



ST. LUKE NEWSLETTER

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

June 2007

Volume 6, Issue 2

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ПРОСЛАВА ВИДОВДАНА

НЕДЕЉА, 24 ЈУНИ

На црквеном имању

После Свете Литургије у Beverly Farms Elementary School, која почиње у 10 сати одржаће се комеморативна прослава Видовдана на нашем имању, 10660 River Road, Potomac, MD. Од 12 до 15 часова биће служен, Видовдански ручак, а после ручка отац Недељко Гргуревић одржаће предавање о значају Косова данас и о садашњем стању у тој древној српској покрајини.

Моле се сви парохијани и пријатељи наше цркве да присуствују овој прослави.

Прилози за ручак: Одрасли \$20, Студенти испод 25 год. \$15, Деца испод 12 бесплатно.

WHY IS VIDOVDAN A CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY AS WELL AS A CIVIL HOLIDAY?

It is very easy to understand why Vidovdan is a civil holiday. As many other civil holidays, the events that took place on June 28, 1389 changed the course of development of the Serbian nation. The great battle which was ultimately lost in military terms, however was of great significance for the spiritual path of an entire nation. Occurring only 170 years after the establishment of the Orthodox Church of Serbia, this battle provided the Serbian people an opportunity to reflect on the purpose of their worldly

existence, and their place in Christian heritage. We need only read the epic poetry that was written and propagated in the decades following this battle, to see that the people, now enslaved after the occupation of the Ottoman forces, saw their fate as a spiritual journey, and not as a judgment. The soldiers that lost their lives on that day, knew that their earthly existence would soon come to an end as they were greatly outnumbered and overpowered by the dominant Ottoman forces. What did they do?

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IZVESTAJ PRETSEDNIKA

Prolece i pocetak leta ove godine bili su puni znacajnih dogadjaja, nekih vrlo povoljnih a drugih relativno nepovoljnih. Sluzbe Bozije na Veliki Petak i Uskrs, koje smo drzali kod nasih suseda u Atiohijskoj crkvi Svetog Petra i Pavla bile su pune, vise nego ikada. Sveta Uskrsnja Liturgija bila je narocito duhovno nadahnuta sa divnom sluzbom i horom, i sa preko 400 vernika prisutnih. Inicijativa jednog naseg blagorodnog parohijana da duplira sve priloge za Uskrsnje praznike stimulirala je nesto preko 31,000.00 dolara, sto - zajedno sa njegovim prilogom - je doprinelo 62,000.00 dolara nasoj Crkvi.. Ova, do sada necuvena suma priloga pokazuje da, samo ako otvorimo svoja srca i budjelare, mi bismo mogli daleko da povecamo nase godisnje donacije i tako da vrlo pomognemo rekostrukciji nase crkvene zgrade. Mi smi veoma zahvalni nasem anonimnom darodavcu na njegovoj dobrodusnosti i na ovoj izuzetno korisnoj inicijativi.

Djurdjevdanski piknik i prodaja kolaca i ostalih djakonija naseg Kola isto su tako bili vrlo uspeli, tako da smo na kraju prodali svo jagnjece peenje i ostalu hranu. Vreme je bilo vrlo lepo tako da su se svi prisutni vrlo lepo proveli.

Nazalost, zabrinjavajuca vest je da procene troskova renovacije zgrade koje smo najzad dobili od nekoliko preduzimaca prevazilazi nase finansijske mogucnosti. Razlog za to je delimicno u porastu troskova izgradnje od kada smo prihvatili plan renovacije nesto pre vise od tri godine, zatim

i zbog dodatnih zahteva Montgomery County i drzave Merilanda, kao i cinjenice da se plan u toku realizacije pokazao malo i suvise ambiciozan za nase finansijske mogucnosti. Uprava je diskutovala ovaj problem i isto tako smo imali razgovore sa arhitektom. Odlucili smo da smanjimo obim rekonstrukcije zgrade i parkiralista kako bi troskovi vise odgovarali nasim finansijskim mogucnostima. Ima nekoliko alternativnih mogucnosti i ni jedna od njih nece smanjiti velicinu kapele koja je predvidjena u planu. Treba uskoro da dobijemo nove procene tih mogucnosti i tada cemo obavstiti nase parohijane.

