

# СРПСКИ ГЛАСНИК / SERBIAN HERALD



## St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

*Lenexa, Kansas*

New Gracanica – Midwestern America Diocese

Fr. Radomir Plavsic, Parish Priest – Свештеник Радомир Плавшић- Парох

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**Church School  
St. Sava Celebration**

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**Kumovi  
Nikola Cubric  
Jackson Kimbell**



## A message from Fr. Radomir ...

Dear Reader,

If you want to skip ahead to the other articles in this issue of the *Glasnik*, I'll give you the punchline now: **I'm writing to tell you to come to church and take Holy Communion this Pascha** (April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

Do you know why I keep badgering you about taking Communion? Because you desperately need it - for protection. Because whether you know it or not, you're involved in desperate fight for your eternal life. This battle rages on daily – even when you're asleep safe in your bed.

The reason that the spiritual world is up in arms because of you, is that you have something that is so precious that it's more valuable than the entire world. It is your immortal soul.

And the devil will employ any tricks in his considerable arsenal of lies to get his talons on you. The scary thing is that on your own - without Christ - you *will* inevitably fail and become the devil's prey. Simply because you're fighting against an enemy who is:

1. Invisible (that's hard enough to deal with)
2. Cunning
3. Overwhelming in numbers
4. And has thousands upon thousands of years of collective evil experience.

The enemy is much more prepared, much smarter, and more evil than even your least favorite politician.

The bad news of spiritual life is this: **you have terrible odds against you.** If you think about any kind of sports competition, something like this would never ever be legal. Just imagine: How would it be possible to let a professional athlete compete with a toddler? And we are all toddlers when it comes to spiritual life.

If you think that you want out of this fight – it's already too late. You're baptized. You or your godparents spit on the head of the devil during the rite of baptism. And *he will never forgive you for that.* And for choosing Christ over him.

If you think you can placate with him, forget it now. Unlike God, the devil doesn't have mercy. He is incapable of it. He will use you and throw you out to rot in hell. Your only hope is to seek God's help – not tomorrow, not next year, not on your death bed, but *now.* Before Pascha.

Before you decide that I'm advocating for you to just give up, I want to share something with you.

***Holy Communion is the one and only thing that can save you in this life and lead you to eternal life. Because when you take communion, you become one with God.***

As long as you want to fight this terrible enemy whose dearest wish is your constant torment and eternal destruction... you must know that you have a serious advantage on your side: God Himself. Which means that and **you'll never have to fight alone.**

With God, you have **unbeatable** odds FOR you – as long as you stay in that partnership with Christ.

He will *always* help you, when you do the minimum that He has asked you to do: leave your sins behind by repenting of them, and become *one* with Jesus Christ– the person who is ALWAYS on your side, no matter what you've done, and no matter how many lies you've been told by the devil.

***When Christ is with you, nobody can defeat you.*** You will never be abandoned. You will never be alone. And you will never die an eternal death.

But you have to follow the system Jesus gave us 2000 years ago. This is the same exact system our Church has been following ever since. And if you need proof that it works, look at the myriad of Orthodox saints.

Do you think *St George* ever said: “Jesus doesn't care if I fast, if I don't keep my baptismal vows, if I commit adultery once in a while? Doesn't the Bible say that God is love? That must mean that I get a *carte blanche* to do anything I want?”

St Nicholas the Wonderworker, our patron great martyr George, St Sava –are your *proof* that Christ's system works. And that you have to *fight* for your salvation despite the terrible odds.

And that's why I keep telling you to please, arm yourself with the shield of Jesus Christ's Body and Blood. So God's Blood mixes with yours, burning away your sins, and the devil has no power over you anymore.

I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes. I hope you remember it and find it useful. St Maximos the Confessor (VI-VII's century) said: “Together, God and I constitute an overwhelming majority.”

So – be with God. Come to Church, and do what the Church- established by Jesus Christ Himself - tells you to do: avail yourself of all the opportunities for salvation that our Church gives us. Confess your sins, pray with all your heart, and take Holy Communion regularly to be ONE with Jesus Christ. Especially since Pascha (Orthodox Easter) is coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you in line for confession and communion there. Defeat the devil by the power of your God Jesus Christ! Christ is Risen!

Fr. Radomir Plavsic  
Parish Priest  
St. George Serbian Orthodox Church  
Lenexa, Kansas

Драги читаоче,

Ако желите да пређете на друге чланке у овом броју Гласника, сада ћу вам рећи сажето шта је најважније у мом писму: **пишем да вам кажем да дођете у цркву и да се причестите овог Васкрса** (16. априла 2023.).

Знате ли зашто стално вас гањам да се причестите? Зато што вам је очајнички потребан - за заштиту. Јер, знали ви то или не, укључени сте у велику борбу за свој вечни живот. Ова битка траје свакодневно - чак и када спавате безбедно у свом кревету.

