



ST. LUKE NEWSLETTER

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

April 2009

Volume 8, Issue 1

Dear Readers:

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This edition of the St Luke's Newsletter is almost entirely in English. I am sure that you all realize how translating a text from English to Serbian (or vice versa) takes a significant amount of time, effort, and skills. The Newsletter is usually put together by one or two persons only, and I do not feel that it is reasonable to continue this effort on a regular basis. I apologize in advance to the ones who do not read English, and can only hope that they will understand.

Dr. Ivan Aksentijevich

EASTER ADDRESS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Looking ahead to the coming Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord, which ordained for the salvation of mankind as pointing to the general resurrection of the entire human race. It is clear from reading many parts of the scripture, that at the close of the age, all of man will be resurrected, some to the resurrection of glory, and some to the resurrection of judgment. The judgment that we shall all face is in the form of God's infinite love being poured out on us, with those unwilling to accept it unconditionally continuing to exist in their state of torment. Those who love, profess, and in all ways accept God's grace in their earthly lives, will undoubtedly ac-

cept it in the afterlife as well, and therefore be judged as children of God. We must remember that these forms of existence are merely continuations of how we live out our earthly lives. Are we focusing the time we have on this earth on the divine, which is immortal, or on the earthly, which has an expiration date? By aligning ourselves with the divine, we set out on a course of immortality, hoping eventually to achieve theosis, or a divine state for our own existence in the cosmos.

God had to sacrifice His Son (in essence, Himself) on the Cross in order to reveal this great mystery in a way that is understandable and acceptable to man. What greater sacrifice can there be, and what

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**If you are not
able to attend
our events,
please use at-
tached enve-
lope to send us
your donation.**

Thank you!

(Continued from page 1)

greater manifestation of love than for the Immortal to become mortal? It is in this sacrifice and manifestation of love that we commune from the Holy Chalice, allowing it to fill our hearts and therefore our entire existence, transforming our identities from that which we comprehend in the earthly form to that which is divine, therefore setting us firmly on the path to immortality. We acknowledge and confess our sins in order to cleanse ourselves from that which enslaves us, clearing the path for the journey to divinity.

All of this, dear brothers and sisters, is God's greatest gift to mankind. It is a gift that is infinitely greater than anything we can offer to our own children, as our love has limits, but God's love has none. It is up to us to accept this with a pure heart, recognizing and experiencing the saving action of our Lord. These "all-revered days" in the words of St. Gregory Dialogos are a reminder for us to wake up and remember the purpose of our existence.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners:

You all understand the historical importance our faith and church has had over time in preserving our identity, culture and heritage. Whether you agree or not, it is along those lines that the majority of you are baptized, and now celebrate Easter, Christmas, and your family Slava. Yet, while this church has brought all of you so much, it is embarrassing to say that this church is effectively been supported and organized by only a hand full of people. It is incredible that despite the fact that there are more than 440 families on this Newsletter distribution list, there are only about 90 families that are members of our parish.

I do not have to remind you that more than ever before, we need your financial help. Many of you already know that we expect and are likely to receive the necessary building permit to start con-

Wishing all you a most blessed and prayerful Holy Week and Pascha,

Fr. Aleksa

NOTE: On Easter Sunday, the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George in Bethesda, as last year, has graciously extended their brotherly invitation to us to serve our Paschal Divine Liturgy in their large church. We are reminded however, that the behavior of a number of our people last year was of great concern to them, as it should be to us. Therefore, I ask all the faithful brothers and sisters of this parish to gently, and with brotherly and sisterly love, to teach and remind those that congregate outside during church services with cigarettes, food, and drinks, to come inside and be part of our great liturgical celebration. We should not be polluting the grounds of our most generous sister church with cigarette butts, plastic cups, food wrappers, easter egg shells or any other debris.

struction of our church building in the late summer or early fall. However, in these times when the financial world is crashing, obtaining a loan will be very difficult and will require us to demonstrate a strong ability to pay it back. The only way for us to demonstrate this ability is by showing a strong and steady revenue stream. This is a huge problem for our parish because our parishioner gives relatively very little (in contrast to the average church parishioner in Montgomery County that gives about 800 - 1000 dollars per year, our parishioner gives 140 dollars!) and because our main source of revenue has always been generated by sporadic events.