Ovi problemi samo ilustruju da troskovi operacije i gradnje nase Crkve, ukljucujuci tu i povecan interest na postojeci hipotekarni zajam, su se znacajno povecali od 2001 godine, dok je relativno mali broj nasih parohijana povecao svoje priloge. Kada bismo mi svi povecavali nase nedeljne donacije, priloge za otplatu hipoteke, i donacije za Fond za izgradnju, proporcionalno sa povecanjem nasih individualnih prihoda tokom godina, bilo bi nam mnogo lakse da odrzavano nasu Crkvu.

Nasa Crkva zavisi od nas, je u stvari ta Crkva smo mi svi, pojedinacno i zajedno.

Zoran Hodjera

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Spring and early summer of this year were very eventful, some very encouraging and others less so. Good Friday and Easter services that we held at our neighbors, St. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, had a record attendance so far. In particular, the Easter Holy Liturgy was very uplifting, with over 400 faithful participating. The initiative of our generous anonymous donor to match all offering for Easter Holidays stimulated just over \$31,000, which - together with his

matching - generated \$62,000 of contributions to our Church. This, so far unheard amount of offerings only shows that, if only we put our minds to it, we could considerably increase our yearly donations and in this way help the reconstruction of our Church facilities. We are very grateful to our anonymous donor for his generosity and this very helpful initiative.

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COFFEE HOUR

We have had so many people preparing coffee hour recently, and all of our parishioners are very appreciative of the opportunity to visit with each other and have a delicious snack after Liturgy on Sundays. Thank you to all those who have helped to make our coffee hours such a pleasure. If anyone would like to volunteer for August or September, please call Sigi Beck Hodjera at 301-412-0330 to arrange a convenient Sunday.

(Continued from page 2)

Djurdjevdan picnic and the bake sale by our Kolo were also very successful, so that, at the end we ran out of food. The weather was very pleasant and everybody had a good time.

However the worrisome note was the projected cost of renovations that we finally received from several contractors. Partly because the cost have increased since the inception of our plans over three years ago, partly because of additional requirements imposed on us by the County and the State of Maryland, and also partly because the plans proved to be a little more ambitious than it was thought at the time, the costs are in excess of what we can finance. The Board has examined the problem and there were discussions with the architect. It was decided to proceed with reduction of plans so as to make costs in line with our financing abilities. At this point there are several alternatives, but none of them will result

in the reduction of the size of the Chapel. Fairly soon we will obtain the results of these efforts and we will inform our membership.

These difficulties only illustrate the problem that operational costs of our church, including the higher interest on our mortgage, have increased significantly since 2001, but very few of our parishioners have increased their contributions. If we parishioners would all increase our weekly donations, contributions to Church mortgage payments, and building fund offerings in line with our individual income growth over the years, it would be much easier to handle our Church needs,.

The Church depend on us, because we are the Church.

Zoran Hodjera

(Continued from page 1)

They prepared themselves and united themselves to their Creator, the Almighty God, through prayer and receiving of Holy Communion. This was their personal victory, which in their eyes was more important than any military or national victory. In so doing, whether they realized it or not, they also enriched an entire nation's spiritual consciousness for generations to come, as that nation looked up toward God, waiting confidently for His mercy. The army and the civilians took the crown of Christian victory, over that of military victory. The epic poetry of the age reveals to the people something that anybody would seek: the purpose of their suffering. When etched into the consciousness of the people that their ordeal was a sacrifice, they looked to God for the redemption that their Christian faith promised them. With their spiritual eyes seeking that redemption, they were able to withstand and endure centuries of occupation and oppression by an ungodly force.

We are tempted to look at these events only as history, but rather must see them also as the beginning of an ongoing spiritual journey of an entire nation. If it is ongoing, it is therefore not finished. The journey continues with the baptism of every Serbian person, on any continent, as each of those baptized, infant or adult, as stated in the baptismal service, is a newly-enlisted warrior of Christ. When baptized, we die to the sin of the material world and are made alive in Christ, and follow Him on His journey to the Cross. Until that day, when the Lord comes once again to claim us as His own, we must continue to struggle against all that is ungodly, seeking our own redemption from sin, as did those heroes of Field of the Blackbird over 600 years ago, as well as those of subsequent generations.

Father Aleksa Micich

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 22, 2007

First Annual Gala

to benefit

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Metropolitan Washington

At the Mayflower Hotel

Washington, DC

Invitation to Follow

SUMMER FUN

Are you looking for something fun to keep your kids occupied this summer? Your church has a couple of opportunities for your children.

