

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.

FROM THE DIARY OF FR. DRAGAN (Revised for the bulletin)

To my dear ones in the Lord—Members and Parishioners of the St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Indianapolis, Indiana:

Today is April 9, 2004—Great and Holy Friday in the Orthodox Christian Church. This evening I am anticipating an almost empty Church, both for Vespers and Matins, as has been the case for the past 5-1/2 years. Last night there were 23 souls (God bless them), including me. The Church was empty and my heart was empty. Now, pause for a second and imagine how our Lord felt when He saw that, knowing that He died for us. Yes, the services are very long. On Holy Thursday evening the service is 2-1/2 hours long, and on Great & Holy Friday evening the first service is one hour long, and the other service is two hours long. Yes, during the service (when you are a beginner at this), you think more about your legs, knees, arms and back than you think about prayer and, yes, after you leave the Church, you probably are aching all over. BUT, is this too much to handle for TWO DAYS in a year for Him who endured strikes, being spit upon, blows to His head, wounds all over the body, and death on the cross for us? If it is too much for us to do this for Him, which is actually for us and our families, then please disregard this letter and tell me, because it may be a good idea not to have these services anymore.

I ask for your forgiveness for such a harsh statement, and I beg for your presence at these special services from now on.

P.S. Blessed is that person who takes off work and school and comes to services on these special days.

Blessing of Homes

I want to thank everyone for the hospitality extended to me and for understanding and working around my schedule. To date, 110 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. If I don't call you by the middle of April, please call me. Thank you.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:

Verna Swander, Diana & Corina Fischetti, Jason, Elena Milovac, Hadad, Lazar Prodic, Chester Tasich, Paul & Tina Stoyanovich, Kathryn Ralic, Anna Ralish, Patty Staletovich, Milan Knezevic, and Angeline Yeftich, Mili Salatich,

*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

February 20	73 souls	☉
February 27	72 souls	☉
March 6	90 souls	☉
March 13	109 souls	☉
March 20	94 souls	☉
March 27	78 souls	☉

KOLO NEWS

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

CHOIR NEWS

The Choir is Rehearsing for Pascha, come and join them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Events:

*****Lazarus Saturday (Parent/Children Day)**

Activities both for 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 the 23rd of April.

Altar Server Meeting – April 24 – please bring your children.

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. We then do a project and, lastly, we play a game. Our next meeting is to be announced.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

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 PASCHA: All Altar Servers invited.

May 8: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsic

May 15: Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas

May 22: Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner

May 29: Djordje Mikic, Petar Hood, Matthew Toth

June 5: Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletovich, Alec Mandich

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.

PARISH NEWS

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

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

"Humble yourself, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:6

SAYINGS

"Words make noise but actions Thunder"

Memory Eternal

PARASTOS for Sava Kresojevich will be held at our Church on April 17th after the Divine Liturgy. Lunch in his memory will be served. The family invites you to attend. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL

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)

More than a FISH FRY - CONTINUES

Please come and bring your friends, you can make this a great success. Please see the enclosed flyer for dates. We will be soliciting all members and parishioners for help during this fundraising 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.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

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. Please mail it in or bring it in by May 1 (Pascha/Easter).

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. Identify on the memo line the contribution as for the 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.

Young Adult Conference May 20-22, 2005

The first Annual Orthodox Young Adult Conference of Indiana – May 20-22, 2005 – Ages 18-30. The Conference will be held at Camp Rotary 1745 S 325 W Crawfordsville, Indiana. Registration Cost is \$30.00. For more information contact John Miller (765)746-0530.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- For a new fax machine for our office donated by Dario Pavlovic & Family.
- For many books for our library donated by Milica Lalic.
- For the new Church/Serbian flag from an anonymous donor.
- For many video copies made for evangelizing donated by Sofia Fields.

CORRECTION

This correction is for the March Calendar. On the 19th of March it stated that we will serve a Parastos after the Divine Liturgy on Theodore's Saturday. Parastos is not to be served on this day. Instead, it should have said "Blessing of the Koliva."

Make a Promise Campaign for New Church Home is Kicked off.

What better time than Great Lent to start in earnest our campaign to raise funds for our new home? By now, each of you has received a letter and pledge card from our Fundraising Committee asking that you make a five year promise to help fund our building. Our goal is to raise \$500,000.00 by Pentecost (June 19). We can then approach banks to help us with a mortgage for the balance of our building costs. It would be wonderful if we could not simply reach, but exceed our goal by Pascha. Please look into your hearts and dig deep. This is the first time we have undertaken a campaign such as this, so it may be unfamiliar to many of us. Our first eight pledges promise over \$150,000 over the next five years! What a great start. Please help. Do what you can. Either mail the pledge card back or place it in the Pledge Box in the Church vestibule. As it says in Proverbs "The righteous giveth and spareth not." After all, all we have comes from our Lord. Please give some back to His Church.

Goal is to have 75% Participation in our Make a Promise Campaign. Our goal is not only to raise at least \$500,000.00 by Pentecost, but to have at least 75% of our Church Families participate in the campaign. This is important so that our Church will be built by as many families as is possible. While we have asked all to dig deep, we know that some families have few financial resources and are limited in what they can promise. Even if your gift is small or even if it is extra prayers for our new church complete the pledge card (with a small gift or a notation that you will pray for our success) and return it. Help us reach our goal of 75% participation.