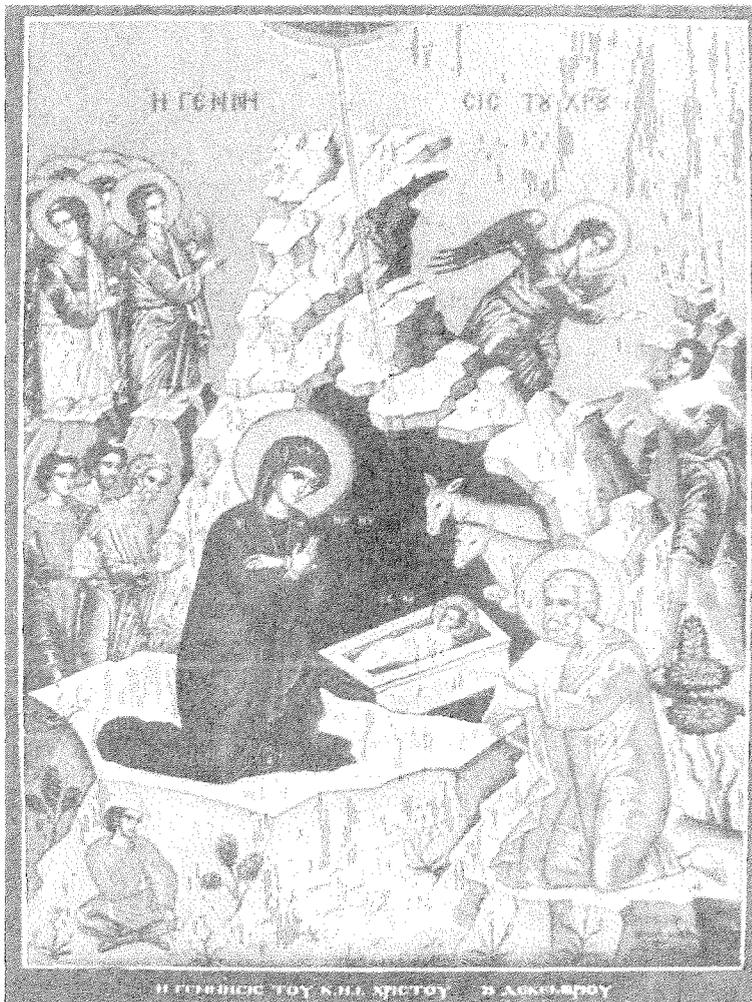


ГЛАСНИК

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА СВЕТОГ САВЕ
ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
January 2005

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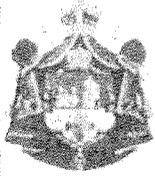
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ГЛАСНИК (Herald) is a publication
of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox
Church of Boston
33 W. Water St.
Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel. 781-246-9663

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St. Sava Church is a parish of the
Serbian Eastern American Diocese
which is under the jurisdiction of
the Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate
and His Holiness Patriarch Pavle in
Belgrade, Serbia

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ГОДИШЊА СКУПШТИНА
6. ФЕБРУАР 2005

ПОЗИВАМО СВЕ ЧЛАНОВЕ НАШЕ
ПАРОХИЈЕ НА ГОДИШЊУ СКУПШТИНУ
КОЈА ЋЕ СЕ ОДРЖАТИ У НЕДЕЉУ 6.
ФЕБРУАРА 2005 ПОСЛЕ СВЕТЕ
ЛИТУРГИЈЕ.

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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

WE INVITE ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ST.
SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TO
COME FOR THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF
OUR PARISH. IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2005 AFTER THE
DIVINE LITURGY

ДА ЛИ ВАШ ПРИЈАТЕЉ ИЛИ РОЂАК
ДОБИЈА ЦРКВЕНУ ПОШТУ?

Ако знате некога ко не добија пошту а то жели,
молимо вас да нам јавите адресу дотичнога.

Наш је циљ да сви буду обавештени о
збивањима која се тичу цркве и нашег народа
у Бостонској олколини.

Драги парохијани,

Ево нас на прагу још једног Божића, тог радосног Празника када слаavimo Рођење Христово. Рођење Богомладенца представља улазак Вечнога у историју света и човека. Својим рођењем нам доноси мир, срећу и обновљење овештале природе. Зато је радост сваког искреног Хришћанина у време Божићних празника неизмерна и зато једни друге поздрављамо са: Мир Божји Христос се роди!