The Sister's Kolo have indicated that they are willing to sponsor some children who may be interested in either of these opportunities. Please contact Father Aleksa for additional information.

Shadeland Camp

The St. Sava Camp is offering three different camp sessions for children this summer. The schedule for three weeks of camp

Week 1, July 15 – July 21, Ages 7-18

Week 2, July 22 – July 28, Ages 7-18

Week 3, July 29 – August 5, Tammie Week, Ages 9-18

Applications must be submitted by June 25th, so register now!

For registration materials, check out the website:

<http://www.easterndiocese.org/shadeland.html>

Youth Conference

The Youth Ministry Committee of the Central Church Council of the United States and Canada is pleased to announce the Second Annual Youth Conference to be held in Chicago, IL August 7-11, 2007. The theme of this year's conference is "The Path to Salvation."

This conference is open to high school teens from around the US. Registration forms must be submitted by July 1. If you have questions, please contact Becky Kesic at 703-421-1254 or Kesic.becky@verizon.net.

For registration materials, check out the website:

<http://www.easterndiocese.org/files/2007RegistrationForm.doc>

ST. LUKE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Sunday June 3, 17 children were recognized for their regular attendance of Sunday School. These children and their parents should be commended for their dedication to the church and their desire to learn about their faith. The following children have attended Sunday School at least once a month:

- Nikola Bibic
- Mia Bujak
- Saša Bujak
- Tijana Djokić
- Dimitrije Hryshchysyn
- Teodora Hryshchysyn
- Ana Isailovic
- Marian Isailovic
- Aleks Kesic

- Alexandar Micich
- Anastasia Micich
- George Pavicević
- Ana Petronijevic
- Andrej Petronijevic
- Caitlin Stokrp
- Dora Stojanović
- Dmitri Verich

There were several more children who occasionally attended Sunday School. We look forward to seeing them more often next year. We also invite all children on our parish to join us for Sunday School when we resume classes in September. Have a great summer!



Sunday School Graduation

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are already preparing for our next Sunday School year which will start in early September. We ask you to consider donating any of the following items which will be used for the Sunday School program.

- Crayons
- Glue
- Paper – white and colored, construction, tissue, etc
- Stickers

- Gift cards to Michael's (to purchase craft supplies)
- Juice boxes
- Snacks – small packs of crackers, pretzels, cookies, etc.

Donations may be left at the church or contact Becky Kesic at 703-421-1254 to arrange for pick-up.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATALIJA AND SREĆKO!

Natalija Djurickovic and Srecko Stemenkovic were married on March 1, 2007. Natalie grew up in our Church starting in 1975. During the 1990's she and several friends formed Balkan Express which raised over \$100,000 in money, medicine, school supplies and clothing which she then transported and delivered to the refugees who had been driven out of Croatia and Bosnia and were living in camps in Serbia. She organized and spoke at many rallies

protesting the bombing of Kosovo and was frequently seen in television debates at that time. She worked for the UN in Banja Luka for several years helping in the resettling of refugees from Bosnia. She worked in Sarajevo for several years for the USCE to ring needed reforms to their legal system. She is currently working for USAID as a 'Rule of Law' expert for the Balkans and countries in the former Soviet Union. Srecko had to leave his home in

Kosovo and go to Beograd where he obtained his Master's degree in Business. In addition to being on the faculty at the University of Beograd he consulted with and worked with a dozen different businesses in Beograd to improve and update their business organizational skills and Human Relations capabilities. They are going to reside in Washington, D.C.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 1 – MAY 31, 2007

	Income	Expense	Total
Operating Fund	98,073	76,525	21,548
Mortgage Fund	6,561		
Principal		4,043	
Interest		14,404	
Total	104,634	94,972	9,662
Building Fund	59,002		
Renovation expenses		4,328	
Total	163,636	99,300	64,336

The overall financial status of our Church looks good so far this year. However, the summer has typically been a time of fewer donations; so please remember to mail in your donation before you leave town for vacation.

We still desperately need more people to give additional money towards the mortgage fund. As you can see we have received \$6,561 towards expenses of \$18,447 for the year. One of the key concerns of the Bank – related to our borrowing money for the renovation is - Can we show that we can afford the additional mortgage payments?