Разлог зашто се духовни свет диже у руке због вас је тај што имате нешто што је толико драгоцено да је вредније од целог света. То је твоја бесмртна душа.

А ђаво ће употребити било какве трикове у свом значајном арсеналу лажи да би вас дотерао својим кандама. Најстрашније је то што ћете сами - без Христа - *неизбежно* пропасти и постати ђавољи плен. Једноставно зато што се борите против непријатеља који је:

- Невидљив (са тим је довољно тешко да се носи)
- Лукав
- Огроман у броју
- И има хиљаде и хиљаде година искуства колективног зла.

Непријатељ је много спремнији, много паметнији и злији чак и од вашег најмање омиљеног политичара.

Лоша вест духовног живота је следећа: **имате страшне квоте против вас**. Ако размишљате о било каквом спортском такмичењу, овако нешто никада не би било легално. Замислите само: како би било могуће пустити професионалног спортисту да се такмичи са малим дететом? А сви смо малишани када је у питању духовни живот.

Ако мислите да желите да изађете из ове борбе – већ је касно. Ви сте крштени. Ви или ваши кумови плували су ђаволу на главу током обреда крштења. *И он вам то никада неће опростити.* И што сте изабрали Христа над њим.

Ако мислите да можете да се смирите са њим, заборавите то сада. За разлику од Бога, ђаво нема милости. Он је за то неспособан. Искористиће те и избациће те да трунете у паклу. Ваша једина нада је да тражите Божију помоћ – не сутра, не следеће године, не на самрти, већ сада. Пре Васкрса.

Пре него што одлучите да се залажем за то да једноставно одустанете, желим да поделим нешто са вама.

**Свето Причешће је једина ствар која вас може спасити у овом животу и одвести у живот вечни. Јер када се причестите, постајете један са Богом.**

Докле год желите да се борите против овог страшног непријатеља чија је најдража жеља ваша стална мука и вечно уништење... морате знати да имате озбиљну предност на својој страни: сам Бог. Што значи да **никада нећете морати да се борите сами.**

Са Богом, имате ненадмашне шансе ЗА вас – све док останете у том партнерству са Христом.

Он ће вам *увек* помоћи, када урадите минимум који је од вас тражио: оставите своје грехе покајући се за њих и постаните *једно* са Исусом Христом – особом која је УВЕК на вашој страни, без обзира шта сте учинили, и без обзира колико лажи вам је рекао ђаво.

*Када је Христос са вама, нико вас не може победити.* Никада нећете бити напуштени. Никада нећете бити сами. И никада нећете умрети вечној смрћу.

Али морате следити систем који нам је Исус дао пре 2000 година. То је исти систем који наша Црква следи од тада. А ако вам треба доказ да ради, погледајте безброј православних светаца.

Мислите ли да је *Свети Ђорђе* икада рекао: „Исуса није брига да ли постим, ако не држим своје завете крштења, ако с времена на време учиним прељубу? Зар Библија не каже да је Бог љубав? То мора да значи да добијам *потпуно слободу* да радим све што желим?”

Свети Николај Чудотворац, наш заштитник великомученик Георгије, Свети Сава – ваш су *доказ* да Христов систем функционише. И да се морате *борити* за своје спасење упркос страшним изгледима.

И зато вам стално говорим наоружајте се штитом Тела и Крви Исуса Христа. Дакле, Божја Крв се меша са вашом, сагоревајући ваше грехе, и ђаво више нема власт над вама.

Оставићу вам један од мојих омиљених цитата. Надам се да ћете га запамтити и да ће вам бити од користи. Свети Максим Исповедник (6-7 век) је рекао: „Заједно, Бог и ја чинимо надмоћну већину.

Дакле – будите са Богом. Дођите у Цркву и чините оно што вам Црква – установљена од самог Исуса Христа – каже: искористите све могућности за спасење које нам пружа наша Црква. Исповедајте своје грехе, молите се свим срцем и редовно се причешћујте да бисте били ЈЕДНО са Исусом Христом. Поготово што се 16. априла ближи Васкрс (православна Пасха).

Надам се да ћу вас тамо видети у реду за исповест и причешће. Поразите ђавола силом Бога свога Исуса Христа! Христос Васкрсе!

о. Радомир Плавшић  
Парох  
Српска православна црква Светог Ђорђа  
Ленекса, Канзас

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT ...**

Hristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

I hope you had a very spiritual and fulfilling Great Lent leading to our Greatest Celebration of all, Holy Pascha.

As usual, the year is moving so fast as we now are four months in. We will be celebrating our Church Slava on May 7<sup>th</sup> with our Honored Kuma, Mary Jean Venema. One month later, it will be our annual SerbFest on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will take all of our church community to work together to make it another success. Please contact Mark Milosovich or Seja Bajich-Bock to see what you can do to help. We are also hoping to get donations to help pay for all of the meats used for the fest. Please provide your donations to Jelena Miller or Pero Bajich.

