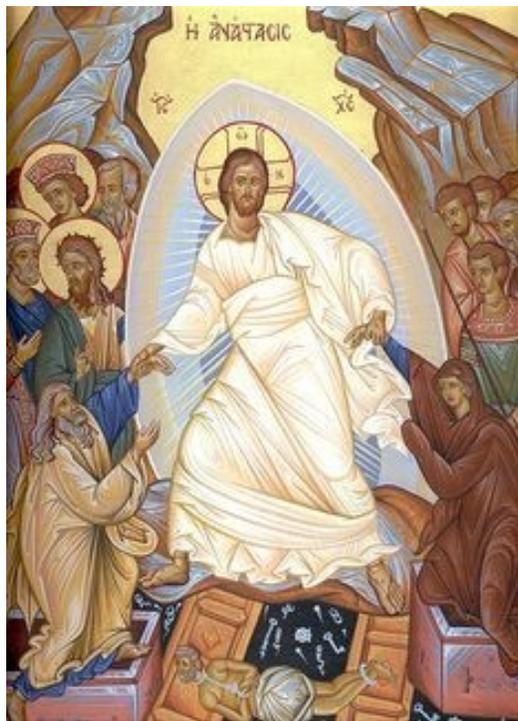


A Message from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church

ПОРУКА



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

April 2019

St. Sava
Serbian Orthodox Church

4436 E. Mckinley St.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602.275.7360 (office)

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9am-2pm

V. Rev. Father Dragomir
Tuba, Parish Priest
Cell: 480-737-6807
Fr.dragomir@yahoo.com

Worship Services
Sunday 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Rastko Bookstore
Open Sunday after Divine Liturgy
in the Cultural Center

Church Website
www.stsava.com

Church Office Email
stsavaphx@gmail.com

Current Church Board

President
Alex Beric

1st Vice President
Ljubo Gordic

2nd Vice President
Dmeter Dragovich

Financial Secretary
Goran Culibrk

Treasurer
Donna Vudrag

Recording Secretary
Dejan Knezevic

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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER DRAGOMIR-HOLY PASCHA

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we journeyed through Great and Holy Lent, we gathered at many penitent services so that we can with repentance, confession, and prayers be with our Lord as He, the sinless Lamb, willingly ascends the Cross. We relived His voluntary suffering, humiliation, beating, spitting and death so that we may today, welcome Christ's glorious Resurrection. By participating in these events we live through them, overcoming death and every sadness, for just as without death there is no Resurrection, so likewise without spiritual struggle carried out in hope and long-suffering there is no consolation.

Year after year on this Great and Marvelous Holy Day of Christ's Resurrection, we are reminded, and more importantly we are all witnesses that there is nothing like this Day - the Feast of Feasts! Joy fills our souls, hearts, churches, our homes, our towns and villages. The world and entire nature rejoice. Everything is bright and beautiful.

Resurrection is the greatest victory over evil, sin and death, which reminds us that we have the possibility and duty to stand up against every spiritual fall and against everything that prevents us from walking towards the good. He made this possible for us. The Lord Himself out of His exceeding great mercy and love towards us takes upon Himself a wondrous ascetic feat, so that He can to return everything to its original harmony and to return us the joy. With His words "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he may die, yet he shall live," (John 11:25) He gives us hope for the true life which is the joy of our faith.

In the festive spirit of the Holy Resurrection let us remind ourselves of the unchanging values of the Orthodox faith – love, forgiveness, peace, mutual respect and understanding. Wishing you everything the best from our Resurrected Lord and that you may share joy of the greatest Christian Holy Day with your loved ones and spend Holy Pascha in peace, love and spiritual well-being!

Christ is Risen!

Fr. Dragomir, Protinica Kristina and Children

CELEBRATED FEAST DAYS

Saturday of the Holy and Righteous Friend of Christ, Lazarus



Introduction

On the Saturday before Holy Week, the Orthodox Church commemorates a major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days. Here, at the end of Great Lent and the forty days of fasting and penitence, the Church combines this celebration with that of Palm Sunday. In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious Feast of Pascha.

Biblical Story: The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus Christ is found in the Gospel of John 11:1-45. Lazarus becomes ill, and his sisters, Mary and Martha send a message to Jesus stating, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” In response to the message, Jesus says, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (vv. 1-4).

Jesus did not immediately go to Bethany, the town where Lazarus lived with his sisters. Instead He remained in the place where He was staying for two more days. After this time, He told his disciples that they were returning to Judea. The disciples immediately expressed their concern, stating that the Jews there had recently tried to stone Him (John 10:31). Jesus replied to His disciples, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them” (vv. 5-10).

After He said this, Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus had fallen asleep and that He was going there to wake him. The disciples wondered why He would go to wake Lazarus, since it was good for him to sleep if he was ill. Jesus, however, was referring to the death of Lazarus, and thus told the disciples directly that Lazarus was dead (vv. 11-14).

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, many of the Jews had come to console Mary and Martha. When Martha heard that Jesus was approaching she went to meet Him and said to Him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of Him.” Jesus told her that her brother will rise again. Martha said that she knew he would rise again in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus replied, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” Jesus asked Martha if she believed this. She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world” (vv. 17-27).



Lazarus Saturday in the Serbian Church

VRBICA

The Serbian people have a special custom on Palm Sunday weekend. On the eve, which is Lazarus Saturday, children gather at the church. They are dressed in new clothes as if it were Easter. They make a procession around the church, waiving the branches, like the children did for Jesus.

Led by the Cross, with the priest and altar boys, they go on a “Vrbica Procession” as if going to meet Christ, singing the troparion of the feast. Around their necks hang little bells on ribbons of the Serbian tricolor. With the joyful ringing of the bells, these children seem like little lambs off to follow their shepherd. This day is called “Vrbica” or Little Willows”, after the children’s procession.

In the village, children went into the woods to find branches and then to the procession made its way through the streets. At the church, the branches were placed on a table to be blessed and distributed.

Both days share the same troparion. When we make the procession on Lazarus Saturday and when willow branches are blessed in Palm Sunday we participate in our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem and are just like the people who waved the palms of victory and the children who cried out in the temple “Hosanna in the Highest.”

Let’s remember to make time every day of our life to meet our Lord.

CELEBRATED FEAST DAYS

Palm Sunday- The Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem-April 21st



The celebration of Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem has a very direct correlation to Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. By now, word had spread through most of Jerusalem concerning what Christ had done in Bethany and how He raised Lazarus from the dead.

As you can imagine people were shocked and amazed. Many who had heard Christ preach and believed in Him as Lord came to worship Him. Others, who had heard of His healings and teachings came to see both Jesus and Lazarus with their own eyes— so they too can believe.

We read in the Gospel of John (12.14) how it is that Christ finds Himself riding on a young donkey and understand how it is to fulfill what was written in the scriptures. (Fear not, daughter of Zion: Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt). The people's response was one of spontaneity and reverence. The crowd saw Jesus coming and looking around them picked up palms and branches, some carried them in their arms and waved them, while others placed them on the road He was taking into Jerusalem. Still others spread out their garments while all shouted "Hosanna!" Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem is a messianic event, through which His Divine authority is declared. The events of Palm Sunday call each of us to lift up our voices and praise God; and behold our King, the Word of God made flesh. Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life.

We are called to be active participants in this celebration. We are not simply commemorating an event which took place in the past—rather, we are called to open our hearts and our souls and joyfully welcome and praise God shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."



THE PATH THAT CHRIST WALKED

Monday

“Behold the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the night, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching. But also unworthy is he whom He shall find lazy. Beware therefore my soul, do not fall into sleep.” Thus is sung the hymn which highlights the theme of Holy Monday evening. The service commemorates the Parable of the Ten Virgins. Of the ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish, and all were awaiting the Bridegroom to enter the Marriage Feast. However, He delayed His arrival and the five foolish virgins fell asleep after their oil lamps had gone out. When the Bridegroom arrived, they could not welcome Him properly, and only five wise virgins, who were prepared, entered the bridal hall with the Bridegroom.

