

# ST. LUKE NEWSLETTER

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

December 2008

Volume 7, Issue 4

# **CHRISTMAS ADDRESS**

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Драга браћо и сестре:

Радујем се што могу да вас опет поздравим у време Божићних празника, у време када прослављамо љубав Божију и дело спасења човечанства са радосним поздравом: Мир Божији! Христос се роди!

Сваки од нас има разлога да ових дана буде захвалан за нешто, али би најпре и највише требали да будемо захвални Богу због Оваплоћења Његовог Сина, Господа Исуса Христа.

Кроз овај историјски и спасоносни догђај Бог је имао у плану да сједини Бога и човека и да избави човечанство од пропасти и робовања Сатани. Кроз рођење Господа Спаситеља, Бог нас директно позива да прихватимо љубав Његову коју нам слободно нуди, да се сјединимо са Њим, насупрот робовању Ђаволу и легионима његових палих анђела.

Наш први изазов је да будемо будни у препознавању лажи и превара које долазе од Сатане (јер његово име и значи

преварант-варалица-кушач), како би одолили његовим искушењима којима нас заварава. Када успемо да одолимо оваквом изазову, онда ћемо бити у стању да учествујемо у највећем догађају искупљења човечанства.

Стога драга браћо и сестре, прихватимо тај изазов свакодневно а не само у време Божићних празника, како неби били преварени, те да би били у стању да започнемо наш земаљски и духовни живот прихватањем онога што је Бог за нас с љубављу урадио.

У име свих чланова управног Одбора и наших фамилија, поздрављам вас са радосним поздравом:

МИР БОЖИЈИ! ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ!

Ваш молитвеник пред новорођеним Младенцем Христом,

Јереј Алекса Мићић

If you are not able to atend our events, please use attached envelope to send us your donation.

Thank you!

## ST LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Parish Priest: Rev. Aleksa Micich

## Executive Board for 2009

President: Dr. Ivan Aksentijevich Members at Large:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Miran Vučić Dr. Zoran Hodjera

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Viktor Isailovich Rebecca Kesich

Secretary: Mark Stokrp Paul Rasevic

Treasurer: Dr. Donald Fish Alexandra Savich

Financial Secretary: Drina Rajić

# **Auditing Board**

# **Delegate to the Diocesan Assembly:**

President: Djordje Jovanovic Paul Rasevic
Members: Petar Bizic Alternate:
Zoran Bucalo Mark Stokrp

# IZVESTAJ NOVOIZABRANOG PREDSEDNIKA

Dragi parohijani i prijatelji,

U narednoj godini mislim da bi prioritet nase crkvene zajednice trebalo da bude u analiziranju nasih mogucnosti, zelja i planova. Crkva, kao duhovna i nacionalna zajednica, ne moze da opstane, a jos manje da se gradi i prosperira bez siroke i nesebicne podrske svojih parohijanaca. I pored cinjenice da u Vasington/Baltimore regionu nekoliko hiljada srpskih porodica, manje od 100 su redovni clanovi nase parohije. U takvoj situaciji i pored mnogih godina pozrtvovanosti, nazalost od malog broja parohijanaca, Srbi i dalje nemaju crkvu u glavnom gradu SAD. Resenje ovog problema je vrlo jednostvno i ocigledno: ukljucivanjem veceg broja ljudi i njihovom stalnom finansijskom podrskom.

Razumljivo je da su mnogi u nasoj zajednici razocarani i nemotivisani trenutnim stanjem nase crkve. I pored svog angazovanja opet smo doziveli jos jedan zastoj na putu rekonstrukcije naseg imanja. Mala je verovatnoca da cemo dobiti gradjevinsku dozvolu do septembra 2009 godine. Ovo odlaganje ce imati finansijsku posledicu na nas operativni fond, jer ako ne povecamo prihode,

taj neplanirani dodatni trosak moracemo pokriti sa novcem iz naseg rezervnog fonda.