I always like to give a recap of the first three months of the year, so here goes.

Badnje Vece was celebrated to a full church and we were blessed to have our children sing several Christmas Carols under the direction of Bozhi and Alexis Bajich. It was so nice to see the number of children participating from the very young to the seniors in High School. Thank you parents for not only bringing your children, but letting them know that this is an important part of their heritage.

Bozic was not attended as well, but those who did come were able to share the birth of our Lord and Savior with our St. George community. In today's day and age, we as parents need to show our children by setting the example for them to follow, coming to Church and putting Christ first is our number one priority.

Our Nova Godina celebration came next. Luckily, we finally had some decent weather that allowed everyone to come and celebrate the New Year. Thanks to all of those who not only came, but brought or prepared the food and drink for everyone to enjoy. The music was provided by the Bajich Brothers Orchestra and the end of the night sing-a-long was enjoyed by all.

Our Sveti Sava celebration showed off the talents of our youth. The singing, dancing, and presentations of the Deklamacija were some of the best ever. Our own Camp Director, Marija Bajich provided a brief pitch for our EOYC camp and appealed to our parents to send their kids to camp. It is one of the best experiences they can have and will meet friends that they will stay in touch with for life. The honored Kumovi for the day, were Jackson Kimbell and Nikola Cubric. Their personal speeches left everyone not only laughing, but having a sense of pride to see that their relationship to our St. George Family has been such a huge part of the lives. What great examples for our future graduates to follow.

We again hosted the EOYC camp dinner, headed by Dayna Meyers and our Kolo President, Shauna Bajich. Although the attendance was down from our neighboring churches, it was still a successful fund raiser for EOYC.

We also hosted the Vespers and Dinner for the third week of Great Lent. There were 9 Priests in attendance and over 125 people. Thank you to the Choir for singing the responses and providing a very spiritual experience. Also, thank you to all of our Kolo members who provided the delicious meal that followed. People stayed and enjoyed themselves for over 3 hours. These services have been growing every year, so if you haven't attended, please plan to do so next year.

Our Pascha celebration includes the most spiritual and uplifting services of the year. Please plan on attending as we celebrate our Lord's Victory over Death.

In Christ, Peter Bajich, Church President





**KOLO SRPSKIH SESTARA “SV. PETKA” ...**

Happy New Year! I hope that 2023 brings health, happiness and joy to all!!! First of all, I would like to thank Seja Bajich for her leadership in 2022, I would call it a true success! As we start this year, we have celebrated Sveti Sava and hosted the EOYC Luncheon, thank you to Dayna Meyers and her team for preparing and providing the meals for both of these events. On March 19th, we hosted a delicious meal for Pan Orthodox Sunday Vespers, thank you to Donna Bajich and Lisa Gribble for coordinating. Additionally, thank you to Donna Bajich for organizing the coffee hours. Our parish really enjoys having a little something to share

with one another on Sundays.

As usual, we will also be collecting donations for Pascha flowers. If you would like to contribute please give your donation to Donna Lemley or myself. Hvala!

We are starting to discuss and plan for St. George’s Day and SerbFest, I will forward information in the coming weeks.

We do have a new form of communication.....a new Face Book Page to allow our Kolo members to stay updated on all the fun we are having! Thank you so much to Milana Mundweil for setting it up. If you are not a member of the Kolo and are interested please give me a call (913-634-1921), email (svpetkac@gmail.com) or we can chat on Sundays!

Do not forget to pay your \$10 annual dues, which can be given to Donna Lemley or myself.

The Kolo Board for 2023 is the following:

- President                      Shauna Bajich
- Vice President              Michelle Kimbell
- Treasurer                     Donna Lemley
- Secretary                     Jelena Ozegovic
- Members at Large         Dayna Meyers and LeAnn Hinkle

I look forward to this new year! Thank you for your support!

Shauna Bajich, Kolo President

**ST. GEORGE CHOIR ...**



Greetings from your church choir! The start of the New Year has brought another busy period for the choir. We held our annual election of officers in December, the new choir board is: President Brad Hijaz, Vice President Harold Kanatzar, Secretary Miryana Cubric, and Treasurer Beverly Sobotka. On Sunday, March 26 we observed our Choir Slava, St. Nikolai of Zica. This year’s honored Kuma was

Seja Bajich-Bock. Seja has been a member of the choir for over 50 years, past officer of our board and chairs many of our annual events. Thank you, Seja for your dedication and support!

The next events being planned by the choir are the annual Fish Fry to be held Friday, April 7 from 5-8 pm along with our popular Posno Food and Bake Sale to be held Palm Sunday after church. As always, we thank you





for supporting these events as the income raised helps support our choir members travel expenses when we are invited to be a guest choir in another city or attend the annual SSF Festival in May. As we look to the summer the choir will again be sponsoring the “Serbia” booth at the annual Ethnic Festival at Swope Park, August 18-20. Looking to the fall, our choir will hold our annual choir concert September 23-24 with guests joining us from Lake Forest, IL and Omaha NE. In closing, may all our church parishioners and friends be blessed this Pascha Season and beyond!

