

# СРПСКИ ГЛАСНИК / SERBIAN HERALD



## St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

*Lenexa, Kansas*

Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica and Midwestern America  
Fr. Radomir Plavsic, Parish Priest – Свештеник Радомир Плавшић- Парох  
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### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **Kolo Srpskih Sestara Sv. Petka**

**October 26 – 27, 2024**

**Honored Guest: His Eminence Metropolitan Longin**  
**Slava Kuma: Beverly Sobotka**



## A message from Fr. Radomir ...

Christ is in our midst!

Why do you think everyone was wearing those “I voted” stickers back in November?

Because people know that your right to vote was paid for in sweat and blood. They want to honor the sacrifice of the people who made sure that their descendants would be able to vote.

And they don't want to lose their right to vote and influence their chance at a better life.

Can you imagine how you'd feel if a politician who stands against EVERYTHING that you believe in got a life-time term = just because you and others didn't vote?

Horrible.

Perhaps it's government censorship. Or unilateral decisions on how much food you're allowed to buy, how many miles to travel every month, how many times to use the phone a day, which God is legitimate and which is not...

That's why people are so passionate about voting. Because their participation determines the next several years - perhaps - *many* years of their earthly life.

But what about our eternal life? Are we as passionate about protecting our interests in the next life as we are in this? Are we as mindful of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as we are the sacrifices of our ancestors?

What do we say when we hear His words at every Liturgy:  
“Take, eat, this is My body which is BROKEN for you... This is my BLOOD which is shed for YOU...” (Matt 26:26–28, Mark 14:22–24, Luke 22:19–20)

Do we say: “Yikes, the Lord Himself is calling ME. I'd better respond!”

Or do we say: “Nah, thanks, I'd rather have coffee...”

Politicians are like grass: here today gone tomorrow, while Christ is eternal.

I'm going to say something you've *never* heard before: Our eternal life is much more important than voting. Christ, the Church and the sacraments are more important than anything in this temporary life. Because they ensure that you actually *have* an eternal life.

("Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood **has** eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:54).

I know someone will tell you that I wrote this to shame you. But that's not true.

As a priest, I am privy to the knowledge of an incredible amount of human pain. I know that you have suffering in your life, too.

And since I'm a priest and received training at seminary, I can tell you what the Church teaches us about the cure for suffering. She tells us that the cure for your pain is being with God. Have you never felt relief when you spent some time in church? Of course you have.

But you will benefit so much more from uniting - soul and body - with God through Holy Communion.

Try it yourself. If only to prove me wrong. And I, in turn, may start giving out "I communed stickers."

In the Eternal Christ  
Priest Radomir Plavsic

Христос је међу нама!

Шта мислите зашто су сви носили те налепнице „Ја сам гласао“(I Voted) у новембру?

Јер људи знају да је ваше право гласа плаћено знојем и крвљу. Желе да одају почаст жртви људи који су се побринули да њихови потомци могу да гласају.

И не желе да изгубе право гласа и утичу на њихову шансу за бољи живот.

Можете ли да замислите како бисте се осећали да политичар који се противи СВЕМУ у шта верујете добије доживотни мандат = само зато што ви и други нисте гласали?

Страшно!

Можда је то владина цензура. Или једностране одлуке о томе колико хране смете да купите, колико миља да путујете сваког месеца, колико пута да користите телефон дневно, који Бог је легитиман, а који није...

Зато су људи толико страствени у гласању. Јер њихово учешће одређује наредних неколико година – можда – много година њиховог земаљског живота.

Али шта је са нашим вечним животом? Да ли смо толико страствени у заштити својих интереса у следећем животу као у овом? Да ли смо свесни жртве Исуса Христа као што смо жртве наших предака?

Шта кажемо када на свакој Литургији чујемо Његове речи:  
„Узмите, једите, ово је моје тело које се за вас ЛОМИ... Ово је КРВ моја која се за вас пролива...“ (Матеј 26:26–28, Марко 14:22–24, Лука 22:19–20)

Да ли кажемо: „Јој, сам Господ ме зове. Боље да одговорим!“

Или кажемо: „Не, хвала, радије бих да попијем кафу...“

Политичари су као трава: овде данас нема сутра, док је Христос вечан.