This is why I would like to remind you and encourage you all to become members of our church and to donate on a regular basis through our automatic withdrawal program. For membership information, you can contact me or Father Aleksa. For

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automatic withdrawal, you can return the form (see below) to Father Aleksa or myself with a copy of a voided check.

port is for the growth of our parish. So whether you are active or not, I am asking you to be as generous as you can.

Happy Easter.

I am hopeful that all of you realize how much your support is needed and how important this sup-

Dr. Ivan Aksentijevich

Please transfer my monthly gifts from my checking account. A check for my first gift is enclosed. I understand my future gifts will be transferred directly from my account.
(St. Luke Church will pay 75¢ per transfer).

Option 1

Please transfer my gift of \$ _____
twice a month on the 5th and 20th.

Option 2

Please transfer my gift of \$ _____
once a month on the ☐ 5th or ☐ 20th.

Please Print

Church Name St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington DC

Name _____ Env# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Signature **X** _____ Date _____

Record gift amount here and retain for your records.

\$ _____

☐ Once a Month

☐ Twice a Month

Your gift will be transferred from your checking account to your church account each month as specified. A record of your gift will appear on your bank statement. You can increase, decrease, or suspend your giving by calling your church. All transfers originating as ACH transactions from members account comply with U.S. law.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THRU MARCH 31, 2009

Account	Income	Expenses	Net
Operating Fund	71,283	63,945	7,338
Mortgage Fund	6,194		
Principal		3,511	
Interest		10,324	
Total	77,477	77,780	(303)
Building Fund	1,725		
Renovation Pledges	9,215		
Renovation expenses		18,800	
Total	88,417	96,580	(8,163)

As you can see through the first three months, we are barely able to pay our normal operating expenses (303). The real problem is that we are moving ahead with our plans for the renovation but the money is not coming in to support this effort. It will be very difficult to convince a Bank to loan us the money.

KOLO ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its annual meeting in March, the Kolo Sestara Mala Gospojina elected new officers. They are:

- **Julika Bararic, president**
- **Draginja Djurickovic-Fish, vice-president**
- **Dobрила Lojanica, secretary**
- **Mira Jovanovic, treasurer**
- **Daca Dabic, membership secretary**
- **Seka Grcic and Desanka Sremac, officers-at-large**
- **Sigi Beck-Hodjera, coffee hour coordinator**

Congratulations to these devoted women, who lead other loving women in service to our God and our parish.

OPROSTAJ SA AMBASADOROM IVANOM VUJACICEM

U utorak 31 marta održan je u Wilson Institution oproštajni sastanak sa Dr. Ivanom Vujacicem dosadašnjim ambasadorom Srbije u Vasingtonu.



Sastankom je predsedavao Martin Slesinger, Direktor Instituta za Istocno-evropski naucni program. Ambasador Vujacic je održao jedno kratko izlaganje u kome je preneo svoje utiske za vreme punih šest godina koliko je služio u Vasingtonu. Potom je bio pozdravljen od prisutnih iz Vilson Institution i ostalih americkih zvanicnika. U ime srpske kolonije pozdravili su ga Dr. Zoran Hodjera i Dr. Ivan Aksentijevic, predsednik Crkveno-skolske opštine Sveti Luka, i zahvalili su mu se za njegov vrlo bliski odnos sa srpskom kolonijom i crkvom Sveti Luka. Drina Rajic mu je urucila u

ime srpske kolonije sliku koji je uradio nas poznati umetnik Bogdan Miscevic. Posle izlaganja priredjen je prijem u cast ambasadora i njegove supruge na kome je prisustvovao, medju ostalima i Obrad Kesic. Ambasador Vujacic i njegova supruka Jelica Petrovic-Vujacic bili su vrlo rado vidjeni medju Srbima u Vasingtonu i pocastvovani njihovim dolaskom u srpske domove.

Novi ambasador Srbije u Vasingtonu je g. Vladimir Petrovic, dosadasnji ministar savetnik za politicka pitanja u ambasadi i zamenik ambasadora. Pre petnaestak godina on je radio u Cikagu i imao dobre kontakte u tadašnjoj politickoj sredini, ukljucujuci tu i danasnjeg Pretsednika Baraka Obamu.



Vladimir Petrovic

Ambasadoru Vujacicu zelimo sretan put u Srbiju a novom ambasadoru Vladimiru Petrovicu dobrodoslicu u nasu sredinu.

