

Holy Resurrection Serbian Eastern Orthodox
Church 'Visoki Decani'

Herald

January, 2006

God's Peace - Christ is Born!



Мир Божији - Христос се роди!

Holy Resurrection Herald

Vol. XXI

December-January, 2005-6

No. 190

Church Executive Board

Rector	Fr. Rade Merick
President	Mark Zatezalo
1st Vice President	Richard Jenikovsky
2nd Vice President	Jennifer Kosanovich
Financial Secretary	Nena Jovonovich
Recording Secretary	Barbara Matey
Treasurer	Elaine Capozzoli

Members at Large

2005
Nino Karas
Mike Mandich
Dragan Lazic
George Vukelich

2006
Walter Tomich
Nicholas Mihalik
Dorothy Zatezalo
Cynthia Maragos

2007
Mary Vraninin
Milos Goykovich
Milan Orbovich
Elaine Pietro

Office Clerk — Tracy Yaich
Custodians — Jovan Lazic, Louis Povich

Affiliated Organizations

K.S.S. SVETA PETKA (Steubenville-Mingo)
First Thursday — 11:30 am

President — Millicent Santilli

K.S.S. VIDOVDAN (Weirton)
Second Thursday — 12:00 Noon, Serbian-American Cultural Center

President — Dorothy Zatezalo

SERBIAN ORTHODOX MEN'S CLUB
Second Thursday — 7:00 PM Picnic Grounds

President — Theodore Zatezalo

PETAR KRSTICH CHOIR
Practice Tuesday Evenings — 7:00 PM

President — Linda Bain
Director — Slobodan Zelich

4-C'ers CHURCH SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOC.
Third Sunday — after Liturgy

President — Milena Karas

CHURCH EXECUTIVE BOARD
Second Sunday — After Liturgy

President — Mark Zatezalo

HOLY RESURRECTION TAMMIES
Mondays — Tiny Tots 6 PM, Reg. 6:30 PM Sept.-May

President — Margaret Zapor

SERBIAN-AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

President — Jennifer Kosanovich

CHURCH SERVICES

Divine Liturgy — Sundays and Holidays: 10:00 AM

Great Vespers — Saturdays and Eves of Feasts: 6:00 PM (5 pm Saturdays during Great Lent)

Confessions — After Vespers or by appointment

Church office: (740) 282-4463 (9 am-1:00 pm, Mon, Wed, Thurs)

Rectory: 264-4809

Fax: 282-0313


Web site: www.hrsoc-steuben.org

email: hrsoc@1st.net





Herald elves— Mary Drzayich, Joanne Jenikovsky, Fran Kosanovic, Mary Drazich, Estelle Volosin, Dorothy Delich Bossert, Tracy Yaich

The Editorial Staff of the *Holy Resurrection Herald* assumes the responsibility and reserves the right to reject, edit or rewrite any article submitted to the *Church Herald* for publication.

December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Holy Resurrection Tamburitzans will host a meatless Advent spaghetti dinner for the parish on Dec. 18 after Liturgy in the Lyceum. Free will offering. Support our Tammies!		The Nativity Fast (Advent) continues all this month until Christmas, Jan. 7. Use this time well with prayer, fasting, and confession and communion to prepare for the coming of our Lord in the flesh!				Great Vespers & confessions 6 pm
				1	2	3
Sun 24 of Pent Entrance of Theotokos CS 9:30 am DL 10 am Special congregational meeting re: cemetery	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30	PK Choir, 7 pm	Adult Class, 7-8:30 pm, Library	Men's Club, SACC, 7 pm		Great Vespers & confessions 6 pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sun 25 of Pent CS 9:30 am DL 10 am	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30	PK Choir, 7 pm	100th Anniversary Prep meeting, SACC, 7 pm			Church School Craft party 4 pm Church School confessions after vespers. Great Vespers & confessions 6 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sun 26 of Pent CS 9:30 am DL 10 am Tammie Advent Spaghetti dinner, Lyceum, after lit.	St Nicholas DL 10 am Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 	PK Choir, 7 pm	Adult Class, 7-8:30 pm, Library			Great Vespers & confessions 6 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sun 27 of Pent Forefather of XC CS 9:30 am DL 10 am	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30	PK Choir, 7 pm	100th Anniversary Prep meeting, SACC, 7 pm			Great Vespers & confessions 6 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Before Nativity Fathers of Christ CS 9:30 DL, 10 am Civil New Year 1	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 2	PK Choir, 7 pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Truly celebrate the coming of our Lord in the flesh by participating in the beautiful services of Christmas on January 6-7. </div> 3	4	5	Badnji Dan DL 10 am Strict Fast Burning of Badnjak & Nativity Vigil, 8 pm +	Nativity of Christ Christmas Bozic DL, 10 am  7	
After Nativity Synaxis of the Theotokos CS 9:30 DL 10am + 8	St. Stephen DL 10 am Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 9	PK Choir, 7 pm 10	100th anniversary prep meetings, SACC, 7 pm NO FAST 11	12	NO FAST 13	Circumcision St. Basil Julian New Years DL 10 am Gt Vespers 6 pm  14	
Bfr Theophany CS 9:30 DL 10am Annual Congregation meeting, Lyceum, after liturgy 15	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 16	PK Choir, 7 pm 17	Theophany eve Blessing of water, 10 am Strict Fast Home blessings begin in Mingo Adult class, 7-8:30, Library 18	Theophany DL & blessing of water, 10 am  19	St. John the Baptist DL 10 am  20	IOCC Charly Epiphany Ball, SACC, 6 pm No vespers 21	
After Theophany CS 0:30 DL 10am 22	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 23	PK Choir, 7 pm 24	100th anniversary prep meetings, SACC, 7 pm 25	26	St. Sava DL 10 am 27	Gt Vespers 6 pm 28	
Sun 32 of Pent. CS 9:30 DL 10 am St. Sava Banquet & program, SACC, 12:30 pm 29	Tiny Tams, 6 pm Tammies, 6:30 30	PK Choir, 7 pm 31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Our Church is sponsoring a pan-Orthodox Epiphany Charity Ball on Saturday, January 21 at our Cultural Center. Proceeds and donations will support the good work of International Orthodox Christian Charities. Please plan to attend this gala dinner-dance and support IOCC! </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Attend the Banquet and Church School program in honor of our holy Father and Patron St. Sava of Serbia, Sunday January 29 at the Cultural Center, 12:30 pm! </div>	