Рећи ћу нешто што никада раније нисте чули: Наш вечни живот је много важнији од гласања. Христос, Црква и црквени Тајне су важнији од свега у овом привременом животу. Јер они осигуравају да заиста имате вечни живот.

(„Ко једе моје тело и пије моју крв има живот вечни, и ја ћу га васкрснути у последњи дан.“ Јован 6:54).

Знам да ће ти неко рећи да сам ово написао да те срамотим. Али то није истина.

Као свештеник, упознат сам са невјероватном количином људског бола. Знам да и ти имаш патње у животу.

А пошто сам свештеник и школовао се на теолошком факултету, могу вам рећи шта нас Црква учи о леку за патњу. Она нам каже да је лек за ваш бол бити са Богом. Зар никада нисте осетили олакшање када сте неко време провели у цркви? Наравно да јесте.

Али много више ћете имати користи од сједињења – душе и тела – са Богом кроз Свето Причешће.

Пробајте сами. Ако само да докажем да нисам у праву. А ја бих, заузврат, могао да почнем да делим налепнице „Причестио сам се“.

У Христу Вечном  
Свештеник Радомир Плавшић

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT ...

### St. George Serbian Orthodox Church Review

I hope the 2024 year has been a happy, healthy and successful year for you. I know many of you traveled or took on projects throughout the year which has kept you very busy. The church board has been busy as well trying to manage everything that we have going on around our church. I am going to mention a few things, as well as a request.

As you all know, our Serbfest was held the first weekend in June. Although the attendance was down, the change in our gross receipts was only about \$350 less than last year. The participation from so many of our parishioners is what made this another successful event.

Just two weeks later we had our annual bowling tournament. It was one of the largest in participation since we began. As usual, Mike and Michelle Kimbell provided the financial support to put on this event. The bowling alley rental, drinks during the event and all of the individual/team awards were all provided by them. Puno Hvala!

July and August also seemed very busy. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July, families attending the Basketball Tournament in Detroit, weddings, baptisms, you name it we had it. Late July was also when the EOYC camp was held. We had almost 40 attend, of which 18 were campers and 20 were staff including the Camp Director Marija Bajich. Thank you to all of those who support EOYC throughout the year. Next year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EOYC which I know will be celebrated in some way for our EOYC community. Watch for information to come out early next year.

In late August our choir was involved in the Ethic Enrichment Festival. Almost our entire choir, along with our supporting members braved the heat for 3 days to spread our Serbian culture to the community. As usual, our food was amazing, but the most successful items

are all of the baked goods provided by our community. Almost all of those who purchase our items come back for more and say how great it is that all of the food is homemade. Thanks to all those who supported our choir.

In October our Kolo celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The participation with our new Metropolitan Longin, the out of town guests as well as our sister parish St. Mary of Egypt made for a large crowd. The hospitality that was shown to all was amazing. Thanks to all who helped make this such a special celebration.

Just a few weeks ago, the Kolo put on their 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bazaar. A big Thank You goes out to everyone who worked so hard prior to and the day of, to make this another successful event. It was disappointing that many of our own congregation were not in attendance to support our Kolo. It is imperative that everyone prioritize supporting our Church and Kolo throughout the year.

### **Maintenance Projects:**

The cross on the main dome (which is made out of fiberglass) had broken loose and was removed it to make sure it wouldn't blow off. It was a long struggle trying to find any contractor who was willing to work on the fiberglass base and reattach the cross to the dome. We finally were able to get a contractor from Ohio to perform the work and complete the repairs. The crosses were both painted gold and glow in the sun.

We are still working with the roofing contractor in trying to get the leaks found and corrected. The dry summer and fall didn't help as they couldn't identify the problems. They are scheduled to come out during the month to perform another inspection and yearly maintenance of the roof.

Thanks to Brad Hijaz for coordinating with our landscaping contractor on removing and installing new plants along the outside of the church. He also coordinated the removal of dead and damaged trees around the property.

### **Request:**

Our church attendance was down during the summer months compared to the last few years. As mentioned above, there can be many reasons for this, especially with so much happening in our world today that is affecting everyone in different ways. That being said, our Church's financial obligations are continuous. I ask that you try to keep your financial support up to date. If you are unable to attend church, please remember to mail a check or provide your donation online via our website, [www.st-george-church.org](http://www.st-george-church.org). Our expenses have increased greatly, especially in the areas of utilities and insurance. Please make it a point to continue your financial support, and increase it if able, to help our church meet its financial responsibilities.