Kao novoizabrani predsednik crkve Sv. Luke u Vasingtonu za 2009 godinu, moja zelja i plan je da se pre svega posvetimo deci i omladini, a i da stabilizujemo nasu finansijsku situaciju. Nasa deca moraju imati crkvenu zajednicu koja ce im izgraditi i negovati osecaj pripadnosti pravoslavnoi veri i narodu. Moja zelia je da se nas podmladak ukljuci u zivot nase crkve i da je usmeri i ponese u buducnost. Njihova pomoc nam je neophodna da negujemo duh srpske crkve, i organizujemo kulturne i humanitarne akcije. Vasa pomoc nam je neophodna da pruzimo mogucnost nasoj omladini da razviju svoj duhovnost i ne zaborave svoje hriscanske i nacionalne korene. Po pitanju budzeta, pokusacemo da razvijemo dodatne izvore prihoda i umanjimo postojece rashode. Potrudicemo se da ukljucimo u nasu crkvu veci broj ljudi iz nase zajednice u Vasington i okolini, i da ohrabrimo parohijance da podrzavaju gradjevinski fond i veruju u buducnost nase duhovne zajednice. Bicemo strpljivi u oce-

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kivanju gradjevinske dozvole, medjutim, moramo biti spremni i za slucaj da nam se ne odobri. Mislim da niko od nas ne bih zeleo da se nadjemo u istoj situaciji za godinu dana a da nismo otvorili mogusnosti za alternativno resenje.

Mogu vam obecavati da ce nasa crkvena uprava nesebicno raditi i da ce dati sve od sebe da razvije nasu parohiju kao duhovnu zajednicu koja ce biti centar mnogih nasih aktivnosti i kojom cemo se ponositi. Nazalost, bez obzira na nas trud, nase zelje se nece ostvariti bez stalne i znacajne podrske velikog broja ljudi iz nase zajednice.

Sve najbolje u Novoj 2009 godini i srecan Bozic

Ivan Aksentijevich, M.D

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION

Two weeks ago we received the permit by the Fire Marshall for the plans of internal construction for the new extension of the Church building. This is a final and very important step because of the planned dual occupancy of our building: the assembly area on the lower level and the private occupancy on the upper level. This would permit us to obtain the building permit and start construction, once the zoning issue is completed.

As pointed out at the end of October, the county has raised the issue of zoning regarding our property. Due to the exchange of parcels of land between previous owners of our property and the property which is now Antiochian Church, our property consists of part of recorded lot (Pt. of lot 26) and a parcel of land (P700) which were not replatted together at that time. This issue did not arise when we purchased the property because there was no building involved. Now the County has required [according to the County Code, Section 50-20(b)] that the property be re-platted together before the construction starts. Our engineering company suggested, and we immediately instructed it, to apply for a "minor" subdivision approval which would have required some three to four months. This meant that we could have started construction in February,

However the Planning Committee of the Park and Planning Board did not agree with the proposal of minor subdivision approval. It required that — before the construction starts - the property must go to regular subdivision process prior to assembling the land into one re-recorded lot. This is a lengthy

two-step procedure requiring first the approval of a *preliminary plan* of subdivision, and then the *approval of the record plat* of subdivision, followed by recording it in the Land Records of the Montgomery County. Such a procedure would last until the end of summer.

At the recommendation of our lawyer we have appealed to the Supervisor of the Planning Board, requesting that we be allowed to proceed with construction with the guarantee (supported by an appropriate Bond) that we would complete the rezoning process after the building is completed. This is especially so because the pie shaped section of land in front, near the Antiochian property, does not involve in any way our building construction, but only the site plan where no building is planned. In the meantime we have already started with a preliminary procedure (which can be always postponed or altered) in order not to lose time. If our appeal is approved, we would be able to start construction immediately, weather permitting.

