

# 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

Office/Концеларија: 913-469-9200 email/Епошта: revRplavsic@yahoo.com

Rectory/Парохијски Дом: 913-499-8929 Cell/Моб: 224-717-1689



**118<sup>th</sup> Church Slava  
Celebration**  
**Sunday, May 12, 2024**  
**Kuma  
Connie Budimlija Hijaz**



## A message from Fr. Radomir ...

Christ is Risen!

I have a question for you:

Will you be in Church next Sunday?

How about the Sunday after that? And the Sunday after that?

If you got annoyed at me and stopped reading here, the answer obviously is: No.

But why should you be annoyed?

Maybe you have a new and important, all-encompassing Reason that is MORE IMPORTANT to you than Jesus Christ and His victory over eternal death?

Or maybe you consider yourself a Christian but follow the gospel – not of Jesus Christ – but of your own making?

And your gospel tells you that God doesn't need you to be in Church every Sunday. That we're living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and "nobody believes in this stuff anyway." That fasting is optional. That you don't need to confess and commune. That you don't need God's blessing to live, that you're doing just fine without Him, thankyouverymuch.

The trouble is, when we exchange the real Gospel for a gospel of our own creation, we cut ourselves off from God. We act like we don't need God's grace.

But we do. **We desperately need God's grace.** Simply to survive.

The early Christians knew it. Our ancestors knew it. Our Church knows it. But we often forget.

At every great litany we say these words: "Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, **by Thy grace.**"

We say that at EVERY service because God's grace is so incredibly important to us. We ask Him to stand between us and trouble. Stand between me and my enemy. Stand between me and misfortune, because...

Everything you have: your family, your health, wealth, your house, your job, your friends – everything is given to you *through God's mercy*. This means that you can have it – at God's mercy.

**And that means that you can lose it – at God's mercy.**

Not because He's cruelly punishing you for your sins, no. But He tells us again and again – you have to do certain things to be with Me. Metaphorically, He says: you have to put on a gasmask to survive in a gas attack.

But because we live under peaceful skies, it sounds so improbable that we dismiss Christ's warnings with a scornful: "Nobody believes in this kind of stuff anymore".

We don't ask for His protection. We tell him that we're doing just fine on our own.

The truth is, every action has a reaction. And our attitude of "God doesn't need me to \_\_\_" ALWAYS gets a reaction.

I'm writing to you because nobody likes these reactions. And when we've provoked that reaction and trouble has come, and we're desperate, that's when we finally run to church, fall on our knees and demand in righteous indignation: "How did you let this happen, God?!" God will hear you then. But by then you may have lost more than you can ever get back.

Orthodox peoples everywhere know that a person's life can go two ways: the better way, and the sadder way.

Either you come to Christ voluntarily and try to change your life for Him (the better way).

Or you wait until your life starts falling apart and then come to Him (the sadder way).

The point of this is: be the builder of your own life.

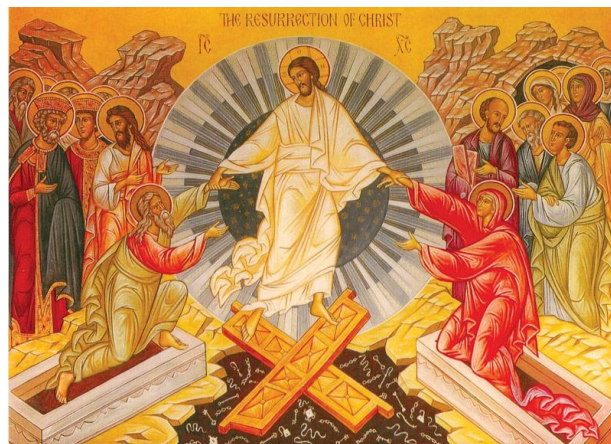
Don't be a writer of a new perverted gospel. Follow the existing Gospel and the existing, God-given, and time-tested teaching of the Church.

Come and pray with your friends and family. Say with all your heart: "help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, o God, by Thy grace."

And He will.

In the Resurrected Christ,

Fr. Radomir



Христос васкрсе!

Имам питање за тебе:

Хоћеш ли бити у цркви следеће недеље?

Шта кажете за недељу након тога? И недеља после тога?

Ако сам те изнервирао и престао да читаш овде, одговор је очигледно: Не.

Али зашто се нервираш?

