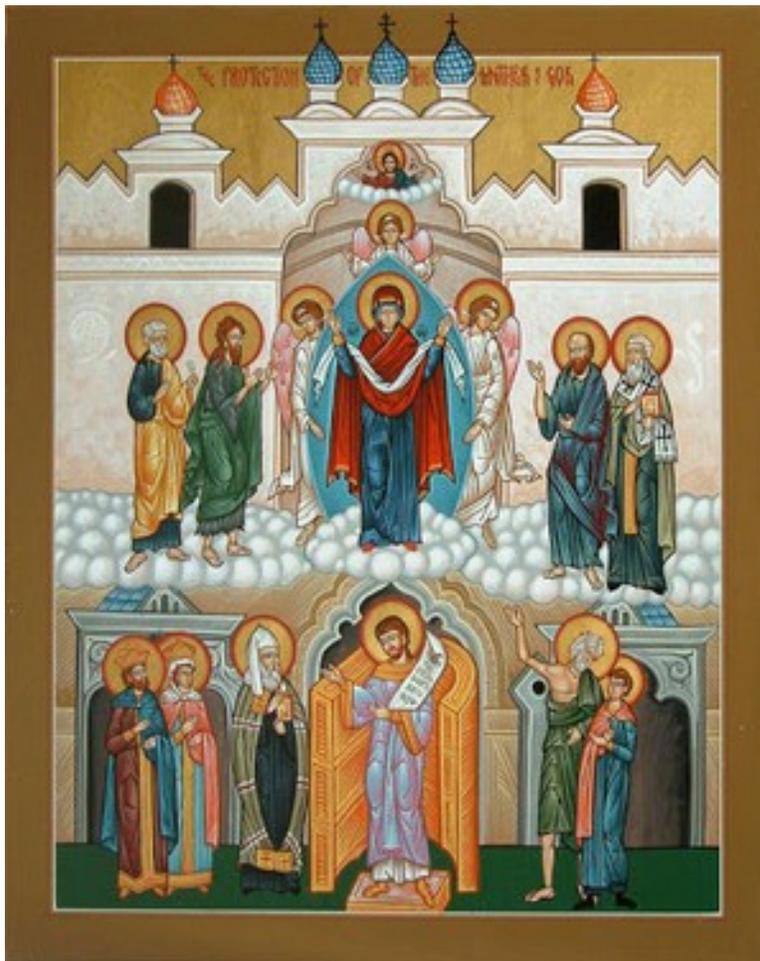


THE SERB

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O Most Holy Theotokos, save us with thy precious Protection!
Пресвета Богородице, помилуј нас грешне часним твојим Покровом!

Feast day, October 1/14

The Serb

Summer of 2020
publication of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

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The Church news-letter Editor assumes responsibility and the right to reject, delete and rewrite any part or all of the articles submitted for the publication. Any news of the social interest should be submitted to the Editor. No articles will be considered that are submitted unsigned and/or improperly identified.

From your priests' desk,

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to have the traditional celebration of St George the Great Martyr, Patron Saint of our church in May. Even though the church was open and the services never stopped, we did not have a blessing of Slava Kolach and Koljivo nor a memorial for all reposed priests and parishioners. I am hoping we can do the Slava Rite for the upcoming Church Anniversary which is scheduled for November 1. The Slava Kolach and Koljivo will be blessed and a pomen served on November 1 after the Liturgy. Let's plan on that!

Christian stewardship consists of sharing time, talents and treasure. Many people believe the last part - treasure is the most important part of stewardship, and that is how they mostly observe it. Yes, the church needs your financial support but your time and talents are as important! Stewardship is a way of Christian life where we incorporate all three parts of stewardship, being part of the church and feeling that you belong to the big family with responsibilities before God. Let us remember that every Orthodox Christian and member of St George Church must be an active participant in the life of the church. Time is very important and precious to all, and this is what we return to God. First of all, attend church worship on time and offer your time and help for every project in the life of St George. Think of it as my church and take ownership of it. God has given us different talents, and we should lovingly share them. Whether it is spring cleaning, cooking, baking, maintenance, painting, singing,

chanting and reading, electrical, plumbing or other trade work, the church needs your contribution for a successful church life and ministry. Let us all remind ourselves of these very important aspects of stewardship and consider trying to improve our contributions in the upcoming year. There is always a place for improvement!