This is, we believe, the last stumbling block before the start of construction. Paul Rasevic will, with the approval of the Assembly and of the Bishop in hand, talk to the United Bank and apprise it of the situation. Our loan appears to be in good shape, particularly since the interest rates have fallen. We need patience and we hope that it will all turn out for the best.

# Hristos se rodi!

Zoran Hodjera

# PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Dear parishioners and friends,

In light of this fast approaching New Year, our church community needs to take a step back and explore its options and initiatives for the coming year. It is clear that no church can survive and even less, grow, without support from its community. That said, although in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area there are several thousands Serbian families, less than 100 families are paying members of the church parish. Unfortunately, despite years of sacrifice from a relatively small number of people, Serbians still do not have a church in Washington DC. The reasons for this are twofold: The Church has not expanded its reach into the Serbian community to commit to the Church and to support it on continual basis. On the other hand, good part of our community has not shown interest to participate in our religious and cultural activities.

It is understandable that our parishioners are becoming disenchanted and frustrated with the way things are going. It appears that despite all of our efforts we have suffered yet another setback with the building of our church. Unless an extraordinary change of opinion at the county level, it does not look like we will receive a building permit until September 2009. This will obviously add cost to our building budget which is already being partly depleted to cover expenses related to the operation of the church.

I do not expect anything extraordinary in 2009. The most important change will be our renewed focus on our children and young adults.

We need to build an environment where our children will develop a feeling of belonging to a community. Hopefully we will be able to motivate them and engage them in meaningful activities which will help move this church forward into the future. Regarding the building issue, we will wait for the process with the county to take its course. However, we need to be ready for the eventuality that we do not get the permit. The last thing we want in one year from now is to be at the same place we are today and not have at least considered alternative ways to solve our problem. Regarding revenue, we will focus on ways to improve revenue and trim current costs. We will reach out to the community at large. We will continue to encourage people to donate to the building fund.

I can promise that the new church board will work selflessly and that we will do our best to lead our parish in a direction that will eventually give us a church we can all be proud of and around which our community will be able to have a vibrant life. However, let it be clear that none of this will happen if we do not change our state of mind and commitment to the church. Our church will never rise without the constant support of our community.

All the best in 2009 and Merry Christmas.

Ivan Aksentijevich, MD

# **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 coffee hour, please call Sigi Beck Hodjera at 301-412-0330 to arrange a convenient Sunday.

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# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

All Sunday Divine Liturgies are served at Beverly Farms Elementary School at 10AM unless otherwise noted.

# CHRISTMAS EVE----BADNJE VECE Tues. 6 (at Potomac Presbyterian Church 10301 River Rd.)

- Confession from 7PM-7:45PM
- Vigil at 8PM

#### Wed. 7 CHRISTMAS DAY (РОЂЕЊЕ ХРИСТОВО)

- Divine Liturgy at 10AM
- Thurs. 8 SYNAXIS OF MOST HOLY THE-ОТОКОЅ (САБОР ПРЕСВЕТЕ БОГОРОДИЦЕ)
  - Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM

#### Fri. 9 ST. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR (СВ. СТЕФАН)

- Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM
- Wed. 14 Circumcision of our Lord—Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM

# Sun. 18 FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS WITH BLESSING OF WATER КРСТОВДАН И ОСВЕЋЕЊЕ ВОДЕ

Dr. Aleksandra Stiepanovic pocela specijalizaciju

Divine Liturgy at 10AM at Beverly

#### Mon. 19 ТНЕОРНАНУ--- БОГОЈАВЉЕЊЕ

- Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM
- Tues. 20 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST—CB. ЈОВАН КРСТИТЕЉ
  - Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM

#### **Tues. 27** ST. SAVA---CB. CABA

Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM

#### Sat. 31 ST. SAVA CELEBRATION— СВЕТОСАВСКА ПРОСЛАВА

- Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM Followed by blessing of Slavski Kolac and children's recitals and lunch (Holy Resurrection Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, 10201 Democracy Blvd., Potomac, MD)
- Vespers at 5PM followed by dinner and program (St. Andrews Ukrainian Orth. Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD)