Hristos Voskrese! Christ Is Risen!  
Brad Hijaz, Choir President



**CHURCH SCHOOL ...**

We have been blessed to have had church school classes since September 2022, with an average number of students of 25. A special appreciation goes to our teachers, Mira Cubric, Stephanie Mattivi, Leah Lemley and Joey Mattivi who continue to dedicate their own time planning lessons and organizing various activities for our children. On Badnja Vece, 34 students, led by Alexis & Bozhi Bajich, sang several beautiful songs to the delight of their parents and all those present at the Christmas Eve Service.

Our annual Sveti Sava Celebration was held on Sunday, January 29th, 2023, with 35 students participating and WOW, what an AWESOME Sveti Sava Celebration!!! Congratulations to our Kumovi, Nikola Cubric & Jackson Kimbell, who as expected, represented themselves and our Church School in an outstanding manner. What passionate speeches were given by both of them. Thanks again to Dayna Meyers and the Kolo for preparing and providing the delicious luncheon, our Choir for singing responses and of course Mary Jean Venema for our dessert! Please visit our church website for a photo gallery of this event and the live performance (thanks to Bob Cubric and Paul Milosovich). Additionally, our Folklore Groups shared performances, led by Peca and Mike Stancic. Thanks again to these two gentlemen for taking the time to teach our children. On Cheese Fare Sunday, the older students, led by Shauna Bajich, provided a variety of special delights for our luncheon to be shared by everyone in attendance.

We will continue to have church school every Sunday thru May, so I would encourage all parents to bring their children to take advantage of this great opportunity that our church provides in learning about our Orthodox values and teachings. Reminder, that EOYC Camp will start the week of July 30<sup>th</sup> thru August 5<sup>th</sup>, in which attendance and participation in church school will assist in reducing your student’s registration fee.

Paul Bajich  
Church School Superintendent





**Donations to our Church can be made on our website:**  
**www.st-george-church.org, given at Church, or mailed to our address:**  
**11001 Greenwood St., Lenexa, KS 66215.**

**ST. GEORGE LODGE #43 ...**



Hello parishioners of St. George. Christ is in our midst.

For nearly 120 years the Serb National Federation (SNF) has been selling Life Insurance, IRA’s, Annuities and now the new Single Premium Term to Age 30 (SPT30). SPT30 is a plan designed to provide level coverage at a low cost for children and young adults between the ages of 0-30, in face amounts of either \$10,000 (\$125.00 single premium) or \$20,000 (\$225.00 single premium).

We are proud to welcome the following new members to our St. George Lodge #43: Neven and Nina Shaw; Nick and John Mattivi; Cody, Cole, Cade and Camden Pleacher and Chelsea Beeves. Thank you to all for adding your children and grandchildren to the SNF! Also, any member can apply for SNF scholarship opportunities, from first year college students to trade schools to graduate school. Applications are available on: [snflife.org](http://snflife.org).

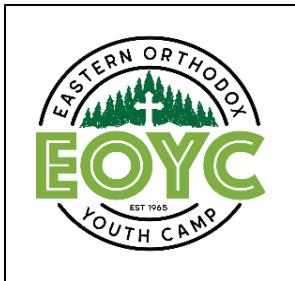
Our Lodge will be hosting our annual luncheon on Sunday, July 23rd and we hope that you will be able to attend. If you have any questions on what the Serb National Federation has to offer, please contact one of our officers listed below. Thank you for all your support throughout the years! Wishing all a Blessed Pascha!

Lodge Officers for 2023 are:

Stephen Lemley, President (816-599-0114)  
Beverly Sobotka, Treasurer

Mary Jean Venema, Vice President  
Donna Lemley, Secretary

**EOYC ...**



Hello all!! It’s time to mark your calendars, EOYC is back again this summer! This year EOYC will be July 30th – August 5th, 2023. Registration is already up and running for both campers and counselors. We will be back at Tall Oaks this year and are looking forward to another great year of camp! Marija Bajich and Katie Rowe are co-directors again this year and are

already planning lots of fun activities to go with this year’s theme! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding camp, please feel free to reach out to either Marija at [serbgirl.mb@gmail.com](mailto:serbgirl.mb@gmail.com) or Katie at [kcrowe23@gmail.com](mailto:kcrowe23@gmail.com).

Additionally, please mark your calendars for the EOYC General Board Meeting. It will be Sunday, April 23rd, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church this year. All who wish to attend are welcome.



