СРПСКИ ГЛАСНИК / SERBIAN HERALD

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

Lenexa, Kansas

Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica and Midwestern America
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120th Church Slava Celebration!

May 2-3, 2026
Honored Kum – Brad Hijaz

A message from Fr. Radomir …

If you're reading this, it's probably because you picked up Glasnik at church. Which means that you actually ***showed up*** to church. Which means that you actually **want to be with God.** So that's great.

Maybe you're not *yearning* for Him just yet, but at least you **want** Him in your life to some degree. That's a great start.

Or maybe you saw Glasnik in your email and opened just to see if Fr. Radomir is *really* writing about how important it is to take Holy Communion (again!), go to church (again!!), and take confession (yet again!!!).

So yes, I *really* am writing to you to invite you to take your spiritual life seriously. Again. It's kind of my job.

An in case you're wondering, there's only one way to stop me from repeating myself about how it's absolutely impossible to be saved without *an active spiritual life.*

I promise to stop talking about it when I see that most people ***regret*** not coming to the Chalice. It's actually really easy to spot. Because those who regret not being with Christ actually ***want*** Christ. And as soon as you begin wanting Him, you inevitably change. And change is easy to see.

On the other hand, if we just meet the minimal requirements, and stay the same (or get worse) year after year, it's easy to become lukewarm. And what does the Bible say about lukewarm Christians?

"You are neither cold nor hot. I would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Rev.3:15-16).

This means that there has to be a desire and yearning for your eternal salvation.

So, I'm really glad that you came to church. Because you made an effort. You could have gone to the beach/shopping/bar, but you chose to honor God (as He commanded us to do).

But it's too early to pat yourself on the back. The Devil *loves* a complacent Christian. If you're ticking the same boxes year after year -- thinking you're doing just fine -- you might be in spiritual trouble. Because that's not even your own thought. It's the devil's. And he's really happy with your progress.

So, whom do we want to be happy with our progress? The devil? Or Jesus Christ, Who gave us every good thing in our lives?

I think you know the answer. And you know exactly how to make Him glad that He sacrificed Himself on the Cross -- for you personally. But if this summer's been so long that you don't remember, I'll give you a few starting points:

1. Make sure you "honor the day of the Lord" by giving Sundays to the Lord (this is a Commandment, not a suggestion).
2. Experiment wildly by actually following the ancient path of Wisdom offered to you by our 2,000 year-old Church, i.e.:
3. Take a moment and think about all the things you wish you'd never done. Write them down. Make an appointment with a priest. Tell him. (Newsflash: he won't tell anybody. Because if he does, he's going straight to hell and into Satan's lap. Terrifying.)
4. If you confess from your heart, you will be so relieved that you'll want to go to confession again *soon*. Because you will realize that there was a heavy weight pressing on your soul that instantly lifted after confession. **This is the beginning of spiritual healing.**
5. Prepare for Holy Communion. Fast for 3 days if you don't keep the weekly and yearly fasts. Read special prayers. (Ask me if you don't know what they are).
6. Understand that Holy Communion is not just a beautiful **symbol**. You will be accepting the Lord Himself into your body, so that you *become a part* of Him (that's why it's called Communion). That's worth some preparation and spiritual cleaning.

7. Realize that you'll never be **worthy** of receiving God within you. Yes, you must prepare, but you can't *earn* Communion. God loves you enough to just offer Himself to you.
8. Don't put off Communion until you're in better spiritual shape. His Body and Blood are spiritual medicine. You will never achieve better spiritual state without it.
9. Approach the Chalice. And try not to lose the grace by going back to a "normal" sinful life.

So, if you made it this far, I want you to remember one thing:

Only the devil cares about your checklist of church accomplishments. If you've been going to church for many years, that's good. But don't forget about spiritual growth. God wants your ***progress***, no matter how small.

Yes, you're sinful. We all are. The good news is that Jesus came to save **sinners**. He didn't come to save those who treat their spiritual life as a minimal to-do list.

So, ask God to help you reactivate your spiritual life. Make an effort. Even a tiny one. Start where you are. Do something small – for the greater glory of God. When the Lord sees you're making in earnest, He ***will*** send you grace to keep going. He will never leave you alone in your struggles. But the only way you can find out is **if you try.**

May the Lord bless your spiritual labors, so that your struggle blesses everyone around you and our whole community.