# VIJESTI IZ PAROHIJE

2000 C H C H (C / 1)

(residency) iz pediatrije (pedriatics) na MCV u Richmond VA		2008 College Graduates (Continued)		
		Sanda Klacar	George Mason U	
Dr. Zeljko Stjepanovic poceo specijalizaciju iz hirurgije na		Slavica Cvijanovic	VCCS	
MCV u Richmond VA		Nadia Aksentijevich	University of Chicago	
2008 College Graduates		Kristina Gvozdjan	University of Ohio	
Luka Bajic	UMD	Kristilia Ovozujali	Oniversity of Onio	
Alek Petkoski	Georgetown			
Vukasin Jovanovic	UMD	High School		
Keki Hajiski	George Mason University	Sara Dragacevac	Walter Johnson, attending GWU	
Ashley Hottle	Wake Forest University	Ana Vucetic	Thomas Jefferson High, attending Oxford	
Slaven Sikirica	UMBC		<b>3</b> / <b>3</b>	
Sasha Siminic	George Mason U	Damian Korac	Walt Whitman, attending Princeton	
Daria Vojcic	GWU	Marko Lukic	South Lakes High, attending George Mason	
Natalie Visnic	Pittsburgh	Bojana Milojkovic	Walter Johnson, attending Bucknell	

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY THRU NOVEMBER 30, 2008

Account	Income	Expenses	Net
Operating Fund	154,907	169,325	(14,418)
Mortgage Fund	19,882		
Principal		11,548	
Interest		39,180	
To	otal 174,789	220,053	(45,264)
<b>Building Fund</b>	14,419		
Renovation Pledges	59,660		
Renovation expenses		30,991	
To	etal 248,868	251,044	(2,176)



Danica Novacic completed her medical doctor residency in December 2008 at University of MD Medical Center. She will start working in January 2009 as a hospitalist at Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

Sa zadovoljstvom i ponosom vas obavestavamo da je Danica Novacic uspesno zavrsila specijalizaciju kao doctor medicine u Univerzitetskoj bolnici u Baltimoru i dobila posao u Baltimore Washingtom Medical Center u Glen Burnie. Nije bilo lako ali Danicina upornost i ambicioznost su na kraju dokazali da moze mnogo da se postigne ako se covek fokusira. Ovo je inace Danicin drugi fakultet a jos nismo sigurni da li je i poslednji. U svakom slucaju ovo je za primer nasem mladjem narastaju i Danicina poruka mladima je: "Ucite, ucite jer u znanju je spas"

Dear Friends,

Dr. Arthur Keys and his organization, International Relief and Development (IRD) are featured in a two page article in the September 22, 2008 international issue of TIME magazine GLOBAL BUSINESS section. Arthur is interviewed and quoted in the article about the success of IRD in distributing \$600 million in aid around the world through innovative programs.

The article is titled: Teaching Them To Fish: A Virginia based NGO hands out free wheat to poor countries, at a price: The businesses have to perform" by Anita Hamilton.

Nice to have a parishioner so highly honored!



arthur b. keys, jr. '73 m.div.

# AN ELLEGANT WASHINGTON WEDDING

# Elizabeth O.T. Terzic - Mark S.M. Smith

Miss Elizabeth Alexandra Olivera Terzic married Mr. Mark Simon Martin-Smith at the Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Saturday August 23, 2008. Elizabeth is a member of the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church parish and the Orthodox wedding service was celebrated by His Grace

Bishop Mitrophan of the Eastern United States, His Grace Bishop Irinej of Australia-New Zealand, V. Rev Nedeljko Grgujevich and Rev. Aleksa Micic St. Luke's pastor. The Kumovi were Mr & Mrs Milan Visnick of Saint Luke and the Stara Svatica was Mrs. Melissa Gruyich Tomlin (Mrs. John Tomlin). Elizabeth is the daughter of Judith and Branko Terzic of St Luke's parish and the groom is the son of Ms. Shelagh Smith of Milton Keynes England and Mr. Martin Smith of Cape Town, South Africa.