Tuesday

In this, the final Nymphios Service, the Church Commemorates the sinful woman who anointed the Lord with myrrh, only a few days before His death. With true repentance for the life she had led, the woman anointed the head and feet of Christ with the myrrh and wiped His feet with her hair. Her tears, which mixed with the myrrh, were more effective than words in expressing her repentance to the Lord.

THE FINAL DAYS-HOLY WEEK

Holy Wednesday

On Holy Wednesday evening it has been traditional for hundreds of years for the Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction. The priest anoints the faithful with holy oil for the forgiveness of sins, protection from all things that may deter one’s mind away from the Lord and the healing of spiritual and physical infirmities. This allows the faithful to clear themselves of all things and to concentrate on the final events of Holy Week.

Holy Thursday

Thursday morning the Orthos is sung. The service, which commemorates the Lord’s washing of His disciples’ feet also remembers the shameful deed of Judas Iscariot in his decision to betray Jesus. As the Liturgy begins the thought of this betrayal is combined with readings and hymns marking the Last Supper. As the faithful prepare to partake of Holy Communion in remembrance of the Lord’s sharing of His Body and Blood with His disciples, a hymn uniting the betrayal and the Last Supper is sung. Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystic feast. For I will not speak of Your mystery to thine enemies; I will not give You a kiss as Judas did. But, as the thief I will confess You, Lord, remember me as You come into Your Kingdom..”

(continued)

On the evening of Holy Thursday, Jesus Christ is crucified. There are 12 Gospel readings in this service, all of which contribute to the completion of the tragic and dramatic picture of the Lord's final hours on earth. He is followed to His farewell conversation with His disciples and the Garden of Gethsemane where He prays one last time to His Father in Heaven, "My Father, if it is at all possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet, not by my will, but by Thine be done." Then Jesus wept. The atmosphere in the Church on this evening is one of hushed sorrow and tragedy. The words of our Lord's accusers are read; the statements of Pontius Pilate; and the cries of the mobs demanding His Crucifixion.

Holy Friday

On Holy Friday morning the church commemorates the Royal Hours: the Lord's hours of agony on the cross and His death. No Divine Liturgy is ever celebrated on Holy Friday because the Supreme Sacrifice of our Lord must be honored.

On Friday evening toward the end of the service the funeral procession takes place with the priest and the altar Epitaphios (Plastenica), a richly embroidered cloth, while the altar boys carry their torches and fans. The procession slowly approaches the tomb of Christ, the flower covered canopy (Kouvouklion) at the front of the church, and the priest places the Lord within it.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday morning, Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil are celebrated. This service links together the hopelessness of the burial of Christ with the Hope of His Glorious Resurrection.

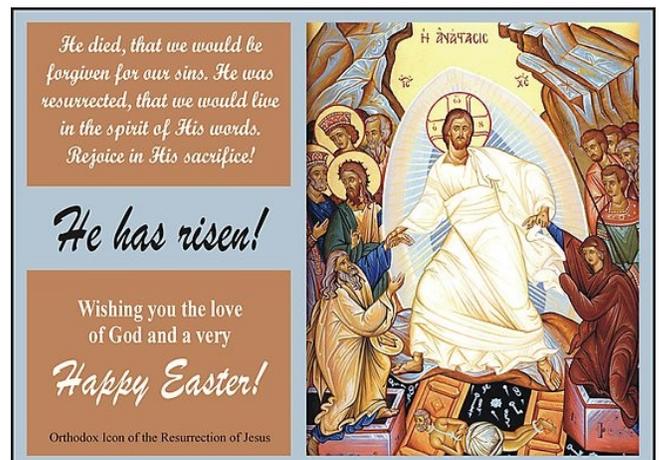
That evening, just before the stroke of midnight, the lights in the church are turned off. The darkness represents the despair felt by mankind over Christ's death. However, with the coming of midnight, the darkness is suddenly broken. The priest emerges from the sanctuary with a lighted candle and changes triumphantly:

"Come receive the light from the Never-fading Light; - And glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead."

The light from the priest's candle is then distributed to all the congregation and the Church takes on a brilliant glow. The time of mourning and sadness is over, for Jesus Christ has conquered death, He is the victor. He is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! The triumphant hymns which follow tell the faithful that this is the Day of Days. This is the Great Banquet told about in the Bridegroom services. All are invited to participate in the Feast of the Lord. In the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom which takes place on Sunday morning all who have prepared themselves are invited to receive Holy Communion.

*We Wish You All A
Blessed Pascha Filled With The
Love And Light Of Christ!*

*Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!*



Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ-[Pascha]

Sunday, April 28th



And after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and Mary-the mother of James, to see the tomb. And behold, a great earthquake, for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled the stone and sat on it. His figure like lightning, and his suit white as snow. From fear of him, the guards trembled and became still. Then the Angel spoke and said to the women: Don't fear; I know in fact that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He resurrected just like He said. Come and see the place where he laid. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He resurrected and behold, He goeth before you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Well, I told you. They left the tomb with fear and great joy running to tell His disciples. And be-

hold, Jesus met them and said: "Hello." They approached Him, embraced his feet and bowed to Him. He then said to them: "Fear not; go tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." When they left, some of the guards came into the city and told the High Priests all that had occurred. They gathered a lot of money and gave it to the soldiers, all while saying: "Tell them, His disciples came at night and stole Him while we were sleeping. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." (Mat 28:11-15) They took the money and did as they were told; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Lord Jesus Christ was buried in the garden of Gethsemane in a cave, which was sealed with stone and guards. On Sunday, the third day of the Crucifixion, the Lord's Angel came down and crushed the stone at the entrance of the cave, and Jesus Christ came out and resurrected. His face was like lightning, His suit white like light. Soldiers were afraid and left, shouting: "Christ is Risen!" When morning came, the women who came with Him from Galilee, came to see Christ's Tomb, finding it empty and the Angel said for them to go into the city and tell the rest that Our Lord has resurrected from the dead. They instantly obeyed and went to spread the good news to everyone. From then everyone started greeting one another with "Christ is Risen" and "Indeed He is Risen". Even today, 2000 years later, we welcome the very same greeting. Easter is the greatest Christian holiday, because on that day Our Lord, Jesus Christ, conquered death, and to all people from Adam and Eve to the last man on the earth gave eternal life. Because of the importance of this Holy Day, every Sunday during the year is dedicated to the Resurrection, and each Sunday is considered a small Easter. Resurrection is one of the moveable feast days and is celebrated after the Jewish Passover on the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on the same day of the spring equinox or immediately after it, however, never before the equinox. The earliest it could fall on is April 4th and the latest May 8th (new calendar). With this feast there are many beautiful traditions, ones that especially make children very happy.

FOCUS ON CHRIST AND HIS RESURRECTION

The Resurrection is that unique event in the history of mankind by which the doors of the Kingdom were opened to all the children of God.

Christ is “King” and “Lord of the Kingdom of God” as the second Psalm (Ps. 2:6) and all of Scripture says. He came into this world to bring God’s Kingdom to us. This is why the Lord says to Pilate; *“My kingdom is not of this world, but whoever is of the truth hears My voice”* (John 18:36).

In the Gospel, Jesus continually refers to the Kingdom of God. He says, *“Amend your ways, the Kingdom of God is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2). Likewise he says, *“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...”* (Matthew 6:33).

Our Lord says that His Kingdom is not of this world and the proof of this is the Resurrection. The Resurrection surpasses all the natural laws of the world. It is only through the Resurrection that we can enter into God’s Kingdom, which is also called the New Earth, or the New Israel.