Можда имаш нови и важни, свеобухватајући разлог који теби је ВАЖНИЈИ од Исуса Христа и Његове победе над вечне смрти?

Или се можда себе сматраш хришћанином, али следиш Еванђеље - не Исуса Христа - али свог сопственог прављења?

А твоје Еванђеље теби каже да Боуз не треба да будеш у цркви сваке недеље. Да живимо у 21. веку и "нико ионако не верује у ове ствари." Да пост је необавезно. Да не требаш да се исповедаш и да се причестиш. Да ти не треба Божје благослов да живиш, да се добро сналазиш без Њега.

Проблем је, када размењујемо право еванђеље за еванђеље наше сопствене стварања, ми смо се одстранили од Бога. Понашамо се као да нам не треба Божја благодат.

Али то нам јако треба. **Очајнички нам треба Божја Благодат.** Једноставно да преживиш.

Рани хришћани су то знали. Наши преци су то знали. Наша Црква то зна. Али *ми* често заборављамо.

На свакој великој јектенији кажемо ове речи: "Заштити, спаси, помилуј, и сачувај нас, Боже, **благодаћу твојом.**"

Кажемо да је на СВАКОЈ служби јер нам је Божја благодат толико невероватно важна за нас. Молимо га да стоји између нас и невоља. Стоји између мене и мог непријатеља. Стоји између мене и несреће, јер ...

Све што имаш: твоја породица, твоје здравље, богатство, твоја кућа, твој посао, твоји пријатељи - све је теби дато *кроз Божју благодат*. То значи да то можеш имати - по Божјој благодати.

**А то значи да га можете изгубити - по Божјој благодати.**

Не зато што вас окрутно кажњава за твоје грехе, не. Али он нам опет говори и опет - мораш да радиш одређене ствари да будеш са мном. Метафорички, каже: Морате да ставиш на гасмаску да преживиш у гасном нападу.

Но ми живимо под мирним небом, звучи тако невероватно да необраћамо пажњу на Христово упозорења са презирним речима: "Нико више не верује у такве ствари".

Не тражимо његову заштиту. Кажемо му да смо сами добро без Њега.

Истина је да сваки покрет има реакцију. А наш држање који овако гласи: "Богу не треба да ја урадим \_\_\_\_\_" УВЕК добије реакцију.

Пишем вам јер нико не воли ове реакције. А кад смо изазвали ту реакцију и дође нам невоља, и очајни смо, тада смо коначно трчали у цркву, падне на колена и потражимо у праведном огорчењу: "Како си то дозволио да се то догоди, Боже?!" Бог ће те чути тада. Али до тада си можда изгубио више него што се икада можеш вратити.

Православни народи свуда знају да живот човека може да иде на два начина: бољи начин и тужни начин.

Или добровољно дођеш Христу и покушаш да промениш свој живот за Њега (бољи начин).

Или сачекаш док се твој живот не почне распадати и онда дођиш код Њега (тужни начин).

Циљ овога је: Будите градитељ свог сопственог живота.

Не буди писац новог изопаченог еванђеља. Прати постојеће Еванђеље и постојеће, Богодано и временски тестирани учење цркве.

Дођите и молите се са пријатељима и породицом. Реците свим срцем: "Заштити, спаси, помилуј, и сачувај нас, Боже, благодаћу твојом."

И Он ће то учинити.

У васкрслом Христу

О. Радомир

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

Hristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

This year has been a very busy time for everyone, especially with our Holy Pascha being celebrated so late, May 5th. Here is a recap of the first four months of the year..

Our Badnje Vece service was celebrated with a full church. Again, we were treated to several Christmas Carols sung by our youth under the direction of Bozhi and Alexis Bajich. Thank you to all of the parents who brought their children to the practices prior to their performance. They did an amazing job!

Although Bozic was celebrated on Sunday, it was not attended as well as it should have been. I hope in the future that everyone keeps the true meaning of Bozic in mind as the Birth of Christ, and not just making it about presents and a big meal.

Unfortunately, we did not have our Nova Godina celebration this year. We could not find anyone to chair the event and we were unable to find a group to provide the music. Hopefully, next year we can start the planning earlier and have someone step up to chair the event. If interested, please let me know.