Fr. Radomir

Ако ово читате, вероватно је то зато што сте узели Гласник у цркви. Што значи да сте се заиста ***дошли у*** цркву. Што значи да заиста **желите да будете са Богом**. Дакле, то је сјајно.

Можда још увек не *чезнете* за Њим, али барем Га **желите** у свом животу донекле. То је одличан почетак.

Или сте можда видели Гласник у свом имејлу и отворили га само да видите да ли отац Радомир заиста пише о томе колико је важно причешћивати се (поново!), ићи у цркву (поново!!) и исповедати се (још једном!!!).

Дакле, да, *заиста* вам пишем да вас позовем да озбиљно схватите свој духовни живот. Поново. То је мој позив.

И у случају да се питате, постоји само један начин да ме спречите да понављам како је апсолутно немогуће бити спасен без а*ктивног духовног живота*.

Обећавам да ћу престати да причам о томе када видим да већина људи ***жале*** што нису дошли до Путира. Заправо је веома лако уочити. Јер они који жале што нису са Христом заправо ***желе*** Христа. И чим почнете да Га желите, неизбежно се мењате. А промена је лако видљива.

С друге стране, ако само испуњавамо минималне захтеве и останемо исти (или се погоршавамо) из године у годину, лако је постати млаки. А шта пише у Библији о млаким хришћанима?

„Ниси ни хладан ни врућ. Кад би био или хладан или врућ! Зато, пошто си млак, а ниси ни врућ ни студен, испљунућу те из уста својих.“ (Откр. 3:15-16).

То значи да мора постојати жеља и чежња за вашим вечним спасењем.

Дакле, заиста ми је драго што сте дошли у цркву. Јер сте се потрудили. Могли сте да одете на плажу/у куповину/бар, али сте изабрали да поштујете Бога (као што нам је Он заповедио).

Али прерано је да се похвалимо. Ђаво *воли* самозадовољног хришћанина. Ако из године у годину испуњавате исте услове -- мислећи да вам иде сасвим

добро -- можда сте у духовном проблему. Јер то чак није ни ваша мисао. То је ђаволова. И он је заиста задовољан вашим напретком.

Дакле, кога желимо да задовољи наш напредак? Ђавола? Или Исуса Христа, који нам је дао све добро у нашим животима?

Мислим да знате одговор. И тачно знате како да га обрадујете што се жртвовао на крсту -- за вас лично. Али ако је ово лето било толико дуго да се не сећате, даћу вам неколико почетних тачака:

1. Обавезно „поштујте дан Господњи“ тако што ћете дати недеље Господу (ово је заповест, а не предлог).

2. Експериментишите пуним паром тако што ћете заправо пратити древни пут мудрости који вам нуди наша 2000 година стара Црква, тј.:

3. Одвојите тренутак и размислите о свим стварима које бисте желели да никада нисте урадили. Запишите их. Закажите састанак са свештеником. Реците му. (Јавна тајна: неће никоме рећи. Јер ако то учини, иде право у пакао и у Сатанино крило. Застрашујуће.)

4. Ако се исповедите од срца, бићете толико олакшани да ћете ускоро поново желети да се исповедите. Јер ћете схватити да је на вашој души био тежак терет који је одмах нестао након исповести. **Ово је почетак духовног исцељења.**

5. Припремите се за Свето Причешће. Постите 3 дана ако не постите средом и петком и другим постовима. Читајте посебне молитве. (Питајте ме ако не знате шта су). Схватите да Свето Причешће није само леп симбол.

6. Прихватићете самог Господа у своје тело, тако да постанете део Њега (зато се зове Причешће-Учешће). То вреди припреме и духовног чишћења.

7. Схватите да никада нећете бити достојни да примите Бога у себи. Да, морате се припремити, али не можете заслужити Причешће. Бог вас довољно воли да вам се само понуди.

8. Не одлажите причешће док не будете у бољој духовној форми. Његово Тело и Крв су духовни лек. Никада нећете постићи боље духовно стање без тога.