Elizabeth's God-father HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia and HRH Crown Princess Katherine flew in from Belgrade to attend the wedding, and the Crown Prince's youngest son HRH Prince Alexander came in from San Francisco. The Crown prince was Kum for the wedding of Liz's parents and Branko has served as the Crown Prince's Royal Adjutant since 1976 and is a member of the Privy Council. The Crown Prince's cousin, HRH Princess Katarina of Serbia (Lady de Silva), daughter of the late HRH Prince Tomislav, and her daughter Miss Victoria de Silva also flew in from Sussex England for the nuptials.

The couple honeymooned in Hawaii, Japan and China and then settled in Hong Kong where the groom, Mark, was recently promoted to the position of Senior Vice President for Asia finance for Bank of America. Elizabeth and Mark met in London at the Bank of America where Liz was also recently promoted to Assistant Vice President in corporate finance. Mark has a BS from the University of Bristol and is qualified as a Chartered Accountant in England and Elizabeth is a graduate in Business Administration with a major in accounting from Bryant University in Providence RI and she is also a licensed CPA in Virginia.



# ST. LUKE'S OPANCICI

You see them every St. Sava and at times they have brought cheers, smiles and even tears to your eyes... Our beautiful Opancici! Opancici has been St. Luke's Traditional Folklore Group for over 12 years now, and has become one of the most popular ways for our children to feel connected with their heritage. Kids from all

ages throughout our community gather to learn more about their culture, meet other children of similar backgrounds, and to just have fun! Expressing their culture through dance, not only brings a tremendous sense of pride to our children, but it is also a unique way to show off their many talents to the larger Serbian community. Look out for them at this year's Sveti Sava!

Please join us at our next practice on January 4th from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at our Church property. All children and parents are welcome!

For more information please contact Dr. Danica Marinac-Dabic at danica.marinac-dabic@fda.hhs.gov or (202) 390-2270 or (301) 881-7827



# **NEWS FROM THE PARISH**



In December 2007, Marijana Barr graduated from The George Washington University with a Masters of Science in Project Management and in June 2008, she obtained her Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI). Marijana lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband Glen and son Nicholas.



Sin nasih parohijna Dr. Branka i Snezane Mikasinovic, Aleksandar, poslao je svoj esej o poslovnoj etici na konkurs za godisnju nagradu " Thomas J. Masterson Ethics Essay Competition" pri univerzitetu Dzejms Medison u Harisonburgu i dobio najvecu, odnosno prvu nagradu i uznosu od 5,000 dolara. Esej je dobio najbolju ocenu univerzitetskog profesorskog panela. Cestitamo nasem mladom Aleksandru!



Драго нам је да вас обавијестимо да се породица Ђокић проширила за још једног члана! Наиме, 11. новебра се родио Михаило. Мајка Снежана и беба се осјећају одлично, отац Пеђа је пресрећан, а сестра Тијана и брат Никола су одушевљени.

Најсрдачније честитке!!!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

#### St. Sava Poems

We have started handing out poems to the children for the St. Sava celebration at the end of January. If your child will recite a poem that you have or need a poem for your child, please contact Becky Kesic at <a href="mailto:becky.kesic@verizon.net">becky.kesic@verizon.net</a> or 703-867-5908. We want to make sure that we have all the names of children who plan on reciting poems.

# Children & Teens - We need your help!

On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we would like the children and teens to get together to help put the Badnja branches together. We will meet at the River Road property after Liturgy. We will have the oak leaves and the straw ready, we just need your help to tie them together. The branches will then be handed out at Christmas Eve services (Badnja Vece). If you are able to help, please contact Becky Kesic at becky.kesic@verizon.net or 703-867-5908.