Our Sveti Sava celebration was great as usual. The singing, dancing, and presentations of the Deklamacijas were great. The honored Kumovi for the day were Maia and Jovi Bajich, and we received a video message from Dylan Meyers, who is attending a hockey program in New York. Listening to them speak makes me proud of our youth department for all of the work and influence they provide. They are definitely great examples for our future graduates to follow.

We again hosted another Lenten Vesper Service, where the attendance just keeps growing. Thank you to Pattie Milosevich, our Kolo President, along with the whole Kolo for supplying such a great meal. The weather was so nice people stayed on the patio till almost 9:00pm!

Our attendance this year for Pascha was nearly 350 people. In addition, we had over 120 communicants as well. The following day, May 6<sup>th</sup>, was our Patron Saint's Day, St. George, or Djurdjevdan celebrated by many of our parishioners. Another Liturgy, along with the blessing of many Slavski Kolaci made for another busy day.

It didn't stop there, as the upcoming Sunday was our Church Slava Celebration. We had a huge crowd, mainly due to the members of our sister parish, St. Mary of Egypt who closed their church to celebrate with us. Our Kolo, with a huge assist from our Kuma Connie Hijaz provided another great meal for over 200 guests. The weather was beautiful which also made the day even more special, especially for all of the Mothers who were in attendance. We appreciate those who came from Omaha and Des Moines, and especially our past members Dmeter and Sharon Dragovich who came in from Phoenix for the celebration. I would personally like to thank Peter Sasich and Tom Olsen who came from Omaha to help provide music for the day. Everyone had a great time.

Lastly, our annual SerbFest is only a couple of weeks away, May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will take all of our church community to work together to make it another success. 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. Please contact Mark Milosovich to see what you can do to help and plan on working a shift or two during the two days. I hope to see everyone there!

In Christ, Peter Bajich, Church President

## Major projects completed since January 2024!



**Church Roof:** Repairs were made to the main dome and bell tower in January as we continue to address leak issues.

**Garbage Bin Doors:** In February, new doors were purchased and installed on the garbage bin area.



**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” ...**

Hristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Greetings in our risen Lord!

Our Sveta Petka Kolo Sestara has had a busy 2024 so far. You may, or may not, be aware of some of the many things that we do on a regular basis.

Our members provide the coffee and treats that are served from the kitchen most Sundays. We provide snacks for evening services such as Badnje Vece, and Holy Friday. We prepare dinners for St. Sava, St. George, St. Petka, and other occasions throughout the year, as needed. We host a Lenten dinner during Great Lent, which is a very well attended event.

We are very excited that this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of service to our Lord, our Church, and our community. You may have received a Save The Date email to let you know that our celebration will be held on the feast day of Saint Paraskeva, October 27, 2024. We hope you have marked your calendar so that you can join us to commemorate those sisters who have faithfully served before us, and to honor those who are currently serving. More information regarding ways you can participate in this celebration will be provided soon.

No names have been mentioned for the work that has been done because all our members can be counted on to provide food items, and to help in the kitchen whenever needed. We are blessed with a devoted membership with diverse talents. We work together to provide for the needs of our Church, Church family, and community.

I would be remiss if I fail to mention that our organizations are only as good as the support that we receive. When we are busy working, we can count on our husbands, sons, sons-in-law, brothers, and all male parishioners to help. They are our legs when we need items moved and put away. They are our arms when we can't reach items on the shelves. They help prepare delicious items, and make sure our serving dishes are always full of food. They empty trash, sweep, and mop when needed.

So, if all this sounds like ways you would like to serve your Church and Lord, then contact us. We are the ones in the kitchen, cooking and cleaning -up, and always anxious to welcome new members.

May our risen Lord continue to watch over us and bless us through the intercession of St. Paraskeva {Sveta Petka}.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattie Milosovich, 2024 Kolo president



### **ST. GEORGE CHOIR ...**

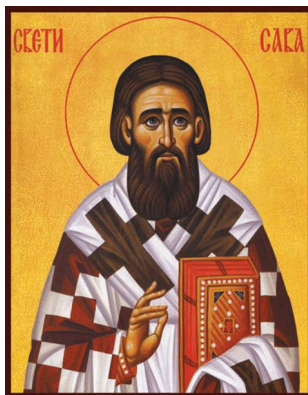
Greetings from your church choir! Hristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

The choir has been blessed to sponsor our annual events as usual the past few months and we thank all who helped make them successful! First, on March 10th we celebrated our choir slava dedicated to St. Nikolaj of Zica. We honored this year

