



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

The Word

Volume 21
 Issue 6

www.holytrinityserbian.org

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

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 ↔ 10AM Liturgy St. Helen and Constantine - Sv. Jelena i Konstantin	4	5 ↔	6 ↔ 5PM Vespers 6PM Dinner, Movie & Music
7 10AM Liturgy & Celebration Dinner & Performance Pentecost, our Slava - Pedesetnica, Crkvena Slava	8 Spirit Day <i>No fast all week</i>	9	10	11	12	13 Rochester 10AM Liturgy 5PM Vespers
14 10AM Liturgy	15 ↔ <i>Apostles’ fast begins</i>	16 ↔	17 ↔	18 ↔	19 ↔	20 ↔ 5PM Vespers
21 ↔ 10AM Liturgy	22 ↔	23 ↔	24 ↔	25 ↔	26 ↔	27 ↔ 5PM Vespers
28 ↔ 10AM Liturgy	29 ↔	30 ↔				

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 Jovanka Koury

Morava Dance Group
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Morava Thank-You!

The Morava Junior Dance Group and Morava Adult Dance Group would like to thank everyone for supporting us during our rehearsals (allowing us to move the tables to widen the practice area) and also for applauding our recent performances at the Festival of Nations!

Gift Shop News

Our Gift Shop reorganization is done! Come check out our space. We have many items for your Lenten needs. The Orthodox Study Bible is highly recommended and is offered at the lowest price around. There are many Pascha items for your celebration needs. We are open every Sunday after Liturgy. Hope to see you!

Pentecost: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament **Pentecost** was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," **the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.**

When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit ... (Acts 2:1-4).

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (Jn 14:26, 15:26; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:5). The apostles received "the power from on high," and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

In the liturgical services of the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated together with the full revelation of the divine Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The fullness of the Godhead is manifested with the Spirit's coming to man, and the Church hymns celebrate this manifestation as the final act of God's self-disclosure and self-donation to the world of His creation. For this reason Pentecost Sunday is also called **Trinity Day** in the Orthodox tradition. Often on this day the **icon of the Holy Trinity** -- particularly that of the three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham, the forefather of the Christian faith - is placed in the center of the church. This icon is used with the traditional **Pentecostal icon** which shows the tongues of fire hovering over Mary and the Twelve Apostles, the original prototype of the Church, who are themselves sitting in unity surrounding a symbolic image of "cosmos," the world.

On Pentecost we have the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God mystically present in this world in the Church of the Messiah. For this reason the **fiftieth day** stands as the beginning of the era which is beyond the limitations of this world, fifty being that number which stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment in Jewish and Christian mystical piety: seven times seven, plus one.

Thus, Pentecost is called an **apocalyptic** day, which means the day of **final revelation**. It is also called an **eschatological** day, which means the day of the **final and perfect end** (in Greek *eschaton* means the end). For when the Messiah comes and the Lord's Day is at hand, the "last days" are inaugurated in which "God declares: ... I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." This is the ancient prophecy to which the Apostle Peter refers in the first sermon of the Christian Church which was preached on the first Sunday of Pentecost (Acts 2: 17; Joel 2: 28-32).

Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the "temples of the Holy Spirit." God's Spirit dwells in us (Rom 8; 1 Cor 2-3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 2-3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of Chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us.

The **Divine Liturgy of Pentecost** recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the liturgy. The epistle and gospel readings tell of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kontakion sings of the reversal of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns *O Heavenly King* and *We have seen the True Light* are sung for the first time since Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and abide in us", and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church building is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "life creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, *ruah*.

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit: through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee (*Troparion*).

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, he divided the nations. But when he distributed the tongues of fire, he called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-Holy Spirit! (*Kontakion*)

The **Great Vespers of Pentecost evening** features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Easter. The Monday after Pentecost is the **feast of the Holy Spirit** in the Orthodox Church, and the Sunday after Pentecost is the **feast of All Saints**. This is the logical liturgical sequence since the coming of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in men by their becoming saints, and this is the very purpose of the creation and salvation of the world. "Thus says the Lord: Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I your God am holy" (Lev 11:44-45, 1 Pet 1:15-16).