### **SerbFest 2023 ...**

Our annual Serb Fest will be here soon. **Please keep the weekend of June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> available to assist with this fundraising event.**

Sign-ups for the food line are being handled by Mark Milosovich. If you are interested in helping with the outside grilling contact Pat Hinkle.

Cookies-pastries-desserts! Please use your talents and help us fill the cookie booth for SerbFest with our tasty delights. Start baking now and bring your cookies to the hall to freeze. Please see Mira Cubric and let her know what you're bringing and if you'd be willing to help with sales. If baking is not your thing, you can donate to the silent auction. Items may be themed baskets, sports items, gift cards, kitchen ware, just to name a few. Let Mira know if you are able to help with this as well. Our Church thanks you!

Once again, we are looking for corporate sponsors to be included in our menu. If you have friends who own businesses, or you have businesses you frequent, who would like to be a SerbFest sponsor, please contact Mark Milosovich for details.

If you are unable to attend this year's event, or would like make a donation to defray costs, visit our website at: [st-george-church.org](http://st-george-church.org) and click the Donate button. In the note option write SERBFEST. Or you can give a check to Jelena Miller.

Let's make this our best SerbFest ever! Please invite one new friend or family member who has not yet attended our event so we can share our Serbian heritage, culture, and hospitality with even more people. Be sure to wear your ethnic Serbian or SerbFest attire during SerbFest weekend.

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### **FINANCIAL REPORT ...**

As we review our Financials for the first 4 months of our fiscal year starting November 1, 2022 and ending February 28, 2023, we would like to bring to everyone's attention the following items:

- Weekly parishioner's offerings have decreased in comparison with the prior year, please continue to make your donations, which assist us in paying our normal operating expenses. As everyone is aware, the cost of utilities continues to rise.
- We are very proud that we collected \$9,426 from our parishioners for the Holy Archangel Michael Skete Monastery in Weatherby, MO to assist in the rebuilding of their facility due to the unfortunate fire that occurred during November, 2022. The Church Board approved an additional amount to make our total donation \$20,000.

- During the Christmas Season, we once again raised funds for families who are in need. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we collected a total of \$4,900, which was distributed among 10 families. These families truly appreciated these gifts.
- With regard to our building maintenance, we received a very generous donation from a parishioner, which will be used to assist us in the current maintenance projects that have been underway. This includes repairs to our church roof, windows, parking lot and sidewalks.
- We had to repair the cooler in the kitchen at a cost of nearly \$10, 000. Our Kolo generously donated funds to cover the entire amount of these repairs.

Please remember to make sure you have paid your annual dues of \$100 per member. If you have questions regarding your membership, please contact Jelena Miller.

If you have questions regarding our financials or the projects we are addressing, please contact a member of the church board.

Everyone is encouraged to share their time, talents and treasures. Together we will continue to build a strong St. George Serbian Orthodox Community.

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**Remembrance Day for the victims of 1999 NATO aggression on Friday, 24 March 2023, a central event was held at Saint George Square in Sombor, on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for the victims of 1999 NATO aggression.**

His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Porfirije served a memorial service to all the innocent victims of NATO aggression, which began with the bombing of our country on this day twenty-four years ago. Protopresbyter-stavrophoros Milivoj Mijatov and Protodeacon Radomir Vručinić concelebrated with His Holiness the Serbian Patriarch. After the memorial service, His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Porfirije delivered a befitting sermon:

“Esteemed Mr. President of the Republic of Serbia, esteemed Mr. President of the Republic of Srpska; dear Effendi Jusufspahić, dear Mufti and all other representatives of other religious communities; all respected representatives of various institutions from Serbia and from other countries who have come here; but, above all, dear brothers and sisters, dear people of Bačka, citizens of Srem, Banat and Bačka and, of course, dear citizens of Sombor, cherished Orthodox people, gathered tonight from almost every place in Bačka and a large number of places from Srem and Banat, but also from other regions, gathered to pray to the One God in Trinity, to pray for the victims of the inhuman and illegal aggression of the largest military power in history, in the most disproportionate war conflict, the most disproportionate balance of power on the battlefield since the beginning of time!

We all remember, from the city where the first bomb fell on this day in 1999, in these same early evening hours, when the first destructions of our wonderful and beloved Motherland, our nature, our property and our lives began, and when the first Serbian citizen was killed, named Radovan Medić, the first of thousands killed and wounded in this aggression. We remind ourselves and others as well that our people, but also the whole world, need peace most of all, but also mutual

understanding, awareness that there is room for every living soul under the sun, but also for every nation to organize itself and its life the way that suits it best.