У време Божићних празника и на почетку Нове године сабирамо своје мисли и гледамо како смо завршили претходну годину и планирамо шта би требало остварити у години испред нас. Ми који смо део Бостонске парохије а под омофором Светога Саве имамо разлога да будемо задовољни оствареним резултатима у току 2004.године. Поред уобичајених активности суботом и недељом, од октобра месеца смо почели са часовима фолклора за малу децу, што је привукло преко 20 деце која уживају у ритму предивног српског фолклора. Недељне и празничне Литургије су нам све посећеније што ме чини посебно радосним.

Као део једног Српског народа не можемо бити равнодушни према ономе што се догађало на Косову у току прошле године . Наша парохија је у границама својих могућности помогла нашем страдалном народу , нарочито после мартовских страдања. Нисмо остали хладни ни према апелу наше Цркве када нас је позвала да помогнемо обнову Хиландара после катастрофалног пожара.

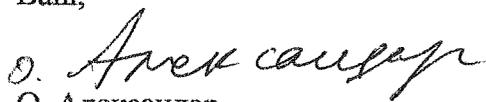
Пред нама је 2005. година. По много чему ова година може бити историјска и пресудна. Ја сам благодаран Богу за цркву коју имамо. Међутим, чињеница је да се са растом парохије стварају и нове потребе. Да не би у будућности ишли у туђе цркве за крштења, венчања и остале Свете тајне, било би лепо да дођемо до адекватне цркве која ће задовољити наше потребе. Као људи од вере не треба да сумњамо да је ово могуће. Сетимо се речи Св. Апостола Павла који каже: Све могу у Христу који ми моћ даје. И ја верујем да уз Божију помоћ и вашу подршку заједнички много можемо урадити. Када дође време да се направи велики корак, искрено се надам да ће већина парохијана позитивно реаговати и помоћи велики подухват.

Користим ову прилику да захвалим свима вама који сте неуморно радили за добро наше парохије у протеклој години. Хвала за ваше новчане прилоге. У своје лично име и у име Црквеног Одбора желим вам Срећан Божић уз радостан поздрав:

МИР БОЖЈИ ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ!

Такође, желимо вам све најбоље: здравље, срећу и мир од Богомладенца Христа у Новој 2005. години.

Ваш,


О. Александар

Dear Parishioners:

Here we are before yet another Christmas, that joyous Feast when we celebrate birth of Christ. The birth of Jesus represents the entrance of the Eternal One into the history of the world and humanity. Through His birth He brings us, peace, happiness and renewal of our old nature. For that reason every true Christian is full of joy at Christmas time and we greet each other with: Peace from God Christ is Born!

At Christmas time and at the beginning of the New Year we collect our thoughts and examine what we did during the past year and then plan what we should do in the year to come. Those of us who live in the area of the Boston parish under the protection and blessing of St. Sava can be satisfied with the results during the past year. Besides the regular activities on Saturdays and Sundays at our church, we have also started with folklore lessons for our children since the fall. It has attracted more than twenty children who enjoy the wonderful Serbian music and dance. Our Sunday services attendance has also increased which makes me very happy.

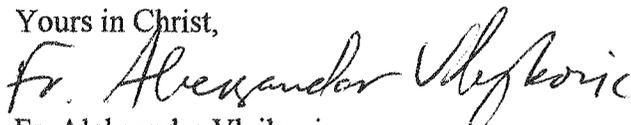
As members of a Serbian nation we cannot be indifferent watching the suffering of our people in Kosovo, especially in March of last year. Our parish, within its means, helped our people in Kosovo financially. We also responded to the appeal of our Church after the catastrophic fire in monastery Hilandar on Mount Athos in Greece.

Year 2005 is ahead of us. This year can be historic and decisive in many ways. I am very grateful to God for the church we have. However, it is a fact that, as the parish grows, new needs are emerging. In order to avoid going to other Orthodox churches for weddings, baptisms etc, it would be nice to acquire a church of our own which will satisfy the needs of our parish. As believers we should not doubt that this is possible. Let us remember the words of Apostle Paul who says: *I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me (Philipians 2:13)*. I believe also that with God's help and your support we can do many things together. I am hoping that when the time comes to take a big step forward, the majority of you will respond positively in such a great endeavor.