9. Приступите Путиру за причешће. И покушајте да не изгубите благодат враћајући се „нормалном“ грешном животу.

Дакле, ако сте стигли довде, желим да запамтите једну ствар:

Само ђавола занима твоја листа црквених достигнућа. Ако идеш у цркву дуги низ година, то је добро. Али не заборавите на духовни раст. Бог жели твој ***напредак***, без обзира колико мали био.

Да, грешни сте. Сви смо. Добра вест је да је Христос дошао да спасе ***грешнике***. Није дошао да спасе оне који свој духовни живот третирају као минималну листу обавеза.

Зато, замолите Бога да вам помогне да поново активирате свој духовни живот. Уложите труд. Чак и мали. Почните тамо где јесте. Урадите нешто мало – за већу славу Божију. Када Господ види да се озбиљно трудите, **послаће вам** благодат да наставите даље. Он вас никада неће оставити саме у вашим подвизима. Али једини начин да сазнате **јесте да покушате**.

Нека Господ благослови ваше духовне напоре, како би ваши подвизи благословили све око вас и целу нашу заједницу.

о. Радомир

From the desk of the President …

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we reach the middle of the year, I want to take a moment, on behalf of the Church Board, to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued faith, generosity, and dedication to **Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church.**

Our parish continues to be blessed by the commitment of so many volunteers who give their time, talents, and treasures to strengthen our church community. Whether you have attended services regularly, participated in our ministries and events, prepared meals, cared for our church grounds, or quietly offered your prayers and support, your contributions make a meaningful difference. Together, we continue to build a vibrant parish centered on Christ and the traditions of our Serbian Orthodox faith.

This year has already brought many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service. We have celebrated our feast days, welcomed visitors and new families, and continued the work of preserving our church for future generations. These accomplishments are possible because of your faithful stewardship and your willingness to serve.

One of the greatest blessings of this year was the celebration of our Parish Slava, honoring our patron saint, **Saint George**. We were especially honored to welcome **His Grace Bishop Serafim**, whose presence made this year's celebration even more meaningful. His inspiring words, participation in the Divine Liturgy, and fellowship with our parish family reminded us of the unity we share within the Serbian Orthodox Church. The beautiful services, festive meal, and joyful gathering were made possible through the tireless efforts of our clergy, the **Kolo of Serbian Sisters**, volunteers, donors, and everyone who contributed their time and talents. It was a memorable celebration of our faith, our heritage, and the enduring strength of our parish community. We are especially grateful to **Brad Hijaz**, who faithfully served as this year's **Kum** of our Parish Slava. His generosity, devotion, and commitment to our parish helped make this sacred celebration a memorable occasion for our entire church family.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, we remain committed to strengthening our parish spiritually and financially. We encourage everyone to stay engaged by attending the Divine Liturgy, participating in parish activities, supporting our fundraising efforts, and inviting family and friends to join us in worship. Every act of involvement, no matter how small, helps strengthen our parish family.

In my previous letter I laid out three essential goals for our parish:

1. **Spiritual Growth** – Encouraging deeper engagement in worship, prayer, and Orthodox Christian education for all generations.
2. **Community Strength** – Fostering fellowship and service through parish events, outreach, volunteerism, and mutual support for one another.

3. **Sustainable Stewardship** – Ensuring the responsible care and development of our church's facilities, finances, and resources so that Saint George remains strong for future generations.

I am encouraged by the progress we have already made toward these goals. Our parish continues to grow in faith through vibrant worship and education, our sense of community has been strengthened by the dedication of our volunteers and the fellowship we share, and we have made important strides in responsibly caring for the resources God has entrusted to us. While there is always more work to do, I am confident that, with God's guidance and your continued support, we will continue building a strong and vibrant Saint George parish for generations to come.

Another exciting milestone for our Serbian Orthodox community is the continued renovation of the **St. Mardarije Spiritual and Cultural Center in Libertyville, IL**. This project represents an investment in the future of our faith, providing a welcoming space for worship, education, fellowship, and the preservation of our Serbian Orthodox faith and heritage. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, talents, and financial support to move this important work forward.