“Whoever is of the truth hears my voice” declares the Lord. In the Resurrection, the truth of the Kingdom is made clear. Those who believe in the Resurrection are part of this truth, for our Lord is the Truth. They hear the voice who calls us to take our cross and follow Him. The truth is in the Resurrection of the Lord, for He says, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”* (John 14:6).

Just before His Resurrection the Lord proclaims, *“The Kingdom of God is at hand”*. The Kingdom is made available to all by the Resurrection of our Lord. By His Resurrection, the Kingdom has begun.

The Risen Christ goes to Hades first and takes with Him the righteous of the Old Testament who awaited His arrival. He takes with him the thief who is crucified at his side. But mainly, Jesus takes Himself, as true man to the Kingdom, where He sits at the right hand of the Father.

In the Kingdom, He is not resting. He is busy preparing a place for us (John 14:2). He wants us all to be part of His Resurrection. But it is not enough for Jesus to work for our salvation. We too, must work with Him and obey His commandments.

“Amend your ways,” says the Lord. Focus on Christ and on his Resurrection. He is the Way. Do not follow the tempter, the devil, and the things of this world.

“Seek first the Kingdom,” the Lord commands us. He is the Life. There is nothing more important in life than seeking the Kingdom. *“What do we gain if we gain the whole world and we lose our souls?”* (Matthew 17:26) asks the Lord. In other words, everything else vanishes with this world. The treasures of this world are rusting; robbers can come and take them away. We cannot take them with us to Heaven.

Therefore, we should seek and follow that which leads to the Resurrection! If we are Children of the Resurrection, we will amend our ways and seek the Kingdom first.

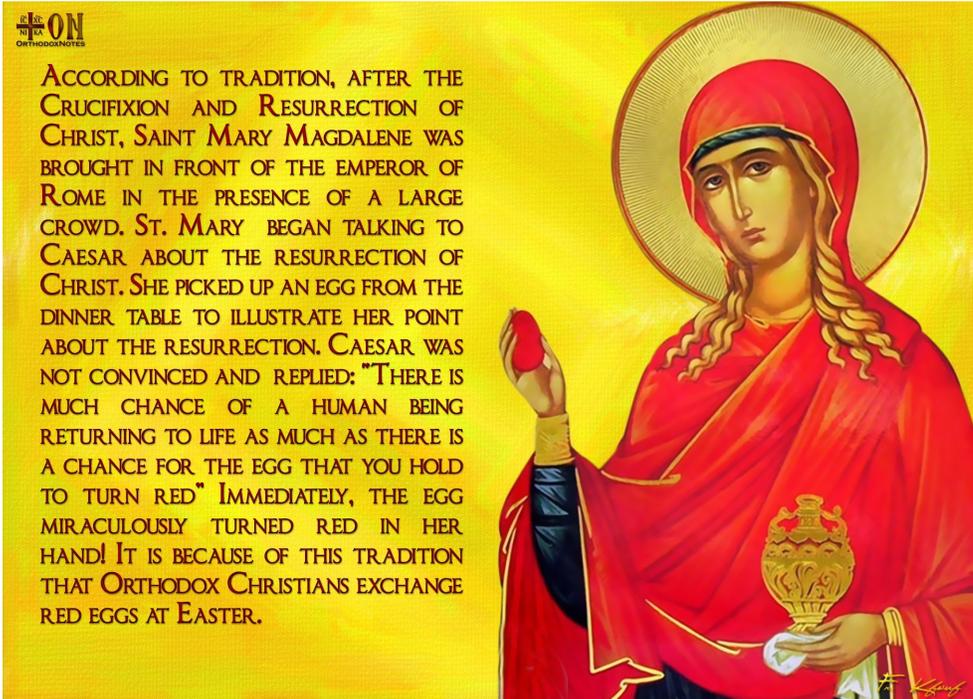
Let us remember, during Pascha and always, that the world is important only in as much as it helps us to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven – and helps us to look at the Kingdom of God through the event of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Orthodox Easter

Miracle of the Red Egg

The egg is a pre-Christian symbol of birth and new life. Mary Magdalene Christianized this symbol when she gave King Herod an egg dyed red to tell him that Christ had risen. Once she had his attention, she proceeded to teach him that Christ's Resurrection brings new life to all persons. She chose the egg because it was understood at the time as a symbol of life. In the case of Jesus Christ, the shell represented the tomb with life sealed within. The red dye symbolizes the precious blood of Christ, shed for salvation of mankind. For more than 2,000 years, Orthodox Christians have remembered this deed of Mary Magdalene. Following the Paschal service, the priest blesses red eggs in the church and gives one to everyone present. The faithful then greet each other by knocking their eggs together and saying "Christ is Risen!" with the response "Indeed He is Risen! The breaking of the eggs symbolizes the breaking of the seal of the tomb and the veil of the Temple being torn.



Crack your eggs together to celebrate the shattering of Hades by the victorious Christ!



#beingintheknowatstsavachurch

If you are not receiving **St. Sava's Weekly Church Emails** and would like to, please send your request to:
stsavaphx@gmail.com



STEWARDS of the Faith

All Things Are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of Time, Talent, and Treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

Effective Stewardship ministry is not a single event or project. Rather, it is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service.

If you have any questions regarding Stewardship, please feel free to talk to Dmeter Dragovich or Donna Vudrag.

To be considered a Steward in good standing, Parishioners are asked to fill out a NEW Stewardship/Membership Card each year. 2019 cards can be found at the Tutor's Desk and in the Church Office.

Thank you for your support!

ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to inform all parishioners of a resolution that took place at our Annual Stewardship/Membership Assembly that was held on Sunday, March 31st. The new fees/taxes for special services performed by our Church are as follows:



Baptism:	Steward - Donation	Non-Steward - Donation
Wedding:	Steward - Donation	Non-Steward - \$600.00
Funeral:	Steward - Donation	Non-Steward - \$600.00
Parastos:	Steward - Donation	Non-Steward - Donation

TUCSON SERVICES



Father Dragomir will serve Divine Liturgy in Tucson on Saturday, April 13th at 10am at **Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church** (5910 E. 5th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711)

If you have friends, family, or Kumovi that live in Tucson, be sure to let them know!

Bringing our Brothers and Sisters in the Tucson Metro Area closer to our Orthodox Church!



2019 HOUSE OF STEWARDS

*Vera Avramovic
*Ann Baich
*Maria Brnovich
Mark Brnovich
Dusan Cekarmis
Gordana Cekarmis
Paul Djurisc
Dmeter Dragovich
Milutin Drakulovic
Ljubo Gordic
Snezana Gordic
Nicholas Gudovic
Tanja Gudovic
Ruzica Jaksic
Nebojsa Jevdosic
Jovan Kangrga
Srdjan Kleut
Milan Kesic
*Nada Krstic
Tatjana Lamonte
Dusan Lazarevic
Kata Malobabic-Zlojutro
Donna Marjanovich
*Uros Markovic
*Natalie Marusich
Dragomir Mikalacki
Jelena Momich
Stevan Mrksic
Miomir Nikich
Dragan Nikolic
Dona Okuka
Yvonne Orlich
*Sofia Pavich
Dusanka Price
Daniel Pyevich
Mira Radakovich
*Slavka Radjevic
John Sefferovich
*Emily Sertich
Branko Srejjc
Nancy Srejjc
Dusan Stanisic

Katarina Stanisic
Mihajlo Stojanovic
Zdravko Sulaver
Dusanka Tkacenko
*Fr. Janko Trbovic
*Fr. Dragomir Tuba
Protinica Kristina Tuba
Donna Vudrag
George Vudrag
Mirjana Vujic
Violet Vukotich
Vera Whitted

*Denotes Honorary

As of 3/29/19

Congratulations to our New 2019 Executive Church Board!