Remembering those days when not only military facilities were destroyed by bombs in this city, but also factories, craft workshops, homes, schools, kindergartens, even the water springs from which the city of Sombor is supplied, while cruise missiles rushed through the surrounding sky-roads to deliver deadly cargo, we are doing the same thing that the people of Sombor did that day, that spring of war in 1999. And the people of Sombor have been gathering in this very square that bears the name – and that is certainly not accidental – of Saint George, but also through him of our God, the God of love, because it bears the name of the Holy Trinity. People gathered here, while encouraging and helping each other, have been, on the one hand, sending out a peace message to the world, and at the same time they have been praying for peace. We do the same today. We gathered to pray for all those who have suffered unjustly from criminal blasts from heaven, where blessings should come from. And instead of the angel of God bringing peace, “angels” came who sowed death. We pray even more fervently today, because today a military conflict is being waged in Europe, which threatens to drag the whole world into its abyssal vortex, and we pray that in Ukraine, where the war is being waged, the weapons that sow death and spill innocent blood will cease as soon as possible.

Some would like to push our Serbian people again – I would say jumping the queue – into conflicts, both among themselves and with others as well. Others, who do not understand that the Christian God is God of love and peace and that the Church lives and witnesses peace, preaching it to all people and nations, demand that the Church, through her positions and statements, actually provide cover to those who would push us into mutual misunderstandings, into new wars and conflicts.

I will repeat what I have said countless times, but also what, I am sure, all of us gathered here today unanimously think: the mission of the Church is to draw strength in every way, and above all, through prayer and faith in Christ, and to witness and build peace and mutual trust between people and nations through the power of Christ’s peace. *My peace I give to you* – said none other than the Lord Himself. This peace is not like the peace of those who constantly talk about peace and speak more and louder than others, and at the same time produce endless quantities of the deadliest instruments of death and, of course, taking advantage of that production, live incomparably better than others. Let us primarily build and preserve God’s peace within ourselves, and then we will be able to reconcile with other people, first with our closest relatives, with our neighbors, with friends and colleagues at work, with everyone, and then we will be able to be true messengers of peace.

We pray and struggle so that our suffering is not repeated, neither to us nor to anyone else. Let us persistently pursue the path of all conversations and negotiations, the path of dialogue that aims for at least basic mutual understanding among people. But let us not accept ultimatums and blackmails at any cost – ultimatums and blackmails that imply giving away oneself and one’s own, renouncing oneself and one’s own. At the same time, let us do our best to remain the last at the table where a solution is sought that will preserve peace for us and for everyone around us. If the spiral of evil starts here again, there is no doubt and no arguments are needed to confirm that we will all be complete losers. Speaking this, I am looking at the cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, the cross on which, following Christ, thousands and hundreds of thousands,

perhaps even millions of men, women and children from all over the world, but also thousands of men, women and children from our kin, were crucified... All the way from Saint Prince Lazar of Kosovo to Radovan Medić, Hariton of Crna Reka, to Milica Rakić and other children, young and old, who suffered death during the fateful year of 1999.

But, just as the Lord's Crucifixion and Passion on the cross got not only meaning and inexhaustible hope in the Resurrection, but also brought the ultimate essential victory, not only to latter innocent sufferings but also to every human activity, every work, creation, joy, love, and sorrow, so do we see the cross-resurrectional sacrifice of the victims of our kin as a pledge to our firm following Christ, firm walking in His footsteps of peace and love and undoubted, absolutely certain final victory.

Therefore, today we pray for all those who suffered death in the spring of 1999, innocent victims, for our compatriots, our brothers and sisters. May God forgive their souls and grant them eternal rest, and to all the people who suffered innocently during the NATO aggression against the Serbian people. May God grant us that the greatest Feast, the Feast of victory, the Feast of life and joy, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ find us in health, spiritual joy and every kind of good. May you all be blessed by God and live for many years!"

After the sermon of His Holiness, there was a program dedicated to the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of 1999 NATO Aggression, during which a musical and stage performance was performed that reminded those present of the difficult and sad days of the criminal attack and bombing of our country, when many of our compatriots suffered innocently. Mrs. Marijana Paskaš, daughter of Yugoslav army ensign Radovan Medić, who was the first victim of NATO aggression, addressed the audience and expressed her gratitude that such ceremonies preserve the memory of all those who lost their lives during the 78 days of bombing. The President of the Republic of Srpska, Mr. Milorad Dodik and the President of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Aleksandar Vučić also addressed to gathered people.

The marking of the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of NATO Aggression was attended by the highest state officials: Vladimir Orlić, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, ministers in the Government of Serbia, representatives of the Serbian Armed Forces, Bishop of Dacia Felix kyr Jeronim from the Romanian Orthodox Church, Bishop of Mohač kyr Damaskin, representatives of traditional Churches and religious communities, clergy and numerous people.

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### **Нема греха који је већи од љубави Божје Игуман НИКОН Атонски**

Ми не идемо у Рај не зато што грешимо. Знајте да је једини безгрешан био Христос и нико други. Не идемо у Рај не зато што чинимо грехе. Док смо живи и док су нам очи отворене, грешимо. **Отићи ћемо у Рај, јер се свим силама трудимо да постанемо оно што Христос жели да будемо, и овај напор ће нас спасити.** Да ли можемо победити искушење греха или не, не зависи од нас, него од Божје благодати.