Z.H.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

Tues. 7	ANNUNCIATION (BLAGOVESTI) Divine Liturgy in chapel at 10AM	Sat. 18	GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY (VELIKA SUBOTA) Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9AM---Divine Liturgy of St. Basil• 7-7:45PM Confessions will be heard• 8PM---Resurrection Matins
Sat. 11	RAISING OF LAZARUS (LAZAREVA SUBOTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10AM--Divine Liturgy in the chapel• 6PM--Vespers in the chapel with blessing of palms and willows, distribution of bells to children.	Sun. 19	RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (VASKRSENJE HRISTOVO) St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30AM Paschal Divine Liturgy
Sun. 12	PALM SUNDAY- ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM (CVETI-- ULAZAK U JERUSALIM) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divine Liturgy at 10AM at Beverly Farms	Mon & Tue 20 & 21	BRIGHT MONDAY and TUESDAY (VASKRSNI PONEDELJAK I UTORAK) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10AM Divine Liturgy in the chapel
Thurs. 16	GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (VELIKI CETVRTAK) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10AM--Divine Liturgy of St. Basil in the chapel• 8PM---Matins with reading of 12 Gospels in the chapel	On the following feast days upcoming, Divine Liturgy will be served in the chapel at 10AM:	
Fri. 17	GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY (VELIKI PETAK) Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4PM----Royal Hours (Carski Casovi)• 8PM---Matins with Lamentations• Confessions after services	Wed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. George (Djudjevdan)
		Tues. May 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Basil of Ostrog (Sv. Vasilije Ostroski)
		Thurs. May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (VAZNESENJE HRISTOVO-- SPASOVDAN)

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MONASTERY TRIP

On Saturday, 21 April 2009, our Sunday

us around the property, including several anti-
quated relics, and the beautiful chapel
dedicated to St. Nikodim.



We continued our journey to the Monas-
tery, where the nuns greeted us with a
lovely lunch and the children got to ask
questions about life in the monastery and
their everyday routines. We talked to the
nuns about coming back again and for
the children to help out around the Mon-
astery with some special projects.

The following morning we all attended
the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ser-

School children with their parents, led by
Father Aleksa, headed north to visit the
Greek Orthodox Monastery of The Nativity
of the Theotokos in Saxonburg, Pa.

After a long journey, our first stop was
at our Diocesan Center. Bishop Mitrophan
was out of the country so we were kindly
welcomed by Deacon Dragoslav Kotic, who
served lunch to our hungry pilgrims, showed



bian Orthodox Church in Monroeville, PA. Fa-
ther Aleksa assisted Prota Dragoljub Malich in
serving the Divine Liturgy, and gave the homily
for the day, while our children joined the local
children in attending Sunday School. After see-
ing some familiar friendly faces and being served
a delicious lunch, we headed back home.

We all had a great time and we look forward to
our next trip!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-mail Addresses Help to Cut Communication Costs

Would you like to help save the environment while assisting the parish to save money? Would you prefer to receive most parish communications, including this newsletter, by e-mail?

You easily can do so by sending an e-mail to the parish president Ivan Aksentijevich president@svluka.org with "E-mail Me!" in the subject line.

Thanks for helping the parish control costs related to mailings, such as postage, paper, printing costs, and the people power needed to collate, stuff envelopes, and carry to the post office. And a tree or two also thanks you for saving their lives!

Smoking, Loitering Not Permitted at Easter Services

This year during St. Luke's Easter services, smoking will not be permitted on the church grounds of St. George Orthodox Church on Bradley Boulevard, where our services will take place. This is a change in policy from last year. Also, loitering near or within the entrances leading to the church service venues is forbidden because of fire safety concerns when the exits are blocked by chatting parishioners.

Please be considerate of the conditions under which we, the visiting parish, must abide so we can be assured of cordial relations with our hosting parish!

Annual Bake Sale Tempts Parishioners to Sin: Gluttony!

The Kolo Sestara Mala Gospojina will be hosting a bake sale Sunday, May 10 concurrently with the Djurdjevdan picnic at our church property to raise funds for various projects.

Please make sure to come early to buy the fantastic home made nut rolls, gibanica, tortes, breads, strudels, and other delights made from heirloom recipes.

These home made goodies make wonderful presents for friends and neighbors, work colleagues, and of course, sweet treats for our own families. Come

early, come buy! And give your mothers, aunts and sisters a break from baking!

St. Luke Youth Group

The St Luke Youth group (high school and above) has been formed. They are meeting every Sunday after church. You can access them on facebook. The purpose of this group is to meet together through social and volunteer activity. If interested, contact Nadia Aksentijevich at naksentijevich@gmail.com. Anyone is welcome.

