

PARISH NEWS

-FROM FATHER'S DESK

My dear spiritual children, brothers, sisters and friends,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

If it weren't for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ every year at this time, I don't know if it would be worthwhile living. Would this life really have a meaning if at the end of it something better, much better, didn't come—the resurrection into the eternal life. Our whole life on earth is experiencing passion so that we can receive Resurrection. Thanks be to Jesus and the Church He established we experience His Resurrection each and every year of our lives. This gives us hope; this gives us happiness; this gives us joy and gladness; this gives us a reason to go on; this gives us something and everything to look forward to—just imagine the way our lives could be and the horrible and sad things we can experience.

Also imagine going through the passion and not experiencing the Resurrection. "Befor Thy Cross we bow in worship, O Master, and Thy holy resurrection we glorify."

May you have a happy Pascha and may we all experience the passion, put our passions to death and resurrect with our Lord as our Lord—Holy and radiant.

KOSOVO/HILENDAR

Many of you are probably not aware of this, but in the past two weeks two great tragedies have hit the Serbian people. The first tragedy is the fire, which destroyed 50% of the Hilendar Monastery on Mount Athos—Agion Oros. This Monastery is the heart of Serbian spirituality. Unfortunately, it doesn't stop here. The second tragedy, which is still going on, is the unjust uprising of the non-Serbian population in Kosovo who are going around burning and destroying monasteries, churches, cemeteries, villages and everything that is Serbian that comes in their way. Kosovo is the heart of the Serbian nation. Thus far, they destroyed over 35 churches and monasteries. Other more horrible things have happened, but I would rather not mention them. The purpose of this letter is not to provoke hate (we as Christians must never allow ourselves to fall into that sin) not even to ask for donations, even though those poor people who are in exile certainly and desperately need it, but rather to open your hearts and minds and bring you to understanding that the prayers for those people and holy places are urgent. We have the prayer sent to us by our Bishop included in the bulletin. Please take it and use it daily. Whether you are a Serb or not, whether you are Orthodox or not, many depend on you. Please pray.

BLESSING OF HOMES

To date, I have blessed 130 homes. I will continue blessing homes throughout the month of April, not including the Holy and Bright Week. If your home was not blessed this year, please call me and/or wait for my last call. Thank you.

Movie "The Passion"

I did see "The Passion," and I did like it -- if "like" is a term that can be applied here -- and I do recommend that you go. However, I want to remind you that the story told is not a new one. In fact, the Church has been "playing" the Passion of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ for about two thousand years now, only the Church's seats are not as comfortable as the theater's. Each and every Great Lent we are called, not by Mel Gibson but by our Bishop, to participate truly in the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Church services of Holy Week, especially from Great and Holy Thursday onward as we relive His extreme suffering and humiliation, His terrible crucifixion, His burial, His descent into Hades, and, ultimately, His glorious and triumphant Resurrection! This year for the Passion of Christ let us fill our Church, not just the theater.

Baptism during Divine Liturgy -- first time at our church

This is a special opportunity for all of our Parishioners to witness a baptism being performed during the Divine Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday at 10:00 a.m.. This is an old practice of the Orthodox Church, which is rarely seen today. Come and see and share the joy of

Baptism, Chrismation and Communion of our Catechumen John Newsome.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

⊗= under 80	⊙=over 80
⊙=80	⊙⊙= over 110
3/7/04	106 souls ⊙
3/14/04	89 souls ⊙
3/21/04	99 souls ⊙
3/28/04	107 souls ⊙

*** Make sure you partake of all of the services during Great and Holy Week.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:
Patty Staletoich, Kathryn Ralich, Anna Ralich, and Angeline Yeftich.

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

BULLETIN SPONSORS

Mile, Kathy, Marko, Luka & Elena Milovac.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lazarus Saturday -- April 3rd

Activities for both children and parents. Come and enjoy the day. Children will learn about the Passion of Christ and His Glorious Resurrection, they will learn to sing the Troparion for Pascha and will do arts and crafts. Parents will listen in on the Lectures and help out. The day will start with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. On this day the Children receive bells and go outside to bring the Vrbica into the church, which is blessed and distributed the next day, Palm Sunday.

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. Thus far, we have a couple families interested in going the first week in July. Most definitely, Fr. Dragan will be there the first week of camp.