While there has been significant progress, the renovation is not yet complete, and additional funding is needed to bring this important vision to fruition. I encourage those who are able, to consider making a contribution for this project. This cultural center will serve all of our Orthodox communities and future generations for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and faithful support. I ask that you continue to pray for our clergy, our board, our ministries, and one another as we work together in service to Christ.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless each of you and your families with good health, peace, and abundant grace. May the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint George intercede for us all.

With gratitude and best wishes,

In Christ,

Michael Kimbell
President

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.

KOLO SRPSKIH SESTARA "SV. PETKA" …

We had our annual Church Slava, the first weekend in May. As always the Kolo provided the meal. I want to thank Connie and her kitchen crew for preparing and serving the meal. As always, it was a success.

Once again, the Kolo sponsored our church school kids to EOYC camp this year.

For the past few months, our Kolo has been busy preparing for our annual Bazar. There is still more to do!

Marie Henre, Kolo President

ST. GEORGE CHOIR ...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In addition to our primary duty of singing responses on Sundays, your church choir has a very busy fall ahead of us. Quickly approaching is our biggest fundraiser, the Ethnic Enrichment Festival, where we will once again be sponsoring the Serbia booth and would love to see you all out at the park supporting us. Co-chairs for this event are Lisa Gribble and Jelena Miller. If you are interested in helping to work the event or donating either backed goods or monetarily, please reach out to one of them. This is a huge undertaking and we appreciate all the hard work it takes to pull off an event like this.

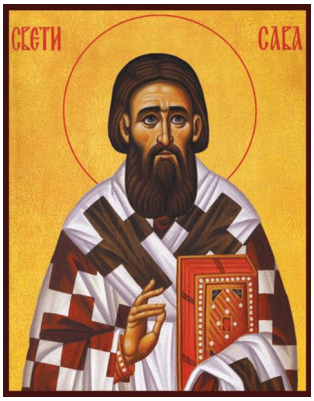
Looking past the Ethnic Festival, we will be hosting our Annual Choir Concert the weekend of October 3rd-4th, featuring our honored guests, the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir from Pittsburgh, PA, as well as our friends from the St. Nicholas Choir from Omaha, NE. Saturday night will feature the concert, dinner, music/dancing. On Sunday, our honored guests from Pittsburgh will be singing liturgy responses. A luncheon will follow. All are welcome. Chairing this event is Milana Mundweil. If you have interest in how you can help or donate to the event, please reach out to her.

It does not slow down from there! With a very quick turnaround, the next weekend Oct. 9th-11th, we will travel to be the honored guest choir for the Steven Sijacki Choir in Milwaukee, WI. The following weekend Oct 17th-19th, we will be participating in St. Nicholas Choir's annual concert in Omaha, along with our friends from Milwaukee. We would love to see some of you make the trips to share in a good time and support the choirs.

Again, we have another event-filled year singing for weddings, concerts and being represented at the SSF Convention. We cannot accomplish all of this without the love and

support from all of you. We are always looking for new members and if you are interested in any way, please reach out to me, Director Pete Bajich or really any member with whom you feel comfortable. Here is to a successful and blessed remainder of 2026.

Harold Kanatzar
Choir President



CHURCH SCHOOL ...

As we concluded our Church School classes in May, I would once again like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated teachers—Miro Cubric, Stephanie Mattivi, Leah Lemley, Popadija Alena, and Nick Mattivi—who continue to generously give their time to plan lessons and organize meaningful activities for our children. Their commitment to teaching and nurturing our youth is truly appreciated.

Our youth continued to enjoy a very busy summer. More than 120 children, parents, grandparents, and alumni attended a Kansas City Royals baseball game! It was an especially proud moment when two of our alumni, Anna and Maia Bajich, were honored to sing the National Anthem.

Additionally, a group of our young men participated in the SNF Basketball Tournament in Canton, Ohio. While the team enjoyed the competition, even more important was the opportunity to build friendships and strengthen relationships with other Serbian youth from around the country.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our Kolo Sestara for their generous support of the ten students and twelve counselors who attended EOYC Camp this summer. Everyone had a wonderful time deepening their understanding of our Orthodox faith while building friendships and connecting with other Orthodox youth and clergy from the Kansas City area. A video highlighting the camp is available on our church website.

