

THE WAY + *ЄДИНИ ПУТ*

APRIL 2012 BULLETIN

ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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+++++ Christ is Risen! +++++

“...grant to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother...” This is an excerpt from St. Ephraim’s prayer that we say especially during Great Lent. So, have we judged others? Do we continue to judge others? Christ is very clear on what the consequences of this act are:

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. (Mt. 7:1-5)

I pray that your Lenten journey has been fruitful. That you have self-examined yourself. That you have prayed and given alms. That you have abstained not just from certain foods, but also primarily from personal sins. That you have knowingly and willingly repented so that you could be reconciled with God. That you have made special attempts to evaluate your calling as a Christian and listen to the voice of the Gospel and heed its commandments. If you haven’t, then maybe that is why you don’t feel as fruitful as you wish you were especially if you judged others.

If you did judge others, who gave you that authority that only belongs to God? This tendency is prompted by egocentricity similar to how Adam and Eve were tempted and disobeyed God’s commandments. This ancestral tendency to want to ‘be like God’ prevails today. To carry it a step further how many have said, “He/she is a good person, “or “He/she is a bad person?” What is the basis for us knowing whether a person is good or bad? Again, God only knows. Our concern should be whether a person is a member of God’s Holy Church. And if not, how can we help the person live a life pleasing to God. St. Nikolai (Velimirovich) reminds us that “whosoever judges only by that which he sees, denies Jesus all that he cannot see in other men.”

To be concerned with another person’s well-being is an expression of love. To be of help to others requires sacrifice and compassion, not criticism and ridicule. What better example do we have of what it means to sacrifice oneself for others than when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ hung on the Cross for us ultimately showing us the path of salvation through His Resurrection? Did He prate about telling people how great He was and deriding those who were persecuting Him? Obviously not! So why do some people want to prove how right they are and at the same time belittle others through their criticism while thinking that they are Christians? Are these people so ‘smart’ that they believe they know it all and feel that it is necessary to prove it – the epitome of arrogance?

Egocentricity separates people from God and from each other. How can one expect to live a wholesome life if not in communion with others? Furthermore, it is not possible to be saved if we don’t nurture healthy relations. This Paschal season should give an opportunity to reflect on ‘not judging’ others while making a sincere effort to ask forgiveness from those whom we have judged. In the beginning of Great Lent, we had an opportunity to forgive each other on Forgiveness Sunday. But we should be forgiving each other constantly because of our fallen nature

and strive to not repeat a behavior that is not consistent with God's teaching. If we are obedient and humble ourselves before God, we can then begin to understand how to respect each other and be prepared to celebrate His glorious Resurrection.

Let's not be lukewarm in our Faith and pray that our Resurrected Lord be merciful to us –

Indeed He is Risen!!!

Your servant before the Risen Christ - Fr. Ilija



Христос Васкрсе!

„... даруј ми да сагледам своје грехове, и да не осуђујем брата свога...” Ово је извадак из молитве Св.Ефрама који изговарамо нарочито за време Великог Поста. Онда, да ли смо некога осуђивали? Да ли још осуђујемо некога? Исус је веома јасан шта су последице овог акта:

„Не судите, да вам се не суди; јер каквим судом судите, онаквим ће вам се судити; и каквом мером мерите, онаквом ће вам се мерити. А зашто видиш трун у оку брата свога, а брвено у оку своје не осећаш? Или, како ћеш рећи брату своје; стани да ти извадим трун из ока твога; а ето брвено у оку твојем? Лицемере! Извади најпре брвено из ока свога, па ћеш онда видети извадити трун из ока брата свога“. (Мт. 7:1-5)

Молим се да ваше посно путовање је био плодан. Да си сам себе прегледао. Да си се молио и давао милостињу. Да си се уздржавао не само од некакве хвране, него пре свега од личних грехова. Да си са знањем и вољом се покајао да би се помирио са Богом. Да си посебно покушао да процениш твој позив као Хришћанина и чуо Јеванђелски глас и пазио да пратиш заповести. Ако ниси, можда је то разлог зашто се не осећаш плодан колико би волио да будеш нарочито ако си осуђивао друге.

Ако јеси осуђивао друге, ко ти је дао то право које само припада Богу? Ова тенденција је потакнута од егоцентрације слично као што су Адам и Ева кушани да не буду послушни према Божијој заповести. Ова праочевска тенденција да желимо „бити као Бог“ превладава данас. Да продужимо ово даље, колико су рекли, „Он- она су добри“, или он – она су лоши“? Шта је основа да знамо колико је нека особа добра или лоша? Опет, само Бог зна. Наша брига треба да буде да ли ова особа је члан Божије Свете Цркве. И ако није, шта можемо учинити да би ова особа живела живот који је мио Богу. Св. Николај (Велимировић) нас подсећа да, „ко год осуђује некога према ономе шта види, оспорава Исусу све што он не може видети у другим људима“.