President-Alex Beric
Vice President-Ljubo Gordic
2nd Vice President-Dmeter Dragovich
Treasurer-Donna Vudrag
Financial Secretary-Goran Culibrk
Recording Secretary-Dejan Knezevic

Members at Large

Milan Kesic
Joe Kosanovich
Stevan Mrksic
Milan Simovich
Dusan Stanisic
George Vudrag

Audit Committee

Deyan Bunjevic
Zdravko Sulaver
Dubravka Vukcevic

Diocese Delegate

Zdravko Sulaver

Nominating Committee

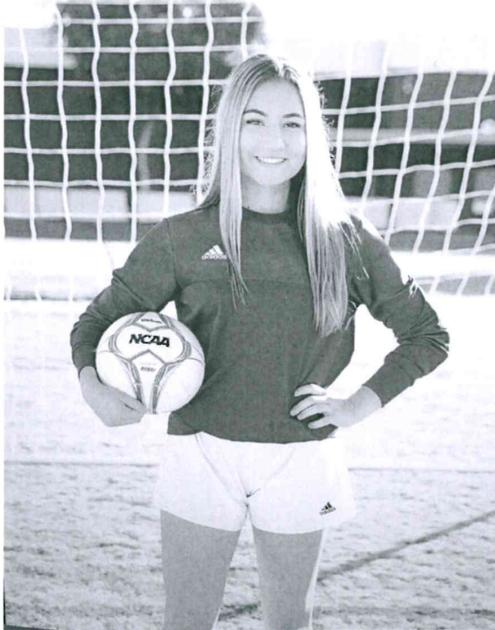
Ljubo Gordic
Dragisa Mikalacki
Branko Srejjic

May God Bless Each and Every One of You!

DID YOU KNOW...

- The average monthly cost to operate our Church is \$12,876. This **does not** include any repair or maintenance that should be done on a regular basis.
- The average monthly income from general donations, stewardship & tas collection is \$6,456.
- Without special events we **would not** survive. Yet, the lack of volunteers becomes greater and greater each year.
- Income from donations from individuals was \$96,748.02 in 2017. This total is down 19.65% from the \$120,420.92 received in 2016.
- Of the \$96,748.02 that was received from 273 people, 51% (\$49,030) came from 60 people that filled out a stewardship card.
- Out of 273 people that we can track receiving donations from, only 26 of them gave more than \$1000. during the year.
- The average annual commitment received from stewards was \$817.17 for 2017.

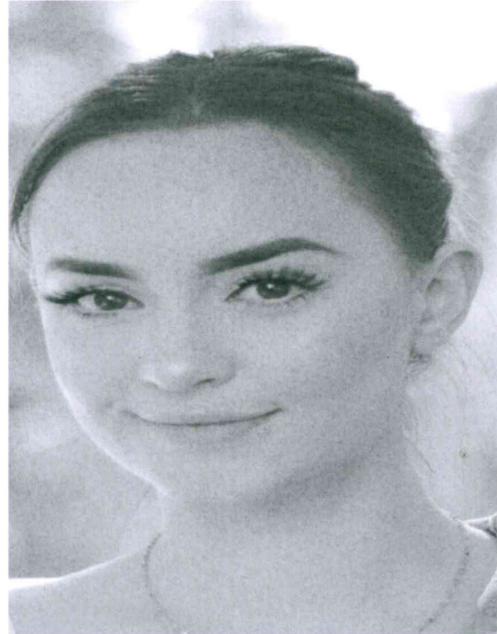
Meet Our 20



ALEKSIA VRANJES

I am graduating from Higley High School in May 2019 and will be studying Criminal Justice at Concordia University Chicago. I will also be continuing my soccer career at Concordia as their newest goal keeper and am excited for this next chapter in my life as a student athlete.

I will miss the warm, welcoming and kind community at St. Sava! I grew up in this church and have loved being a member of its community. Being a part of our Sunday School for the past 14 years and our folklore group since its inception in 2006 has given me so many irreplaceable memories that I will forever be grateful for.



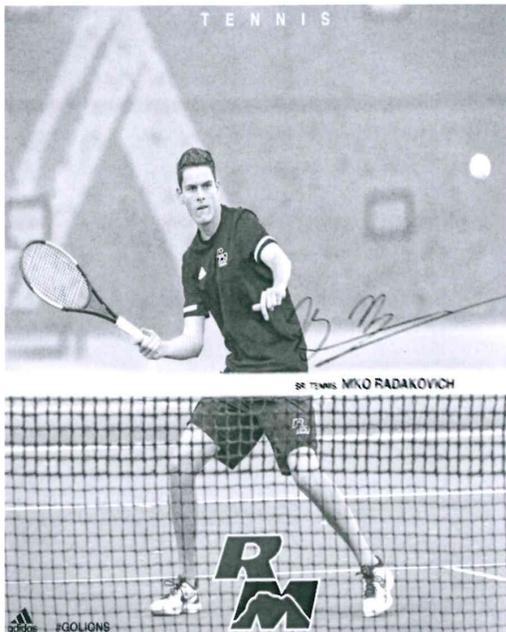
ANA KILABARDA

I am graduating from Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix this year. I plan on attending college and I'll declare my future major in the very near future.

Growing up and going to church since such a young age has been a big part of my life. Church is a place where everyone comes together, friends and family and it's a place where the outside world doesn't matter. Every Sunday or Folklore Friday is where everyone comes together as one. Church is and always will be a crucial part in my life.

Wishing all graduates and parishioners all the best in life. God Bless!

19 Graduates



NIKOLAI RADAKOVICH

In May, I will be graduating from Red Mountain High School in Mesa and in the fall, I will be attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, where I will be pursuing a degree in Pharmacy.

Church and my faith are a very important part of my life and I will miss attending St. Sava on a regular basis. Since the age of five, I have been an altar boy and active in the church community. Church has taught me many lessons that I will use in my college life and my future endeavors.



MARKO PELEVIC

I will be graduating from Red Mountain High School in Mesa in May. This summer I will be a camp counselor in Jackson, California, home to the first Serbian Church built in North America.

After these twelve long years, this fall I will continue my education for the next four years at Arizona State University in Tempe. I will be studying Aerospace Engineering on the concentration for Aeronautics specifically. My main purpose is to study and develop airplanes to further increase their efficiency for the future.

St. Sava has played an important role in my life. From learning about the Orthodox faith to the new people I've met along the way. Since I will be home for college, I will continue to participate and be a part of the church. Possibly even continue my folklore journey.

WANTED!

LOOKING FOR



A CHAIRPERSON

FOR THIS YEAR'S

SERBFEST!

Contact the church office @ 602-275-7360 if interested



A T O P P R S U R Y R O L G R
 I E M A D A N O E F O R T Y E
 N R H D L C S H U M I L I T Y
 P E I E T I L C C L V R E I A
 V C S I A C T I H U A E N N R
 D O O F L V S U A A S P F I P
 I N O I T C E R R U S E R R I
 R F F T H R S N I G V N V T H
 U E A C E I T E S E Y T F F S
 N S S N O I T A T U L A S A R
 H S N A T C O M P L I N E S O
 R I S S O R C E R T O C N T W
 S O C E K E S V H Y E E O I S
 T N P R O S T R A T I O N N O
 A G E P S A I N T S C Y U G R

LENTEN WORD SEARCH

Adam
Eucharist
Forty
Icon
Prayer
Resurrection
Sinner
Unction

Compline
Eve
Glory
Life
PreSanctified
Saints
Soul
Worship

Confession
Faith
Heaven
Liturgy
Prostration
Salutations
Theotokos

Cross
Fasting
Humility
Pascha
Repentance
Savior
Trinity

Circle of Serbian Sisters-Kolo Srpskih Sestara



MESSAGE FROM THE KOLO PRESIDENT

As I sit and write this article, I'm baffled at how time has flown by. In the blink of an eye it's as if it were just January, celebrating New Year's, filled with new resolutions, exciting possibilities, fresh starts and a whole year ahead to manifest our goals and an inch closer to our dreams. That year, a blink later, is gone and with it many memories and life lessons as any other before it. For me, personally, it was the best year of my life yet. Though it had its fair share of challenges like any other, in September I was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and I am going through treatments, TRYING TO BEAT THE BEAST...UGH! I am grateful to be where I am today and a big part of that are you MY KOLO SISTERS, MY FAMILY, and MY FRIENDS. Thank you so much for being a part of my life and contributing to my last year's journey with yours – my life is wealthier because of you and I wanted to let you all know it.