Donna Lemley as Kuma for her many years as a faithful choir member, serving as a board member, and representing us at many SSF conventions. Now, Donna continues to help the choir by baking for our events for which we are grateful! On Friday, March 29, we hosted our popular Fish Fry! This event has grown and developed a loyal following from outside our parish. This is due largely to our delicious fish that is fried by Pete Bajich! Also, special thank you to Seja Bajich-Bock for chairing this event! On Palm Sunday, we hosted our annual Posno Bake Sale! This event also is popular within our parish and we thank all who continue to make it so. The choir was happy and blessed to sing for Pascha and our Church Slava as we spend time preparing every year for these special services. Looking forward, the choir will sponsor, as we do each year, the Serbia booth at the Kansas City Ethnic Festival to be held August 16-18, 2024 in Swope Park! Be on the look out for requests to help the choir with this event by either working a shift in our booth or donating baked goods. Lastly, our choir has unfortunately had to cancel our concert that was planned for this September as we were unable to secure a guest choir. However, we will be traveling to Omaha and Monroeville this October to participate in their concert weekends!



Thank you, Brad Hijaz, Choir President



### **CHURCH SCHOOL ...**

We have been blessed to have had church school classes since September 2023, with an average number of students of 25. A special appreciation goes to our teachers, Mira Cubric, Stephanie Mattivi, Leah Lemley and Aleksa Skavo, who continue to dedicate their own time planning lessons and organizing various activities for our children.

**On Badnja Vece**, 30 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 28th, 2024, with over 30 students participating and WOW, what an **AWESOME CELEBRATION!!!** Congratulations to our Kumovi, Maia Bajich, Jovi Bajich & Dylan Meyers (from Utica, NY), who all three gave very passionate speeches and led the program. Thanks again to Dayna Meyers and our Kolo for preparing and providing the delicious luncheon, our Choir for singing responses and of course Mary Jean Venema for our dessert! Much



appreciation is given to the parents who assisted and encouraged their children in learning their poems. Additionally, our Folklore Group shared a performance, led by Peca Stancic. Please visit our church website for a photo gallery of this event.

**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.

**EOYC Camp** will start the week of **July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>**, in which attendance and participation in church school will assist in reducing your student's registration fee.

Paul Bajich  
Church School Superintendent





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

Hristos Voskrese! We hope you had a blessed Pascha and a week later were able to participate in the celebration of our Church Slava with Connie Budimlija Hijaz as our Honored Kuma!

The Serb National Federation (SNF) is a nonprofit Fraternal Benefit Society which has been helping our members prosper since 1901. The SNF provides several types of life insurance. A popular choice is the Single Premium Term to Age 30 (SPT30). This plan is 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) Other SNF options include annuities or coverdells. Lodge members are eligible to participate in all SNF events such as basketball, bowling or golf tournaments. The SNF has scholarship opportunities, from first year college students to trade schools to graduate school. Applications for scholarships are available on: [snflife.org](http://snflife.org).

Lodge #43 helped in supporting the *KC Serbs*, a boys ' team who participated in the SNF basketball tournament last June in Milwaukee, WI and the folklore dancers who performed at North America's largest Serbian Folk Fest in Phoenix, AZ on March 2, 2024. Great job to our very talented youth who represented our lodge and church at these events!

We are so very pleased to welcome our newest Lodge #43 members: Milan M. Djordjevich, Sonja S. Pirisky and Peter D. Stancic!

Save the date for Lodge 43's annual luncheon - Sunday, July 21, 2024. We hope you will be able to attend! Thank you for your support throughout the years. If you have any questions on what the Serb National Federation has to offer, please contact one of our officers listed below:

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

Mary Jean Venema, Vice President  
Donna Lemley, Secretary



**SerbFest 2024 ...**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!! Our annual Serb Fest will be here soon. Please keep the weekend of May 31 and June 1<sup>st</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 Bob Cubric.

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. As always, set-up and clean-up help is always needed for this long weekend. Our Church thanks you!

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 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!



