

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.

Something on a different but important topic - Our hope and prayer is never to become a church that only and constantly asks for money. We are not and we won't be such a community.

However, being it a fact that we are building a new home for us, it is of great need that we all participate, to the best of our ability, in having it and keeping it. If all of us partake of it, it will be an easy load to carry. But if only a few participate it will be hard and unbearable.

On the other hand, please know that the responsibility of the church is to at all times provide the opportunity to the faithful to share the many blessings we receive.

An important question for you: Time, Talent, Treasure. If you are blessed with it are you offering (sharing) it?

THANK YOU !!!

It would be only appropriate and the least one can do, when I take this opportunity in the name of 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.

VESPERS ON SATURDAYS & BEFORE FEAST DAYS

From now on, both during summer and winter, vespers will be served at: **6:00 pm** to accommodate those who are making an effort to come to vespers after a hard day at work - to be energized & spiritually relaxed.

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.

Reflections on Sabor - by Robert Ivancevich

When Father Dragan asked that I represent St. Nicholas Church along with Jim and Terri Fields at the Diocesan Assembly (Sabor) I was anxious, but agreed to attend. The two-day meeting gave me a new perspective on the Orthodox faith and on the status of our Parish.

Bishop Longin began the meeting with prayers and a statement about our church. What struck me the most was a phrase he used that captured all of why we love our church. He described it as "Faith in tact and immaculate." **THIS CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF OUR FAITH.** I will never forget that our Orthodox Christian faith is "Faith in tact and Immaculate."

Another thing that struck me as profound was finally I understood why Paul wrote his letters to the early churches. Whether they are the Ephesians, the Romans, or the Galatians, each church had its strengths and its weaknesses and Paul sent them word on how they should thrive, how they might improve and in some instances what they should be thankful for. In one way, the Serbian Orthodox parishes represented at SABOR are like the early churches. Speaking with representatives of other parishes, I learned that they

have their problems, and some do not. But all are united in Bishop Longin's "Faith in tact and immaculate."

Finally, I realized as human beings it is our natural tendency to be self-critical and to sometimes take for granted our blessings. I realized while attending SABOR that our parish at St. Nicholas Church is strong, faithful, and has many attributes that other parishes represented at SABOR only wish they will some day have. We cannot let down our guard, become complacent or self-defeating, but we must always recognize that our parish is on the right track. Thank you all for permitting me to represent our church.

EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

We had an extra ordinary meeting on the 20th of November in regards to the sale of our current building. All present were in favor of selling our present home after we move into the new one. We all concluded that even though it will be hard leaving the home, which we had for over 70 years, the church is in the living people who will make our new home just as special. With trust in God and all of the faithful of St. Nicholas - we are going forward.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2006-07

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 maintaining 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 time & talent will be welcomed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Special Note:

For the first time when it comes to selecting the Parish council members we have a nominating committee of three members elected at the last annual meeting, chaired by Angie Devitt. Additionally, you may call her and give her the name of a person whom you think would be a hard working, responsible and dedicated person.

Please keep in mind that this person must be an active and honorable member of our community in order to be an eligible candidate. This means that he/she comes to church regularly (at least 75% of the time), regularly partakes of the sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion, lives a moral life and fulfills his/her financial obligation to the church.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the health of:

John (Moyer), Tomislav, Natasa, Milutin, Diana & Corina Fischetti, Jason, Elena (Milovac), Hadad, Lazar (Prodic), Chester (Tasich), Paul & Tina (Stoyanovich), Kathryn (Ralic), Patty (Staletovich), Milan (Knezevic), and Angeline (Yeffich), Jack (Mertz), Adam...

*If you would like to add or delete a name on the list, please call the Church office.

SERBIAN NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

On January 13th (old calendar New Years Eve) we will celebrate at our church the New Years in a traditional Serbian way. Even though it falls on Friday - it is a Free of Fast Friday. Thus prepare yourself for good food, fellowship and music. Make your reservation by

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calling the church office by January 7th & save \$5.00 per person. Begins at 8:00 PM. The entrance fee is \$25.00, which includes all you can eat food, Champaign and music. Children under 13 are Free. This event is organized by SND therefore please make your checks payable to S.N.D.