I am using this opportunity to thank all of you who worked tirelessly during the past year for the wellbeing of our parish. Thank you also for your financial contributions. On behalf of our Church Board and personally, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas with the joyous greeting: PEACE FROM GOD CHRIST IS BORN!

Also, have a blessed New Year filled with health, joy and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,


Fr. Aleksandar Vlajkovic



РАСПОРЕД БОГОСЛУЖЕЊА У ЦРКВИ СВЕТОГ САВЕ У ВЕЈКФИЛДУ ЈАНУАР 2005

Четвртак, 6. јануар 2005	Бадњи дан	9 ујутру
Четвртак, 6. јануар 2005	Бадње вече	7 увече
Петак, 7. јануар 2005	БОЖИЋ	10 ујутру
Субота, 8. јануар 2005	Сабор Пресвете Богородице	10 ујутру
Недеља 9. јануар 2005	Св. Архиђакон Стефан	10 ујутру
Петак 14. јануар 2005	Св. Василије Велики (Нова Година)	9 ујутру
Уторак, 18. јануар 2005	Крстовдан (Освећење водике)	9 ујутру
Среда, 19. јануар 2005	Богојављење (Освећење Богојављ., Водике)	9 ујутру
Четвртак, 20. јануар 2005	Св. Јован Крститељ	9 ујутру
Среда, 26. јануар 2005	Вечерње уочи Св. Саве	7 увече
Четвртак, 27. јануар, 2005	Св. Сава	9 ујутру
Недеља, 30. јануар 2005	Литургија и Програм за децу (рецитације)	10 ујутру

Литургија недељом у 10 ујутру. Они који желе да се исповеде пре Божића могу то да учине на Бадње вече од 6 до 7 сати увече или ујутру на Божић од 9 до 9:30

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2005

January 6, 2005	Badnji dan	9 a.m.
January 6, 2005	Christmas Eve	7 p.m.
January 7, 2005	CHRISTMAS	10 a.m.
January 8, 2005	Synaxis of Most Holy Theotokos	10 a.m.
January 9, 2005	St. Stephen Archdeacon	10 a.m.
January 14, 2005	St. Basil the Great (New Year begins)	9 a.m.
January 18, 2005	Feast of Holy Cross	9 a.m.
January 19, 2005	Epiphany	9 a.m.
January 20, 2005	St. John the Baptist	9 a.m.
January 30, 2005	St. Sava Program	10 a.m.
January 27, 2005	St. Sava day	9 a.m.

ПРОСЛАВА БАДЊЕ ВЕЧЕРИ И БОЖИЋА

Овогодишња прослава Бадње вечери почеће свечаним бденијем у нашој цркви у 7 сати увече у понедељак, 6 јануара. После бденија служиће се уобичајена посна вечера и врућа ракија. Сутрадан на Божић свечана Литургија ће почети у 10 сати ујутру.

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БОЖИЋНА ИГРАНКА СУБОТА, 8 ЈАНУАР 2005

Наша црква организује Божићну игранку у Wakefield Lodge of Elks, 63 Baystate Road у Вејкфилду. Вечера са традиционалном српском кухињом почиње у 7 увече а затим следи игранка. Улаз за одрасле \$30 а деца испод 12 бесплатно. Од 12 -18 год улаз \$15. Забављаће вас Драган Јововић и Оркестар из Њу Церзи.

Како доћи до сале? Са југа узми пут 95/128 и изађи на излаз 41. На крају рампе скрени десно. Чим прођеш испод аутопута скрени лево на Bay State Rd. Сала ће бити на десној страни после 200 м.

Са севера: Вози на 95/128 према југу и изађи на излаз 41. На Стоп скрени лево и одмах прва улица десно. Сала ће бити са десне стране.

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СВЕТОСАВСКА ПРОСЛАВА

Овогодишња Светосавска прослава ће се одржати у недељу 30. јануара у цркви Св. Саве у Вејкфилду. Имаћемо част да ове године Његово Преосвештенство Владика Митрофан слави заједно са нама. Дечији програм ће бити после Св. Литургије која почиње у 10 ујутру. Сви заинтересовани за рецитације могу да се јаве оцу Александру. Ово је уједно и наша црквена слава па се надамо да ћете се одазвати у великом броју.