\$54,500 of the \$59,002 donated to the Building Fund for this year was given by only two people. Where are the donations from the rest of the Parish? We must be able to show the Bank that we can afford the renovations. All those who say that they will give once we start are delaying our start because we can not approach the Bank until we have money in the bank or signed pledges for donations and – to date – we do not have these.

If you want our Church to continue and to grow and to be renovated you really have to increase your giving to the Church - NOW.

СРЕЋАН 6. РОЂЕНДАН ТИЈАНИ!



На слици је Тијана 1. дјевојчица гледано са лијеве стране.

Тијана Ђокић је прославила свој шести рођендан са својим другарицама и друговима из цркве и школе.

Дјеца су се прелијепо дружила и заиста је уживање посматрати како наши малишани схватају да они имају једну лијепу заједницу у нашој цркви.

Ми се придружујемо најљепским рођенданским честиткама.!!!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The following Seniors from our parish are graduating from area schools.

Stefan Dabic:

Stefan is graduating from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD, where he was awarded APEX status for having completed 10 AP courses through his high school years. He will be attending George Washington University in Washington DC in the fall, majoring in either engineering or international relations. He played on the school volleyball and basketball teams and performed with the Walter Johnson Orchestra and Symphonic Band. Stefan is the son of Ljubisa & Danica Dabic.



S. Dabić

Alek Mikasinovic:

Alek graduates from J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, VA as an IB Diploma candidate. In the fall he will attend James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA and plans on majoring in business. Alek was a National Honor Society member and played on the tennis team. He also served as a member of the Student Advisory Council for Fairfax County Public Schools. Alek is the son of Branko & Snezana Mikasinovic.



Dragana Stojisavljevic:

Dragana is graduating from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD. She will attend Penn State University in State College, PA in the fall. She played volleyball with the school team. Dragana is the daughter of Dragan & Svetlana Stojisavljevic.

Erin Hottle:

Erin, daughter of Lori and Robert Hottle, graduated from Langley High School. She is the second-oldest of the three Hottle girls, and will be leaving for college soon. Congratulations Erin, and we wish you continued success at college.

College Graduate:

Katie Visnick:

On May 20th, Katie Visnick received B.S. degrees in Marketing and International Business from Penn State University in State College, PA. She has interviewed with several companies in the Pittsburgh area, but has not accepted a position yet. Katie is the daughter of Milan & Joyce Visnick.



A. Mikasinovic

K Visnick

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mark and Olga Stokrp, parents of our parishioners Mark Jr. and Stephen have their 50th wedding anniversary on July 13. Because of logistic problems, the four sons, their spouses, and eight grandchildren got together and celebrated that great and joyous event a little in advance. We are all joining them in their happiness and wish the celebrants many more years of happy and healthy life.

NA MNOGAJA LJETA

A NEW RASEVIC

We are very pleased to report that Mark, Megan and big sister Sophia Rasevic have welcomed with joy little Louise Kathleen, who was born on April 9, 2007. The mother and the baby, who was 6 pound and 15 ounces when she was born, are in excellent health and little Louise Kathleen is progressing very well. We wish her a happy, healthy and successful life, and express our congratulations to the parents, the big sister and to grandparents, Veljko and Marina Rasevic.

TAMI WE LOVE YOU – GET WELL SOON

We are sorry to have to report that our very active member of the Circle of Serbian Sisters, Tamara Mijich, wife of our First Vice President, Zoran Mijich, has recently fallen very seriously ill. Fortunately she is responding well to treatment and physical therapy, and has already shown significant progress. We wish her, Zoran, and their two daughters to know that we hope and pray for Tami's complete recovery and we wish that very soon she will be again with us in our Church community to which she has contributed so much.



Sunday School children with their artwork for Tamara (it says "Ms Tamara Get Better")

CELEBRATION OF VIDOVDAN

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007

On our Church property

After Holy Liturgy at Beverly Farms Elementary School, which starts at 10 am, there will be a commemorative celebration of Vidovdan at our Church property, 10660 River Road, Potomac, MD. From 12 to 3 pm a Vidovdan luncheon will be served. Following the lunch, Father Nedeljko Grgurevic will give a commemorative lecture about the meaning of Kosovo today and the current conditions in this ancient Serbian land. We invite all our parishioners and friends to attend this event.

Contribution: Adults \$20, Students under 25 - \$15, Children under 12 free.



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