Special Note: If you have Traditional Serbian clothes wear them.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

☉= under 80 ☉=over 80
☉=80 ☉☉= over 110

Oct 30: - 85 ☉
Nov 6: - 80 ☉ Nov 20: - 95 ☉
Nov 13: - 75 ☉ Nov 27: - 91 ☉

CHOIR NEWS

No News is Good News. ☉ ☉ ☉ ☉

KOLO NEWS

Thank you to everyone for making our Bake sale and Bazaar a successful one. If you didn't get a chance to come to the Bazaar we will have the craft items for sale for the next few Sundays in the fellowship hall.

BEAN SOUP – the fast has begun. During the fasting season we kind of made it a tradition to have bean soup and salad (possible vegetable soup and Lenten chili) for lunch after liturgy. Come and enjoy. All the proceeds from these lunches will go to the poor and needy in our community.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

We still have frozen uncooked food for sale – leftovers from the International Festival / Kolo Bazaar. For more information or to place an order please call the church office.

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.

***Annual Kolo Christmas Dinner & Gift Exchange

Kolo Sisters and Friends -December 8th 6:30 pm
Lincoln Square Restaurant - 7308 E 21st Street
Four different entrees of your choosing (\$15.00 per person)
\$10.00 Gift Exchange
RSVP by Dec. 5th. To Marija Milivojuc 862-6692
For more information please call the Church office 636-1404

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Children have been practicing Church songs to sing on Christmas. Please bring your children to church by 9:30 am, on the 7th for final practice before Divine Liturgy.

BUY A SWEATER FOR A NEEDY CHILD -We need to send sweaters to the orthodox orphanage in Guatemala ASAP. The weather has turned cold with recent storms. Please bring to the church by December 11th 2005.

FOOD DRIVE -Don't forget to bring in your can goods and non-perishable foods for the Food Drive. The barrel is on the stairs going up to Sunday school. Thank you.

YOUTH – Please call the church office (636-1404) if you are interested in participating. We are in the process of forming a Pan (All) Orthodox Youth Group of Central IN, which will meet once a month.

TAMBURA GROUP -

If interested, please call the church office 636-1404. The Tambura group meets in the Church office after Divine Liturgy.

FOLKLORE GROUP

If you are interested in joining this fun group call the church office. The Folklore group meets in the largest room in Sunday school after Divine Liturgy.

Important Note: If a child is under the age of 13 he/she must have regular attendance in Sunday school in order to be part of Tamburitza/Folklore group.

MIRACLE OF GOD

- Katic, born November 11, 2005. Parents John and Jenny Dicken (granddaughter of Jim and Denise Andrews)
- Larkin Renee, born November 9, 2005. Shawn Bryant and Tammy Smith (God Daughter of Belinda Sharkey)
- Faith, born November 25, 2005. Parents Ladale and Melanie Boyett (Granddaughter of George and Betty Seat)

Congratulations! Many, Many, Many Years !!!

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

- Nov 27: Jordan England, Matthew Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas
- Dec 4: Mark Mozina, Marko Adams, George Steiner
- Dec 11: Alex Tanaskovich, Ben Staletoovich, Alec Mandich
- Dec 18: Milos Mikic, Steven Stankovich, Matthew Vukas
- Dec 25: Garret Isch, Brian Isch, Riley Isch
- Jan 1: Sam Bennett, Connor Schmok, Christopher Toth
- *** Jan 6 & 7 All Altar servers welcome
- Jan 8: Djordje Mikic, Petar Hood, Matthew Toth
- Jan 15: David Bresich, Nikola Rajovic, Stefan Arsich

***Next meeting: January 1, 2006 (to prepare for Christmas)**

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

BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, "so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." – Matthew 6:16-18

Please send us your favorite Bible Verses.

SAYING OF THE MONTH

Abba Nilus said, "Prayer is the seed of gentleness and the absence of anger."