#### Parent's Club

The Parent's Club has recently started meeting on a regular basis again. The goal of the Parent's Club is to assist the Sunday School in any way necessary. We welcome any new parents who may be interested in supporting the children of our parish. We anticipate that in the coming year, the Parent's Club will assist with some St. Sava preparations, organize a fundraiser for orphanages in Ser-

bia, and coordinate the Sunday School picnic in June. The Parent's Club will also be making sure that classrooms are completely stocked and ready to go as a part of the church renovation.

#### **National Oratorical Festival**

The Serbian Orthodox Church is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oratorical Festival. This year's theme is LIFE and SALVA-TION: Why Being Orthodox In Today's World is Crucial. If you would like a copy of the guidelines and discussion points for the festival, please contact the Eastern Diocese Coordinator, Becky Kesic. All Youth Participant papers should be submitted to the Youth Ministry Committee no later than Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Resume and Permission to Travel must be included with the Participant's paper. Papers can be e-mailed to becky.kesic@verizon.net or mailed to: Becky Kesic, Eastern Diocese Coordinator, 103 Kale Ave, Sterling, VA 20164. Each paper will be reviewed by the National Youth Ministry Committee. Participants will be notified by January 25th that they have been selected as a finalist qualifier. The top five finalist qualifiers will appear at the Diocesan Assembly in North Miami which will be held on February 27 - 28, 2009 and will present their paper to the judges on site. The winning participant will become a finalist for the National Oratorical Festival in Canton. Ohio in August, 2009.

# FROM THE PARISH RECORD (JULY-DECEMBER 2008)

# **BAPTISMS**

- PETAR ALEKSA CEMOVIC, son of Marko & Jennine Cemovic of Reston, VA
- ALEKSANDAR MANCIC, Silver Spring, MD
- TEODORA STAMENKOVIC, daughter of Srecko&Natalija Stamenkovic,AlexandriaVA
- JELENA JOVANOVIC, Reston, VA
- MILOS AMANOVIC, Charlottesville, VA
- AMELIA LISA BIZIC, daughter of Peter and Colleen Bizic, Aldie, VA
- MARA VERA SIMIC, daughter of Aleksandar & Aleksandra Simic, Reston, VA
- NEVENA DAVIDOVIC, daughter or David& Korana Davidovic, Olney, MD
- DUNJA DAVIDOVIC, daughter of David & Korana Davidovic, Olney, MD

# **MARRIAGES**

- MILAN POPOVICH & NANCY OSMOND, Washington, DC
- ALEKSANDAR MANCIC & DIJANA SKENDEROVIC, Silver Spring, MD
- MARK MARTIN SIMON SMITH & ELIZABETH AL-EXANDRA OLIVERA TERZIC, Hong Kong, China
- IGOR STEFANOVIC & ANA DJORDJEVIC, Reston, VA
- MILOS AMANOVIC & BILJANA SPASOJEVIC, Charlottesville, VA

### **BURIALS**

- MELISSA MUSULIN, Richmond, VA—Westhamton Memorial Park (Richmond)
- VEROSLAVA KUKIC, McLean, VA—Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, VA
- DRAGI DEJANOVIC, Frederick, MD—Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, DC

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# **Coming Events**

(for details see page 5)

Tuesday/Utorak, January 6, 2009, 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE / BADNJE VEČE

Wednesday/Sreda, January 7, 2009, 10AM

CHRISTMAS DAY / ROĐENJE HRISTOVO

Presbyterian Church (10301 River Rd., Potomac, MD)

Saturday/Subota, January 31, 2009

ST. SAVA CELEBRATION / SVETOSAVSKA PROSLAVA

Vespers at 5PM followed by dinner and program with KALEMEGDAN orchestra St. Andrews Ukrainian Orth. Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD

Saturday/Subota, February 28, 2009

ST LUKE GALA AT MAYFLOWER HOTEL, Washington DC (More info later)



# ST. LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10660 River Road

Phone: 301-299-2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.svluka.org