Christmas Service Schedule

The services of the Christmas season are among the most beautiful of the year. All of you are urged to attend as many of the services as possible, as we confess in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that God has become a man for us and our salvation.

Christmas Eve (Badnjidan):

Christmas Eve is called Badnjidan in Serbian, because this is the day when the Badnjak (yule log) is cut and brought into the home. On the morning of Christmas Eve, we have a special Divine Liturgy. In the evening we bless and burn our church badnjak and then have the Christmas vigil, during which we welcome in the feast. At this service the five loaves of bread as well as wheat, wine and oil are blessed and distributed to the faithful. Hot refreshments will be served following the service.

Strict Fast Day.

Friday, January 6

Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Blessing of Badnjak and Vigil, 8:00 pm

Christmas Day (Bozic):

The Great Feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Divine Liturgy is served with the special Christmas antiphons and hymns. All those who have prepared themselves by fasting and who have received Holy Communion during Advent are welcomed and encouraged to receive Holy Communion at this Liturgy, and so partake of



the true feast. From this day until the Eve of Theophany (January 18) there is **NO FASTING**.

Saturday, January 7.

Divine Liturgy, 10 am.

Assembly to the Birthgiver of God

The day following Christmas is dedicated to the Most Holy Birthgiver of God and ever-Virgin Mary. We assemble as the Church in her honor at the Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, January 8

Divine Liturgy, 10 am.

St. Stephen the Protomartyr:

The third day of Christmas is also the feastday of St. Stephen the Apostle, Archdeacon, and First Martyr. His feastday is combined with the continuing celebration of the Nativity of Christ.

Monday, January 9

Divine Liturgy, 10 am.

Home Blessings Begin January 18

Home blessings this year will begin on Wednesday, January 18, Theophany Eve, with blessing of homes in Mingo Junction and adjacent areas. Homes will then be blessed in the order of Steubenville and Winterville, Weirton, and then remaining areas. We will call a day or two ahead of time to let you know when we will be by. Please attempt to cooperate by leaving us as much leeway of time as possible.

Why an annual Home Blessing?

As Orthodox Christians, we regard our homes as a kind of church. We traditionally have icons and candles or lamps, and sometimes burn incense in our homes as part of our prayer life. The "baptism" of the home by the priest at Theophany reaffirms the connection of the home church with the Church of the whole community of the people of God.

Just as our home needs to be cleaned periodically as dirt and dust accumulate, so our homes need a

spiritual house cleaning periodically as a rededication to God and His presence in our lives and homes. We often in our day to day lives "desecrate" the sanctity of the home church by our sinful attitudes and behavior, and it is important that we rededicate our homes and our lives to Him. This is the purpose of the home blessing: to purify, to cleanse, to rededicate, and to strengthen our lives and the place we live out our lives in Christ.

After the service the water may be saved for future use. It may be drunk or sprinkled on persons or in the home in time of sickness or temptation, or it may be used in preparing holiday foods such as chesnica or slavski kolac. It should never be poured down the drain.

When Father comes, please have a table prepared with a bowl of water, a candle and an icon if possible. All should gather for the blessing, and TV's and radios should be turned off.

If your home has not been blessed before, or if it has been missed in recent years and you would like it to be blessed, please call Fr. Rade or the Church office.

From the Church's Records...

Departed this life:

Donna [Mikasinovich] Michaels, of Palm Beach, Florida, on November 8 at age 93. Burial at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling, WV.

Grant rest eternal in blessed falling asleep, O Lord, to the soul of Thy departed servant, and make her memory to be eternal! Vechnaja pamjat!

Dec.-January Altar Servers/Epistle Readers Schedule

December 18

Nicklas Battista
Strati Maragos

Epistle: Nicholas Jovonovich

December 25

Nick Jovonovich
Ben Rodgers

Nicodimus Karas

Epistle: Jelena Povich

January 1

Nicklas Battista

Strati Maragos

Epistle: Milena Maragos

January 6 Christmas Eve

ALL SERVERS

January 7 Christmas Day

ALL SERVERS

Epistle: Maria Karas

Brittany Rodgers

January 8

Nick Jovonovich

Ben Rodgers

Nicodimus Karas

Epistle: Jennifer Zatezalo

January 15

Nicklas Battista

Strati Maragos

Epistle: Strati Maragos

January 22

Nick Jovonovich

Ben Rodgers

Nicodimus Karas

Epistle: Ben Rodgers

January 29

Nicklas Battista

Strati Maragos

Epistle: Nicholas Jovonovich

Please be sure to serve or read as scheduled. If you cannot be present that day, it is your responsibility to arrange for your replacement.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming events...

