributing it. If you enjoy reading this publication and would like to offer something, please feel free to do so. Any amount would be appreciated so that we can continue informing, educating and, most of all, evangelizing. Thank you in advance.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4)

SAYINGS

"Marriage is an unconditional relationship to a imperfect person"

"Whatever good you think you did, it was actually Jesus Christ doing it through you; thus, instead of proudly taking credit for it, be thankful to the Lord for having used you"

Memory Eternal to:

+ Marko Milatovich

+ Savo Kresojevic

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

PARASTOS for Helen Ellison will be held at our Church on March 13th after the Divine Liturgy. Lunch in her memory will be served. The family invites you to attend. Please note that this is a Cheesefare Sunday; thus, if you are planning to bring a dish to share with those present, make sure it has NO meat in it. Thank you.

Special Thanks to the people who made a donation in their memory and also to the families of the departed who asked the

family and friends to make contributions to our church (as eternal flowers) in memory of their loved ones.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2005-06

The following people have been elected to serve on the Parish Council for the upcoming year:

President – Milan Milivojevic

1st Vice President – Mirko Milivojac

2nd Vice President – Bob Ivancevich

Secretary – Vera Schuster

Ass't Secretary – Jason Pasalich

Treasurer – Rick Suder

Financial Secretary – Dorothy Cross

Ass't Financial Secretary – Anica (Starjevich) Foreman

Head Tutor – Milorad Cvetkovich

Ass't Tutor – Bogdan Milivojac

Ass't Tutor – Milenko Djukanovic

Members at Large:

Bozidar Djordjevic, Bob Mandich, Greg Pasalich, Ron Salatich

Auditing Board: Sveto Arsich, Marija Milivojac, Judy Gajic

Also included in the Parish Council are:

KSS President, Choir President, S.N.D. President and Sunday School President

Swearing-in of the Parish Council will be on Sunday the 20 of March following the Divine Liturgy.

The process for becoming a Parish Council Member is as follows: The faithful at the Annual Meeting select a group of people who are then recommended by the Parish Priest for approval by the Bishop. Special note: In recent years, we have been electing a president who had been given the authority by the faithful at the Annual meeting to select the rest of the Parish Council.

This year, the following individuals were elected as the Nominating Committee for next year's Parish Council: Angeline Devitt, David Rayman and Jelena Ljotjich. Guidelines will be set up for the accomplishment of this task.

Let's all pray for and support our parish leaders and thank them for accepting the time-consuming, arduous—and yet eternally rewarding—responsibility of administering our St. Nicholas Church. This is especially true as we prepare to take bold steps into the future by developing our recently paid-off land for the growth of our church.

From the Financial Secretary

Membership Dues—If we could only try to pay our dues at the beginning of the year, it would help our church in many different ways. Thank you for your understanding. (\$100 per year for individuals; \$150 for a family)

FLSH FRYS—The first one will be March 11, 2005

It's that time of the year again. We did very well financially last year and are hoping to do as well or even better this year. Please, you can make this happen. Come and bring your friends! Please see enclosed flyer for dates. We will be soliciting all members and parishioners for help during this fund-raising project. Help will be needed 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.

Correction to the Parish Directory - on Page 9

The phone number for the St. Xenia Metochian Monastery is: 926-7468. Please make this correction in your directory.

CONGRATULATIONS

* Born on February 4, grandchild of our Choir Director, Bill Christoff. Congratulations to the happy grandparents!

* Congratulations to Stevan Stankovich for achieving his Eagle Scout rank on January 27, 2005. Mnogaja Ljeta!

PARISH NEWS

MARRIED IN OUR CHURCH

Richard Gors and Tatiana Budyakova were married in our Church on January 30, 2005. God bless and all the best to the new couple!

BOOKSTORE—WHAT'S NEW?

By the middle of March we will be starting Great Lent and it will continue all through the month of April. How can the bookstore serve you during this deeply spiritual time of the year? We have a book on daily reading during Great Lent. We have some "Christ is Risen" pins. We are working on getting some egg wraps.

Are there any Pascha icons that you would like to have for display in your homes or as gifts for loved ones? Are there any books that will help you grow closer to Christ during our fasting season leading up to the great feast day of Pascha?

We will have many visitors to our church for our annual FISH FRYS. Do you have any suggestions of items the bookstore might make available during these wonderful fellowship events?

Please let us know your recommendations so that we can place our orders and have the things you desire in plenty of time for the season.

There is a wonderful book available called, "The Way of the Pilgrim." It chronicles a Russian Pilgrim's searching for the meaning of unceasing prayer. It explains how he discovers and embraces the Jesus Prayer and the spiritual implication of its use. It also will open your eyes to some very surprising revelations about true thoughtful confession. Although, it was documented and written by the Pilgrim (who to this day remains nameless), it also presents various views on spirituality from a professor, priest, abbot, monk, and hermit. This book is recommended as thought provoking and very understandable. I think it is not only well worth reading; it is the kind of book that should be reread after a time. I suspect each reading will reveal insights missed in the previous readings.

From, Your brothers and sisters working for you in the Bookstore

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AND PARISHIONERS

At the Annual meeting a pledge form was given to those present and one will be mailed to each and every member, parishioner and friend of the parish for your response. If you cannot give more than a dollar per year for 5 years, that's OK; but please make sure you give that dollar and promise to help in whatever way you can. We really need all of the people on our mailing list to respond. We are so pleased to announce that the first four envelopes turned in amounted to \$100,000.00 worth of pledges. Thanks be to God for those very generous pledges and the wonderful example those families are setting. Also, thanks to all of you for giving consideration to making a pledge. Every pledge will be appreciated, no matter how large or small. Please make sure that you give the MOST you can.

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")

Our church collected around a thousand dollars to send. Thanks to all who donated for this.

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.**

MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA AUGUST 2-12, 2005

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.

*** 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.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS—3/20/05

The Vesper Service will be held at the St. George Orthodox Church, 4020 N. Sherman Drive, Indianapolis, beginning at 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 20.

Telephone: (317)547-9356

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.

St. Nicholas Tamburitza

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. 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.

The LORD'S PRAYER in Old Slavonic:

We had a request to include the LORD'S PRAYER in the old Slavonic language:

Otche Nash, Izhe yesi na nebesyah, da svyatitsya Imya Tvoe, da pridet tsarstviye Tvoe, da budet volya Tvoya yako na nebesi, i na zemli. Hlyab nash nasushchniy dazhd nam dnes, i ostavi nam dolgi nashya, yakozhe i mi ostaviyem dolzhnikom nashim, i ne vvedi nas vo iskushenie, no izbavi nas ot lukavago.

GUSLE CONCERT

There were about 40 people present. Everyone was very pleased with the program. The evening began with a prayer followed by Marko Bojovic giving a lecture. Ljubica Jordanovich recited a poem, and the guslar played a traditional Serbian instrument which brought tears to many present.

WE HELP THE ST. XENIA MONASTERY

The local Monastery needed help in labor to remodel/fix their home, and a group of people from the Orthodox churches in town, including our parishioner David Rayman spent a day in fixing things on February 26th. Their help was very much appreciated.