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ПАЉЕЊЕ СВЕЋА У ЦРКВИ

Као што знате ми Православни Хришћани палимо свеће за здравље наших сродника а такође и за покој душа оних који су умрли. Палимо их тако што дебљи крај свеће постављамо у песак а тањи (фитиљ) палимо. Примећено је да се неке свеће пале на дебљем крају а тањи део ставља у песак. **МОЛИМО ВАС ДА НЕ ПАЛИТЕ СВЕЋЕ НАОПАКО.** Ако је потребно додатно објашњење у вези свећа, молимо вас да се јавите оцу Александру

Christmas Eve and Nativity Celebrations

This year's Christmas Eve Celebration will begin at 7 p.m. in our church on January 6th. The Vespers Service will be followed by a Lenten dinner and Serbian tea. The following morning the Christmas Liturgy will begin at 10 a.m.

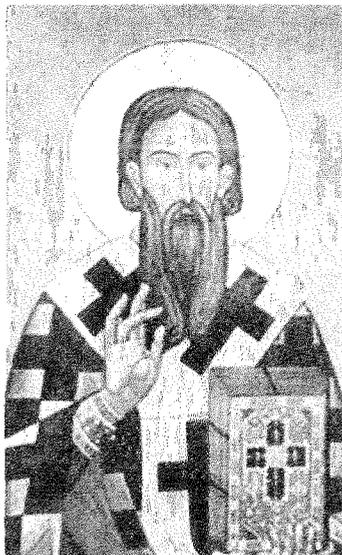
Christmas Dance

This year's Christmas dance will take place at the Wakefield Lodge of Elks in Wakefield, 63 Baystate Rd. A traditional Serbian dinner will be served which begins at 7 p.m. followed by a dance. The donation for adults is \$30 with children 12 and under free. 12-18 years old \$15.

The Wakefield Lodge of Elks is **NOT** the same as the Wakefield Knights of Columbus. The address is 63 Baystate Road. Going north from 95, take exit 41. At the end of ramp take a right. Turn left onto Baystate Rd. Elks Club Hall will be on your right. From North: Take 95 S and exit 41. At the stop sign turn left and then right onto Baystate Rd.

St. Sava Celebration

St. Sava Children's program will take place on Sunday, January 30th after Divine Liturgy. His Grace Bishop Mitrofan will join us for this celebration. Please contact Fr. Aleksandar if you would like to recite a poem.



FOLKLORE REGISTRATION

The St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Wakefield in cooperation with the members of the Gracanica Folklore Ensemble is sponsoring Serbian dance lessons for children ages 6 and up. Lessons will take place at the St. Sava Church School room on **Sundays from 1-2 p.m.** on the following dates:

February 13, 20, 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 8

The main instructor for this 12 week session is Srdjan Nickovic who will be assisted by other members of the Gracanica Dance Group. The twelve week course will be a minimum charge of **\$60 payable in advance to St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.** Hopefully, in May there will be a Spring Dance where the children will perform. The date will be announced at a later time.

In order to register your child, please fill out the form below and send it along with your check to St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 33 W. Water Street, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Name _____ age _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip code _____
phone number _____ e-mail _____