Sunday School Notes

The School year is coming to a close, and as we prepare to send our children off to summer programs, vacations with friends and family, sports events, other organized youth groups and church camp... we also need to look forward to the 2009-2010 season and think about what we would like from that program.

Our children have excelled this year in class study, and extracurricular participation of church and Serbian culture. They've helped in packing food for those children less fortunate around the world, they've helped to celebrate our beloved St Sava, the birth of Christ and the Celebration of his Resurrection. They've danced at the Festival of Nations, our 2008 summer Liturgy in the Park, and sang in beautiful choral during several church celebrations and Liturgy. Many have also experienced new accomplishments outside of our church community, and a few have taken a step out of their comfort zone to participate in group activities that they may not have otherwise done before. They have seen a full year, and we are very proud of each and one of them. But, don't forget those who helped our children accomplish these goals; brought them new experiences; enlightened their minds and hearts in the blessings and history of the church, its teachings, and our rich Serbian culture. It was because of those volunteers who vested of their personal time; whether they had children of school age or not participating in the programs here at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, that this program stayed, not only successful... but was able to grow in number. I want to personally thank each of you, on behalf of our great church, its board members and most of all the children. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do.

With that said, with growth comes added responsibilities to existing volunteers; additional stress on time and resources. And, we are eager for more volunteers to step forward in the new season to help strengthen and grow on our Sunday School, Orthodox Youth Education and Serbian Youth Cultural Programs. We cannot do it without you. So, PLEASE, if it is part of your personal or family Stewardship goals to give more time and creativity to your church; whatever your skill sets may be, take a moment to consider helping this very important group of programs. You DO NOT need to be a scholar in church teachings or customs (although it may help), as many of us learn right along with your children in certain topics & teachings. You only need to feel a reason to give back to your church in another way. Holy Trinity will provide you with all of the materials needed to share with our children.

Please contact the church with your interest in any of these programs, in any form of your available time.

Jasna Dickson-Jroska

Choir Notes

Please keep the following in mind for next fall: St. George's Serbian Orthodox Church of Duluth, Minnesota (our kumovi choir) has invited our choir at Holy Trinity to be their honored guests at their joint Kolo/Choir celebration on October 10 and 11, 2009. There will be an evening concert on Saturday night and we will be singing the responses during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, the 11th. We would love for any and all of you to join us at this event.

Reminder: We will start practicing on Sundays, after liturgy from Noon to 1:00. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in joining choir. Thank you!

Caron

Kosovo

Jake Powell, February 19, 2009

“For the citizens of Serbia, for Serbia, there is no and will never be a fake state of Kosovo on its territory” said the Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica. (Serbia will never recognize...) On February 17, 2008 the Albanians in the Serbian region of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence. Many countries including Russia, China, Spain, and Serbia object to this illegal and immoral move. Many neighboring countries such as Bosnia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, and Georgia refuse to accept Kosovo’s declaration of independence. As you can see Kostunica is not the only person who disagrees with the independence of Kosovo. The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it is illegal, it sets a bad precedent, and it is immoral.

The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed. The first known inhabitants of Kosovo were the Illyrians. They were called this by both Greeks and Romans. Scholars believe that Albanians appeared when nomadic shepherds and unromanized Illyrians and Dardanians married in the middle ages. This region was conquered by Alexander the great in 300 BC. It then became part of the Roman province of Dardania in the fourth century AD. Slavs crossed the Danube River in the sixth century and moved into the Balkans. The Illyrian people moved eastward from the Adriatic into the Kosovo region of the Balkans. After the Western Orthodox Church split from the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Catholic Church was established in 1054. Then the Illyrian language became known as Albanian. Slavs migrating into the area divided into three groups; Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs. By the 12th century all land in northern Albania and Kosovo was in Slavic hands. In 1190 Kosovo was the administrative and cultural center of the medieval Serbian state ruled by the Nemanjic dynasty. The powerful Nemanjic dynasty lasted 200 years. Kosovo is called “Old Serbia” by Serbs today. In 1389, during the battle of Kosovo Polje, the Serbs were defeated by the Islamic Ottoman Turks. Kosovo then became part of the Ottoman empire. Albanians then started to move into Kosovo during the 15th century. These Albanians were mostly Christians, and the Serbs and Albanians lived in harmony. But gradually the Albanians began to convert to Islam. When the Islamic Ottoman Turks took over Serbia in 1459, the Christians and Jews were subject to the Dhimma. Dhimmitude is when Christians and Jews forfeit ownership of lands and are forced to defer to Muslims in exchange for their lives. The Dhimma was ended in the middle of the 19th century by an Ottoman sultan. A Serbian seminary’s opening in Prizren in 1871 then started a Serbian reoccupation. By 1912 the Serbs controlled Kosovo. The Muslims then became anti-Christian. The Muslim leadership encouraged ethnic cleansing. As a result many Serbs fled Kosovo to the safety of Serbia. In the first Balkan War of 1912 Albania was attacked by Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece. Albania lost the war, and Kosovo came under Serbian rule. In World War I Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Serbs were beat back and Albanians moved into Kosovo. Kosovar Albanians built Albanian schools to undermine Serbian presence. The tides then turned against the Austria-Hungarians and they were defeated. In the Peace Treaties of 1919-1920 the country of Yugoslavia was formed. Kosovo was again part of Serbia (Jansen).