Thank you in advance, and have a happy and safe Advent season!

In Christ,  
Peter Bajich, President

## Major projects completed since September 2024!

Crosses: The main dome cross has been reinstalled since suffering wind damage. Additionally, both the dome and bell tower crosses were repainted gold!

Landscaping: Several of the rock beds around the church and hall have been re-landscaped. Much of these areas had dying shrubs or were overgrown with weeds.



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



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

As this year comes to a close, we should take a moment to reflect on the activities of 2024.

Our sisters, as always, were an important part of our SerbFest festivities. We prepared strudels, povitica, and homemade cookies. We did lots of vegetable cleaning and chopping for our delicious salads. We worked the line, did dishes and assisted wherever needed.

Many of our sisters are also St. George Choir members so we were involved with the Ethnic Enrichment Festival held at Swope Park. Our sisters again provided baked goods for sale at this event, even those who are not choir members participated.

We had a very eventful Fall with our Kolo Slava and annual Bazaar. Our Sveta Petka Slava was celebrated on the feast of Saint Paraskeva, October 27, 2024. Since this year marks the 100th anniversary of our kolo, we had a special weekend with honored guests. His Eminence Metropolitan Longin was present for our Saturday evening Vespers and on Sunday for a Heirarchal Divine Liturgy. Accompanying His Eminence was Protodeacon Milovan. Our local Orthodox parishes joined us for this celebration, as well as guests from out of town.

Our honored Kuma for this special occasion is Beverly Sobotka. Beverly has been a kolo member longer than any of us and her devotion to her Church and all our organizations is an example for all to follow. Through her efforts, our Leaf project was a huge success. We were able to reach our goal and purchase our Crucifixion Icon with Golgotha Cross in honor and memory of the sisters of Sveta Petka. Metropolitan Longin blessed it for us after Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

Our 54<sup>th</sup> annual Bazaar was last weekend. As in years past, it takes the combined efforts of our kolo members and other organizations to make it successful. We had a steady stream of customers throughout the day and all seemed to be enjoying themselves. Thank you to all who worked tirelessly to showcase our Serbian church and culture.

May our Lord continue to Bless us in the new year.

Pattie Milosovich

Kolo President



**ST. GEORGE CHOIR ...**

Since Pascha, your church choir has continued to be busy with our annual events. The choir sponsored the Serbia booth at the Kansas City Ethnic Festival held August 16-18, 2024 in Swope Park! Many thanks to those outside of the choir who helped us with this important fundraiser for the choir. We are always grateful to those who help by making desserts or working a shift in our booth! Also, a big thank you to those who helped with grilling, setting up/taking down our booth,

taking all of the supplies out (and bringing back) to the event and working shifts at other areas around the park!

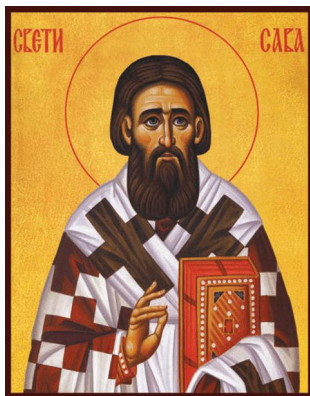
During the fall the choir traveled to Monroeville, PA and was the honored guest choir at the 95th Anniversary Concert celebration of the St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Choir. Several area choirs also participated in this event and it was truly a wonderful weekend of fellowship and singing!



Additionally, we traveled to Omaha

and participated in the concert weekend of the S.S.S. St. Nicholas. Our choir is always happy to join our close sister choir for their concert weekend as they always support us in return. Lastly, a small group from our choir was able to travel in November to Des Moines and sing for the Slava celebration of St. Demetrius Serbian Orthodox Church. This weekend was special for the Des Moines parish as they welcomed honored guest, newly consecrated vicar bishop for our diocese, His Grace Bishop Serafim. In closing, may you and your family have a blessed Nativity Fast and Healthy New year!