I would like to thank my Executive Board and all Committee Chairpersons for an outstanding job they do and for making Kolo run **SO** smoothly, especially when I was away on my vacation in Europe and the Balkans. A big thank you to you all- you make me proud.

BADNJE VECE AND BOZIC are behind us and a big THANK YOU to the following ladies and gentlemen who helped in the kitchen for Badnje Vece: Nada Krstic, who donated all the food for Badnje Vece and also helped prepare it. Thank you Nada, you are appreciated for all you do for Kolo and your Church. Branka Andjelkovic, Radmila Minic, Dubravka Vukcevic, Gordana Zikic, Ljubo Gordic, Zora and Dusan Manjencich, George Vudrag, Mira Neskovic, Marti Kasovac, Vera, Dawn Okuka, Mary Lynn Gudovic, Tatjana La Monte, Pauline Komnenich, Vera S. Whitted, Beba Drakulovic, Nada Milosevic, Stoja Simic, and Nancy Srejic. If I missed anyone, I apologize. Also, thank you to the parishioners that contributed to help defray expenses for the purchase of poinsettias which were used to decorate our beautiful Church. You are appreciated more than you know!

U SRCU I DUSI JEDNO IME SPAVA VELIKO I VECNO IME – SVETI SAVA!

Sveti Sava Slava - KUMOVI

THIS year for Slava we were honored to have as Kumovi, Dusan and Katarina Stanisic along with their beautiful daughters Yelena, Natalya, and Nastasya.

Thank you to our Kolo and everyone else involved who invested their time and very hard work to make this the BEST Sveti Sava ever! This was just the most beautiful Slava celebration to date...from the food, the hall set up, and of course the program and performances put on by our children, our pride and joy! I also would like to add that St. Sava, our first Archbishop, was loved and respected by all Balkan people. **To Serbian people he gives a Christian soul.** "Udahnimo duboko ljubav, razumevanje i veru u jedinstvo SVETOG SAVE". ZIVELI!

Spring is here EASTER/VASKRS is coming/dolazi

EASTER Sermon...

Let all take part in the banquet of Faith. Let all take part in the wealth of Righteousness. Let no one lament for poverty, for the Kingdom is made manifest for all. Let no one bewail transgressions, for forgiveness has dawned from the tomb. Let no one be fearful of Death, for the death of the Savior has set us free. He has quenched it by being subdued by it.

~ St. John Chrysostom ~

(continued)

INSIDE OUR PARISH

HRISTOS VOSKRSE! VOISTINU VOSKRSE!

Neka bi Gospod vaskrsao I ostao u srcima sviju nas! Srećan ovaj najveći I najznacajni Hrišćanski praznik uz iskren pozdrav.

Hristos Voskrse!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Alex Beric and Dr. & Mrs. Milt Drakulovic on your generosity. Your donation to our Kolo is greatly appreciated. It is a tremendous assistance in helping us carry out our mission of serving ST. SAVA PARISHIONERS.

SAVE the date of August 10th. Our Kolo is planning a nice event and we need **EVERYONE'S** support. This is the only time when Kolo has a fundraiser. More info will follow in Sunday bulletins and Weekly Emails.

We are happy to report three new energetic members that recently joined the Kolo. Welcome (Dobro dosle) to Jelena Momich, Katarina Stanisic and Danelle St. Martin.

Respectfully yours,

Dee Price, Kolo President

St. Sava Seniors

The St. Sava Seniors are a very active and enthusiastic group full of exciting activities and are always planning fun things to do.

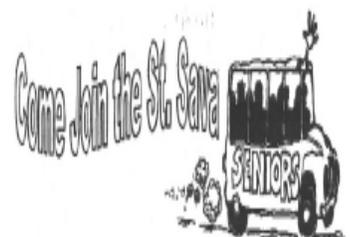
Members ages 50 and up are always welcome and encouraged to join. Currently there are 67 members and membership is only \$20.00. We would like to welcome our newest members. Lila St. Martin, Snezana Gordic, TJ Weber, and Alida Weber.

Our most recent outing was to the Herberger Theater on Saturday, March 23rd where 17 of us attended to see "An American in Paris". Thank you to Father Dragomir and Protinica Kristina for joining us. We all enjoyed this wonderful musical.

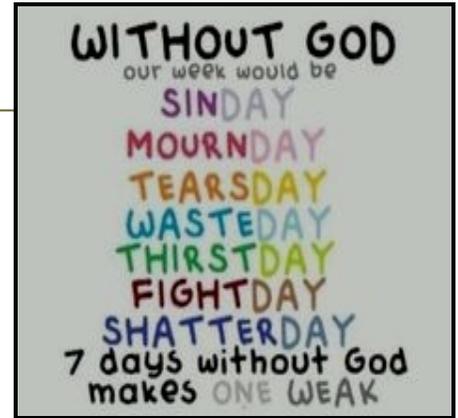
On the fourth Sunday of every month, we host lunch after Divine Liturgy. Everyone is always welcome to join us. We do not serve "fast food" but instead "fan food". You say you have no time to stay. No worries! We can pack it up for you to take home and enjoy! Our Monthly meetings are also on the fourth Sunday of every month right after lunch. In the month of April, we will **NOT** have a monthly meeting due to Easter. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th and then we will take a break for the summer and will be back in the swing of things again in September.

Wishing everyone a safe and cool summer!

Vera Whitted,
Secretary



Sunday School News



**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS**

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

April 20th

Lenten Retreat starting at 2:00 pm

May 5th

Spring Bowling

May 18th

Monastery Trip

May 19th

Graduation for Sunday School and Serbian School

More details to come in future Bulletins and Weekly Emails

Join us for Sunday School and Serbian School every Sunday. Serbian School (12:25-1:30) snack is included

All families are encouraged to get involved in their church and Sunday School!



Questions or concerns regarding Sunday School, please contact Beba Tkacenko, Sunday School Superintendent. You can email Beba at: bebs12251983@yahoo.com



Stevan Hristich Choir News

Greetings Dear Parishioners,

All of us at the Stevan Hristich Choir would truly like to thank all who attended and supported our Spring Concert weekend! You all helped to make the weekend a success and we were able to provide a memorable experience for our guest choirs from Milwaukee and San Diego.

Despite our big weekend coming to an end, we remain busy here at the SHC. We are currently preparing to travel to Milwaukee in May for the Serbian Singing Federation's Annual Festival Memorial Day weekend. We are also diligently preparing for our annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale! Join us after Church Palm Sunday to purchase some delicious baked goods all prepared by your very own choir members.

As always, we encourage anyone with music in their hearts to join us Sundays in the choir loft - prior musical experience and the ability to read music is not required.

Much love,
The Stevan Hristich Choir

A colorful graphic for a bake sale featuring several cupcake illustrations in the background. The text is arranged in a central, slightly curved layout.

Stevan Hristich Choir
Palm Sunday Bake Sale
April 21, 2019
Cookies, Cakes, Pastries & More
Sweets by the Pound
\$10.00 per Pound
Pick up all Your Baked Goods for Easter
Come Join Us!

INSIDE OUR PARISH

Gavrilo Princip Folklore News

The Gavrilo Princip Folklore Group has been busy since we started in August last year. We have 60+ dancers registered this year, ranging in ages from 3 years old to college. This is the first time our group has had a dancer in college perform with the group. Thank you to **Lazar Tesanovic**, a freshman at ASU, for sticking around! We love having you in the group. In addition, we have also had many new faces join the group throughout the year, and we welcome those dancers and their families to the group with open arms.