For those unable or uncomfortable coming to church, I will happily light candles by request. Please let me to light your candles, and mail your donation to the church.

Holy Mysteries never have been stopped in our church. Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Liturgy. Communicants should put their head back and open their mouth wide to receive communion so the spoon does not touch their lips. Confession is on Saturdays after the vigil or on Sunday and other Holy Days, 30 minutes before any Divine Liturgy. Confession and communion can also be taken at any other time in church or at a parishioner's home. There is no reason to be without the saving Mysteries! Please let Fr Alex know which way you would like to receive confession and communion. To be a member in good standing of an Orthodox church, a faithful parishioner should be in good standing in his/her Sacramental/liturgical and financial obligations. Stay safe and healthy during this pandemic and may God bless you and yours



September 21, 2020

Dear fellow parishioners of St. George of Joliet,

To say this year has been difficult is an understatement. Reflecting on the last nine months, I realize just how fortunate we are. Throughout the pandemic we have been able to come together in impressive ways. We are supporting our church not only financially, but by volunteering our time and talents which in turn, saves us money. Your board members and management team have been working to either increase the revenue of the church or lower our expenses now that the catering income has stopped. For example, we canceled the television service to the social center, received a reduction in rental cost for the ice machine, put the linen delivery on hold, reduce the frequency of garbage removal and changed our waste service provider, turned off the freezers, increased the air conditioning temperature, held public curbside luncheons and held a virtual picnic campaign. Through all of this, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parishioners to slow the depletion of our savings. Our organizations have donated part of their proceeds from their fundraising activities or even given up their own planned luncheons. Please remember that all fundraising for the church, while appreciated, needs board approval. We are always looking for new ideas and are trying to avoid any conflicts. One idea discussed is encouraging parishioners to remember St. George when making out their wills and planning their estates. Many thanks to Dave Laketa for spearheading the virtual campaign, to Jack Book, Darlene Jovanovich, Vicki Petrich Dorsey, Tana Petrich, Craig Vercelote, Olga Blagojevich for running the various Sunday curbside luncheons. We could not have these luncheons without organizers.

Maintaining the property is important to avoid costly future repairs. Thank you to Phil Rowe, Steve Malinovich, Father Aleks, Tana Petrich, Terry Findlay and Kirk Stapinski for keeping up with the needs of our facilities. Thank you also to the organizations for cleaning their storage spaces. Fresh coats of paint and some purging go a long way.

We have also taken steps to improve the security of our grounds by closing the gates at the Stryker Avenue entrance. We renewed our No Trespass agreement with the City of Joliet so the police have the authority to act should the need arise. Just a reminder for the organization heads to reach out to Tana Petrich or Phil Rowe if you need a hint to the alarm code for the hall or church.

This is also the year where the terms expire on our management and custodial positions. To apply for Hall Manager, Kitchen Manager, Bar Manager, Church

Custodian and Hall Custodian, please write a letter to the board describing your interest and your skill set for the position by the December 4th Board meeting. All positions have a two-year commitment. We are also looking for people to manage our Facebook account as well as the church website. All are great ways to stay active with the church community while gaining valuable experience.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our annual church Anniversary luncheon. Instead, we will observe the 92nd Anniversary of the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church of Joliet in church. Because we could not do it in May, we will have a Slava ritual with kolac and koljivo. Whether you attend or not, please try and remember your church on its anniversary.

As we enter the final quarter of 2020, let us stay vigilant. This parish is ours and will only move forward if we work together and respect each other. Stay well and pray that the frictions that divide our country are only temporary and best left outside the church doors.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Dauer

NEWS FROM ST GEORGE EXECUTIVE CHURCH SCHOOL BOARD

Fall/Winter 2020

- o ***Hall & Church Property Improvements*** -- In August, several contractors submitted bids for the hall remodeling improvements approved at our last annual assembly. The list of bids was narrowed down by the church board and we asked the finalists to scale back a few changes to keep within the assembly approved budget. We are waiting to review further info from the finalists.