- Sat, December 17..... Church School Christmas craft, confession and vespers, 4-6 pm
Sun, December 18..... Tammie Advent Luncheon, after church, Lyceum
Mon, December 19..... St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Bishop of Myra in Lycia. DL 10 am
Fri, January 6..... Badnji Dan. Christmas Eve. DL 10 am. NATIVITY VIGIL, 8 pm. **STRICT FAST**
Sat, January 7..... NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. CHRISTMAS. BOZIC. DL 10 am
Sat, January 14..... Circumcision of the Lord. St. Basil the Great. New Year. DL 10 am
Sun, January 15..... Annual Congregational Meeting, Lyceum, after church.
Wed, January 18..... Theophany Eve. Blessing of Water, 10 am. Home blessings begin, Mingo Jct.
Thurs, January 19..... THEOPHANY. DL and blessing of water, 10 am
Fri, January 20..... St. John the Baptist. DL 10 am
Sat, January 21..... Epiphany Charity Ball to benefit IOCC, at the Cultural Center, 6 pm
Fri, January 27..... St. Sava, Archbishop of Serbia. DL 10 am
Sun, January 29..... ST. SAVA SLAVA PROGRAM & BANQUET, SACC, 12:30 PM
Mon, March 6, 2006..... Great Fast begins
Sun, April 23, 2006..... Pascha
Mon, June 19, 2006..... Apostle's Fast begins



"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out: 'Abba, Father!'

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

St. Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This quote from St. Paul's Letter to the people of the Church in Galatia tells us in a nutshell what a great thing God has done for us: He sends His own Son into the world to become one with us, so that we might become God's children as well, by adoption through Christ. Because Christ is His Son, and because we become blood-brothers of Christ through His incarnation, we are able to be adopted as God's children through Christ.

And this is the great and wonderful mystery of Christmas: **God becomes one of us!** Our celebration of this great mystery is so full of light and joy because He has done this great thing for us, out of His great love. Because God becomes flesh, becomes one with us, we are freed from the curse of the law and from the consequences of our sin, and we are once again able to stand before Him as His children, and enjoy all the blessings He has prepared for us.

All this happens, says St. Paul, "when the fullness of time had come." God did this marvelous thing when He had prepared everything. And, St. Paul says in another place, "Now is the acceptable time" for us to begin to act not as slaves but as children of God. What Christ did for us in that cave in Bethlehem 2000 years ago He continues to do for us at every moment. This is why all the hymns of the feast talk about what God is doing for us today, and why we greet each other with "Christ is born," not just was born.

Let Christ be reborn into your heart today. Let Him fill you with His peace and love which is beyond understanding. And may that peace guide us as people of God and brothers and sisters in Christ always!

Peace from God—Christ is Born!

Миръ Божию—Христу се роди!

And a most blessed New Year!

Yours in His love,

Father Rade & Protinica Donna

Nativity Troparion

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom! For by it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Daybreak from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Communion at the Christmas Liturgy

Those who have received Holy Communion previously during the Advent season are encouraged to receive Holy Communion again at the Christmas Day Divine Liturgy, as the most fitting feast at the end of the fast. They should prepare themselves as usual with fasting and prayer, be present for the Christmas Eve vigil if at all possible, and come for confession/absolution if they have not had this recently.

Fasting during the Christmas Season

January 6, **the eve of Christmas**, and January 18, **the eve of Theophany**, are days of **strict fasting** in the Orthodox Church. No meat or dairy products should be eaten on these days. Of course, the Advent season (November 28–January 6) is also a time of fasting to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Savior in the flesh which should be kept.

The time **from Christmas Day through January 17 is a fast-free time**. There is **no fasting** during this time, even on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Serbian Christmas Dinner offered at SACC



In response to numerous requests, our Serbian American Cultural Center will offer a traditional Serbian dinner on Christmas Day, Saturday, January 7. The dinner will include soup, roast pig, sarma (cabbage rolls), herb roasted chicken, cicvara and other traditional dishes. Seating will begin right after church that day. This is a great opportunity for small families and friends to spend some time together on this holy day. Enjoy a great meal with good people and Serbian music for the special price of \$12.95. Call the Cultural Center at 304-723-7372 for details and more information!

Annual Congregational Meeting January 15

The annual meeting of the Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church School Congregation of Steubenville, Ohio will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2006 in the Holy Resurrection Church Lyceum, 528 N. Fourth St., Steubenville following the Divine Liturgy.

The annual meeting hears the reports of the parish priest and executive board on the previous year's activities, adopts an operating budget for the coming year, and elects executive board officers and members at large for the coming year. The annual meeting also gives the congregation the opportunity to ask questions, receive more information about the state of the church, and enact other business as may come before the meeting.

Members of the congregation who have fulfilled all the responsibilities of membership during the previous year, including sacramental, moral and financial qualifications as enumerated in the congregation bylaws and Uniform Rules and Regulations of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the US and Canada, will have the right of voice and vote at the meeting.

Light refreshments will be provided. All members are urged to attend.

The Church Board has formed a nominating committee to seek out those willing to take on an office for the coming year. Those interested in serving the congregation in a position on the Church Board are asked to notify President Mark Zatezalo or Secretary Barbara Matey for inclusion on the nominating committee report. Everyone is encouraged to consider offering their services to God and our Church as an officer or board member for the coming year.

Church school Christmas project & confessions December 17

Our church school students and teachers will come together at 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 17 for a special pre-Christmas craft project and snack in the Lyceum. Fr. Rade and Protinica Donna will make a presentation on the the Nativity Fast, also called Advent, as an introduction to the day's craft, the making of an Advent Wreath for each child to take home and use there.