A Final Thank You

As I complete my time as Church School Superintendent, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the teachers, parents, clergy, and, most especially, the more than 150 students I have had the honor and privilege of working with over the past 15 years.

When I look back, I am reminded of so many wonderful memories—from teaching classes and organizing our annual FallFest (with a special thank-you to the Gribble family), to assisting with the Badnja Veče performance and leading our Sveti Sava Celebration. I have enjoyed watching our older students prepare the Palačinke luncheon, encouraging students to attend EOYC Camp, and serving as a counselor for the past four years.

But above all, I am most grateful for the relationships and friendships I have been blessed to build with our students and their families. Those relationships have made these 15 years incredibly special and have truly been a blessing in my life.

I hope and pray that our students have enjoyed learning about our Orthodox faith as much as I have enjoyed the privilege of teaching, guiding, and growing alongside them. I will always cherish the memories and friendships made through our Church School.

Looking Ahead

I am very pleased to share that Maja Kotlaja-Lockee has graciously accepted the role of Church School Superintendent for the upcoming school year. This is a very important ministry within our Church Parish, and I ask everyone to give Maja the same support, encouragement, and prayers that you have so generously given me throughout the years.

I am confident that our Church School and our youth will continue to grow and thrive under her leadership.

With heartfelt gratitude and many blessings,
Paul Bajich
Church School Superintendent

Enroll Your Child in Church School

Registration for the 2026 church school year is now open! Parents can enroll their children using the form below:

https://jspsurveys.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KkKktFJlbcpXL0 **Deadline August 15**

Serbian Language Teacher Needed

We are also starting a short Serbian language lesson for our church school children — 20 minutes immediately following church school, every other week.

We are looking for **one steady teacher** and **two substitutes** to share the responsibility. No formal teaching background is required, just a willingness to share our language with the next generation.

If you are interested, or would like to learn more, please contact **Marijana Kotlaja at (816) 382-9404**.

Thank you for helping keep our faith and language alive in our parish.

Thank you! Marijana

ST. GEORGE LODGE #43 ...

Hello parishioners of St. George Church:

Our annual Lodge #43 luncheon was held on Sunday, July 12, 2026. After a very delicious meal, there were some exciting announcements to share with those in attendance.

- 2026 is a special year since it marks the 125th anniversary of the Serb National Federation. Beverly Sobotka was selected as Serb of the Year in 2017 by the SNF and has been the only member of our church who has received this very prestigious honor.

- We were pleased to welcome our newest and youngest member into Lodge #43, Bogdan Kanatzar. We always enjoy watching our membership grow and look forward to adding even more new members!

- The SNF annual basketball tournament was held on June 11-13, 2026 in Canton, OH. The *KC Serbs* participated in the tournament this year. Paul Bajich was the coach for this team and gave an overview of the team's performances during the tournament. Jovi Bajich presented Paul with a jersey as a thank you and a souvenir from the team. Also, Jovi read a thank you note to Lodge #43 for helping to sponsor this event, which was signed by all the boys on the team. Congratulations and great job to the *KC Serbs* for representing our church and our lodge so well!

The Serb National Federation (SNF) is a fraternal organization founded by Serbian immigrants. There are so many good reasons to be members of this organization - quality life insurance, annuities, even sponsored sports, academic and cultural events. More information about the SNF can be found at their website, snflife.org.

Save the date for Lodge 43's annual assembly on Sunday, December 20, 2026. We hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your continuing support throughout the years!

Stephen Lemley, President
Mary Jean Venema, Vice President
Beverly Sobotka, Treasurer
Donna Lemley, Secretary

120th Church Slava Celebration …

On May 2-3, 2026, the Sunday of the Paralytic, the Parish of St. George the Great Martyr Serbian Orthodox Church in Lenexa Kansas was blessed to celebrate several important events at once (a history display was set up in the hall to show case these as well!):

- The 120th Anniversary of the creation of the parish
- The 100th Anniversary of the first Canonical Visit of St. Mardarije to Kansas City, Kansas
- The 20th Anniversary of the Consecration of the new church building in Lenexa Kansas by the late +Metropolitan Christopher (Kovacevic)
- And the parish Slava of St. George.

