



The monthly bulletin of
Holy Trinity
 Serbian Orthodox Church
 St. Paul, Minnesota

The Word

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“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them”

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Rochester 10AM Liturgy 5PM Vespers
2 St. Prophet Elijah— Sv. Prrok Ilija 10AM Liturgy	3	4	5 ↔	6	7 ↔	8 5PM Vespers
9 10AM Liturgy	10	11	12 ↔	13	14 ↔ Dormition Fast begins	15 ↔ 5PM Vespers
16 ↔ 10AM Liturgy	17 ↔	18 ↔	19 ↔ Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ— Preobrazenje Gospodnje 10AM Liturgy	20 ↔	21 ↔	22 ↔ 5PM Vespers
23 ↔ 10AM Liturgy	24 ↔	25 ↔	26 ↔	27 ↔	28 ↔ Dormition of the Theotokos —Velika Gpospojina 10AM Liturgy	29 9A SOCCER Tournament 5PM Vespers
30 10AM Liturgy	31					

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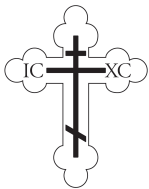
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Sasha Visnjic
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Choir Director
Caron Pjanić

Sunday School
Tanya Troska

Kolo Sisters
Jovanka Koury

Morava Dance Group
Mira Jurich



MARK Your Calendars

REMEMBER: Our 2nd Annual **Liturgy in the Park** is **September 6th** at FOR Parks Shelter in Roseville. Liturgy will start at 9am. Check out our website at www.HolyTrinitySerbian.org for more information.

First Annual **Soccer** (fundraising) **Tournament, August 29th**, starting at 9am at Freeman Park. To register your team, see the attached information, or go online to www.HolyTrinitySerbian.org to download the applications.

Choir Notes

Choir practices are continuing both on Wednesdays and Sundays after Liturgy. Please contact director: Caron Pjanić, or any choir member if you want to join or attend any of the practices. We have been working hard on learning a new Divine Liturgy response book, and learning both English and Serbian versions of each response. We will also be the Guest Choir in Duluth at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church this fall, October 10 and 11, singing both in concert on Saturday night and responses during the Liturgy on Sunday.

Extraordinary Session Held in New Gracanica

Grayslake, IL - An extraordinary session of the New Gracanica - Midwestern American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America was held at the New Gracanica Monastery on Saturday, July 11, 2009. The agenda was completed successfully.

The session opened with the introductory greeting by His Grace Bishop Longin of New Gracanica-Midwestern America which we are publishing here in full:

To the participants in the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly
of the Diocese of New Gracanica – Midwestern America
at the Monastery of the Protection of the Mother of God

Reverend fathers, dear brothers and sisters,

Holy Apostle Paul in speaking about apostolic service in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, says, “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Cor. 4: 1). We also, in greeting you for the first time today as representatives of our newly formed Diocese, bring to mind these words of the great Apostle who has forever paved the way for all true followers of Christ by his own work and missionary service. We are grateful to God first and then to our Holy Church that she has entrusted us with this apostolic service. Today, we stand before you in the role, not of one who gives orders, but of one who strives to be a servant of Christ. We truly have no greater ambition than this. On our path to eternity, the safest and the best path is that of serving.

The reorganization of the dioceses of our Church in North and South America by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church has brought a slight change on the territory of the Midwestern America. A new Diocese has been created here: The Diocese of New Gracanica – Midwestern America. Today, the representatives of this Diocese are assembled for the first time in order to define the diocesan bodies so that we may successfully, within the boundaries of our new Constitution, begin the work on the vast territory which our Diocese encompasses.

The decision of the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church, along with all of its consequences, is of historic importance. It finally puts an end to our misfortunate division. A sad epoch in the history of our Church in this part of the world is over, and the dawn of a new day is announced, which we believe will be brighter and better, more fruitful and more salvific for our people and our Church in this part of the world. A lot has been accomplished thus far in our Dioceses in America and Canada, and not only in the realm of construction. But imagine now how much better and more blessed things will be from now on, now that we are one, as brothers of the same faith ought to be. First of all, peace which we all need will be in our hearts – peace from God which surpasses all reason and unites us with God. That peace makes one able to disregard his own earthly troubles and sufferings, it extinguishes one's exaggerated ties to this world, it draws one to heaven, and creates love for all in one's heart. That love covers the shortcomings of the near ones so that one does not even notice them, but is compelled to always show more empathy for those near ones than for oneself. All people are called to live by that peace, and especially we, the Orthodox Christians.

United, we can do a lot, under the condition that we not be selfish and that we don't put ourselves in the first plan. Let us fear being high-minded, because pride and high-mindedness are man's perdition. Bear each other's burden and thus fulfill the law of Christ – those are the words of Saint Paul. Let us strive to set our labors into accord with the Gospel of Christ the Savior. Whatever cannot be placed in the context of the Gospel is not good for our souls; it is not profitable, and what is the worst, it can seriously diminish our chance of standing “to the right of the Lord” in that fateful day in which we will meet the Righteous Judge “face to face”.

It is important to point out that the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church does not require anything of us except that we be good members of our Holy Church, that we labor on the common field of the Lord, and that we contribute to our own salvation and the salvation of our surroundings in this part of the world by our living here. The last thing on the minds of the Fathers of the Holy Assembly is our property. Serbian Orthodox Church has through the centuries successfully cared for both spiritual and material goods, and nothing has changed in the nature of the Church during that time.