Following a snack, everyone will go upstairs to church for vespers at 6:00 pm. Children who are old enough and their parents are encouraged to participate in the Holy Mystery of Confession and repentance following vespers, and all are urged to receive Holy Communion at Divine Liturgy the next day.

Parents are invited to participate with us in the afternoon's events, and to prepare themselves and their children for confession and communion by fasting that week. We hope all our church school children and their families will participate!

Church School pupils enjoy bowling, pizza



Our church school students together with some of their teachers and parents enjoyed an afternoon of Kosmik Bowling and a pizza party on November 13. There are some up and coming bowlers in this group! Thanks to the 4-C'ers parents group for sponsoring the event, and the church school teachers for organizing it.

St. Ignatius the God-bearer, the Bishop of Antioch

December 20/January 2

Troparion - Tone 4

*By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.*

*Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God;
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood.*

Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 3

*The stirring celebration of your victorious fight
Is an announcement of the One who is to be born of the Virgin.*

In your eagerness to possess Him forever,

You hastened to be devoured by the wild beasts.

Therefore, O glorious Ignatius, you were called the bearer of God!

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). St. Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, and successor to Bishop Euodius, Apostle of the Seventy (September 7).

Tradition suggests that when St. Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

St. Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with St. Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, St. Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered every-



the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. St. Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. St. Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. St. Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied St. Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome, the ship sailed from Seleucia stopped at Smyrna, where St. Ignatius met with his friend Bishop Polycarp. Clergy and believers from other cities and towns thronged to see St. Ignatius. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. In his Epistle to the Roman Christians, he asked them to assist him with their prayers, and to pray that God would strengthen him in his impending martyrdom for Christ: "I seek Him Who died for us; I desire Him Who rose for our salvation... In me, desire has been nailed to the cross, and no flame of material longing is left. Only the living water speaks within me, saying, 'Hasten to the Father.'"

From Smyrna, St. Ignatius went to Troas. Here he heard the happy news of the end of the persecution against Christians in Antioch. From Troas, St. Ignatius sailed to Neapolis (in Macedonia) and then to Philippi.

On the way to Rome St. Ignatius visited several churches, teaching and guiding the Christians there. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to St. Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of St. Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). St. Irenaeus of Lyons quotes from St. Ignatius's letter to the Romans (AGAINST HERESIES 5:28:4). All these letters have survived to the present day.

The Roman Christians met St. Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but St. Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led St. Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts."

After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, St. Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, St. Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ." After his execution St. Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome.

Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of St. Ignatius were transferred to Antioch (January 29), and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.

Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius, pray to God for us!

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

December 25 / January 7



Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Biblical Story

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event.

As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They

were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

stresses the importance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus (1). She is placed in the center and is the largest figure in the icon. In this icon, she is kneeling with crossed arms, looking at the Christ child. The three stars, denoting her virginity before, during, and after the Nativity, are on her garments. The Christ Child (2), in the center of the icon, is in swaddling clothes and is lying in the manger. In the background is the dark cave where He was born. In the cave are an ox and a donkey guarding the newborn Babe. Even though the Gospels say nothing of the cave, this information is from Holy Tradition. Neither do the Gospels speak of the ox and the donkey, but all icons of the Nativity include these animals. Including the animals in the icon fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3, "The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master's crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me." The long ray of light from the star points directly to the cave. This ray comes from the star and travels to all parts of the world. It teaches that this bright star is an astronomical happening, and is a messenger from heaven announcing the birth of Jesus.



3. The Wise Men, are seen in the icon riding towards the light from the star (detail).



4. Opposite from the Wise Men sits a young shepherd boy plays music for his flock (detail).



5. An angel gives glory to God and announces the good news of His birth (detail).

The Holy Icon of the Nativity reminds one to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. The celebration of Christmas each year serves to remind each and everyone of us that Christ came for you and me.

The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity

As with Pascha, or Easter, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation. It is preceded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on November 15/28.

On the Sundays immediately before December 25/January 7, special commemorations emphasize the link between the Old Covenant and the New as we remember those who helped prepare the way for our Lord on the Sundays of the Holy Forefathers and the Holy Fathers. On December 20/January 2 the Forefeast of the Nativity begins, and the daily liturgical texts are directed toward the Feast itself. On Christmas Eve, services include the Great or Royal Hours, the Great Vespers, and the Liturgy of Saint Basil, held in the morning. The Great Compline and Matins of the Feast makes up the festal vigil on the evening before Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day the service commemorates the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the adoration of the Shepherds, and the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts. The service held on this day is usually the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

The days following Christmas are associated with the Theotokos and Joseph. December 26/January 8 is the Synaxis of the Mother of God, and the first Sunday after the Feast commemorates "Joseph the Betrothed." December 29/January 11 commemorates the Massacre of the Innocents, and January 1/14 the Circumcision of our Lord. The Nativity season concludes on December 31/January 13, but the spirit of the festival extends to the celebration of Theophany (Epiphany), the feast commemorating the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River.

Hymns of the Feast

Festal Troparion: (Fourth Tone)

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom. For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

Kontakion: (Third Tone)

Today, the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him! The Wise Men journey with a star. Since for our sake the Eternal God is born as a little Child.

Resources

Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ written by the hand of Athanasios Clark and used with permission. © Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

The Story of the Icons by Dr. Mary Paloumpis Hallick. Article on the web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. <http://www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8162.asp?action=show>

The Festal Menaion translated by Mother Mary (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1969) pp. 52-55.