Now comes World War II. Nazi Germany tried to occupy Serbia (Which was then Yugoslavia). The Serbs resisted the Nazi campaign while the Croats and Muslims backed the Nazis. The Muslim Croats were called Ustashi. The Ustashi set out to cleanse villages and towns of Serbs. 1 million Serbs died from the brutal massacre. Many died in the Jasenovac death camp. This brutal death camp rivaled those of the Nazis (Clark). The 1963 Yugoslav constitution placed Kosovo under Serbian control (Jansen 5). Kosovo was still under Serbian control until its unilateral declaration of independence in 2008.

The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it is illegal. First, “ the Serbian parliament will convene in Belgrade later Monday to adopt a decision to “annul” Kosovo’s independence proclamation on the grounds that it “violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia” (Deutsche Welle). In verbatim the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia says, “No state body, political organization, group or individual may usurp the sovereignty from the citizens, nor establish government against freely expressed will of the citizens.” The group of the Albanians decision to try to usurp the sovereignty of Kosovo from the Serbian citizens goes directly against the Serbian constitution. Thus making it an illegal political maneuver. The Serbian citizens of the Kosovo region as well as Serbs from all over Serbia and the world vehemently oppose the independence of Kosovo.

Next, The constitution of the Republic of Serbia also states that, “The territory of the Republic of Serbia is inseparable and indivisible.” This explicitly states that the Republic of Serbia cannot be divided. This is a key component of the Republic of Serbia. On the Serbian coat of arms there are 4 Cs which stand for Само слора Србина спасава, or Only Unity can Save Serbia. This clearly shows how important this concept is in Serbia. The Kosovo Albanians want to go against this ancient motto. The Albanians want to do the exact opposite of what is stated in the Serbian constitution, thus making it illegal on another level.

Finally, the Kosovo leaders are criminals. Serbia announced that criminal charges had been filed by police against Kosovo Albanian leaders for “organizing the proclamation of a phony state on Serbian territory” (Serbia, Russia Move...). These Criminal charges were laid against the Kosovo president, prime minister, and parliament speaker (Serbia, Russia Move...). The “country” of Kosovo is run by criminals. This is wrong on the legal and moral levels. These people should be in prison but instead they are running a country. These men went directly against a country’s constitution and the country’s people. They have stolen property from the rightful owners, the Serbian people. This act must be punished and Kosovo should be

returned to the Serbs. What is the U.S. teaching its youth by promoting this illegal declaration of independence? That makes the independence of Kosovo illegal on another level. Three strikes your out.