With the Blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Longin, His Grace Bishop Serafim visited and led the celebrations at St. George's Church.

The festivities began on the morning of Saturday, May 2 outside the historical St. George Church building (on Bethany and Lowell St). This building was sold to the Ethiopian Christian Community in Kansas City, Kansas in 2006 when the St. George Community moved to Lenexa, KS.

His Grace Bishop Serafim, Fr. Radomir (Parish Priest), Fr. Vladimir Terzic (Holy Trinity, St. Louis), and Fr. Joseph Henre, served a Thanksgiving Moleban (Supplication/Thanksgiving Service) and an Akathist to St. Mardarije outside by the original cornerstone of the Church building, which had been blessed in 1925 by St. Mardarije himself.

St. George's Church was originally founded in 1906 in the West Bottoms of Kansas City, KS. Until 1925, the first church building was located by the rail yard. The position near the river and flooding that came along led the parish to move to streets Bethany and Lowell in Kansas City, KS where it stayed until 2006.

Many people from St. George's parish and the Ethiopian community joined their prayers of gratitude to God for His numerous blessings to our communities.

His Grace Bishop Serafim blessed and preached to the people present giving thanks to God for His mercy and gifts given to St. George's community for the last 120 years. He also thanked the Ethiopian community for allowing us to visit the old parish building and for their hospitality.

The parishioners of St. George's in Lenexa visited the old Church building and parish hall – sharing beautiful stories of baptisms, weddings, funerals, church events, sermons, and, most importantly, the faithful who frequented the parish from 1925 till 2006 and prayed for their salvation, as well as for the salvation of the world.

The Ethiopian community hospitably opened their doors to St. George's parishioners and prepared a meal for all attending. St. George's choir sang Ziveli in the hall to the hosts. In response, the Ethiopian choir, attired in pure white as is their custom, responded with a traditional and beautiful song. About 100 people attended this event.

In the evening, His Grace Bishop Serafim along with Fr. Radomir Plavsic served festal vespers and a pomen for all the deceased members of St. George, keeping their memory alive in the hearts of their descendants and in their prayers to the Lord.

In attendance were Priests Fr. Sasa Petrovic from Omaha, NE, along with his parishioners; Fr. Vladimir Terzic from St. Louis, MO; and Fr. Djordje Veselinovic from Des Moines, IA, as well as around 200 faithful.

A sumptuous dinner (provided by the hard-working Kolo Sestara) followed for all present with – with traditional Serbian tamburica music, expertly performed by the Bajich Brothers who have been continuing this spectacular tradition for decades.

On Sunday, May 3rd, Bishop Serafim served a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy along with Protopriest Sasa Petrovic, Hiermonk Alexii

(Altschul), Protopriest Djordje Veselinovic, Priest Radomir Plavsic, Priest Turbo Qualls, Priest Joseph Henre and Deacon John Flowers (St. Mary's Church). A cross procession around the Church and cutting of the Slava kolach in Church followed.

The clergy and parishioners of St. George's church are grateful to all their 300+ Orthodox faithful who came to pray and celebrate our church's 120th anniversary. Parishioners from St. Mary of Egypt SOC of Kansas City, MO; St. Nicholas SOC of Omaha, NE; St. Demetrius SOC of Des Moines, IA; Monastics from St. Archangel Micheal Skete of Weatherby, MO; and the Convent of the Mother of God Seeker of the Lost in Kansas City, MO made our Slava celebration more beautiful and memorable thanks to their kindness, good wishes, and prayers.

After Divine Liturgy the Kolo of Sisters prepared a delectable banquet – full of mouthwatering Serbian dishes – for all present. Church board president Michael Kimbell led the program in the hall introducing and welcoming everyone. In his moving speech, he spoke about how St. George's parish has transformed his and his family's life for the better.

This year's honored Kum was Reader Brad Hijaz. Many years!

After many moving speeches by local and visiting attendees, His Grace Bishop Serafim bestowed Gramatas on several people at St. George's for their many years of work and support of the parish, and of Christ's Holy Church.