The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, Cathering Aslanoff, editor and Paul Meyendorff, translator (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995) pp. 103-121.

Epiphany (Theophany)

January 6/19

The sixth [nineteenth OS] of January is the feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the "shining forth" of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ's birth, the adoration of the Wisemen, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as his circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as his baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Easter and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), the "Beloved" of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35). And he is revealed as well as One of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father, and by the Spirit in the form of a dove. This is the central epiphany glorified in the main hymns of the feast:



When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee his Beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his Word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee (Troparion).

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy Light, O Lord, has shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable! (Kontakion).

The services of Epiphany are set up exactly as those of Christmas, although historically it was most certainly Christmas which was made to imitate Epiphany since it was established later. Once again the Royal Hours and the Liturgy of Saint Basil are celebrated together with Vespers on the eve of the feast; and the Vigil is made up of Great Compline and Matins. The prophecies of Epiphany repeat the God is with Us from Isaiah and stress the foretelling of the Messiah as well as the coming of his forerunner, John the Baptist:

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God (Is 40:3-5; Lk 3:4-6).

Once more special psalms are sung to begin the Divine Liturgy of the feast, and the baptismal line of Galatians 3:27 replaces the song of the Thrice-Holy. The gospel readings of all the Epiphany services tell of the Lord's baptism by John in the Jordan River. The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy tells of the consequences of the Lord's appearing which is the divine epiphany.

For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds (Titus 2:11-14).

The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. Usually it is done just once in parish churches at the time when most people can be present. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the censing of the water which has been placed in the center of the church building. Surrounded by candles and flowers, this water stands for the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God. Sometimes this service of blessing is done out of doors at a place where the water is flowing naturally.

The voice of the Lord cries over the waters, saying: Come all ye, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, even Christ who is made manifest.

Today the nature of water is sanctified. Jordan is divided in two, and turns back the stream of its waters, beholding the Master being baptized.

As a man Thou didst come to that river, O Christ our King, and dost hasten O Good One, to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner (John), because of our sins, O Lover of Man (Hymns of the Great Blessing of Waters).

Following are three readings from the Prophecy of Isaiah concerning the messianic age:

Let the thirsty wilderness be glad, let the desert rejoice, let it blossom as a rose, let it blossom abundantly, let everything rejoice ... (Is 35: 1-10)

Go to that water, O you who thirst, and as many as have no money, let them eat and drink without price, both wine and fat ... (Is 55:1-13)

With joy draw the water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall you say: Confess ye unto the Lord and call upon his Name; declare his glorious deeds... his Name is exalted ... Hymn the Name of the Lord ... Rejoice and exult ... (Is 12:3.6).

After the epistle (1 Cor 1:10-14) and the gospel reading (Mk 1:9-11) the special great litany is chanted invoking the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the water and upon those who will partake of it. It ends with the great prayer of the cosmic glorification of God in which Christ is called upon to sanctify the water, and all men and all creation, by the manifestation of his saving and sanctifying divine presence by the indwelling of the Holy and Good and Life-creating Spirit.

As the troparion of the feast is sung, the celebrant immerses the Cross into the water three times and then proceeds to sprinkle the water in the four directions of the world. He then blesses the people and their homes with the sanctified water which stands for the salvation of all men and all creation which Christ has effected by his "epiphany" in the flesh for the life of the world.

Sometimes people think that the blessing of water and the practice of drinking it and sprinkling it over everyone and everything is a "paganism" which has falsely entered the Christian Church. We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament, and that in the Christian Church it has a very special and important significance.

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has been immersed in the streams of the Jordan, all matter is sanctified and made pure in him, purged of its death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the wickedness of men. In the Lord's epiphany all creation becomes good again, indeed "very good," the way that God himself made it and proclaimed it to be in the beginning when "the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters" (Gen 1:2) and when the "Breath of Life" was breathing in man and in everything that God made (Gen 1:30; 2:7).

The world and everything in it is indeed "very good" (Gen 1:31) and when it becomes polluted, corrupted and dead, God saves it once more by effecting the "new creation" in Christ, his divine Son and our Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit (Gal 6:15). This is what is celebrated on Epiphany, particularly in the Great Blessing of Water. The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world -- through its "prime element" of watering the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit. It tells us that man and the world were indeed created and saved in order to be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3:19), the "fullness of him who fills all in all" (Eph 1:22). It tells us that Christ, in who in "the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily," is and shall be truly "all, and in all" (Col 2:9, 3:11). It tells us as well that the "new heavens and the new earth" which God has promised through his prophets and apostles (Is 66:2; 2 Peter 3:13, Rev 21:1) are truly "with us" already now in the, mystery of Christ and his Church.

Thus, the sanctification and sprinkling of the Epiphany water is no pagan ritual. It is the expression of the most central fact of the Christian vision of man, his life and his world. It is the liturgical testimony that the vocation and destiny of creation is to be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3:19).

Fr. Thomas Hopko
The Orthodox Faith, Worship

From the President's Desk:

Advent is now upon us and the year is winding to an end. Of course this means that the activity in the church is picking up in anticipation of Christmas season and the coming New Year. I hope the season finds you and your loved ones well.

The planning for the 100th anniversary celebration is accelerating as the year approaches. Look for news in both the Herald and in the local press in upcoming months. As part of the celebration church organizations will be sponsoring their usual events that will take on added significance given the centennial celebration.