Being illegal is not the only reason the independence of Kosovo should not be allowed. The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it sets a bad precedent. First, ““The Kosovo example could plunge the world into chaos,” senior parliamentarian Mikhail Margelov was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying. The independence declaration goes against “international law and morality...this is a dangerous precedent,” he said” (Deutsche Welle). The independence of Kosovo is setting a precedent that could cause a chain reaction of territories around the world who want to do the same. Russia is very concerned that the granting of Kosovo’s independence will encourage a wave of imitators across Russia and around the world. (Why Russia is Against...) Russia is justified in its concerns. The Chechny region in Russia has an active separatist rebellion. The Kosovo verdict could tip the balance in favor of the insurgents. (Why Russia is Against...) As was seen between Georgia and Russia recently it is clear that independence can lead to violence. A violent 15 year civil war led to the independence of South Ossetia. The violence is still present. A civil war between Russia and Chechnya could very easily turn into a blood bath. “Russia is asking the west to stop and think about the precedent they are setting. Kosovan independence might make life a little simpler for Europe, but they are opening Pandora’s box for the rest of us.” said Nadezhda Arbatova. (Why Russia is Against...) Next, China also has issues with separatists in Taiwan. This could turn very violent. Also, Barcelona in Spain already considers itself a separate country. The independence of Kosovo might be the impetus for Barcelona to take legal and possibly violent measures for independence. Finally, Republika Srpska in Bosnia will consider independence if Kosovo gains independence. (Ajder) The autonomous region in Bosnia is 90% Serbian. There have been many talks about their independence if Kosovo gains independence. There is a chance that Republika Srpska’s case could become violent due to the tension in that area.

Also Russia is concerned that Kosovo’s independence will boost the passions of Russia ultranationalists. Their wish is to gather pro-Russian minorities in neighboring states back under Moscow. (Why Russia is Against...) This precarious situation could turn violent as with South Ossetia. Situations such as this erupt throughout the former Soviet Union, due to the precedent Kosovo would set.

Being illegal and setting a bad precedent are not the only reasons Kosovo should not be independent. The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it is immoral. Kosovo is run by a Muslim extremist group called the KLA or Kosovo Liberation Army. This truculent group was assembled to launch guerilla attacks on Serbian villages. Belgrade’s willingness to accept a Kosovo controlled by moderate Albanians was rejected. Instead the U.S. is supporting the KLA Muslim extremists. (Clark) Terrorism is the systematic use of fear and violence especially as a means of coercion. The KLA was assembled to kill Serbian people to gain land in Kosovo. Thus by definition this is a terrorist organization. It is immoral to support a terrorist organization that was assembled to kill innocent civilians. What happened to the “war on terror?”

Next, In Chapter I, Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, it is stated that “all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.” The independence of Kosovo goes directly against this principle of the UN. The countries that support Kosovo’s independence are going directly against an international Law. That is immoral. Next, in 1999, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1244 which guarantees the “principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia”. This agreement explicitly outlines the fact that Serbian cannot be separated. It is immoral to not uphold a signed agreement. This resolution is being completely ignored by countries who are supporting Kosovo’s independence.

Finally, it is immoral to take land from its rightful owners. This is called stealing. In modern culture stealing is considered wrong and immoral and is a punishable offense. Stealing also goes against the ten commandments. With that in mind it is easy to see that the independence of Kosovo is immoral due to the fact that Kosovo is rightfully part of Serbia.

The independence of Kosovo should not be allowed. First, it should not be allowed because it is illegal. It is a violation of sovereignty, a violation of territorial integrity, and the Kosovan leaders are criminals. Next, the independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it sets a bad precedent. The independence will set a precedent that could cause territories world wide to imitate the Kosovo situation. Presently there are known territorial situations in Russia, China Spain and Bosnia, as well as other parts of the world. These situations could very possibly lead to violence. Also, this precedent could boost the passions of ultranationalists who want to separate other countries. Finally, the independence of Kosovo should not be allowed because it is immoral. The Kosovo independence is supporting a terrorist organization. It is also stealing land from the sovereign state of Serbia. “Never since Hitler and the Western allies carved up Czechoslovakia at Munich in 1938 has a sovereign state been dismembered with the agreement of the international community, as the west is proposing to do with Serbia” (Why Russia is Against...). Could humanity afford the possible consequences of this decision

Donations

Special thanks to Sasa Visnjic, Branko Stevanovic, F Zurovac, Mike Danich Jr. for making delicious Pljeskavice for Pascha and for setting up the sound system in our church.

Special thanks to Branko Pjescic for donating wine and oil to our church.

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Don't forget that Stewardship is also a donation of your TIME and TALENTS as well as your TITHING. So, your volunteer time is most graciously accepted and needed to keep our church growing and functioning.

Additionally, we now have a convenient online donation function to make it more convenient for some. Safe and secure through Paypal services. We are also collecting used ink cartridges to help raise money for the Youth Programs. That drop box can be found near the Gift Shop.