**Морамо молити Господа да нам пошаље Своју благодат.** Ако нам Он пошаље Своју благодат, нећемо се љутити, чинити прељубу, красти и тако даље. **Ако Бог не пошаље Своју**



**благодат, нећемо моћи сами да савладамо своје грехе.** То не значи да нисмо оно што Христос жели да будемо. Ратујемо, боримо се против својих грехова. Видимо своје грехе и мислимо да ако престанемо да их чинимо, нећемо грешити ни умом, ни очима, ни ушима... Не смемо пасти у очај и рећи: „Увек упадам у замку истог греха. Значи, не могу ништа да постигнем: не радим ништа!“

Много чинимо: исповедамо се, смирујемо се, кајемо се... То је оно што ће нас спасити, а не врлина у којој смо успели. И ђаво има врлине. Једном сам, учинивши нешто добро, отишао да то кажем свом старцу. Тада сам био искушеник. Чим ме је угледао, одмах је схватио о чему се ради. И, пре него што сам успео било шта да изговорим, рекао је:

„Чедо моје, зашто да се хвалимо и гордимо? Тиме што постимо? Никада не можемо постити више од ђавола, јер он никада ништа не једе. Он је највећи посник. Или зато што смо будни и мало спавамо? Не можемо остати будни више од лукавог, јер он никад не спава. Да ли се уздржавамо, остајемо целомудрени из љубави према Христу? Имамо ли ту врлину? Али, никада нећемо постати целомудренији од ђавола, јер он не жели телесна задовољства: не требају му, јер нема тело.“

Био сам запањен! Колико год врлина имали, никада не можемо стећи оне које ђаво има. Али, да ли ће ове врлине спасити ђавола? Не. Неће спасити ни нас.

Шта хоћу да кажем? Да не треба да будемо добродетељни? Не. Борићемо се за стицање добродетељи. Хришћанин је увек добродетељан, али није сваки добродетељни човек обавезно хришћанин. Међу будистима, хиндусима, Јеврејима, протестантима постоје добродетељни људи. Али, **врлине саме по себи не спасавају. Спасићемо се покајањем и смирењем.** Смирењем нашег ума.

Али, смирење није само изговарање неколико празних речи, као што су: „Ко сама ја? Ја нисам ништа!“ и претварање да си јадан, само да би ти људи рекли: „Не, не, ти си добродетељан, имаш такву и такву врлину...“

Претварајући се да смо смирени, терамо друге да нас хвале.

**Право смирење није само говорити смирене речи, већ бити смиреноудар, имати смирен дух и не мислити да си бољи од других, јер се свако зло рађа, пре свега, у нашим умовима.**

Ако духовно падамо поново и поново, не треба очајавати. Постоји свештеник, ту је његов епитрахил, постоји покајање... То ће нас спасити – и ништа друго. Покајање и смирење ће нас спасити. Ђаво се овога плаши. Он има много врлина, али недостаје му једна – смирење, и то је створило ад и донело духовну пустош.

Управо да би показао силу смирења, како каже Свето Писмо, Христос је сишао с неба на земљу, смирио се и био послушан до Своје смрти (Фил 2, 8). Смирио се до те мере да је пристао да буде разапет. Овакво смирење нам је потребно да бисмо се спасили.

**Ми се трудимо да не паднемо у грех, али Бог нам намерно дозвољава да паднемо како бисмо стекли смирење. И док плачемо због греха који смо починили, Бог нам даје венац смирења због наше борбе са грехом. Стога никада не смемо очајавати.** И поставите себи правило: не понављати своје грехе. Реците себи: „Нећу се више љутити, нећу радити ово или оно...“ А онда реците: „Господе Исусе Христе, помилуј ме грешног!“ И приклоните главу под епитрахил свештеника.

Шта смо заиста стекли, схватићемо када дође време да станемо пред Бога. Човек мери ствари на један начин, а Бог – на други.

**Никада не треба очајавати. Ако нешто нисте постигли, то не значи да нисте успели. Нема греха који је већи од љубави Божје; нема греха који се Божјом љубављу не може надвладати. Исповедајте се, причешћујте се и не удаљавајте се од Цркве. Боље је**

**бити грешник у Цркви, него добродетељни човек ван ње. Боље је бити хулиган, и бити са Христом, него бити добар момак, и бити са ђаволом. Наша доброта нас неће спасити, али спасиће нас љубав коју имамо према Христу и духовна борба коју водимо ради Њега.**

Једном је неки монах заспао током богослужења. Монашки живот је суров, душа може тежити висинама, али тело понекад нема снаге да је следи. Служба се завршила и изашли смо из храма. Док смо чекали да нас позову у трпезарију, други монах, како би задиркивао свог брата, у шали му је рекао:

„Оче, видео сам да си заспао у храму.“

А он му одговори:

„Боље је спавати у Нојевој барци, него бити будан ван ње!“

Боље је да вас Христос спаси, чак и ако заспите у цркви, него да останете будни на улици за време потопа. **Покајање ће нас спасити, и ништо друго. Зато се морамо стално кајати. Зашто? Зато што стално грешимо. И не треба да се везујемо за грехе које чинимо.** Авва Доротеј каже да некога можете и погледом повредити и тако починити грех. Па, шта онда да радимо? Да се сакријемо у неку рупу и непомично чекамо док не умремо?

