



**St. Sava Serbian
Orthodox Church**

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Upcoming Events:

**Sunday School and Folklore Graduation and
Year-End Recital**

June 14, 2015,
St. Sava Church, St. Sava Church Hall (TBD)

Serb Fest

September 19 and 20, 2015
To get involved please email
serbfestvolunteers@gmail.com.
Details to follow.

Our Community Announcements:

Email ankica.pogorzelski@gmail.com
to submit your listing.

Births:

Andrej and Christine Grkovich welcomed baby
Olympia Grkovich on May 25, 2015.
Jelena Mirkovic and Dima Pushin welcomed
baby boy Milan Aleksandar Pushin on April 14,
2015.

Engagements:

Juliana Rajacic and Aleksandar Bukvic got
engaged on May 17, 2015.

Marriages:

Dejan Mircevski and Bojana Milinkov got
married in Novi Sad on Feb. 8, 2015.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOOK GROUP by Nada Jovanovic

This Great Lent, the St. Petka Circle of Serbian Sisters once again sponsored a religious education book group. For several Sundays during Lent, half a dozen parishioners met to discuss the book *Meditations for Great Lent: Reflections on the Triodion* by Vassilios Papavassiliou. The book, which explained Lenten themes and practices of the Orthodox Church, was used as a springboard for various discussions on spiritual growth. If you would like to participate in these book groups in the future or have any book suggestions, please email nada.b.jovanovic@gmail.com.

A Message from Father Aleksandar Vlajkovic:

Christ is Risen!

Recently, we celebrated the biggest Christian holiday-the Resurrection of Christ. As there is a period of preparation prior to Easter, the period from Easter to Ascension is marked with the holiday spirit. For this reason Orthodox Christians continue to greet each other with the words, "Christ is Risen". I hope that we are able to keep the spirit and cheerful mood that we had on Pascha - Easter. (cont. on next page.)

(A message from Fr. Alex cont. from previous page)

This year we celebrated Easter joyously in the church with a modest reception afterwards due to the unavailability of our hall. Nevertheless, I hope that everyone left church spiritually nourished.

Sometimes we as humans are unaware of all that we possess and only learn to value those possessions after having lost them. I believe many of us feel that loss in regards to our church hall, something that we miss greatly. The concept of being unaware of life's gifts also applies to health, which are not appreciated until lost. The same holds true for friends, family, freedom and other values.

Please pause for a moment, and look at all that you have. Give thanks to God for all that He has given us, both in personal prayer and in community prayer called the Thanksgiving service-Liturgy.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Aleksandar

The Feast of Pentecost

Sunday May 31, 2015

by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end - the achievement and fulfillment - of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fullness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fullness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fullness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fullness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation: "Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church." (cont. on next page.)

(cont. from previous page.)

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...", the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Spotlight on our Graduates

UNIVERSITY

Photo by Niketic Family



Dara Luise Niketic received her Bachelor of Science degree, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia on May 17, 2015. She will join the University of Utah PhD program in Molecular, Cellular, and Evolutionary Biology in August. Dara is the goddaughter of Slavko Stojanov and past Kolo president +Nada Stojanov. She is the daughter of Novak and Stephanie Niketic. With St. Petka members and work a memorable part of her childhood, Dara has with her the Kolo's example of intelligence, perseverance, and faith.

HIGH SCHOOL and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Photos by Lana Balach



Name: Katya Van Anderlecht
School Graduating From: Beverly High School
Graduation Date: June 7, 2015
College Will Be Attending: Boston College
Intended Major: Biology/ Pre-Med
Year Started Attending St. Sava: 2000

What will you miss most about St. Sava community?

What I will miss most about the St. Sava community is the people. I have grown up in the St. Sava community and the people who are a part of the community are like my family. I have friends who I consider to be like my siblings, and others who are like aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Other than my immediate family, I do not have any relatives that live near Boston. The parishioners at St. Sava are my family here, they have always been there for me, and have seen me grow up and I will really miss them.

What is your favorite memory of St. Sava Church/community?

One of my favorite memories of the St. Sava Church community is spending time together with everyone on Easter after most people have gone home, cleaning, dancing and eating all the left overs!

What has the Serbian community in Boston meant to you growing up?

Growing up, the Serbian community in Boston allowed me to stay connected to my Serbian roots, as well as has become like my second family. I always looked forward to going to church because I loved seeing my friends, singing in the choir and dancing folklor!

What are you most looking forward to in college?

In college, I am looking forward to being able to pursue all of the new opportunities I will have to try new things and discover my passion!

HIGH SCHOOL and SUNDAY SCHOOL cont.



Name: (Valerie) May Tomic
School Graduating From: Lexington High School
Graduation Date: June 7, 2015
College Will Be Attending: Brown University
Intended Major: Computer Science
Year Started Attending St Sava: 1996

What will you miss most about St Sava community?

I think singing in the church choir each Sunday is what I'll miss the most. But I'll also miss getting to reconnect with my Serbian friends every week!

What is your favorite memory of St. Sava Church/community?

I think most of my favorite memories of St. Sava are from participating in Folklore. No matter how tough the weekly practices could be, it was always fun to spend an evening with friends and work together to get ready for our performances. I remember once deciding to take some time off Folklore to focus on school work, but then when I saw the group performing at the end of the year I knew right away that I had to rejoin!

