

# PARISH NEWS

## FROM FATHER'S DESK

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

Christ is in our midst! He is & always shall be!

The Christmas Fasting Season has started. Are you Fasting? Are you planning to take the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Communion?

Recently I read the following in a monthly bulletin of one of the Serbian Orthodox Churches. The Constitution of our Diocese states that if you don't partake of Confession and Communion during the year, you cannot be a voting member. The first thing that crossed my mind was, you shouldn't make people take sacraments by taking away their voting privileges. The Second thing that crossed my mind was, you shouldn't give people the Sacraments just so they can vote. But then it dawned on me that they where by this statement saying, you cannot make Christ like decisions if you are not in Communion with Him – Sacramentally active. This statement stands for the Church Community as well as for each and every person out there. Is it possible for us Not to eat and drink and be physically strong – is it possible for us not to partake of Christ's Body and Blood and to receive The Holy Spirit each Sunday at Church and to be Spiritually strong?

## THANK YOU!!!

It would be only appropriate and the least one can do, when I take this opportunity in the name of the St. Nicholas Church and thank each and everyone of you. Thank you for your hard work in this past calendar year, thank you for your sacrifices, thank you for your donations. I know quite a few people out there who went way out of their way for the Church. Please know that God will reward you and please know that we all appreciate it.

## Pray for your Church Family

**Please pray for the health of** Bogdan Milivojac, Elena Milovac, Hadad, Lazar Prodic, Chester Tasich, Paul & Tina Stoyanovich, Sofia Cvetkovich, Kathryn Ralic, Anna Ralish, Patty

Staletovich, 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

|             |           |   |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| November 7  | 80 souls  | ☺ |
| November 14 | 101 souls | ☺ |
| November 21 | 84 souls  | ☺ |

## KOLO NEWS

Kolo Annual Meeting:

The same officers were elected for this coming year:

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President      | Dorothy Milivojac |
| Vice President | Dorothy Cross     |
| Secretary      | Marija Milivojac  |
| Treasurer      | Judy Gajic        |
| Cheer Person   | Angie Devitt      |

### Christmas Dinner & Gift Exchange

Date: 12/8/04

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Bahama Breeze  
3815 E. 96<sup>th</sup> Street

Price of Dinner: \$25.00

If you want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$10 gift.

If you should have any questions, please contact Kim Suder, 844-9624

### Do you need a Lenten Cookbook for this fasting season?

If so, please consider buying one of ours. The cost is \$8.00. Also, they make good gifts.

## CHOIR NEWS

On December 5<sup>th</sup> our Choir will be singing at the Greek Orthodox Church here in Indianapolis. While their members will be preparing a meal (proceeds of which will be given to a charitable organization), our choir will be singing the responses to the Divine Liturgy that day. What a great opportunity to see our two churches working together.

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At our Church on that Sunday, responses will be sung by the Nuns from St. Xenia Metochian Monastery.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Last day of Sunday School for this Calendar Year will be December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Religious education will resume again on January 23, 2005. This is the first time that we are having a break in the winter so please make a note of it.

### **St. Sava Day Celebration Approaching**

St. Sava Day soon will be here. Fr. Dragan will be mailing a letter and a poem for the children in preparation for this event. (Parents, please make sure your children participate.)

### **Sunday School Events:**

#### **WINTER YOUTH RETREAT — WISCONSIN — January 14-16 2005**

If you are interested in going, contact the Church office for further details.

**Altar Server Meeting**—December 26<sup>th</sup> – very important meeting prior to the Christmas Eve service.

## BULLETIN SPONSOR — THANK YOU!

**CHRIS & LINDA KARRAS**

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

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

**December 5:** Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

**December 12:** Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth

**December 19:** Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch

**December 26:** David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsich

**January 2:** Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas

**Christmas: ALL ALTAR SERVERS WELCOME**

**January 9:** Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner

**January 16:** Djordje Mikic, Petar Hood, Matthew Toth

**January 23:** Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletovich, Alec Mandich

**January 30:** Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas

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

## FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

## SAYINGS OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Abba Theodore said, "If you are temperate, do not judge the fornicator, for you would then transgress the law just as much. And He who said, "Do not commit fornication," also said, "Do not judge."

Abba Theonas said, "When we turn our spirit from the contemplation of God, we become the slaves of carnal passions."

## Christmas Community Card

Please participate. Deadline for response is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Last year, the proceeds from the community card went mostly to the theological students and also to the needy in our community. We hope you will be able to participate again this year.

## WE ARE REMODELING THE PARISH HOME

Any donations for this project would be greatly appreciated. Call the Church office, please.

## Holiday Food Drive

As we concentrate on the spirit of giving during the Christmas season, 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 and turkeys. Every year we receive phone calls from needy people in our neighborhood asking for assistance.

## Petar Jankovic Concert — Great Success

We are happy to report that the Petar Jankovic concert was the most successful event St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church has conducted this past year. Our church building fund will benefit substantially from the hard

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work and generosity of our parishioners and many friends outside the church. You may recall that just a few days prior to the event, we seriously contemplated canceling it because we thought there was not enough interest. We did a lot of soul-searching and took a chance at conducting our first fund-raising event that was not a picnic, fish fry, bake sale or golf outing. We are blessed at having many talented parishioners and surely Petar showed us all that he is indeed a maestro. We wish to thank him.

The road to raising enough funds to build our much-needed new church will be a long and difficult one. But, if the lesson we learned from this concert of the commitment and generosity of our parish extends to our future efforts to raise funds, we will succeed. I believe we learned a lesson with the Jankovic concert; we cannot become discouraged or lose faith (if we were ever to be in that state while building our new home). The Lord will help us build a home where we can worship with an ever-growing number of parishioners; where we can Chrismate and Baptize people into the Orthodox Christian faith; where our children can learn about God in Sunday School and learn how to play traditional musical instruments, and prepare for our annual St. Sava celebration; where we can meet to socialize with friends and family.

Thanks to all who worked hard on this event and to all who supported it.

Robert Ivancevich

### **2005 Pocket Calendars**

They are Free -- Just ask for one.

### **Memory Eternal to:**

- Stephen Dawning (Racic)

May God establish his soul where the saints repose and give his family strength to endure this temporary separation.

### **Parastos—Memorial Service**

On December 26, after the Divine Liturgy, a memorial service will be held for Nikola Maric. The family invites you to stay after the service for a meal (daca) in his memory.

### **P. COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2005-06**

The 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 of our church as well as maintain the Church Property. If you have been a member, in good standing, of our Church for at least one year and are interested in being a part of this wonderful group of volunteers for the coming year, please call the Church office: 636-1404. The Parish Council is elected at the Annual Meeting (date to be announced), and approved by our bishop. Your talents will be welcomed. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Who is a member in good standing?**

- A person who is a practicing Orthodox Christian (comes to Church regularly and partakes of the Sacraments of the Church).
- A person who has satisfied his/her financial obligations to the Church.

### **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.

- 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 2005 Annual Meeting.

### **Christmas Shopping**

Please make sure that you come downstairs to our fellowship hall and take a look at the new items our Bookstore has to offer. Thank you.