Thank you, Brad Hijaz, Choir President



**CHURCH SCHOOL ...**

Starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, we have been blessed to have had church school classes with an average number of 15 students every week. A special appreciation goes to our teachers, Mira Cubric, Stephanie Mattivi, Leah Lemley and Nick Mattivi, who continue to dedicate their own time planning lessons and organizing various activities for our children.

Prior to the start of our new school year, our youth were very busy as we were able to enjoy a KC Royals baseball game with over 90

children, parents and grandparents attending! We also had a group of our young men participate in the SNF Basketball tournament held in Detroit, MI.

Additionally, we would like to thank our Kolo for graciously supporting our 16 students and 18 counselors who attended our EOYC camp this summer. A great time was had by all in learning more about our Orthodox religion and spending time with other Orthodox youth & clergy in the KC area. A special thanks of appreciation goes to our own Marija Bajich who was the Camp Director. Please visit the EOYC website ([myeoyc.com](http://myeoyc.com)) to view the video of all the activities enjoyed at camp.



Our annual Fall Festival, graciously hosted by the Gribble Family, was held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Another great time was enjoyed by everyone (see pictures on the church website).

Upcoming events include the decoration of the badnjak, Badnja Vece performance, and our annual Sveti Sava celebration on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

We will continue to have church school every Sunday, 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, attendance and participation in church school will assist in reducing your student's registration fee for attending EOYC camp.

Paul Bajich  
Church School Superintendent



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

Hello parishioners of St. George Church,

The yearly assembly, with election of officers, for Lodge #43 will be on Sunday, December 22, 2024. On this day, we will take a moment to recognize and remember all our deceased Lodge #43 members and welcome our newest members for 2024. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event.

The Serb National Federation has been serving our members for over 120 years. The SNF continues to provide quality life insurance, annuities, and scholarships for its members and sponsors sports, cultural and academic events. Calling all high school and college students -

there are applications for various scholarships available. More information about the SNF can be found at the national organization's website, [snflife.org](http://snflife.org).

Thank you for your continuing support throughout the years! If you have any additional questions regarding the SNF, please do not hesitate to contact one of our lodge officers:

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



### **ST. GEORGE FOLKLORE ...**

Welcome to the 2024-2025 season of Serbian Folklore at St George!

We have a busy year ahead of us with the older group scheduled to perform at the Bazaar in November, Savindan in January, going to Los Angeles in February to perform at St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church's annual Kolofest, Djurdjevdan in May, and going to Detroit for their annual Folkfest! Please join us for our first fundraiser of the

year on January 12, 2025 after service where the kids will serve Palačinke and other Serbian dishes. Because of the generosity of parishioners and supporters, the group was able to go to Phoenix last year and represent Kansas City at their Folkfest for the first time. It was a great experience for the kids to meet other Serbian folklore dancers their age from across the country and help to keep the tradition of kolo dancing alive!

For those interested in joining, the younger group (ages 5-12) practices on Sundays after Sunday school (around noon) in the church hall. The older group (ages 11+) practices on Mondays at 7:30pm in the church hall.

Thank you to the wonderful St George community for the support you've given us. I pray that our folklore program continues to grow as it has so we can keep our beautiful Serbian traditions alive.

- Peca Stancic

## **Oct 26-27, 2024, St George Serbian Orthodox Church in Lenexa, Kansas celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Kolo of Serbian Sisters and its Slava - St. Petka the Serb**

His Eminence Metropolitan Longin of Midwestern America and Archbishop of New Gracanica and Chicago attended the weekend's prayerful and joyous celebration.

Parish Priest Fr. Radomir Plavsic served Saturday night Vespers with Protodeacon Milovan (Gogic) who had accompanied His Eminence to Kansas, and Deacon Joseph (Henre).

Following Vespers, a short Parastos (memorial service) was served for all of the deceased Kolo members of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church.

Immediately after the Parastos a great blessing was bestowed on St. George Serbian Orthodox church parish when Met. Longin and Hieromonk Alexii (Altshcul), abbot of Holy Archangel Michael Skete in Weatherby, MO, tonsured to the small schema novice Sister Elizabeth of the Mother of God, Seeker of the Lost convent in Kansas City, MO. She received the monastic small schema with the name of Mother Mardarija, in honor of St. Mardarije of Libertyville and of All North America. May St. Mardarije protect her and her sisterhood!