St Luke Social Action—Help with Taxes

St Luke Tax return action took place in March. We helped 4-5 persons with filing their tax return.

St Luke Chess Club

On April 25th, St Luke's school of chess / chess club will start under the direction of Dr. Zoran Duric. Classes will be held at our River Road property from 10am to 12pm (4/25/09). All are welcome! Children 1st grade and lower need to have parent supervision. All interested call Zoran Duric at 703.978.4481 or email him at duric@cox.net.

Second Gala Event

The 2nd Annual Serbian Gala evening was a huge success. More than 140 tickets were sold and the net profit was around \$13,000. Next year Gala will be held on February 13th at the Mayflower hotel. Announcements will be made in due time.



FROM THE PARISH RECORD (JANUARY 1- MARCH 31, 2009)**BAPTISMS**

DRAZEN SUZIC (adult), Newport News, VA

Kum: Spiro Jokic, Charlottesville, VA

NIKOLA AMISCH DRAGIC, Son of Aleksandar & Anne Dragic, Myersville, MD

Kum: Dane Milinovic, Paris, France

SANDRA USANOVIC (adult), Charlottesville, VA

Kuma: Nina Radakovic, Charlottesville, VA

SANJA USANOVIC (adult), Charlottesville, VA

Kuma: Ana Radakovic, Charlottesville, VA

ANA VUCKOVIC, daughter of Dragan & Ivana Vuckovic, Falls Church, VA

Kuma: Ljubica Popovich, Bethesda, MD

ZLATAN BECA (adult), Bethesda, MD

Kum: Aleksandar Pavlovic

MARRIAGES

SPIRO JOKIC & ZELJANA AMANOVIC (both of Charlottesville, VA)

Kumovi: Drazen Suzic & Tamara Zarubica

SRDJAN VIDENOVIC & ANETA NIKOLIC

Kumovi: Sasa Milutinovic & Miljan Radulovic



Gostimir and Drina Rajic proudly announce their son, Alexander Sasha Rajic's, graduation from George Mason

University in May of 2008. Sasha received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Congratulations Sasha!

We're happy to announce the birth of Milutin (Kica) Stojimirovic on Feb 23th 2009. Happy parents are Zvezdana and Aleksandar Stojimirovic from Baltimore, MD.

**2009 -2010 SCHEDULE (SOME OF THESE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Sun. 4/12	Palm Sunday	Sun. 9/13	Beginning of Sunday School Year; picnic
4/13-4/18	Holy Week	Sun. 9/20	Kolo Slava (Birth of Theotokos); Gala to be announced
Sun. 4/19	Easter Sunday	Sat. 10/3	Boat Ride on Potomac
Sun 4/26	After school picnic for children	Sun. 10/4	Parents Assoc. Slava (Martyrs Faith, Hope & Love)
Sun. 5/10	St. George Day. Bake Sale. Picnic	Sat. 10/31	St. Luke Day
Sun. 6/7	End of Sunday School Year - Pentecost	11/26-11/29	Thanksgiving Weekend
Mon. 6/15	Apostles Fast Begins	Sun. 12/6	Annual Assembly
Sun. 6/28	Vidovdan - St. Lazarus lunch	Wed. 1/6	Christmas Eve
Sun. 7/12	St. Peter & Paul Day (End of Apostles Fast); picnic	Thur. 1/7	Christmas Day
Sun. 8/2	Diocesan Days	1/23/10	St Sava Celebration
Fri. 8/14	Beginning of Dormition Fast	1/27/10	St Sava Day
Fri. 8/28	End of Dormition Fast; picnic	2/13/10	Third Serbian Gala Dinner

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

SIGI BECK

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Coming Events

(for details see page 5)

Sun. 19 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (VASKRSENJE HRISTOVO)

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD

9:30AM Paschal Divine Liturgy

Sat. 11 6PM VRBICE at St Luke chapel

Thurs. 16 GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (VELIKI CETVRTAK)

- 10AM--Divine Liturgy of St. Basil in the chapel
- 8PM---Matins with reading of 12 Gospels in the chapel

Fri. 17 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY (VELIKI PETAK)

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- 9AM---Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
- 7-7:45PM Confessions will be heard
- 8PM---Resurrection Matins

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10660 River Road

Phone: 301-299-2704

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www.svluka.org