Practice is held every Friday from 6:30PM – 8:30PM. **David “Dako” Acamovic** continues to instruct the Junior and Senior groups, and our small groups, Bozur and Orlovi, have a new instructor this year, former Gavrilo Princip dancer, **Katarina Pelevic**. Katarina is a student at ASU, holds a job, and comes down to the hall every Friday to teach the small groups. Thank you to both of our instructors for your commitment this year.

Our group has been performing since the beginning of the year, and we get invitations from all over the world – YES! ALL! OVER! THE! WORLD! We were invited to Cannes in April. We can't always make every performance, and we couldn't financially or logistically make Cannes work, but we did make it to some of the events we were invited to this year. Here is a list of the events we have performed at to date:

- Kolo Sisters Slava, September 2018 - All groups
- Las Vegas Folklore Festival, October 2018 – All groups
- SerbFest, Phoenix, November 2018 – All groups
- ASU Basketball Halftime Serbian Heritage Night, December 2018 – Senior Group
- St Sava Day, January 2019 - All groups
- St Nikola Folkfest, February 2019 - All groups
- Detroit Folklore Festival, February 2019 – Junior & Senior Groups
- Choir annual concert, March 2019 - All groups

We have some invitations for the spring and summer we need to decide on, however we will be performing at two (2) events coming up in the near future.

The first is a performance by the Senior Group at Arizona College Preparatory High School in Chandler for the International Knights Festival on Friday, April 12. **Adriana and Danijela Kangrga** (both dancers in the Senior Group) attend this high school. It is great opportunity to showcase Serbian culture to the outside world.

Folklore's most important and major event coming up is PHOLKFEST, Friday, May 10th and Saturday May 11th. For this year's PHOLKFEST, we have groups from Illinois, our sister parish Sv. Nikola, and groups from California performing. It will be another two-day event, and the performances will be on Saturday, May 11th, time to be determined. There will be a welcome dance on May 10th too. Please watch the church email and weekly Sunday bulletins for more details.

INSIDE OUR PARISH

Last year we had an incredible two-day event, hosting 13 groups from across the US. PHOLKFEST 2018 raised the most money our folklore group has seen in the history of its existence, and it would not have been as successful without the help of our many sponsors and donors, as well as the outside auxiliaries who helped at the event. Another special Thank You to everyone who helped make that event a major success. Our PHOLKFEST sponsorships afforded us the ability to offset many of the costs for the event. In addition, with the money raised from last year's PHOLKFEST, we recently just placed a substantial order for traditional Sumadija nosnje from Srbija. These nosnje not only will be put to good use by the current dancers of our group, but by dancers for many years to come. Once again, thank you to everyone for helping us finally achieve that goal. It's been a long time coming.

Please consider being a sponsor again this year (see the flyer in this Poruka). We have added the Platinum level, however, any amount you can give to the group is appreciated. The children practice hard all year. Your support, physically and financially, as well as showing the dancers how proud you are of their work makes it all worth while for the children, and the young men and women of our parish.

Finally, we would like to take this time to recognize our high school Seniors:

Aleksia Vranjes, Marko Pelevic, Ana Kilibarda, & Sasha Novakovic

We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and the next chapter in their lives. It is also our hope that even though they may be going to college, that does not mean they have to hang up their opanke. There is always a spot for you in our kolo group.

See you all at Pholkfest May 10 & 11!



From the kitchen of
Protinica Kristina

Slana Torta



Ingredients:

16 red long peppers or 10-12 red bell peppers

3-4 eggs, beaten

Flour as needed

Oil for frying

500 grams Feta cheese

3 pkgs. Laughing Cow Spreadable Cheese (original 8 wedge wheel pkg.)

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. of Philadelphia Cream Cheese

1 (8 oz.) pkg. of diced ham

Shredded cheese of choice, as needed

Directions:

- 16 red long peppers or 10-12 red bell peppers roasted, peeled and drained.
- Dip pepper in flour first then in egg and fry in oil until egg is cooked. (be careful not to burn)
- Let them cool on paper towels to remove excess oil.
- In a food processor, mix 500 grams Feta cheese, 3 pkgs. of Laughing Cow Cheese and 2 pkgs. Philadelphia Cream Cheese until mixed well and creamy.

To Assemble:

- Place half of the breaded peppers on a plate and spread generously with cheese mixture to coat completely.
- Sprinkle half of the 8 oz. pkg. of diced ham across the cheese layer. Repeat with remaining peppers and cover (“frost”) everything with the remaining cheese mixture.
- For garnish, sprinkle remaining ham and shredded cheese of choice.
- Let sit in fridge overnight.
- Cut in 3 by 3 squares to serve.

PRIJATNO!!!



Let us Celebrate!



The Resurrection of
Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ
April 28, 2019
with
Divine Liturgy at
10:00 am

Immediately following
join us for our

Annual Easter Banquet

**Easter Banquet
Menu**

Leg of Lamb

Advanced "prepaid" reservations **ONLY
must be received by Thursday, April 18th**

Chicken Marsala

Adults \$25.00

Rice Pilaf

Children 6-12 \$15.00

Children 5 & under—Free

Vegetable

**Only 200 seats will be sold and
no seats will be sold at the door.**

Salad

Dessert

To make & pay for a reservation please call Meri
in the Church office at (602) 275-7360.

(Credit cards will be accepted)



BE A SPONSOR FOR
The
Gavrilo Princip Folklore Group's
PHOLKFEST
FRI & SAT, MAY 10 & 11, 2019

GROUPS FROM
ILLINOIS
CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA

Choose your level of Sponsorship & we will recognize you in our Pholkfest program.

BRONZA: \$25

SREBRO: \$50

ZLATO: \$75

DIJAMANT: \$100

PLATINUM: \$150 & MORE

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019

All Donations can be made payable by check to:
Gavrilo Princip Folklore Group

Address: 4436 E McKinley Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
ATTN: PHOLKFEST COMMITTEE



8th Annual Arizona Walk for Missions:

Join us or make a donation!

Saturday, May 4th 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

2019 Checks payable to OCMC



Directions to Kiwanis Park, Tempe, AZ
Direction from I-10: exit Baseline East.

Turn South (right) on Mill. Turn right onto All American Way. Take the first Right into the (first) Parking Area. Proceed to the water: Ramadas #11 & #12 by the bathrooms.

Directions from 101: exit Baseline West. Turn South (left) on Mill. Turn right onto All American Way. Take the first Right into the (first) Parking Area. Proceed to the water: Ramadas #11 & #12 by the bathrooms.



Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes

SPONSORED BY: OCMC & Project Mexico Missions Alumni/ SUPPORTED BY: The Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Clergy

ALL SAINTS CAMP CELEBRATES ITS 34TH YEAR!

June 2-8 in Prescott, Arizona



A sleep-away camp for those entering **third grade through those who just graduated high school**, All Saints Camp is set among the pine trees of Prescott, Arizona this **June 2 through 8**. This year, our program will again be held at [Whispering Pines Camp](#). Our theme this year is "You Are Witnesses", taken from Luke 24:36-53, the Gospel reading for the Feast of the Ascension, which falls on the Thursday of All Saints Camp this year.

Our program offers an experience of fellowship and fun, with activities ranging from campfires to Olympics, all within the context of living an Orthodox Christian life of daily Matins, Vespers, and discussion with clergy.

2019 Bisbee Golf Tourney

"The Mike Janich Memorial Tournament"

Saturday, May 18th 2019 @ 9am
Turquoise Valley Golf Park

Please join us this year for another great outing!

Friday, May 17th @ 6pm

St Stephen Nemanja Serbian Orthodox Church
216 Park Avenue Bisbee, Arizona 85603

for Food, Drinks & Music before golfing on Saturday



You pick your foursome!