In attendance were Protopriest Sasa Petrovic of St. Nicholas Serb. Orthodox Church in Omaha, NE; Protopriest Djordje Veselinovic of St. Demetrius Serb. Church in Des Moines, IA; and Priest Turbo Qualls of St. Mary of Egypt Serb. Orthodox Church.



On Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, on St. Petka's feast day, Metropolitan Longin served a hierarchical liturgy with Fr. Radomir Plavsic, Fr. Sasa Petrovic, Fr. Djordje Veselinovic, Hieromonk Alexii, Priest Turbo Qualls, Protodeacon Milovan Gogic, and Deacon Joseph Henre. Joining the parishioners of St. George parish were their sister parishes from Omaha, Des Moines; Kansas City MO; and Weatherby, MO.

Following Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Longin blessed a newly-fashioned Golgotha Cross gifted by the Kolo to the church in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. His Eminence then cut the Slava Kolach in honor of St. Petka Paraskeva with Kolo President Patricia Milosevich and Kuma Beverly Sobotka.

His Eminence gave a sermon to the packed church, saying: "It was a great joy to serve liturgy here at St. George to celebrate the 100 year anniversary and slava of the Kolo and to pray with all of you for all the departed members of the Kolo of the St. George and St. Michael churches. Glory to God these two kolos are now one. I greet all of the sisters with the feast of St. Petka Paraskeva from the bottom of my heart and pray to the Theotokos and St. Petka to be with you and watch over you. Many sources indicate that she was of Serbian background and her relics were a long time in Belgrade, and many prayers have been said before her relics which are now in Romania. Saints are godly people and we can freely say they are without nationality - even though they belonged to a specific country. The more saints in a nation, the closer that nation is to God and the more blessed they are, and the more consecrated. These holy people, good people, who hold onto the Gospel, redeem their people, glorify their nation, and consecrate that nation. That is why it is always joyous and dear when we have a saint from our country"



Following the uplifting words of Metropolitan Longin, on behalf of the St George's parish, priest Fr. Radomir Plavsic gifted a new Panagia to His Eminence in honor of his elevation to the rank of Metropolitan and Archbishop, and also congratulated His Eminence on his upcoming namesday of St. Longinus the Centurion.

Before everyone venerated the Cross and collected the antidoron, a group picture of the Kolo members was taken with His Eminence and clergy.

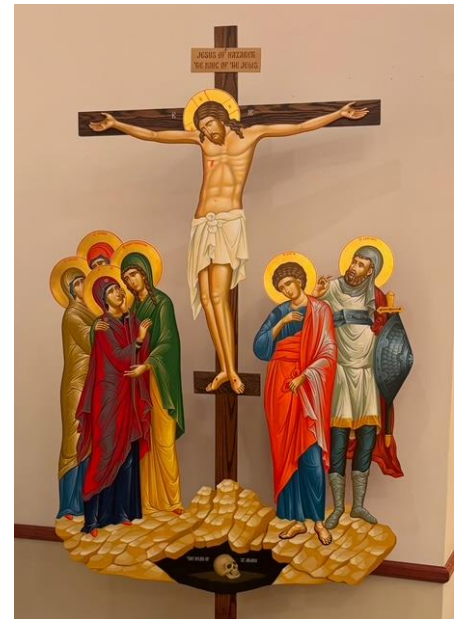
A festal banquet was held after liturgy in the parish hall.

Speeches were given by His Eminence, Fr. Radomir, Kolo President Patricia Milosevich, Parish Board President Petar Bajich, Kuma Beverly

Sobotka, and Deacon Joseph Henre. A letter by Diocesan Kolo President Jane Katic was read congratulating the Kolo on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Protodeacon Milovan Gogich sang several songs, which added to the prayerful and beautiful atmosphere.

Much effort was put in by the Kolo members to make this a memorable event worthy of a 100-year anniversary! Thanks be to God for their efforts and sacrifices of their time, talents, and treasure that make our parish function and a pleasant place to be!



## **Српска православна црква Светог Ђорђа у Ленекси, Канзас, прославила је 26-27. октобра 2024. године 100. годишњицу Кола српских сестара и њену славу – Свете Петке српске**

Његово Високопреосвештенство Митрополит средњезападноамерички Лонгин и Архиепископ новогрчанички и чикашки придружио се молитвеном и радосном слављу викенда.