In addition to the Tamraie and Choir concerts and church picnic, look for additional events that will mark our 100th year. The first will be a ball in support of the International Orthodox Christian Charities. All of our Orthodox brothers and sisters will be invited to participate at this event with proceeds going to the IOCC. It should be noted that this fine organization in part supports our Serbian people who have been displaced from their homes.

At a special meeting of the congregation December 11 approval was given to set up a fund that will be used for care of the church cemetery in Steubenville. The details of the fund will not be finalized until the matter is discussed with our bishop and diocesan council, however a few details are known. Donations received for this fund will not count towards one's annual obligation to the church, since the funds will be used only for the upkeep of the cemetery. The goal of the fund is to assure the cemetery is cared for in the future.

As for the church proper, the stained glass restoration is proceeding and will be finished well in the next month, providing the weather cooperates. Due to the diligence of VP Rich Jenikovsky, many items have been brought to the church board's attention that will need to be addressed in the coming year. All will require attention and your support. If you can, please attend the annual church congregational meeting January 15 where details of future restoration/maintenance projects will be provided.

Finally, being a former football player, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate both the Weir and Steubenville high school football teams on winning their respective state championships. This is a first for the valley will provide many memories for our parishioners Sam Busic and Bronco Busick.

See you in church,

Mark

The pleasure of your company is requested!

Epiphany Charity Ball

to benefit IOCC

Saturday, January 21

Serbian-American Cultural Center Weirton, WV

Hors d'Oeuvres and Cocktails. 5:00 pm Dinner-Dance. 6:00 pm

A full five course dinner including soup, Greek or Serbian Salad, Pastitsio, a combination entree including Russian cabbage roll, Greek-style roast chicken, and Serbian Karadjordje Schnitzel, roasted potatoes, Balkan green beans, and Krem Pita for dessert.

For reservations call the SACC at 304-723-7372

Holy Resurrection Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church of Steubenville, OH invites all Orthodox Christians of the Upper Ohio Valley to an Epiphany Charity Ball on Saturday, January 21. All proceeds from the Ball will benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the charitable arm of the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). IOCC has for over a decade done tremendous work in the former Yugoslavia, Greece, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, Africa, and many other regions including the United States. This is one way for us to help support and continue that Christian work.

The elegant evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, a full five course dinner, and dancing to live Greek music, together with Polka, Serbian and American music.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Donations for IOCC will also be gladly accepted. Please call the Serbian-American Cultural Center at 304-723-7372 for details or to reserve your seat. Enjoy a great evening out, and help a worthy Orthodox cause at the same time!

Planning on Track for Church's 100th Anniversary

Mark your calendars for Sept. 29-October 1

Plans for our Holy Resurrection 'Visoki Decani' Church's 100th Anniversary celebration are coming together as the Planning Committee continues to be hard at work, making sure that every detail is covered. The Gala Anniversary Weekend is planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 30 - October 2, 2006. Areas of planning include the historical video to be produced for the event and to premier that weekend, the anniversary commemorative book, cultural program, parish anniversary museum, the anniversary banquet, religious services, entertainment, and accommodations and transportation.

Photos, Scrapbooks Still Wanted

We are continuing to look for photos, films or video tapes, scrapbooks, etc for use in compiling our Anniversary Commemorative Book, our Anniversary Parish History Video, and our Anniversary Museum. We have received many gems already, and we thank all those who have lent us such items. Don't be left out! Bring in your historical items by the end of January, or let us know and we can pick them up. Items will be reproduced and returned. See the next page for more on the Anniversary Museum.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!!!

As part of the planning for the 100th anniversary celebration, we are gathering names and addresses of former parishioners and family members of current parishioners so that we can keep as many as people as possible informed of the plans and activities for this special occasion. Contact the church office with names and addresses, or e-mail Bob Zori at bobz48@comcast.net. We will make sure that everyone receives all the special mailings and information that will be distributed in the months to come. Make sure to invite your friends, relatives and kumovi both in the area and out of town to this historic event. Let them know today so they can make their plans to attend.

Parish photos planned

As part of the Anniversary Commemorative Book, we hope to have pictures of all the parishioners included. We plan to have photographers at the Church at a time to be announced to make household photos, which you may purchase as well if you wish. **If anyone cannot come to the Church to have their picture taken, Fr. Merick would be happy to take their picture during house blessings this year. If interested in this option, let Father know when he calls to arrange your home blessing.**

Become a Part of the Planning!

This 100th Anniversary celebration is a great challenge and great opportunity for us to express our pride in our parish and its past, express our thanks to those who founded and nurtured this parish for the past four generations, and look with hope and faith to the future. We have a good group from various ages and backgrounds working on this event, but there is always room for more! Be a part of this historic event. Come to the Anniversary Planning meetings every other Wednesday at 7 pm at the SACC and add your ideas and talents to make this event truly memorable and worthy!

Help us prepare for our parish's 100th Anniversary!

THE STORY OF US

Opera singer, professional athlete, college professor, actor, rocket scientist, priest, Air Force general, symphony musician, doctor. What do all these people have in common? They all have their roots in our parish. That's right, they're part of *us* and we would like people to know it. Over the last 100 years we have accomplished many great things, not only as a congregation, but also as individuals who make up the parish.

As part of our upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration a museum-type display is to be set up at the Cultural Center to tell the story of us. We have organizations with rich histories to show. We have large, extended families with stories to tell. The small coal mine towns around St. Clairsville have their own history. Our veterans, from the Dobrovolci who went to fight with Serbia in WWI to the people now serving in the Middle East, have a proud history to display. Since this project started, I've learned many new things about the parish. Did you know we had a Girl Scout Troop back in the 40's?