Да се бринемо о добром стању некога је израз љубави. Да би били од помоћи другима захтева жртвовање и сажаљење, не критику и ругање. Да ли постоји бољи пример шта значи да се неко жртвује за некога него нашег Господа и Спаситеља Исуса Христа који је висио на Крсту за нас и на крају показујући пут спасења кроз његово Васкрсење? Да ли је торокавао говорећи људима колико је велик или ружио оне који су га прогонили? Очигледно не! Онда зашто неки људи желе да потврде колико су у праву, и у исто време понижавају друге кроз критику и у исто време мислећи да су хришћани? Да ли су ови људи толико паметни да верују да све знају и осећају да је потребно доказати то – садржај охолости?

Егоцентрика одваја нас од Бога и једне од других. Како можемо очекивати да живимо здрав живот ако нисмо уједињени са другима? Осим тога, није могуће да будемо спашени ако не гајимо здраве односе. Ова Васкршња сезона треба да нам даде прилику да рефлектујемо да не осуђујемо друге док искрено покушамо молити за опроштај од оних које смо осудили. У почетку Великог Поста, имали смо прилику да један другом опростимо у Недељу праштања. Али требамо да праштамо стално због наше пале нарави и настојати да не поновимо ово понашање које није сагласно са Божијим учењем. Ако смо послушни и ако

се покоримо пред Богом, онда ћемо почети да разумемо како да један другог поштујемо и бити ћемо спремни да славио Његово славно Васкрсење.

Немој да будемо равнодушни у нашој Вери и молимо се да наш Васкрсни Господ се смиљује на нас.

Ваистину васкрсе!

Твој слуга пред Васкрснулим Христом – о. Илија

HOME BLESSINGS – Освештавање домова

Pascha is upon us and it is important to have your home blessed. This is an important sacrament that should be renewed yearly. Please contact Fr. Ilija to make arrangements.



Blessings / prayers – Благослови и молитве

Home blessing – Wes Beaty, Branka Berovic, Drago Cvetkovich, Timothy Hendon, Srdjan Jovic, Slavoljub Jovic, Anna Kassianov, Ranko Krstic, Danijel Plavsic, Strahinja Preradovic, Marko Radmilac, Nikola Rudic, Mile Stevanovic, Bozidar Stajic, Vojislav Stijacic, Tihomir Tepsa, Aleksandar Trbic, Andjelko Vasic, Damir Versegi

Pomens / Parastoses – Radomir Glisic, Fr. Marko Kosev, Srecko Nikolic, Dusanka Orlandic, Sonja Protic, Mirko Spasojevic, Victims of 2004 pogrom in K-M.

Funeral: Sava Gark

Remember to contact Fr. Ilija to have birth prayers said on the first, eighth and 40th day of birth the birth of your child.

Let's build a church together!

Хајде заједно да изградимо цркву!

We are getting close to paying off the mortgage on the new land. Please help pay off the remaining balance of \$ 112,068.18. Thank you!



Thank you! Хвала!

Sunday Lunches: Keith Fournier Family, Zoran Glisic Family, Milan Stefanovic Family, Cheryl Spasojevic Family, Protinica Carole Balach

STEWARDSHIP - СТАРАТЕЉСТВО

Please fill out your Stewardship Card so that we can better manage our Church activities in 2012. Thank you!

Молим вас, испуните ваше картице за старатељство да бих могли боље управљати наше црквене активности за 2012 год. Хвала!

REFLECTIONS ON HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA –

Страсна седмица и Васкрс

Lazarus Saturday: Jesus raises His friend from the dead.



Mary and Martha plead with the Lord to come quickly to heal their brother Lazarus. Jesus delays his return until Lazarus is dead four days. Martha confesses her belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...” Jesus has the power to raise the dead, and raises Lazarus. Jesus is the Resurrection and Life of all people.

Palm Sunday: Jesus Enters Jerusalem as a King!



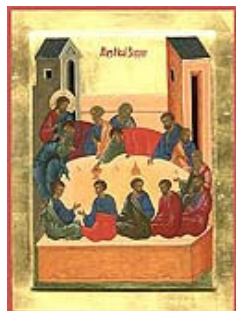
Jesus enters Jerusalem and is honored as a King. The children greet Jesus waving palms and branches, crying out “Hosanna!” The people shout their praises to Him: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” In our celebration of the feast, the palms we hold are a sign of our allegiance to Christ.