Парохијски свештеник Радомир Плавшић служио је суботње вечерње са протођаконом Милованом (Гогихем) који је био у пратњи Његовог Преосвештенства у Канзасу и ђаконом Јосифом (Хенри). Након Вечерња, служен



је кратак парастос за све упокојене припаднике Кола Српске православне цркве Светог Ђорђа.

Одмах после парастоса велики благослов је подарен српској православној парохији Светог Ђорђа када је Митрополит Лонгин и јеромонах Алексије (Алтшул), игуман Светог Архангела Михаила Скита у Ветербију, МО, постригли су у малу схимску искушеницу сестру Јелисавету из манастира Богородица Тразитељка изгубљених у Канзас Ситију, МО.

Добила је монашку малу схиму са именом мати Мардарија, у част светог Мардарија Либертивилског и целе Северне Америке. Нека свети Мардарије чува њу и њено сестринство!

Присуствовали су протојереј Саша Петровић из парохије св. Николе у Омахи, Небраска.; протојереј Ђорђе Веселиновић из парохије св. Димитрија у Де Мојну, Ајова; и свештеник Турбо Квалс из српске православне парохије Свете Марије Египћанке у Канзас Ситију, Мизури.



27. октобра, на празник Свете Петке, Митрополит Лонгин служио је архијерејску литургију саслуживали су јереј Радомир Плавшић, протојереј Саша Петровић, јеромонах Алексије, јереј Турбо Квалс, протођакон Милован Гогић и ђакон Јосиф Ненри. Парохијанима парохије Светог Ђорђа придружиле су се и њихове сестринске парохије из Омахе, држава Небраска, Дес Мојна Држава Ајова; Канзас Сити, држава Мизури; и Ветерби, мизури.

Након Свете Литургије, Митрополит Лонгин је осветио новоизрађени голготски крст који је Коло поклонило цркви у част њихове 100-годишњице. Његово Високопреосвештенство је потом секао славски Колач у част Свете Петке Параскеве са председницом Кола Патрицијом Милошевић и Кумом Василијом Сobotком.

Његово Високопреосвештенство беседио препуном храму рекавши: „Велика је радост служити литургију овде у парохиј Светог Георгија на прослави 100-годишњице и славе Кола и молити се са свима вама за све упокојене чланове Коло цркве Светог Ђорђа и Светог Михаила. Слава Богу ова два кола су сада једно. Све сестре од срца поздрављам празником Свете Петке Параскеве и молим се Богородици и Светој Петки да буду са вама и чувају вас. Многи извори говоре да је св. Петка била српског порекла. Њене мошти су дуго биле у Београду, а пред њеним моштима које се сада налазе у Румунији изнесене су многе молитве. Свеци су побожни људи и слободно можемо рећи да су без националности – иако су припадали одређеном народу.

Што је више светаца у једном народу, тај народ је ближи Богу и они су благословенији, и освећенији. Ови свети људи, добри људи, који се држе Јеванђеља, искупљују свој народ, прослављају свој народ и освећују тај народ. Зато је увек радосно и драго када имамо свеца из наше земље”

Након уздигнутих речи митрополита Лонгина, у име парохије св. Георгија, јереј Радомир Плавшић поклонио је Његовом Високопреосвештенству нову панагију у част његовог узвођења у чин митрополита и архиепископа, а Његовом Високопреосвештенству је честитао и предстојећи имендан Светог Лонгина Стотника.

Пре него што су се сви поклонили Крсту и сакупили нафору, направљена је групна слика чланова Кола са Његовим Високопреосвештенством и свештенством.

Након литургије у парохијској сали одржан је свечани банкет.

Беседе су одржали Његово Високопреосвештенство, јереј Радомир Плавшић, председница Коло Патриција Милошевић, председник парохијског одбора Петар Бајић, Кума Василија Сobotка и ђакон Јосиф иенре. Прочитано је писмо председнице Епархијског Кола Џејн Катић којим је Колу честитала 100 година постојања.

Протођакон Милован Гогић отпевао је неколико песама, што је много допринело молитвеној и лепој атмосфери.