**ST. GEORGE FOLKLORE ...**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2023-2024 Folklore season a success!

This season, we ordered beautiful

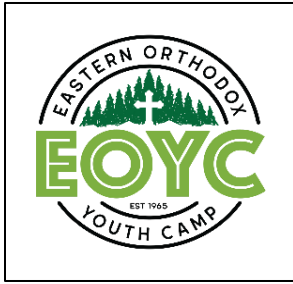
nošnje, performed here at St George for Savindan in January, had a blessed fundraiser luncheon provided by the folklorashi and their parents (thank you for all the support St George!), performed at Pholkfest at St Sava in Phoenix, and performed here at St George for Đurđevdan in May!



Our wonderful folklorashi will be taking a well-deserved break for the summer, then we'll start the 2024-2025 season in late August to early September. So far, in the 2024-2025 season, we have already been invited to perform in LA, San Marcos, Chicago, and St Petersburg! If you'd like to join, we have a younger group for ages 5-12, and an older group for ages 11 and up. No prior experience is required! Please speak with Peca Stančić to get added to the email list and be part of preserving our Serbian Folklore traditions!



Sve najbolje, Peca Stančić



## **EASTERN ORTHODOX YOUTH CAMP ...**

EOYC planning for 2024 is well underway. Camp is scheduled for the week of July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure you are registering! The early bird deadline for campers ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Continue to keep an eye out in your emails for camp updates. For anyone who wants to be a counselor, camp planning meetings will begin in early June. So if you are planning to be a counselor, please register and keep and continue to watch for emails

regarding time, dates, and locations of the meetings.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone together and urge you to send your kids as campers and/or consider being a counselor. If you are interested in being involved or have any questions please contact Marija Bajich at [serbgirl.mb@gmail.com](mailto:serbgirl.mb@gmail.com).

## **FINANCIAL REPORT ...**

As we are at our fiscal mid-year for 2024 below are several updates of the church financials since our previous Glasnik article in November of 2023:

- Weekly parishioners' offerings have increased approximately 48% from 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 and most services continue to rise.
- The Church gave out over \$5,300 during the Christmas season to families in need through our Funds for Families donations. Thank you to all who contributed!
- Repairs to the Church roof were completed in January with a total cost of over \$123,000.
- Maintenance was completed on several doors in both the church and hall costing \$475.
- The church donated \$2,000 to Holy Archangel Michael Monastery in Weatherby, MO to purchase a new washer and dryer.
- Our Folklore group held a fundraiser in February which brought in over \$4,100. Thank you to all who donated to help cover expenses for our Folklore group!
- Several dead trees were removed from the church property along with the trimming of several branches from other trees. The expense was approximately \$4,350.
- The Church donated \$5,000 to St. Mary of Egypt for their Church Consecration which was held April 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any 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.

### Memorials and Special Donations November 5, 2023 - May 12, 2024

<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>John Monchil</b>			<b>Robert Bozidar Petrovic</b>	
Ms. Gloria Docman	\$200.00		Ms. Alexis Petrovic Brockett	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Foltz	\$200.00			
Ms. Elaine Gummersheimer	\$50.00		<b>In Memory of</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kosich	\$100.00		<b>George and Andree Budimlija</b>	
Ms. Bonnie Kuhn	\$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Joey Budimlija	\$100.00
Ms. Sophia Monchil	\$100.00		Mr. & Mrs. Dave Neises	\$500.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>David Monchil</b>			<b>Steven Dodig</b>	
Ms. Sophia Monchil	\$100.00		Ms. Bonnie Kuhn	\$50.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Boris Prstojevich</b>			<b>Proto Milan Bajich</b>	
Dr. & Mrs. Steven Prstojevich	\$2,500.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Peter &amp; Velma Budimlija</b>			<b>Sonny Vaccaro</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cora	\$1,000.00		Ms. Donna Lemley	\$50.00
			Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$100.00
<b>In Memory of</b>			Mr. Ray Zakovich & Family	\$100.00
<b>Alex Cheyney</b>				
Mr. & Mrs. Ratko Cubric	\$50.00			
Ms. Connie Hijaz	\$25.00			
Ms. Donna Lemley	\$50.00			
Ms. Linda Lewis	\$30.00			

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Miller	\$50.00			
Dr. Radmila Samardzija	\$25.00			
<b>For the Health and Salvation of Our Grandchildren</b>			<b>For the Health and Salvation of</b>	
<b>Luka John, Neven Clyde, Myles Philip, and Nina Beatrice</b>			<b>Radmila Samardzija, Quinton Lowry, Neven Clyde, and Nina Beatrice</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00		Mr. & Mrs. Milorad Samardzija	\$50.00