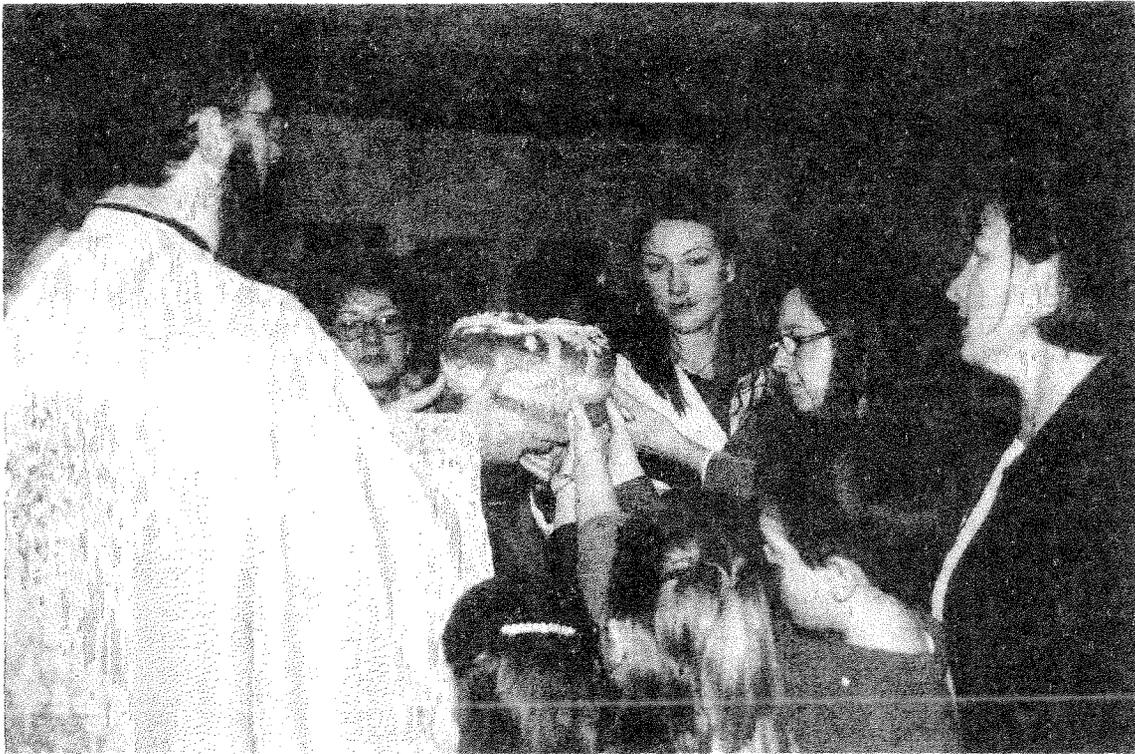
SERBIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Serbian language classes for children will resume on January 15. Classes will be held at our church on Saturdays at 4 p.m. \$50 fee will cover supplies and lessons. We have three teachers for three groups: Snezana Pejic, Rastko and Marija Jovic.

СВЕТА ПЕТКА-СЛАВА КОЛА СРПСКИХ СЕСТАРА

И ове године Коло је прославило своју заштитницу – Свету Петку. У недељу, 24 октобра одслужена је Света Литургија а затим пререзан Славски колач. Одржан је и помен за упокојене чланице Кола. Куме овогодишње славе су биле Марија Илић и Катарина Миљковић. За идућу годину се пријавила Олга Муцић.

Славље је настављено у црквеној сали која је била препуна парохијана како из Бостонске тако и из Портландске парохије. Председница Кола сестара, Сузана Форкапић се захвалила свим сестрама за неуморан рад и у знак захвалности уручила свим присутним сестрама беџ КСС. Такође, у име Кола сестара објавила је велики прилог од \$9,000 за Грађевински фонд наше цркве. У име ЦО захвалио се о. Александар за овај велики прилог.



ST. PETKA CIRCLE OF SERBIAN SISTERS CELEBRATES ITS SLAVA

On Sunday, October 24th, 2004, our Kolo celebrated its Patron Saint- St Petka. After the Divine Liturgy, the Slava bread was blessed by Fr. Aleksandar. The Kumas for this year's Slava were Marija Ilic and Katarina Miljkovic. Also, a memorial was held for deceased sisters of Kolo. The Celebration resumed in the church hall which could hardly fit all the guests. The Kolo President, Suzana Forkapic thanked all the sisters for their hard work. As a token of appreciation all of the current sisters received a Kolo badge. The Kolo also gave a \$9,000 donation toward the St. Sava Building Fund. On behalf of the Church Board, Fr. Aleksandar thanked them for their hard work and a generous donation

РОЂЕЊЕ ХРИСТОВО

Света Дјева Марија очекивала је у Назарету да се испуни што јој беше обећао анђео. Но Божја је воља била да се Син Божји роди у Давидовом граду Витлејему, као што је пророк давно прорекао.

Римски цар Август хтеде да преброји народ у своме царству, те издаде заповест да се сви људи попишу. Ради тога сваки је морао да иде у онај град одакле му је порекло. Света Дјева Марија и Јосиф били су из племена Давидова и пођоше из Назарета у Витлејем.

Кад су уморни од пута стигли, било је већ вече и нигде више није било места, ни по гостионицама, ни по кућама, јер је много света било дошло. Они изађоше ван града и склонише се у неку пећину, где су пастири склањали стадо од непогоде. И ту у ноћи Света Дјева роди Сина првенца, пови Га и метну Га у јасле.

У близини пастири су чували стражу код свога стада. Уједанпут стаде међу њих анђео, обасја их небеска светлост, те се јако уплашише. Но анђео им рече: „Не бојте се, јер вам јављам велику радост која ће бити свему народу. Јер вам се данас роди Спаситељ, Христос Господ, у граду Давидову. И ево вам знак: наћи ћете дете повијено где лежи у јаслама”.