I could go on and on, but that's not the purpose of this letter. I'm writing to ask everyone in the parish to bring pictures, artifacts, memorabilia, tape recordings, home movies, anything that can be used to tell the story of us. When possible, items will be scanned to a computer and returned. If that's not possible, we will catalog every item and return them after the celebration. We have a lot to be proud of and hopefully it will be there for everyone to see at our Gala 100th Anniversary Weekend in September. If you wish to contribute in any way, please talk to any member of the Museum Committee.

Thank you,

Nino Karas co-chairman

Barb Matey co-chairman

Dragan Lazich Art Matey

Dorothy Zatezalo Marie Karas

Milena Karas

Holy Resurrection Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church Wellness Program

Gospel of St. Matthew, 25:40 "The King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it to me.'"

December 2005/January 2006

Focus on Health final surveys were completed on Sunday, November 6 with Doctor Irene Tessaro and Kim McCort from West Virginia University present. A very BIG Thank You to everyone who participated in this project during the past 2 years and also to WVU for selecting our congregation to be part of the program.

West Virginia University will continue to follow our church's progress throughout this third year even though we will not need to complete any additional surveys. If you locate a survey that was not turned in, please return it to the church office and ask Tracy to return it to me. We had 51 members sign release forms at the start of the program, and we had 41 members who turned in the first 2 surveys. 30 members attended the final survey completion on November 6. 11 final surveys were mailed to members not attending to complete and return to West Virginia University by postage paid mailers also enclosed in the survey packet. These numbers are very impressive to me. I think it shows how committed our congregation is to maintaining their wellness. Information and knowledge are powerful tools in making educated decisions in your life.

With the Advent season comes our fasting practice. Occasionally we may become weak during the Liturgy because of fasting practices. Sometimes we feel faint at work or at home. What is Fainting ...passing out ... syncope (from the Greek meaning "to cut off") ... you lose consciousness, feel your legs turning into Jell-O...your brain gets 'fuzzy', and some swear they can suddenly 'hear the ocean'.

Fainting occurs when the blood supply to the brain is momentarily inadequate. This loss of consciousness is typically a brief, one time occurrence, yet it is still important to attempt to pinpoint its cause. Triggers can range from not eating for long periods of time, simply standing up quickly, to heart or brain disorders, so it is important that any fainting be treated as a medical emergency. Other causes of fainting include: sitting or standing for long periods of time (blood pools in the legs), medication for high blood pressure, drop in blood sugar, dehydration, prolonged coughing, breathing too fast (hyperventilating), or cardiac arrest. Fainting is seen twice as often in adults 70 years and older, and 3-4 times as often in adults age 80 and older.

What should you do? If you feel faint, lie down with your feet elevated. If you cannot lie down, sit down, and place your head between your legs (both positions allow the heart to pump blood back to the heart and brain more easily). If you are in worship, it is fine to remain seated throughout the service. Let someone know that you are not feeling well. Do not drive – have someone else take you home.

If you are prone to fainting, avoid prolonged sitting – get up and walk every 45 – 60 minutes. When sitting, flex and contract your calf muscles to keep blood flowing. If driving a long distance, take hourly breaks – get out and walk around. Ask your doctor if you should consider wearing support stockings/hose to assist leg circulation. Finally, follow his/her advice regarding any medication changes or adjustments.

If someone else faints:

Position the person on his/her back with legs elevated.

Watch the airway carefully for blockage or vomiting.

Follow through on emergency assessment A-B-Cs – airway, breathing, circulation

If breathing has stopped, the problem is more than a simple fainting spell. Get emergency medical help immediately by dialing 9-1-1

Help restore blood flow. If the person is breathing keep legs elevated, loosen restrictive clothing (belts, collars, ties).

He/She should revive quickly. If the person does not regain consciousness in 1 –2 minutes, call 9-1-1, and keep watch on airway, breathing and pulse.

Make sure he/she follows up with a physician. The doctor needs to know if there was any chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations, heart racing, as well as what the person was doing prior to passing out. He/She will then decide if further testing is warranted.

This is a situation, in which, it is better to be safe than sorry! Keep ammonia inhalants (smelling salts) on hand in your first aid kit. Make sure your parish nurses, priest, and tutors are trained to administer CPR. If you have a pacemaker or an implanted heart defibrillator, be sure someone in your congregation knows about it. If in doubt, call 9-1-1.

The wellness corner in the Lyceum has booklets related to getting through the holidays when you've lost a love one. Please take a minute to stop by and review some of the booklets available for you to take home to read for yourself or someone in need. These booklets are free for your use.

If you have an issue to discuss just call me directly at 304-723-6019 or email me at gdvukelich@verizon.net. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve our God in this way by helping you.

Until next time --- See you Sunday --- Diane<->

TAMMIE TIDBITS

Greetings! We would like to thank everyone for their generous support of our November spaghetti dinner. Without the support of so many, we could not have enjoyed the success that we did. All proceeds from the dinner went to our new instrument fund. The new instruments were well received by all. The children were so happy with their new instruments...many found it difficult to stop playing! It was a wonderful night for the entire organization. Thank You.

Back by popular demand....Nino's clam sauce!! We will have our next dinner on Sunday, December 18, 2005. Please mark your calendars. Remember, we are happy to serve take-out as well.

The group is working hard to learn new dances and songs. Our group has grown this year and we are thrilled that interest continues to grow our membership. The assignment of the new instruments to Juniors and Seniors has allowed the older instruments to be assigned to the former Tiny Tammies.