Gramatas were bestowed on Mark and Patricia Milosovich, Bozidar Bajich, Daniel and Carol Gurba, Ljiljana Bajich-Bock, Michael and Michelle Kimbell, Miryana Cubric, Reader Bradley Hijaz, Paul Bajich, and Connie Hijaz. The gramatas were fittingly bestowed, though the number of deserving individuals exceeded those formally recognized.

After the end of the banquet, His Grace Bishop Serafim departed to Chicago, blessing all of those present and encouraging them to keep developing the gifts that were given to them by past generations of St. George's parishioners, so as to glorify the Name of the Lord for generations to come, and grow and develop their home church.

May the Lord richly bless all those who worked hard to prepare this celebration: cooking, cleaning, singing, serving, performing, sharing of their time, talent, and treasure, to make this a momentous occasion to be remembered for many years to come!

Gramata Recognitions …

Stewardship to the Church is given through one's time, talents and treasures. At our St. George Church Slava Celebration, the following individuals were presented with a Gramata Acknowledgement recognizing their ongoing Dedication to our Church and Parish. The Gramatas were given by and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan +Longin and presented by Bishop +Serafim:

Bozhi Bajich

- Life-long member
- Service with the past priests - altar boy, accompanying them and singing responses for funerals, pomens, prayer services
- Serving as pojac during weekday services when he wasn't working
- Taught music to church school students
- Long-time, active member of S.S.S. St George; 50-year award recipient of the S.S.F.
- Former Church Choir Director; Presently, Assistant Church Choir Director
- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Perpetuating Serbian music as member of the Bajich Brothers Orchestra throughout the US
- Honored Kum - St. George Church Slava, Sv Sava Celebration, Sv Nikolai of Zica Choir Slava

Lilijana "Seja" Bajich-Bock

- Life-long member
- Leadership/board roles within Kolo and Choir; including Past President of both
- Former Church School instructor
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities for the Church, Kolo, and Choir
- Major commitment to being available for anything and anyone at Church
- Long-time, active member of S.S.S. St George
- 50-year award recipient of the S.S.F.; Delegate to S.S.F. convention
- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Honored Kuma - St George Church Slava, Sv Nikolai of Zica Choir Slava

Paul Bajich

- Life-long member
- Leadership/board roles with Church, Choir, Lodge; including actively supporting the Kolo
- Church President who led us through the trying times of the pandemic

- Delegate to Midwest Diocese meetings; Auditing Board Member of the Midwest Diocese
- Church School Superintendent for many years, focusing on inclusion of all and generating activities that will build strong relationships with the church community and all the children
- Active member of the Eastern Orthodox Youth Camp (EOYC)
- Long-time, active member of S.S.S. St George; Past President of the Choir
- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Perpetuating Serbian music as member of the Bajich Brothers Orchestra throughout the US
- Honored Kum - St George Church Slava, Sv Nikolai of Zica Choir Slava

Miryana Cubric

- Life-long member
- Leadership/board roles with Choir, Lodge, Kolo; including major fund raising.
- Church School Instructor
- Taught kolo classes to adults and students and prepared Folklore performances
- Active member of the Eastern Orthodox Youth Camp (EOYC)
- Long-time, active member of S.S.S. St George; Past President of the Choir
- 50-year award recipient of the S.S.F.
- Delegate to S.S.F. Conventions; Auditing Board member of the S.S.F.
- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Honored Kuma - St. George Church Slava, Sv Sava Celebration, Sv Nikolai of Zica Choir Slava, Sv Petka Kolo Slava

Dan and Carol Gurba

- Long-time members
- Leadership/board roles with Church and Kolo
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities for the Church and Kolo
- Initial, major investors in the St. George Designated Perpetual Memorial Fund for the long-term benefit of our Church
- Honored Kumovi - St George Church Slava, Sv Sava Celebration, Sv Petka Kolo Slava

Brad Hijaz

- Life-long member
- Leadership/board roles with Church and Choir
- Service with priests - Altar boy, tonsured reader; Actively participates as Pojac, Reader