Док је он то говорио, појави се још много анђе-ла, који хваљаху Бога речима: „Слава на висини Богу и на земљи мир, међу људима добра воља”.

Кад анђели одоше на небо, похиташе пастири у Витлејем и нађоше у пећини Јосифа и Свету Дјеву Марију и дете у јаслама. Поклонише се Исусу и казаше што су видели и од анђела чули о том детету. Потом пастири одоше славећи и хвалећи Бога и јављајући радосну вест свима које среташе. Тако се испуни обећање Божје, дође час који су људи давно очекивали. Син Божји постаде човек, прими на себе људско тело и људску душу, да људе спасе од греха. Он доноси људима мир и љубав, мири Бога са људима. И овде се показује велика доброта и љубав Божја: сам Господ Исус Христос силази с неба на земљу међу грешне људе, да живи и да трпи муке као човек. Он се не рађа у царској палати, нити у богатству, него у пастирској пећини; не лежи на свили и у златној колевци, него у јаслама на слами. Њега су први видели и поздравили прости људи, пастири. Он је нада и радост свих људи, великих и малих, богатих и сиротих.

Христос је Бог и човек, Богочовек. Мати његова је Божја мати, Богородица. Рођење Христово је најрадоснији догађај за Хришћане.

Сваке године празнујемо Рођење Сина Божјег или Божић, три дана од 25. децембра(7. јануара). Тада се поздрављамо речима: „Мир Божји! Христос се роди!” Онда су и мали и велики радосни, као што су били радосни анђели на небу и пастири на земљи. Но човек не може бити радостан, ако у души носи грехове, ако некога мрзи. Зато се за Божић спремамо постом од шест недеља, миримо се са свима и причешћујемо се. Онда помажемо сироте да се и они могу радовати. Божић је празник мира и љубави, као што су певали анђели.

Српски народ има лепих и веселих обичаја за ове дане.

Representatives from the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro visit Boston parish

Upon the invitation from the Church Board of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Boston, a delegation from the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro in Washington D.C. visited the Boston parish on October 9th and 10th 2004. The delegation was lead by Mr. Bozin Nikolic, Head of Consular Section.



On Saturday they toured Boston guided by their host, Dr. Bozidar Kuljic. In the evening they joined the parishioners for a fundraising dinner and concert by the famous singer from Serbia Predrag Cune Gojkovic. On Sunday after the Divine Liturgy, Mr. Bozin Nikolic gave a presentation on the work of the Embassy. He spoke about the services they offer including citizenship, visas, military service regulations, etc. Mr. Mirko Stojcevic spoke about the economic situation in Serbia and Montenegro. He especially focused on the economic transition with a comparative look at other countries from Eastern Europe who had similar experiences. He also spoke about privatization and investing in Serbia and Montenegro. Parishioners then had a chance to ask any questions of interest.

This was the first visit from the Serbian Embassy to St. Sava Church.

PORTLAND PARISH RECEIVES FIRST FULL TIME PRIEST

Portland, ME - His Grace Bishop Dr. + Mitrophan officiated at the Divine Liturgy at Synaxis of Serbian Saints in Biddeford, Maine on Sunday, September 26, 2004. Assisting His Grace was Protonamesnik Fr. Ivan Marjanovic, whom the bishop presented to the parish following the service and introduced as their new full time priest. Fr. Ivan arrived in America only a few days prior to the first liturgy, on September 23 with Popadija Biljana and daughter Monica. Prior to his appointment to the newly established mission in Portland, Fr. Ivan was a priest in the town of Godovik, Serbia in the Diocese of Zicha where he served for 17 years.



Attending the Divine Liturgy on Sunday was also Protonamesnik Fr. Aleksandar Vlajkovic of St. Sava in Boston, who joined Popadija Biljana and seminarian Stanislav Kravljaca at the pevnica, singing the responses. Also attending this very special event in the life of this young parish were a number of neighboring Greek families, close friends of our Serbian community.

A luncheon was served in the church hall following Divine Liturgy where His Grace offered his welcoming words to the newly arrived priest, wishing him much success in his new surroundings. The bishop also used this time to thank the efforts of Fr. Aleksandar Vlajkovic who had served the needs of this faithful community as administrator over the years. A number of parishioners were also recognized with Episcopal Citations. Special recognition was given to Milica and Donald Pogorzelski who were recognized as Founders and Benefactors for their many contributions to the parish.