SPECIAL NOTE: During the month of April, the children will be learning the Old Testament Bible Stories.

The **Family Sunday** will be April 11th Pascha (Easter) -- 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 or whatever date is designated on the Monthly Calendar. If anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 is interested in being part of this group, please call the Church office.

NEWS: Lock-in!!! Date: April 16th & 17th - Pan-Orthodox Event at the Circle Center mall (meet at the GAMEWORKS STUDIO at 8:00 p.m.), downtown Indianapolis. Bring all you need to spend the night there. There will be at least 50 youths from Central Indiana Orthodox Churches. We'll be playing games, watching movies, having discussions, socializing and more. Make sure you come and bring friends. We need to know exactly how many people are going, so please call Fr. Dragan at 317-374-3414. Hope to see you there!

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Main speaker for the event is V. Rev. Anthony Yazgy, and the guest speaker is Rev. Mile Subotic Serbian priest from South Bend.

ALTAR SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Apr. 4: Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner

Apr. 11 (Pascha): Djordje Mikic, Peter Hood, Matthew Toth
(all others invited).

Apr. 18: Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletovich, Alec Mandich

Apr. 25: Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

May 2: Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

May 9: Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth

May 16: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

May 23: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsich

June 6: Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas

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 & find a replacement.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS YEAR

1. Building of our new home
2. Updated Parish Directory
3. Prayer cards
4. Marriage Enrichment Seminars
5. Open Chapel at our New Property

KOLO NEWS

Dyeing of Easter Eggs:

A few of our ladies will be getting together on Great and Holy Saturday, April 10, following the Divine Liturgy to dye red Pascha eggs. If you would like to learn the art of this coloring process, please make plans to help them.

Pascha (Easter) Buffet

As is our tradition, after the Divine Liturgy everyone is invited down to our fellowship hall to participate in a shared buffet lunch. We encourage all of you to bring your favorite dish to share with your church family.

K.S.S. Annual Meeting – April 18th

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. Election of officers will be held at this time.

Mother's Day Celebration – May 9th

Plan in advance: May 9th there will be a Mother's Day Celebration. Please plan to be there with or for your mother. Because of the delicious food and entertainment, as well as the special atmosphere, many people in the past years have canceled lunches and dinners at Five-Star restaurants to come to our church to partake of this special event. We're looking forward to having you. Welcome.

CHOIR NEWS

The Jovan Dacic 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). The next rehearsal will on Sunday, April 4, at 8:30 a.m.

News: Our Choir members will be Celebrating their Slava on May 2nd. Please come and support them.

News: SOCA Convention will be held at our Church between September 24-26 of this year.

FISH FRYS

Thanks to all of you, the Fish Frys this year have been better than ever. We have never had more people present and we have never had more income than this year. We are so grateful to those who came to work, those who came to eat, those who gave \$ to cover the cost of material, those who invited their family and friends to come and last, but certainly not least, those who prayed for this to be a successful season. Thank you so much for your support. All of you are so kind. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

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. If you should be interested in more information about this, please call Fr. Dragan at the Church Office (636-1404).

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. Many people are doing this, and we are very grateful. Thank you. (\$100 per year for individuals, \$150 for a family)

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.

Renting of our Social Hall

Something which hasn't been properly announced before is that our social hall is not to be rented out during the fasting seasons. Since the fasting season is the time for abstaining from non-lenten food as well as party-like merriment, it wouldn't be proper for church property to be used for such events. This policy is intended for members as well as non-members. We have been following this tradition (rule) and have been blessed because of it. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

One year Parastos/Panahida for Mika Radlovic

This will be held on Sunday, April 25, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Lunch will be served in her memory.

God's Miracles

We wish to introduce to you the youngest members of our church family: Elisha Novak, born on 20th of March, 2004, son of John and Elizabeth Pasalich. Congratulations!!! Ziveo na mnogaja ljeta!

SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE: For those who take pleasure in giving of their finances and who understand that by doing so we receive much more in return, here are several opportunities for you:

1. For Monastery of Hilendar
2. For the Suffering people and ruined Holy Places in Kosovo
3. Donation to our Church for Easter (envelope enclosed)
4. For our Building Fund

Checks should be made out to St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church. When you write a check, in the memo space please write for which one of these are you making a donation for. Thank you in advance.