If you are a single or two player team we will match you up.

\$99 Per Golfer

Fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, range balls and Friday night dinner.

Mulligans will be available prior to the tournament for

\$5 each or 5 for \$20

All proceeds go to

St Stephen Nemanja Serbian Orthodox Church & St. Paisius Serbian Orthodox Monastery.

For questions or more info please contact Jack Radavich @ 480.231.1766

To download your forms visit: bisbeegolftourney.com

Serbian Orthodox Church
Welcome to
Camp Saint Sava
Jackson, California

Serving the Orthodox Community
for over 50 years

**2019 DATES
ANNOUNCED!**

Culture camp: July 7-13
Camp St. Sava Week 1: July 14-20
Camp St. Sava Week 2: July 21-27
Camp St. Sava Week 3:
July 28-Aug 3



**NEW
DISCOUNT**

10% off
for the first time
campers

Early Registration deadline May 15, 2019

Save \$50 per Camper • Scholarships Available • See Your Priest for Details

Information: Rada Bojovic, 224.388.2560 • e-mail cssadmin@westsrbdio.org

Reduced registration fee for 2 weeks stay

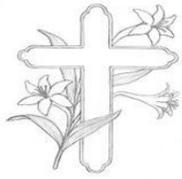
**SAVE THE DATE FOR
AN EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2019

GRUPA LEGENDE



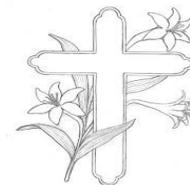
Watch for coming details in the weekly bulletin, weekly email, Poruka, message board and Facebook.



SCHEDULE OF EASTER SERVICES

April 10	Presanctified Liturgy	10:00 am
April 17	Presanctified Liturgy	10:00 am
April 20	Lazarus Saturday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
	Vespers-Vrbica Procession	6:00 pm
	Holy Confession	
April 21	Palm Sunday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
April 24	Presanctified Liturgy	10:00 am
	Mystery of Holy Unction	7:00 pm
April 25	Holy Thursday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
	Reading of 12 Passion Gospels	7:00 pm
April 26	Good Friday	
	The Royal Hours	10:00 am
	Vespers	7:00 pm
	Laying out Platanica	
	Burial of our Lord with Procession	
April 27	Great and Holy Saturday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
April 28	Easter Sunday-Pascha	
	Easter Matins	12 midnight
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
April 29	Resurrection Monday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
April 30	Resurrection Tuesday	
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am

Распоред Ускршњег Богослужења



10 април	Св. Литургија Преосвећених Дарова	10:00 пре подне
17 април	Св. Литургија Преосвећених Дарова	10:00 пре подне
20 април	Лазарева Субота Св. Литургија	10:00 пре подне
21 април	Вечерње-Врбица са опходом око цркве и исповест за децу Улазак Г. и Христа у Јерусалим/Цвети Св. Литургија	6:00 увече 10:00 пре подне
24 април	Св. Литургија Преосвећених Дарова	10:00 пре подне
25 април	Св. Тајна Јелеосвећења Велики Четвртак Св. Литургија Читање 12 Страсних Јеванђеља	7:00 увече 10:00 пре подне 7:00 увече
26 април	Велики и Свети Петак Царски Часови Вечерње, изношење Пластанице, Статије и опход око цркве	10:00 пре подне 7:00 увече
27 април	Велика Субота-Благовести Св. Литургија	10:00 пре подне
28 април	Васкрсење Христово-ВАСКРС Ускршње Јутрење Св. Литургија	12:00 поноћ 10:00 пре подне
29 април	Васкршњи Понедељак Св. Литургија	10:00 пре подне
30 април	Васкршњи Уторак Св. Литургија	10:00 пре подне



Порука О. Драгомира-ВАСКРС

Драги Парохијани и Пријатељи,

Путујући кроз Велики и Свети Пост, сабирали смо се на многим покајним богослужењима тако да би покајањем, исповешћу и молитвама састрадавали са Господом нашим, док се Он, безгрешно Јагње, драговољно успењао на Крст. Проживњавали смо добровољна страдања, понижење, плувања и крсну смрт, да бисмо данас, дочекали Његово величанствено Васкрсење. Учествујући у овим догађајима, ми кроз њих и живимо, превазилазећи смрт и сваку жалост, јер као што без смрти нема Васкрсења, тако ни без подвига са надом и трпљењем нема утехе.

Из године у годину на овај Велики и Чудотворни Празник Христовог Васкрсења, сећамо се, и што је још важније сами смо сведоци, да нема ништа ни близу овом Дану, Празнику над Празницима. Радост испињава наше душе, срца, храмове, наше домове, наше градове и села. Свет и цела природа се радује. Све је светло и предивно.

Васкрсење је највећа победа над злом, грехом и смрћу, која нас подсећа да и ми имамо могућност и обавезу да се успротивимо сваком духовном паду и свему што нас онемогућава да идемо за добром. Он је ово учино могућим за нас. Из своје превелике љубави сам Господ узима на Себе чудесни подвиг, да би све повратио у првобитни склад и да би нас вратио у радост. Својим речима ”Ја сам васкрсење и живот, ко вјерује у Мене, ако и умре, живјеће” (Јов. 11, 25), даје нам наду на истински живот који је радост наше вере.

У празничном духу Светог Васкрсења подсетимо се непролазних вредности Православне вере – љубави, праштања, мира, међусобног уважавања и разумевања. Желећи Вам све најлепше од Васкрслог Господа и да радост највећег Хрисћћанског празника поделите са својим најближим и да Свето Васкрсење проведете у миру, љубави и духовном благостању!

Христос Васкрсе!

О. Драгомир, протиница Кристина са децом

Велика и Света Среда - Света Тајна Јело-освећења-24. април

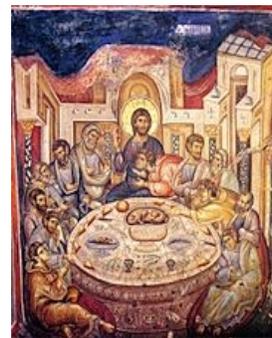
Света Тајна јело-освећења је намењена свима онима који су болесни, било то у духу или телу. Свечана служба Јело-освећења нас подсећа на моћ Господа Спаситеља да прашта и благосиља.



Велики и Свети Четвртак - Читање Дванаест Страсних Јеванђеља-25. април

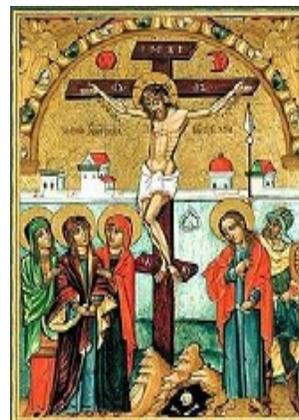
Ова служба се састоји у читању Дванаест Јеванђеља. Прво Јеванђеље нам говори о разговору нашег Господа и Спаситеља Исуса Христа са Његовим ученицима у току Тајне Вечере. Следећих десет Јеванђеља говоре о мучењима која је наш Господ и Спаситељ поднео. Док нам последње Јеванђеље казује о полагању Господа Исуса у гроб и о навлачењу камена на гроб.

Након читања петог Јеванђеља, свештеник износи Крст из Олтара и покорно га полаже у средини Цркве. То означава приближавање Христовог распећа.