There were about 150 parishioners attending the affair. Special guests at the luncheon were local Greek priest Fr. Vasilios Arabatzis and Professor Veselin Kesich and his wife Lidija.

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

December 25 /January 7th



Introduction

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Biblical Story

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures. The story is found in [Matthew 1:18-25](#) and in [Luke 2:1-20](#). No matter how often the Birth of Jesus is told, we realize that it is an important event.

As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Empire was powerful. The Romans had conquered much of the then known world. Judea and Samaria, what we know today as Israel, were included in

their conquests. Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Joseph tried very hard to find a place to sleep that evening. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their

sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said:

"Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

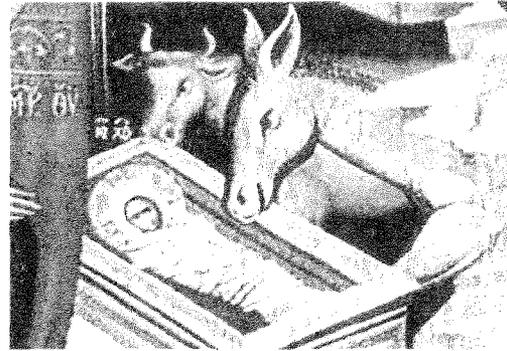
Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

Icon of the Nativity

The icon of the Nativity tells the story of Christ's birth from the Scriptures. It also shows that all creation is taking part in Christ's birth. The angels give thanks with their song; the heavens give the star; the Wise Men give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The poor, humble shepherds give their praise and amazement; the earth gives the cave, and humanity gives the Virgin.

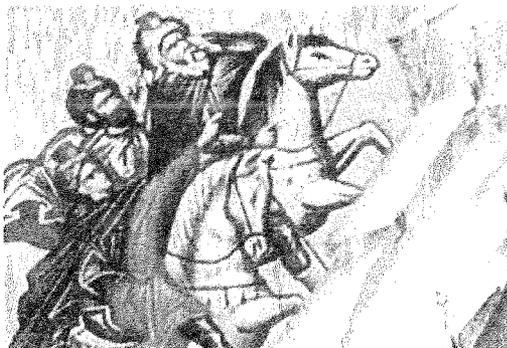


1. The icon of the Nativity stresses the importance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus (detail).



2. The Christ Child, seen here in swaddling clothes, lies in a manger guarded by the ox and donkey (detail).

This Holy Icon is an icon with many scenes. First, it stresses the importance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus (1). She is placed in the center and is the largest figure in the icon. In this icon, she is kneeling with crossed arms, looking at the Christ child. The three stars, denoting her virginity before, during, and after the Nativity, are on her garments. The Christ Child (2), in the center of the icon, is in swaddling clothes and is lying in the manger. In the background is the dark cave where He was born. In the cave are an ox and a donkey guarding the newborn Babe. Even though the Gospels say nothing of the cave, this information is from Holy Tradition. Neither do the Gospels speak of the ox and the donkey, but all icons of the Nativity include these animals. Including the animals in the icon fulfills the prophecy of [Isaiah 1:3](#), "The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master's crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me." The long ray of light from the star points directly to the cave. This ray comes from the star and travels to all parts of the world. It teaches that this bright star is an astronomical happening, and is a messenger from heaven announcing the birth of Jesus.



3. The Wise Men, are seen in the icon riding towards the light from the star (detail).



4. Opposite from the Wise Men sits a young shepherd boy plays music for his flock (detail).



5. An angel gives glory to God and announces the good news of His birth (detail).

On the left hand side of the icon is another scene. The Wise Men (3), who were led by the star, are riding horses to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. The Wise Men are of various ages. One is without a beard. In those days, young men did not wear beards. The other Wise Man has long hair and a long beard, which indicates that he is much older. These details teach that regardless of age and appearance, the Good News was given to each and everyone.

Opposite the Wise Men is the scene with the humble shepherds. An angel proclaims the glad tidings. A young shepherd plays a reed instrument (4). This scene reveals that the music of the humans was added to the hymn of the angels. Across from the shepherd's scene is the heavenly choir of angels (5). They are giving glory to God. The angels serve two purposes in the Nativity of Christ. They give glory to God and announce the good news to all mankind.