Since the Eucharistic union of 1992, nothing more important has happened than this event, which signifies the new beginning in

the full canonical and administrative union. Therefore, let us thank God and His most faithful servants in our nation, headed by Saint Sava, for this great blessing – that we can be united and saved together in one indivisible, holy, Serbian Orthodox Church as true followers of Christ. If there is still a reason to ask some of the brethren for forgiveness – forgive me! If there is a reason for some of the brethren to ask for forgiveness – do so! Let us humble ourselves before each other and before the Lord, healing through brotherly love all wounds of sin. Let us show by our own example of sacrificial serving that we are worthy followers of Saint Sava in all things – that we are worthy followers the teaching which is framed in the Orthodox confession of God and His Church.

Let us show brothers and sisters, by our life and work, that the Gospel of Christ is our Constitution, our ordinances and statutes. Thus, there won't be much need for us to rely on administrative decisions. Respect your clergy, and you clergymen who are entrusted with this high service, care for the souls which have been placed under your care, because great is the burden and great is the responsibility before the Lord of both ones and the others.

Today, we will choose Diocesan bodies. Let this election pass in brotherly accord and understanding, and let our approach to this important work be inspired only by the genuine care for the Church of God. May God grant that this most beautiful church, erected by the Metropolitan Irinej of blessed memory and the honorable Serbian people, the center of our new Diocese, continue to serve as an important spiritual center in which all Orthodox Serbs will feel at home.

We welcome all of you and wish a happy and blessed beginning of work in the new Diocese, and may God's blessing be with all of you, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

+ L O N G I N

Bishop of New Gracanica – Midwestern America

After the Bishop's address, the assembly proceeded with the points of the agenda. A new Diocesan Council and a new Auditing Board were elected. The new Diocesan Council will be comprised of the following members:

V. Rev. Marko Todorovic	Dennis Svilar	Brane Brankov
V. Rev. Nedeljko Lunich	Ostoja Grabovac	Nick Malinovich
V. Rev. Dr. Milos Vesin	Jovo Balach	Ray Vukas
Rev. Milorad Loncar	Milos Saravolatz	
Rev. Aleksandar Novakovic		

Alternate members:

V. Rev. Dragan Veleusnic
Rev. Marko Matic
Andrew Nygren
Dawn Pilja
Zoran Djordjevic
Cvetko Balach

The Auditing Board is comprised of the following members:

Paul Bajich
Ryan Dorsey
Peter Samardzija

**Congratulations to Mira Jurich & Alex Christensen on their wedding. -
*May God bless you with health, love, and many children .***

Also, congratulations to Atanas Popov and family for the recent baptismal of Atanas!

SPECIAL PRAYER for our friend & sister in Christ: Ann Balach who has recently suffered some medical challenges which required emergency service. - *Our hearts and prayers to you, Ann during your recovery. We look forward to seeing you again soon, and praying with you during our Divine Liturgy. God Bless!*

The Holy Prophet Elijah

Saint Elijah, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elijah was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elijah's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elijah had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elijah displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world St. Elijah will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

Св. пророк Илија. Боговидац, чудотворац, ревнитељ вере Божје, св. Илија би родом од племена Аронова из града Тесвита, због чега је прозват Тесвићанин. Кад се Илија роди, отац његов Савах виде ангеле Божје око детета, како огњем дете повијају и пламен му дају да једе. То би предзнамење Илијиног пламеног карактера и његове богодане силе огњене. Сву младост своју провео је у богомислију и молитви, повлачећи се често у пустињу, да у тишини размишља и моли се. У то време царство јеврејско беше раздељено на два неједнака дела: царство Јудино обухватајући само два племена, Јудино и Венијаминово, са престоницом у Јерусалиму, и царство Израилјево обухватајући осталих 10 племена са престоницом у Самарији. Првим царством владаху потомци Соломонови, а другим потомци Јеровоама, слуге Соломонова. Највећи сукоб имаше пророк Илија са Израилјским царем Ахавом и његовом опаком женом Језавељом. Јер ови се клањаху идолима и одвраћаху народ да служи Богу јединоме и живоме. При том још Језавеља. као Сиријанка, наговори мужа те подиже храм Сиријскоме Богу Ваалу, и одреди многе свештенике на службу томе лажном богу. Великим чудесима Илија доказа силу и власт Божју: он затвори небо, те не би кише три године и шест месеци; спусти огањ с неба и запали жртву Богу своме, док жречеви Ваалови то не могоше учинити; сведе кишу с неба молитвом својом; чудесно умножи брашно и уље у кући удовице у Сарепти, и васкрсе јој умрлог сина; прорече Ахаву, да ће му пси крв лизати, и Језавељи, да ће је пси изести, што се и догоди; и друга многа чудеса учини и догађаје прорече. На Хориву разговараше с Богом и чу глас Божји у тихом светлом поветарцу. Предс мрт узне Јелисеја и одреди га за наследника у пророчком звању; својим огртачем пресече воду у Јордану: и најзад би узет на небо у огњеним колима са огњеним коњима. На Тавору јавио се заједно с Мојсејем Господу нашем Исусу Христу. Пред крај света опет ће се Илија јавити, да сузбије силу Антихристову (Откр. 11)

To the Petrsek family - Sretna Slava Sv. Prorok Ilija - from all parshioners , Executive board , Kolo Sisters and Fr. Ljubomir - may St. Elijah keep your family safe and physically and spiritually healthy.