Чланови Кола су уложили много труда да овај догађај буде за памћење достојан 100-годишњице! Хвала Богу на њиховом труду и жртвовању свог времена, талената и блага који чине нашу парохију функционисањем и пријатним местом за боравак!

**In Orthodox theology**,... the missionary vocation of the Orthodox Church originates from the Trinitarian relations of the Godhead, in that the Father sent the Son into the world for the salvation of mankind (cf. Psalm 57:3, John 4:34, John 6:44, John 6:57, John 12:49, John 17:18, Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 3:1). The Holy Spirit was likewise sent into the world to sanctify it (cf. Psalm 104:30, Luke 24:49, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7, Galatians 4:6). In the words of Father Patrick Henry Reardon, "We know [God] because he has revealed himself by sending forth his Son and Holy Spirit." <sup>1</sup>

Christ passed His mission on to the Apostles when He commanded them to share the Good News of salvation with all peoples: "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached throughout the whole world as a witness to all nations; and then the end of the world shall come" (Matthew 24:14). The Lord's final commandment before ascending to the Father is known as the Great Commission and is recorded in all four Gospel accounts:

- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)
- "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'" (Mark 16:15-16)

- "Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.' " (Luke 24:46–48)
- "So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' " (John 20:21-23)

Saint Luke also recounts the Great Commission in the Acts of the Apostles, and like St John the Theologian, connects it to the sending forth of the Holy Spirit: " 'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' " (Acts 1:8)

The missionary calling of the Orthodox Church finds its fulfillment in the beautiful eschatological vision of Saint John the Theologian: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' " (Revelation 7:9-10) The Orthodox Church has consistently upheld this vision of the worship of God in every language.

Historically, Orthodox missiology has been characterized by its incarnational approach of learning the culture of the audience, translating the Scriptures and liturgical texts into the language of the people, training native clergy, imparting the full Orthodox theological heritage of doctrines and patristic wisdom.

Orthodox Prayer for Mission.

O Christ our God, the source of wisdom and Bridegroom of the Church,  
You called the Apostles to follow You and to become fishers of men, giving them authority to cast out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and infirmity.

You commissioned them to make disciples of all nations and to feed Your sheep.  
On the day of Pentecost, You sent the Holy Spirit to fortify them, enabling them to fill people's lives with Your saving love.

Continue to act today, loving Savior, for the good of Your Holy Church.  
Send Your Holy Spirit upon dedicated men and women; inspire them to respond to Your Great Commission and to serve You as missionaries, for the building up of Your Body, the Church.

Through the prayers of all the holy missionary saints, strengthen all who are preparing to serve and those who serve Your Holy Church in humility and love.

For You are a loving and merciful God, and unto You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **БОРБА ЗА ВЕРУ - Св. Владика Николај**

Србине брате, теби се обраћам, да те нешто питам. Не устављај волове твоје, и не задржавај плуг твој. На питање моје можеш одговорити и орући. Не питам те за пут, да би морао дићи руку са плуга и показати ми пут.

Не иштем ти воде, да би морао престати с орањем и повести ме на извор. Гле, ти цео дан ореш и цео дан мислиш, и мисли твоје остају затворене унутра у теби. Хоћу да те упитам о нечем што је унутра у теби, на што ми можеш одговорити држећи руке на плугу и корачајући лагано браздом за воловима.

– Да ли још гори кандило вере унутра у души твојој? Да ли имаш довољно уља у кандилу твоме, и да ли ти је светло унутра у души твојој? Србине брате, гори ли у теби кандило вере?

То је моје питање, и то сам хтео да те питам, али не у име моје. Не питам те у име моје него у име родитеља твојих који те вером Христовом крстише и крвљу Христовом причестише;

и питам те у име ђедова и прађедова твојих, који из препуног и пламеног кандила вере своје налише и зажегоше кандило вере у души твојој;

и питам те у име оних даљих предака твојих, који у ропству од пет стотина година под Турцима не дадоше да се кандило вере у њима угаси; када се за пола хиљаде година беше угасила српска слобода и држава, једино што они одржаше неугашено то је кандило вере у душама њиховим;

и питам те у име оних твојих предака који јуначки примише смрт за веру своју на коцу и конопцу, као бесправни робови, у мраку робовања;