- Major commitment to being available for anything and anyone at Church
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities for the Church, Kolo, and Choir
- Long-time, active member of S.S.S. St George. Past President of the Choir
- Assistant Church Choir Director
- Former President of the S.S.F. as well as other board levels; Delegate to S.S.F Conventions
- Several years main grounds care worker - mowing and maintaining of landscaping
- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Honored Kum - St George Church Slava, Sv Nikolai of Zica Choir Slava

Connie Hijaz

- Long-time member
- Leadership/board roles with Kolo
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities
- Time and talent in sewing items for the Church
- Time and talent in making church prosphora (bread)
- Past member of the S.S.S. St George
- Honored Kuma - St George Church Slava

Mike and Michelle Kimbell

- Long-time members
- Leadership/board roles with Church and Kolo, Mike current president of the Church and Michelle past president of the Kolo
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities
- Initial, major investors in the St. George Designated Perpetual Memorial Fund for the long-term benefit of our Church
- Honored Kumovi - St George Church Slava

Mark and Pattie Milosovich

- Long-time members
- Leadership/board roles with Church and Kolo, each past presidents of the Church and Kolo respectively
- Leadership roles with major fund raising activities
- Serving priest – Mark as altar boy, reader
- Member of the grounds crew mowing the lawn for several years
- Past members of the S.S.S. St George

- Perpetuating Serbian Orthodoxy and Serbian culture through travels throughout the US and Canada
- Honored Kumovi - St George Church Slava, Sv Sava Celebration, Sv Petka Kolo Slava

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19th SerbFest …

Our Annual SerbFest was held the weekend of May 29-30! A special thank you to those who served as part of our organizing committee. Each of the members of the committee serve in various roles within our parish and we thank them for taking this fundraiser for the church on as well! A very special thank you also to all who stepped forward to help in various ways including but not limited to: set up and take down, publicity, supplies ordering, food preparation, baking, shift work, grilling, music, parking, silent auction donations, church tours, etc! All of these areas come together to put on an event that showcases the best of our culture and parish for the community to enjoy! A big thank you to our sponsors and item donors! Your generosity helped us realize a net income profit of over $24,000.00 this year! Again, THANK YOU to all who helped make this year's SerbFest a success!

Sincerely, Brad Hijaz and Paul Milosovich, SerbFest Co-Chairs

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Treasurer's Report …

Our financial report reflects the church's activity through June 30, 2026, marking 7 months of our fiscal year.

1. Our operating revenues have been off to a great start as we are up over $35,000 compared to the same time period last year. Weekly envelope giving is up over $20,000. The funds collected in the cash plate are up almost $8,000.
2. Our operating expenses are running almost $23,000 more than last year largely due to our $20,000 donation towards the St. Mardarije Cultural Center Renovation.
3. Overall, our net income for our operating accounts is up over $12,000 compared to last year.

4. Our real estate revenues continue to remain strong. These funds are used to help pay for long-term and major repair/maintenance items for the church property.
5. SerbFest 2026 was another success having a net income of over $24,000! Thank you to all who helped contribute to another successful year! We were fortunate to donate $1,500 to our charitable partner, Hillcrest Transitional Housing!

Please remember to keep up with your weekly or monthly offerings as during the summer months our operating revenues have seen a noted decrease. You may donate online through the church website with a credit/debit card, PayPal, and we now accept Venmo!

We remain grateful to all who continue to help support our parish with your monetary donations, along with your time and talents.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Milosovich
Treasurer

Bowling Tournament …

This year's annual bowling tournament was held on Saturday, July 18. We had 15 teams with 59 bowlers! A great time was had by all! A special THANK YOU to the Kimbell Family for underwriting this event again!

Memorials and Special Donations - February 23, 2026 - July 26, 2026

In Memory of			**In Memory of**	
Silvera Evanoff			**Protojerej Stavrophor Radomir Chkautovich**	
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	$50.00		Ms. Milica Milakovich	$250.00
For the Health and Salvation of			**In Honor of the Birthday and for the Health and Salvation of**	
Philip & Milana Mundweil, Radmila Samardzija, Quinton Lowry			**Bozhi Bajich**	
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Peca Stancic	$40.00
In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary and for the Health and Salvation of				
Milorad & Tijana Samardzija				
Ms. Lillianna (Seja) Bajich-Bock	$50.00			
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	$50.00			