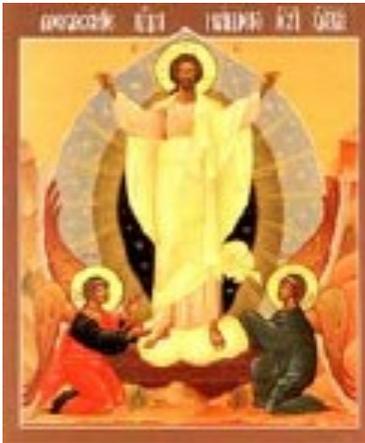


Велики и Свети Петак - Распеће Господа Исуса Христа-26. април

Ово је дан распећа и полагања у гроб нашег Господа и Спаситеља Исуса Христа. Ту се указује на два драстична догађаја: скидање Господа Исуса са Крста и Изношење Плаштанице (опход околу цркве са на платну навезеном иконом Господа Исуса Христа), која се након опхода полаже у Његов гроб. Црква нас учи да пре Христовог Васкрсења, људске душе су силазиле у Ад. Ово је био нити рај, нит пакао, већ затвореништво у коме су све душе држане до Христовог Васкрсења. Пошто је Господ Исус имао и људску природу и тако био усмрћен, Његова Душа је такође сишла у Ад. Ми спомињемо овај догађај између Његове Смрти и Васкрсења. Са силазком нашег Господа и Спаситеља у Ад, Он је уништио Ад и тако даровао бесконачан живот свима нама.



Васкрс-Април 28

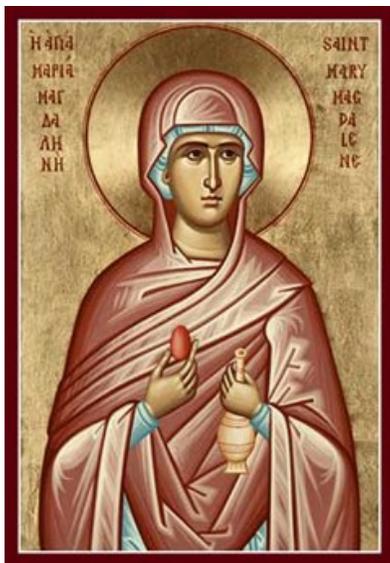


А после суботе, у свануће првога дана недеље, дође Марија Магдалина и друга Марија да погледају гроб. И гле, земљотрес би велики, јер анђеоски Господњи сиђе с неба, приступи, одвали камен и сеђаше на њему. А лик му је био као муња, и одело његово бело као снег. Од страха пред њим уздрхташе стражари и посташе као мртви. Реће женама: Ви се не бојте; знам на име да тражите Исуса распетог. Нема Га овде. Јер васкрсе као што рече; дођите и видите место где је лежао. И идите брзо па речите Његовим ученицима да је васкрсао из мртвих и гле, Он иде пред вама у Галилеју, онде ћете Га видети. Ето, рекох вам. И отишавши од гроба са страхом и великом радошћу потрчаше да јаве Његовим ученицима. И гле, Исус их срене и рече: Здравство. А оне пришавши ухватише Његове ноге и поклонисе му се. Тада им Исус рече: «Не бојте се; идите и јавите мојој браћи нека иду у Галилеју, и тамо ће ме видети». А када су оне ишле, неки од страже дођоше у град и јавише првосветеницима све што се догодило. И састаше се старешине, те се до-

говорише и дадоше војницима много новца говорећи: Кажите да су његови ученици дошли и украли га док смо спавали. И ако то дочује намесник, ми ћемо га убедити и вас опростити бриге. А они узеше новац и учинише како су их научили. И разгласи се ова прича код Јудеја до данашњег дана.г (Мат. 16, 1-15). Господ Исус Христос је сахрањен у Гетсиманском врту у једној пећини, коју запечатише великим каменом и поставише стражу. У недељу, трећи дан по Распећу сиђе Анђеоски Господњи и здружи камен на улазу у пећину и Исус Христос изађе напоље и васкрсну. Лице му беше као муња, а одело бело као светлост. војници се уплашише и побегоше, вичући: «Христос је Васкрснуо!» Када изјутра жене Мироносице дођоше да обиђу Христов Гроб, затекоше га празног и анђеоски им рече да иду у град и јаве осталима да је Господ наш Васкрснуо из мртвих. Оне одмах послушаше и одоше да ову радосну вест разгласе свима. И од тада почеше сви клицати: «Христос Васкресе!» и «Вистину Васкресе!». Па чак и данас, после 2000 година, ми се поздрављамо истим тим поздравом. Васкрс је највећи хришћански празник, јер на тај дан Исус Христос, Господ Бог наш васкрсну из мртвих, победи смрт и свим људима, од прародитеља Адама и Еве дарова вечни живот. Због великог значаја овог догађаја свака недеља у току године посвећена је Васкрсу и свака се сматра за мали Васкрс. То је покретни празник и празнује се после јеврејске Пасхе у прву недељу после пуног месеца, који пада на сам дан пролећне равнодневнице, или непосредно после ње. Најраније може да падне 4. априла, а најкасније 8. маја (по новом календару). За овај празник у народу су уобичајени многи лепо обичаји, који нарочито веселе децу.



Марија Магдалена и Васкршња јаја



У западном свету Васкршња јаја су симбол Васкрса. Бојење Васкршњих јаја, лов за јаја, бомбоне у облику јаја и јаја испуњена бомбонама и играчкама могу се видети свуда у току Васкршњих празника. Традиција Ускршњих јаја у стварности је почела после Педесетнице, када је Св. Марија Магдалена ишла на пут да би раширила Јеванђеље.

Св. Марија Магдалена је била једна од најоданијих ученица Христових. У Светом Писму пише да је била обузета са седам демона (Лука 8,2). Иако не знамо да ли је имала менталну или физичку болест, знамо да је Христос излечио. Толико обузета Његовом милошћу и силом одлучила је да Му посвети цео свој живот. Постала је један од Његових најбољих ученика, путујући са Њим, користечи сваку могућност да слуша Његово учење и да му служи. У време кад су се жене сматрале неједнаке мушкарцима, чињеница да је била прихваћена као један од Његових ученика и да му је служила тако верно инспирисало је и друге жене да чују учење Господа Спаса.

Већина Христових следбеника нису могли да гледају његово мучење кад је разапет. Тада је Св. Марија Магдалена стајала у подножју крста са Богородицом и Апостолом Јованом. Њих троје су зајдно били сведоци мука Господњих, свог вољеног сина и пријатеља. У исто време, стојећи поред крста, њих троје су били утеха Христова. По Његовој смрти, Марија Магдалена са још двојицом, Јосифом из Ариматеје и Никодимом, отишла је да однесу тело нашег Господа у гроб. За све што је урадила за нашег Господа и Спаситеља потребна је била велика храброст, а она је била једна од само неколицине који су поседовали такву снагу. Са дургим следбеницама Христовим припремила је уље да помаже Његово тело за сахрану. Трећег дана по Његовој смрти када је ишла на гроб да помаже Његово тело открила је да је камен одваљен са гроба. Сумљајући да је неко склонио Његово тело, отрчала је у Јерусалим и рекла Апостолу Петру и Јовану. Заједно су се вратили назад на гроб, и тада је Марија Магдалена видела два анђела који су је питали зашто плаче. Онда је видела Исуса Христа пред собом, али Га није препознала. Одговорила Му је зашто толико тужна. Пошто је изговорио њено име, она Га је препознала. Христос јој је заповедио да иде и каже другима и оне је тако била прва особа која је објавила, „Христос Воскресе!“ Пошто је била прва која је објавила Васкрсење Христово, Црква назива Св. Марију Магдалену Равном Апостолима.

После Педесетнице, кад су Апостоли ишли по свету проповедајући о његовом славном Васкрсењу, Марија Магдалена је исто тако кренула на пут. Предање нам каже да је успела да се састане са императором Тиберијем. Покушавајући да му опише Васкрсење, користила је јаје да објасни да је Христос разбио љуску смрти и рекла „Христос Воскресе!“ Император се насмејао и одговорио да Христово васкрсење из мртвих је толико вероватно као кад би јаје у њеној руци постало црвено. У том моменту, то јаје је постало црвено. По Црквеној традицији, од тога дана, Ускршња јаја су постала су симбол Васкрсења Господа и Спаса Исуса Христа.



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