и питам те у име оних још даљих предака твојих који с честитим кнезом Лазаром на Косову битку бише и за Крст шасни живот свој положише;

и питам те у име оних твојих славних и честитих кнежева, благоверних царева и благочестивих царица, опет предака твојих, који окитише ову земљу твоју славним задужбинама, белим црквама и манастирима, одакле су сви нараштаји српски после њих доливали уља у кандила своја и зажегали треперави пламен вере свете;

и питам те у име светих Патријараха српских, часних свештеника и монаха, који кроз векове борбе, и муке, и искушења и таме чуваше онај свети огањ вере у Србину да се не угаси, као прави светлоносци и духоносци;

и питам те, најзад, у име оног најсветијег духовног праоца твога, у име оног моћног и милог Саве, оног неустрашивог мужа и плачљивог молитвеника, који је исплакао срце своје пред живим небесима, да би се у народу српском до конца векова очувао свети пламен вере.

У име те велике и племените војске твојих благородних предака, чију си крв и дух и веру и ти наследио као законити наследник, у име њихово а не у име моје ја те питам, племенити Србине брате: да ли још гори кандило вере унутра у души твојој?

## Memorials and Special Donations - May 13, 2024 thru December 1, 2024

<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Alex Cheyney</b>			<b>Protopresbyter Stavrophor Milan Bajich</b>	
Ms. Seja Bajich-Bock	\$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00
V. Rev. & Mrs. Aleksandar Bugarin	\$25.00			
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Cheyney	\$2,000.00		<b>In Memory of</b>	
Ms. Milka Cubric	\$30.00		<b>Protinica Mary Bajich</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Foltz	\$250.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Lazar Jovanovic	\$50.00			
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kennon	\$25.00		<b>In Memory of</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mattivi	\$50.00		<b>Olen (Emery) Jackson</b>	
Mr. & Dr. Todor Ozegovic	\$100.00		Ms. Seja Bajich-Bock	\$50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Supica	\$100.00		Ms. Jodi Casey	\$50.00
Mr. & Mrs John Tashijan	\$50.00		Mr. Mark Casey	\$50.00
Ms. Milka Cubric	\$30.00		Mrs. Monica Foltz	\$250.00
			Dr. & Dr. Dan Gurba	\$100.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			Mr. Brad Hijaz	\$25.00
<b>Sonny Vaccaro</b>			Ms. Connie Hijaz	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kimbell	\$500.00		Mr. Dragan Ilich & Ms. Mira Stevovich	\$200.00
Ms. Jeanette Vaccaro	\$400.00		Mr. Mihailo Ilich	
			Ms. Evica Jackson & Family	\$200.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Lazar Jovanovic	\$50.00
<b>Delle Budimlija</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Tomislav Kapetanovich	\$40.00
Mr. Joey Budimlija	\$1,000.00		Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kennon	\$100.00
Ms. Donna Lemley	\$100.00		Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kimbell	\$150.00
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$25.00		Ms. Donna Lemley	\$25.00

Mr. & Mrs. David Neises	\$1,000.00		Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lemley	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Pleacher	\$50.00			
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Venema	\$1,000.00		Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mattivi	\$50.00
			Ms. Milica Milakovich	\$250.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$25.00
<b>Lisa V. Zakula</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Mark Milosovich	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$25.00		Mr. & Mrs. David Pierce	\$50.00
			Ms. Shelly Snyder	\$50.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Alex Supica	\$100.00
<b>Michael &amp; Mildred Petrovic</b>			Mr. & Mrs. Zoran Tica	\$20.00
Ms. Alexis L. Brockett	\$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Venema	\$100.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Frank &amp; Helen Feden</b>			<b>Lori Feden Radcliff</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gribble, III	\$200.00		Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gribble, III	\$100.00
<b>For the Health and Salvation of</b>			<b>For the Health and Salvation of</b>	
<b>Milana, Philip John, Luka John, and Myles Philip Mundweil</b>			<b>Lewis Michael Aines</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$50.00
			Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gribble, III	\$100.00
<b>In Honor of the Birthdays</b>				
<b>and for the Health and Salvation of</b>				
<b>Peter M. Bajich &amp; Paul M. Bajich</b>				
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$200.00			
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$120.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00