Чим ујутро отворите очи, реците: „Господе Исусе Христе, помилуј ме!“ и „Слава Богу!“ Тако ћете, без сумње, отићи у Рај. Јер када човек каже: „Господе Исусе Христе, помилуј ме!“, тиме показује да жели да буде са Христом, да неће грешити својом вољом, а ако сагреша, то је против његове воље. Као што каже Свети апостол Павле: *Али видим други закон у удима својима, који се супроти закону ума мојега, и заробљава ме законом грјеховнијем који је у удима мојима. Ја несрећни човек! Ко ће ме избавити од тијела смрти ове* (Рим 7, 23-24)? И ако видимо да ни Свети апостол Павле – онај који је могао васкрсавати мртве – није могао победити грех, хоћемо ли га ми победити? Не. Како ћемо се онда спасити? Спасићемо се молећи се речима: „Господе Исусе Христе, помилуј ме!“ и смирењем.

**Често, када тражимо нешто од Бога, Он нам то не даје само да бисмо наставили да се молимо, а кад коначно примимо оно што смо тражили, испостави се да смо имали више користи од молитви које смо упућивали Богу него од онога што нам је дао. Зато Господ понекад одлаже да нам да оно за шта Га стално молимо.**

**Често нас доводи у тешке ситуације или нам шаље страдање, на пример болест, како би нас спречио да грешимо. Да смо тада били у другачијем положају, били бисмо задовољни и можда бисмо згрешили. Како кажу, „нико није срећан тамо где је...“.**

Превод са енглеског за svetosavlje.org    Бојана Милидраговић



**PASCHA (EASTER) SUNDAY, APRIL 16th  
10 AM Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Pascha Easter Eggs and Food  
Baskets**

**ПАСХА-ВАСКРС, 16 Април  
10 АМ Божанствена Литургија и банкет**

## Church Memorials and Special Donations

<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			<b>In Loving Memory of the</b>	
<b>Carol Monaco</b>			<b>Deceased Members of the</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mattivi	\$25.00		<b>Pleacher &amp; Budimlija Families</b>	
			Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mattivi	\$100.00
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>				
<b>Sandy Dragovich</b>			<b>In Loving Memory of</b>	
Ms. Seja Bajich-Bock	\$100.00		<b>Bogdan &amp; Mirjana Varda</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$100.00		<b>Milorad Varda, Miodrag Varda</b>	
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			Ms. Rada Campbell	\$1,000.00
<b>Dusica Milosavljevic</b>				
Mr. & Mrs. Emery Jackson	\$100.00		<b>In Loving Memory of</b>	
			<b>Protinica Mary Bajich</b>	
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			Dr. Radmila Samardzija	\$50.00
<b>V. Rev. Milan &amp; Protinica Mary Bajich</b>				
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$300.00		<b>In Loving Memory of</b>	
			<b>Dmeter &amp; Sandy Dragovich</b>	
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$100.00
<b>Steve &amp; Caroline Coso</b>				
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bajich	\$100.00		<b>In Loving Memory of</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$200.00		<b>George &amp; Andree Budimlija</b>	
			Mr. & Mrs. Joey Budimlija	\$200.00
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. David Neises	\$300.00
<b>Sharon Sterrett</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Venema	\$500.00
Ms. Donna Lemley	\$50.00		<b>In Loving Memory of</b>	
			<b>Virginia T. Gruendel, M.D.</b>	
<b>In Loving Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Ron Pleacher	\$100.00
<b>V. Rev. Milan Bajich</b>			Ms. Connie Hijaz	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00		Ms. Donna Lemley	\$100.00

**In Honor of the Birthday and for the Health and Salvation of Jovanka Jovanovic**

Mr. & Mrs. Bozhi Bajich	\$50.00		Mr. John Monchil	\$75.00
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bajich	\$100.00		Ms. Anka Popovich-Krstic & Cedo Krstic	\$100.00
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Ms. Seja Bajich-Bock	\$80.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$25.00
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Dr. & Dr. Dan Gurba	\$100.00		Col. & Mrs. Phil Mundweil	\$50.00
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Mr. Brad Hijaz	\$50.00		Mr. Aleksa Skavo	\$30.00
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Mr. & Mrs. Emory Jackson	\$50.00		Ms. Melanie Miller	\$150.00
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