Once again, the Tammies will be visiting local nursing homes this Christmas season.

May God bless and be with you this holiday season!

Margaret Ann Zapor

Our Tammies invite you to their

Advent Luncheon

Sunday, December 18

Church Lyceum After Liturgy

Featuring

Spaghetti with marinara or clam sauce

Salad

Bread and margarine

Dessert

Coffee or juice

All proceeds benefit our Holy Resurrection Tamburitzans
and their programs

Thanks from Vladan Serdar

My name is Vladan Serdar and I am 24 years old. I was born in Kotor , Serbia and Montenegro and my family and I moved to Novi Sad when I was seven years old. I came to America the year of 1999 and since then I graduated from Wheeling Central High School. After that I received my associate degree in Business Administration from Northern Community College in Wheeling, WV. Following completion of my associate degree I decided to transfer to Bethany College where I completed my bachelor degree in Managerial Economics in May of 2005. I am working at Western Southern Financial Company at the Wheeling office.

Two days after the most recent war in Serbia I managed to cross the border and move to Wheeling with my American family. I knew Bosley family since they already welcomed my older brother who was completing his bachelor degree at Bethany College too. After he finished with college he decided to stay one more year and go back to Serbia. I on the other hand decided to stay and raise my family here. I married my beautiful wife Bethany, and we are expecting a child.

The reason for writing this letter is to introduce my self to all of you, but especially to thank everyone for good wishes and the contribution you recently sent us.

Like every beginning, its really hard, but just knowing that I have my Serbian church and people around who are willing to help and care about us gives me a huge sense of relief. I began coming to our church every Sunday but I do not want it to stop there. I would love to get involved in every aspect of church life. I want to thank you one more time and wish you ahappy Christmas season.

God's love shines in good people with kind hearts doing nice things. Thanks for shining on us

God bless you

Vladan Serdar and family

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas

Donate to the Christmas Flower Fund



The Sveta Petka Kolo Sisters are again this year taking charge of the purchase of flowers and decorations for our Church for Christmas. The beautiful poinsettias, wreaths and other decorations make the Church seem even more special for this great holiday. We will be able to purchase as much as your donations allow, so please be generous in donating towards the Church Christmas Decoration Fund. Donations may be sent to Martha Dadasovich, 1441 Overlook, Weirton, WV 26062, phone 304-748-7123. Please be sure to send only checks (no cash) through the mails. Please make your donations early so that we can plan our orders. Thank You!

Church Christmas Decoration Fund Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

In Memory of or for Health of (Optional): _____



Please return this form with your donation to:

Martha Dadasovich, 1441 Overlook, Weirton, WV 26062 304-748-7123

The
Serbian Men's Club
invites you to their special edition



NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO



Ring in the New Year while trying your luck at



\$4300 in prizes



+
The BEST instants in the area

+

When: Saturday, December 31, 2005
Doors open at 5 pm ~ Early bird games at 6:30 pm
Regular games at 7 pm

Where: Serbian American Cultural Center
1000 Colliers Way
Weirton, West Virginia



\$20 packets ~ 20 games = \$3600 payout
\$ 5 packets ~ Early Bird games = 50/50 payout
Winner Take All ~ Average Payout approximately \$500

Donations Received

Church Donations

Edna Nicely 25
Jennie Zakovich 10

Slava Donations

Dottie Bossert 30
Sophia Liggett 20

Imo Eli McKay

Dan & Pam McKay & Fam 150

Thanksgiving Donation

Millie Koval 50
Georgette Williams 20

Kosovo Relief Fund

Voyo Torbica 100

Imo Helen Paar

Rose Kosanovich 10

Imo Anne Visnick

Sophia Liggett 10

Imo Helen Eannottie

Al & Toni Goykovich 10

Imo Helen Eannottie (Building Fund)

Nick & Mary Drazich 20

Imo Donna Michaels

Sanford Yoka 25

Patron Saint Nicholas

Mrs Sophia M McKay 100

Patron Saint Michael

Minnie Merick 20
Fr. Rade Merick & family 50

Patron Saint Demetrius

M/M Nino Karas 25
M/M Nick Karas 20

Wellness Program Donation

Mary Zelich 25

Imo Nozica & Radovanov Fam

Julia Nozica 100

Imo Mildred Zatezalo

M/M Nick Ivkovich 10

Imo Mildred Zatezalo (Building Fund)

Nicholas & Olga Mihalik 25
M/M Gary Stanich 25

Building Fund Pledge

Mildred Drazick 10

Imo Lena Munas (Building Fund)

Sophia & Daniel Kakascik 10

Imo Eli McKay (Building Fund)

Nicholas & Olga Mihalik 25

Donations for Window Renovations

Imo Helen Eannottie

Helen Vein 25

For the Health of Family Members

Bertha Myers 100

Imo Milos & Dragica Rasich

Helen Barnabei 100
Dorothy Rateau 100
Diane Morris 100

Imo Evica & Luka Delich

Dorothy Bossert
Helen Straus
Naida Viltro
Mary Zelich 1950

Imo Anthony Santilli

Mim Santilli 1000

Imo Charles & Pauline Tokar

Arthur & Barbara Matey 1500

Imo Anna & Miladin Milosevich & Dragica & Simo Orbovich

Donald & Martha Orbovich 1950

Donations for Repairs to Steps/Sidewalks

Mrs Shirley Rebich 100
M/M Mitch Zack 100

Imo Stana Bruich Drazich

Steve & Eleanor Drazich 250