From "The sayings of the desert Fathers"

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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.
- Membership dues for this year.

WOULD YOU HELP BUILD OUR NEW HOME

If you would like to help with the building of our new home please call the church office and let us know what type of work you would be interested in doing. We have started a volunteer list. Please, call the church office and include your name on the list.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A GIFT FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE "MAKE A PROMISE CAMPAIGN"

If your family made a pledge to the "Make a Promise Campaign" please be sure to stop by the church fellowship hall to pick up a token of appreciation from our church. Thank you.

Notice: The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for December 15th 6:30 pm.

*** For a copy of the minutes from the meeting, please call the church office and we will send it right to you.

BULLETIN SPONSOR- THANK YOU

No Sponsor this month.

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

BUMPER STICKER OF THE MONTH

A truly poor man - is not a man without money, but a man without **GOD**.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

Time to start thinking about Christmas shopping. Don't forget that the Bookstore is an excellent place to find that perfect gift.

Gift Idea: An excellent book about Serbia with beautiful pictures. Written by Joann Milivojevich. The books we have in the bookstore are also autographed by the author.

Evening of Fellowship - Pan Orthodox Event

Pitch-In Dinner and Guatemala Mission Trip Report - Hear the plans for future trips to Guatemala and other needy places.

When: Sunday December 11 at 5PM

Where: St. George Orthodox Church, 4020 N. Sherman Drive, Indianapolis, IN

CONGRATULATIONS

Sam Bennett was invited to Orlando, Florida along with his classmates to accept 2 awards in the International Media Fair in the I-Movie category and the Documentary category. The I-Movie was a class project completed entirely by his fourth grade FOCUS (accelerated) class titled "Remarkable Feet" - a short movie on feet including facts, health, and even entertainment. His individual project in the Documentary category was titled "Vietnam - The Longest War" - a documentary completely researched, compiled, arranged and presented in video by Sam and his 2 classmates (Eric

Applegate and Jake Ditslear). Over 850 projects are entered into the International Media Fair in various categories. There were 6 awards, altogether, awarded to the 3rd & 4th grade classes from Hazel Dell Elementary in different categories.

ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS

Orthodox Young Adults of Indiana is just forming. Its hope is to unite all Orthodox young adults (ages 18-30) in Indiana together for learning, spiritual growth and fellowship.

Next get together:

When: Sunday, December 4th

Time: 6:00 -9:00 pm

Where: Koen's - 2301 W 59th St, Indianapolis, IN 46228

What: dinner, fellowship and learning

(Soup will be provided, so bring a Lenten side dish - ex. bread, salad, a veggie, or dessert)

Come and get energized for the week! Hope to see you!!!

For more information call Hanna at 317-385-8803.

COMMUNITY CARD

Please participate. Deadline for response is: December 5, 2005. The proceeds from this project will mostly go to the Seminary Students.

CHURCH SLAVA - BISHOP PRESENT

Our Church Slava will be celebrated on December 18. 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 Gregg, Kimber and Alec Pasalich. 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.

IS FASTING PART OF YOUR LIFE?

There is a special peace and closeness to God that comes from our tradition of fasting the six weeks prior to the great celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you have not yet joined us in keeping the Christmas Fast, please consider at least starting at some level. Perhaps you could begin fasting on Fridays for each of the six weeks. As you feel the closeness and holiness that comes from devote fasting and prayer, you can include Wednesdays. Soon, you may desire &/or be led by your spiritual father to always fast the first week of each fasting season as well as every Wednesday and Friday. In no time (let say 20 years) you'll be fasting all the fasting seasons and you won't understand how you lived without it. Please don't be afraid of it, it is of great benefit to you. At least begin your journey and carry on as far as you can. In this way we show our love for Christ and make Him a priority over the many distractions of this world. At the same time we learn how to control ourselves & therefore our lives. Begin fasting - your eternity depends on it.

Summarized from the Sermon given by Father Dragan on the Sunday before Christmas Fast.

THANK YOU

George Grkinic and Rick Suder for donating a copier for our church.