The background shows a very rugged terrain. This is not a true representation of the land in this area. Joseph could not find room in Bethlehem, so they went outside of Bethlehem to a cave. This rocky mountain formation only serves as a background for the event.

In the lower part of the icon are two more scenes. In the right hand corner are the two women Joseph brought to take care of the Christ child (6). They are bathing Him just as any baby is bathed. The humanity of Jesus is clearly shown in this setting.



6. Satan is depicted as an old man who is tempting Joseph not to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus (detail).



7. In the right hand corner are the two women Joseph brought to take care of the Christ child. (detail).

Opposite the bathing of Jesus scene sits a sad and worried Joseph (7). He is not part of the central group the Christ Child and the Theotokos. Joseph is not the natural father. Joseph is troubled and despondent. There is an old man talking to Joseph. The old man is Satan. Satan can appear in many forms. Here he is as an old man who is tempting Joseph and disturbing him. Satan is telling Joseph that virgin birth is impossible. He's telling Joseph that he's a fool if he believes this. This story comes to us from Holy Tradition. The sad Joseph shows us not only his personal predicament but the dilemma of all mankind the difficulty of accepting that which is "beyond words or reason."

The tree, which is in the middle of the lower part of the icon, is a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. This tree refers to [Isaiah 11:1-2](#), "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." King David was often mentioned as the son of Jesse and Jesus was from the House of David.

The Holy Icon of the Nativity reminds one to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. The celebration of Christmas each year serves to remind each and everyone of us that Christ came for you and me.

The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity

As with Pascha, or Easter, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation. It is preceded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on November 15.

On the Sundays immediately before December 25, special commemorations emphasize the link between the Old Covenant and the New. On December 20 the Forefeast of the Nativity is commemorated, and the daily liturgical texts are directed toward the Feast itself. On Christmas Eve, services include the Great or Royal Hours, the Great Vespers, and the Liturgy of Saint Basil.

On Christmas Day the service commemorates the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the adoration of the Shepherds, and the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts. The service held on this day is the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

The days following Christmas are associated with the Theotokos and Joseph. December 26 is the Synaxis of the Mother of God, and the first Sunday after the Feast commemorates "Joseph the Betrothed." December 29 commemorates the Massacre of the Innocents, and January 1 the Circumcision of our Lord. The Nativity season concludes on December 31, but the spirit of the festival extends to the celebration of Theophany (Epiphany), the feast commemorating the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River.

Hymns of the Feast

Apolytikion: (Fourth Tone)

Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth those who adored stars, were taught by a star, to worship You, the Sun of Justice and to know You, Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

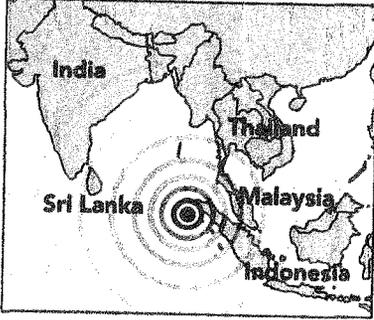
Kontakion: (Third Tone)

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

Borrowed from www.goarch.org

South Asia Earthquake

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DISASTER IN SOUTH ASIA.**



IOCC is joining with its partner Church World Service to respond immediately to the massive earthquake disaster throughout Southern Asia. Your help is urgently needed in order for us to complete the initial phase of our relief efforts. Donations may be mailed to us or submitted online at www.iocc.org. You may also call us toll-free 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

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Opening in Wakefield Center is the newest addition to our community. Artist, owner John Antonellis and director Sasa Samardzic are pleased to announce the grand opening of the **Anton Fine Art Gallery and Studio** located at 3 Lincoln Street directly adjacent to the Artist Corner.

The gallery is dedicated to the support and promotion of local emerging, established and developing regional artists. We are committed to bringing a diverse selection of art to the community, generating a dialog between artists and viewer, and providing a forum to raise art awareness and encourage education, especially with children. From the outset, the gallery will be committed to showing mid-career as well as young emerging artists whose work reflects quality, enthusiasm, advanced thinking and a unique vision. We encourage and welcome local art teachers and students to visit the gallery.

The gallery also offers all level in-gallery classes and workshops which are now forming to begin the 1st of the new year. The gallery is also currently accepting proposals for one person shows or group exhibits. The selection of art is constantly changing so please visit their website regularly for news, updates, exhibitions and events. www.anton-art.com

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