

PARISH NEWS

FROM FATHER'S DESK

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

My dear Spiritual Children,

Due to a recent change in rules and regulations at hospitals, it is now necessary for the hospitalized person to notify the proper hospital personnel of his or her desire to have a priest visit. Please remember to do this because otherwise I will not have the right to make any inquiries or visit you.

CHURCH SLAVA--DECEMBER 21, 2003

Our Church Slava will be celebrated on December 21. Please be advised that this is your Slava (Patron Saint) as each of you is a part of this church. Please make an effort to be here to celebrate it with your church family. Kum/Kuma (Godfather/Godmother) for this year will be Sveto and Millie Arsich. The Kumovi serve as the hosts for the special event, and they most generously offer to contribute financially for the expense of the slava or give a donation (whatever they can afford). If you would like to have this honor, you may call the church office and ask to be a Kum/Kuma for next year; however, the Milivojac Family has already made a request to be the Kumovi for our Church Slava in 2004. Our special thanks to them.

CHRISTMAS FAST

Be reminded that the Christmas fast continues until January 7. This is the time for bringing ourselves closer to God and preparing ourselves to partake from the Great Mysteries: Holy Confession and Holy Communion. If you are baptized in the Orthodox faith, it is necessary for you to partake in these Holy Sacraments. **Communion, especially, is food for your souls!** For more information on how you can begin fasting, please call me. (317/374-3414)

ST. SAVA CELEBRATION APPROACHING

St. Sava Day is approaching, and I will be mailing a letter and poem to the parents in preparation for this event. Please make sure that your children participate in this program. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S, MOTHERS' AND FATHERS' DAY

At this time of the year, our Serbian Orthodox traditions are abundant. The first one is Serbian Children's Day. This is celebrated on 12/21/03 and is the day the children give gifts to their parents.

Serbian Mothers' Day, celebrated on 12/28/03, is the day the children tie the legs of their mother with a little rope and untie them when they receive a gift.

Serbian Fathers' Day, celebrated on 1/4/04, is when the fathers are tied like the mothers.

In most cases, the children wake up early (before their parents) and tie their legs up in bed; and, in order to free themselves, they give presents to their children.

Note: Please know that prior to coming to Liturgy, traditionally we don't (shouldn't) eat or drink anything—if we are able. The first thing we should have (if we are not receiving Holy Communion) is the Holy Bread. This does not apply to children, ill persons and/or pregnant women.

Special Note: Preparation for those who frequently partake of Holy Communion:

- 1) Confession at least once in 3 months

- 2) Daily prayer
- 3) Keep the Wednesday and Friday fast and the 4 fasts of the year.
- 4) Be at peace with everyone
- 5) Live a clean and pure life—no deadly sins
- 6) Attendance at Vespers (if possible) the evening before—a quiet and peaceful evening.

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST

TWO MEETINGS:

Building Committee update: 4 bids have been received and those Architectural Firms have been interviewed, Stafford and Associated of Indianapolis has been selected, with work to begin directly. Projected start date for construction is March 2004.

A satellite dish was donated to the church and will be installed at the church hall so that Serbian and other European channels may be viewed.

Workmen's Comp Insurance: We are purchasing Workmen's Comp Insurance to comply with State Statutes.

Candles: Milo Cvetkovich and Bogdan Milivojac have worked 70 days and have produced 25,276 candles, which has generated \$19,634, with no cost to the church.

Disability Insurance: It was decided to purchase Disability Insurance for our Priest.

Books on Serbia: We decided to purchase 5 books "Serbia", which depicts Serbia in True Light, and donate to Central Library for distribution. The book is authored by JoAnn Milivojevich, sister of council member Milan. To purchase call Church Office.

Little Stone Chapel (21 x 15') Will be erected (pending on State Regulations & no other complications) on new Church Property by the Legacy Tree. All Labor and materials will be donated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2004-05

Our 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 our church. If you have been a member of our church for at least one year and are interested in being a part of this wonderful group of volunteers for the year 2004-05, please call the church office at 636-1404. The Parish Council will be elected at our Annual Meeting, which will be held in February, and approved by our Bishop. Your talents will be welcomed. Thank you for your consideration.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

☉= under 80	☉=over 80
☉=80	☉☉= over 110
11/2/03	116 souls☉☉
11/9/03	85 souls ☉
11/16/03	97 souls ☉
11/23/03	123 souls ☉☉
11/30/03	85 souls ☉

NOTE: It's wonderful and God pleasing that we go to church. The reality of our time is that we could find one thousand reasons why it would be inconvenient for us. If we don't attend the Church we don't give God an opportunity to bless us. Let us therefore come to services regularly. If you don't plant the seed you cant expect to reap a crop.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

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

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

We especially need to help each other. If there is anyone in the parish who needs a job, or who is offering a job, or who 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. **Please take this seriously, especially if you are offering a job. Thank you.**

Special Note: We have put up an Advertisement Board in the Social Hall by the Refreshment Area for you to advertise your business and or things to sell or buy.

BULLETIN SPONSORS

Tom Hanes & Family in Memory of Seka.

Would you like to sponsor our Bulletin for the next month? Please consider this & call the Church office: 636-1404. It would be nice if we could have our monthly bulletin supported by those who read it and benefit from it. Thank you in advance.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Our thanks to the family and friends of Zivko Maric for making donations to our church in his memory.

May God establish his soul where the just repose and may his memory be eternal.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The **Family Sunday** will be December 21. The Family Sunday is the day when the Parents and the Children participate in the whole Divine Liturgy – NO Sunday School.

SPECIAL NOTE: During the month of December, the children will be learning about the Creed & Serbian Customs and Traditions.