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: Parables of the Bridegroom, Last Judgment and the "End"



God has made us stewards of His world, to serve and care for it. He calls us to bear fruit by using the talents He has given us. Christ will come to judge the world, and He will come at Midnight, at an hour when we least expect Him. He will come as a Bridegroom, to take us, the Church, as His Bride. God calls us to be prepared, for only those who are ready will enter His Kingdom.

Holy Thursday: The Supper, Anointing, and Betrayal of Christ



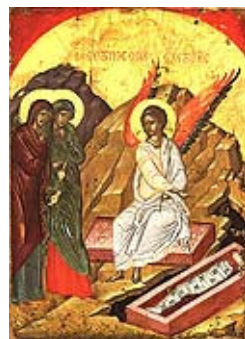
A woman anoints Christ’s feet with oil, as a sign of love, as well as a preparation for His burial. Jesus' enemies seek to kill Him and Judas agrees to betray his Master. Jesus shows the disciples how they must serve others, by washing the feet of His own disciples, and shares a Passover meal with them. He blesses bread and a cup of wine, saying “Do this in remembrance of Me.” Jesus teaches the disciples about love, and promises to send them a Comforter, the Holy Spirit, after He is gone.

Holy Friday: The Trial and Crucifixion of Christ.



Jesus takes the disciples to a place to pray and tells them that one of them shall betray Him and the others will deny Him and run away. Jesus is arrested and brought before the chief priests and scribes who sentence Him to death for equating Himself with God. He is brought before Pilate, the Roman governor, and then to Herod, to be sentenced to death and killed. Jesus is put to death on a Cross, along with two thieves. Mary, Jesus' mother, and the women followers who served Him stand by the Cross until the end. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take Jesus' body down from the Cross, prepare it for burial and lay Him in a new tomb.

Holy Saturday & Pascha: Descent into Hades & Resurrection



Jesus died in order to give us new life! Through His death on the Cross, Jesus defeated the power of death. Having died as a man, Jesus descended to Hades, the place of death, to destroy death and bring life to those in the tombs. Jesus' Life was more powerful than death. At the moment of His death, the earth shook, the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints were raised. By His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus, who is the Christ-God, gives new life to all who believe in Him and do His will. Although we will die, we know that "death can no longer hold men captive," for when Christ comes again, all those in the tombs will be raised from the dead. Christ the Lord of all will come to judge the living and the dead, and grant life eternal in the world to come, to all who believe in Him as King

and as God.

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SCHOOL GRADUATES

Please send Fr. Ilija names of your children who are graduating from High School or College so that we can acknowledge their great achievements.

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PAN-ORTHODOX W.O.C.A. VESPERS - Вечерње

On April 1, 2012 at 5 p.m. Vespers will be served at St. Sava Church. Please join our fellow Orthodox brothers and sisters in prayer. A lenten meal will follow. If you want to help with the meal contact Spomenka Novakovic.

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LAZARUS SATURDAY – Лазарова субота - врбуца

Divine Liturgy begins at 10 a.m. followed by a procession around the church. Lunch will be served. This is a special day for children who will collect willow branches while wearing bells around their necks.

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EGGS FOR PASCHA – *Васкриња јаја*

Please save your onion skins and come and dye eggs on April 13 at St. Sava Church. Please bring eggs so that we have enough for everyone on Pascha.

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CONFESSION – *Исповест*

It is better to have your confession heard after services than before because there is not enough time to hear a confession properly. Contact Fr. Ilija to make other arrangements if necessary.

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PASCHAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 7	10 a.m. Divine Liturgy, procession, lunch - <i>Литургија</i>
April 7	6 p.m. Vespers - <i>Вечерње</i>
April 8	10 a.m. Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy, lunch
April 9	6:30 p.m. Holy Tuesday Matins - <i>Јутрење</i>
April 10	6:30 p.m. Holy Wednesday Matins - <i>Јутрење</i>
April 11	6:30 p.m. Holy Anointing - <i>Јелеосвечење</i>
April 12	2 p.m. Vespertal Liturgy – <i>Вечерња литургија</i>
April 12	6:30 p.m. Holy Friday Matins - <i>Јутрење</i>
April 13	10 a.m. Royal Hours - <i>Часови</i>
April 13	4 p.m. Vespers - <i>Вечерње</i>
April 13	6:30 p.m. Holy Saturday Matins - <i>Јутрење</i>
April 14	10 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy - <i>Вечерња литургија</i>
April 14	11:30 p.m. Midnight service, Paschal Matins, Paschal Divine Liturgy
April 15	11:30 a.m. Vespers, traditional lunch / picnic - <i>Вечерње</i>