What has the Serbian community in Boston meant to you growing up?

As someone who's half Serbian, for me this community has provided an opportunity to learn about and experience a side of my heritage that would otherwise have been unknown to me. The knowledge of my cultural origins gained through the stories shared by my fellow parishioners has given me a deeper understanding of the connections that underlie interactions between people of all creeds and backgrounds. My faith has also instilled in me the importance of reflecting often upon my place and purpose in the world. It has taught me not to take what I have for granted, but to think of ways I can use my abilities to help the less fortunate. I attribute much of my spiritual and cultural identity, including my work ethic and my drive to give back to the community, to my upbringing in the Serbian church.

What are you most looking forward to in college?

Developing my Computer Science knowledge while still being able to take lots of classes in other topics that interest me, such as Latin/Classics, Geology, Writing/Literature, and many more!



Name: Aleksandar Ojdrovic
School Graduating From: Lexington High School
Graduation Date: June 7, 2015
College Will Be Attending: Northeastern University
Intended Major: Biology and Business (pre-dental track)
Year Started Attending St Sava: Attended from Birth

What will you miss most about St Sava community?

What is your favorite memory of St. Sava Church/community?

What has the Serbian community in Boston meant to you growing up?

What are you most looking forward to in college?

Some of my earliest memories are from the first church in Wakefield. From the creaky brown chairs that were oftentimes noisier than the choir to the "rustic" dining experience we had every Sunday, every bit of that church oozed authenticity and togetherness. Our move to Cambridge marked the beginning of a new era, and for me at least, meant that we as a community had really "made it." However, none of the original charm had been lost in the move. For me, growing up in such a caring and close knit community

meant that I always knew that I had people to lean on, people that would be proud of my accomplishments, and would not shy away from correcting me when I made mistakes. I have greatly enjoyed serving in the Altar with Fr. Aco and all the other Altar boys, as well as dancing in Gračanica these past two years. Going into college, I hope to continue growing spiritually and culturally, and to stay in our wonderful church for many years to come.

Luncheon Schedule 2015

Please note that the opening date of our church hall has not been confirmed. Lunches will start once construction is complete.

If you would like to sign up to cook lunch on an open date, please contact Suzana Forkapic at sstojakovicb1@yahoo.com.

Also, as the parish is growing Kolo Sisters are looking for more people to team up with existing teams of two to help cook during busy months. If you are able to join a team September- December, or in the weeks leading up to Easter, please let Suzana know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Date	Notes	Name	Name
June 14th	Graduation for St Sava Kids Lent / Post	Mary, Nada & Nancy	Event 3
June 21st	Lent / Post	Daliborka Kresovic	Miljana Petrovic
June 28th	Lent / Post	Sasha Mandic	Jelena Djurkovic
July 5th	Lent / Post (9am liturgy)		
July 12th	Lent / Post (9am liturgy)		Nada Jovanovic
July 19th	9am Liturgy		Bojana Zivanovic
July 26th	9am Liturgy		
August 2nd	9am Liturgy		Muny Velickovic
August 9th	9am Liturgy		
August 16th	Lent / Post (9am liturgy)		
August 23rd	Lent / Post (9am liturgy)	Daka Matin	Zorica Djordjevic
August 30th	9am Liturgy	Damir Uzelac	Slavica Serdar
September 6th	Back to 10am liturgy	Vojka Gajica	Dragana Gajica
September 6th	Back to 10am liturgy		Stanislava Ristanovic
September 13th		Vesna Grigorjev	Natasa Kuljic
September 19th,20th	Serbian Festival		Serbfest Committee
September 27th		Dragana Jovanovic	Xenia Dancevic
September 27th			Marija Antic
October 4th		Stana Smiljanic	Jelena Tehlirian
October 11th		Bulgarian Parish	Violeta Jeliaskova
October 18th		Biljana Reljic	Ljiljana Vrankovic
October 25th	St. Petka Kolo Slava Kolo	Kuma Bojana Misic	Event Group 4 Kuma Mira T
October 25th	Helpers: Yasmina & Slavojka		Kuma Tanja Bugarinovic
November 1st		Lidija Milojevic	Gordana Cosic
November 7th (Sat)	Donators Event	Jelena D, Ksenia, Snezana	Event Group 5
November 8th		Olivera Tanasijevic	Dragica Mihailovic
November 15th		Vanja Burke	Sanja Stojkovic
November 22nd		Rista Amovic	Maja Amovic
November 29th	Nativity Fast / Post	Jelisaveta Nickovic	Trajanka Milojevic
December 6th	Nativity Fast / Post	Bata Milosh	Mary Grgurevich
December 13th	Nativity Fast / Post	Aleksandra Milasinovic	Vildana Velic
December 13th	Nativity Fast / Post		Danijela Sokolovic
December 20th	Nativity Fast / Post	Vesna Reljic	Miljana Vrankovic
December 27th	Nativity Fast / Post	Olga Mucic	Marija Ilic

If you would like to contribute content, announcements or photos to the newsletter, please contact Ankica P. Koldzic at Ankica.Pogorzelski@gmail.com.