YOUTH GROUP ESTABLISHED

A month ago, a Youth Group was established. The purpose of this group is: Fellowship, education, worship and service. The meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month. If anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 is interested, please call the Church office.

The elected officers are:

President – Milos Mikic

Vice President – Milkica Skoric

Secretary – Aco Tomic

Treasurer: Melanie Seat

Photographer: Mike Tanaskovic

Social Coordinators: George Skoric & Joanna Tanaskovic

At this time, the attendance at our meetings has been between 7 and 15 persons. We have 40 perspective members. Please call and join the Youth Group.

ALTAR SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Dec. 7: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Jordan England

Dec. 14: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

Dec. 21: Milos Mikic, Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok

Dec. 28: Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas, Matthew Toth

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 374-1414.

KOLO NEWS

On Wednesday evening, 12/3/03, our Kolo will be hosting its annual Christmas Dinner, which will be held at the Capri Restaurant this year, 2602 Ruth Drive (74th & Keystone, near Wal-Mart) at 6:30 p.m. A lovely family-style dinner will be served, consisting of salad, main entrees, vegetables & coffee/soft drinks, for a cost of \$20.00 per person. As usual, there will be a Christmas Gift Exchange following the dinner (\$10.00 suggested limit). This is a fun outing and all ladies are welcome.

LENTEN COOKBOOKS ARE FOR SALE AT \$8.00 EACH.

Please support this organization by purchasing a cookbook. Incidentally, they will make great Christmas gifts.

CHOIR NEWS

The Jovan Ducic Choir will be having rehearsals on Sunday, December 14 and December 28, at 8:30 a.m. All members are urged to attend since we are in the process of learning new church music.

Christmas Community Card-Bozic 2004

It was decided that the proceeds from the Community Card would go toward the necessary funds for Seminarians and the needy in our Community.

We thank you for your participation for our community card and look forward to another successful card for this Christmas season! Thank you.

GOD'S MIRACLES

We wish to introduce to you the youngest member of our church family: **Elena Milovac** born on November 14, daughter of Mile & Kathy Milovac. Congratulations! Zivela Mnogaja Ljeta!!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Emily Iglindza, for taking the community card project.

Zoran Stevic, for organizing our Library, which consists of close to **700 books**.

MAY GOD REWARD YOU ACCORDINGLY!!

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:

As we concentrate on the spirit of giving during the months of November and December, we will have a collection bin for food donations to help some of our Church family members and others in our neighborhood during this special time of the year. We will take non-perishable items and/or cash contributions that will be used for hams or turkeys. For more information, please see Kathryn Ralich or Father Dragan. Please take this project seriously because every year we receive phone calls from needy people in our neighborhood asking for assistance.

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CHURCH DUES—2003

Have you paid your church dues for this year? If not, please send your payment to the attention of Dorothy Cross, financial secretary. Also keep in mind that all dues should be paid by the fall of 2003 in order to vote at our Annual Meeting in 2004. (\$100 per person or \$150 per family for one year.) If you are unable to pay, please call Fr. Dragan. Your conversation will remain confidential.
Thank you.

SOCIAL HOUR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES

THE FAST HAS BEGUN – BEAN SOUP. During the Fasting Season we kind of made it a tradition to have Bean Soup & Salad (Possible Vegetable Soup) for lunch. Come and Enjoy!!!

GIVE & GIVE REGULARLY

All about having money is knowing how to use it.

Do you give: 1) to the Church (of God?) 2) to the poor and needy (including your relatives and friends)?

CHRISTMAS & PASCHA (EASTER) DONATIONS

These are two very special Holy Days in our Church calendar. Also, they are two great fund-raisers for our Church since we do ask for special donations during these particular times of the year. Please consider this in your yearly financial planning and attempt to make a special donation on these feast days.

YEAR-END REMINDERS

- As this year comes to an end, remember not to discard wall calendar Icons. If you will not reuse these Icons, please bring them to the church office.
- Diocesan 2003 Calendars are free (one per family). These can be obtained at the candle stand in our Church. Please see one of our Tutors.
- 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 annual meeting scheduled for February 8th, 2004.

ORTHODOX GIVE MILLIONS TO SECULAR CHARITIES

The Statistics prove that every year Orthodox Christians give millions of dollars to secular charities. With all due respect to many of these honorable organizations, please consider and make an effort to find an Orthodox Christian charity organization for such contributions. Please call the Church office for information on Orthodox charities.

FRIEND OF OUR PARISH EXHIBITS ICONS

Carol Boarman will be exhibiting her icons at the Indianapolis Art Center, 820 E. 67th St., through January 18, 2004. Please call the art Center at 255-2464 for more information. The icons on our Icon Screen were painted by Carol.

As always, this issue is printed with no intended offense to any one person(s). If this issue has excluded anyone's name, please notify the office (636-1404), and it will be corrected in the next issue. **If you do not wish to receive this publication, please notify us.**

Do you have something for the "Newsletter"? Send it as soon as possible—don't wait! Share your children's accomplishments and so on!

Call us or write with your critiques, compliments or other interesting news. We would like to hear from you!

QUOTES

You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.

--Beverly Sills

What a lot we lost when we stopped writing letters. You can't reread a phone call.

--Liz Carpenter

You may forget with whom you laughed, but you will never forget with whom you wept.

God gave us two ears but only one mouth. Some people say that is because He wanted us to spend twice as much time listening as talking. Others claim it is because He knew that listening was twice as hard.

A ship in a safe harbor is safe, but that is not what a ship is built for.

--William Ahedd

Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.

God restores health to the ill person: 1) to repent 2) that he may do good in His name. Not for him to enjoy life, for enjoying the good things of this world leads into sin.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2004. AT THIS MEETING IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE PERTAINING TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN OF OUR NEW HOME.