Meanwhile, other improvements and repairs continue at the hall. Teri, our hall custodian, has been busy doing some extreme cleanup on both levels along with painting kitchens, interior doors, the back stairway, and the dumbwaiter. The laundry and freezer area hasn't looked this good in years. Also, Steve Malinovich and Phil Rowe completed numerous hall repairs including some concrete and stucco repairs, fixing outdoor lights on the north and south sides of the hall, along with exterior painting, just to highlight a few of their efforts. Everyone will be pleasantly surprised at how great things look.

Monthly expenses for Comcast and Ice Machine rental at the hall were reduced.

Numerous parishioners completed brush cleanup and tree trimming around church property. This was followed by an effort, mainly by Father and Stevo Lukin, to clean up trees and additional brush damaged during the severe storms in July.

Church property gates on Stryker Avenue are now closed (not locked) during the week. No trespassing and no loitering signs were added to keep persons from hanging out on our property. We also hope this will keep our parishioners safer that come to work on our premises during the week.

- o **Curbside Luncheons** -- More Curbside Luncheons were approved and continue as a source of income for our parish. We plan to keep these going on a monthly basis and hope our parishioners and supporters from the Joliet community will keep coming. Thanks to those who regularly help and patronize these events as they each can generate between \$2,000 - \$3,000 profit when scheduled.
- o **Father Ned Scholarship Fund** -- The Board approved a request from Father Ned to offer an additional college scholarship to our eligible Sunday School graduates. The Father Ned College Scholarship Fund was initially funded and made available to our children through the generosity of Father Ned.

This year, our St George Scholarship and the new Father Ned Scholarship were awarded to Olivia Grubisich attending the University of Illinois, Nicholas Vercelote at Western Michigan and Aleksandar Zubic at the University of Alabama.

- o **Chicago Deanery** -- The Chicago Deanery, with over a dozen priests attending, came to our parish in August for Confession, Liturgy and a meeting and luncheon at the Social Center.
- o **Pretend SerbFest** -- This year's Pretend or Virtual SerbFest, orchestrated by Dave Laketa, generated close to \$20,000. This event got re-started in 2015 with \$10,000 profit. We've come a long way in a few short years. Much thanks to our generous parishioners.
- o **Church Donations** -- Our Church Board approved a \$250 donation to Lifeline for the 3Kolo Fundraising effort.
- o **Church School** -- Church school began September 13th. Masks required by teachers and students and anyone else going into the lower level of the church.

* * * * *

Also, if not attending services due to COVID, please remember to mail in your donation or use PayPal as means to electronically send monies to St George. Look for stgeorgejoliet@gmail.com on PayPal.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Our annual assembly will be held on December 6, 2020. Please see John Dauer to make sure your stewardship is current and you are eligible to vote.

For those interested, please remember to apply for a St George management position. The positions are listed below and the term runs from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Please submit your interest in an email or letter to Father Alex by Friday, December 4th at 6pm as these will be reviewed by the Church Board prior to the annual assembly.

- Hall Manager
- Kitchen Manager
- Bar Manager
- Church Custodian
- Hall Custodian

For church members in good standing that would like to be on the 2021 St George Church Executive Board, submit your application to Father Alex. Current board members wishing to continue serving must also re-apply. Forms for the Executive Board can be obtained at the Warden's desk.



Church School

Welcome back students!

Our church school year started on September 13th.

Due to Covid the parents were given the opportunity to choose whether they wanted their kids to come to church school in person or receive their lessons via email or YouTube. If participants come in person we have face masks, wipes and hand sanitizer along with their own materials.

I also want to thank Nada Zubic for her years of teaching. Nada you will be missed by all!!

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Gayle



Покров Пресвете Богородице



Црква од најстаријих времена прославља Пресвету Богородицу, Ону благословену Дјеву Марију која се удостојила да роди Спаситеља света Господа нашег Исуса Христа, Ону која је заштитница и покровитељка васцелог рода човечјег. Празником Покрова Пресвете Богородице прослављамо духовно покровитељство, посредовање и заступништво пред Богом, које добијамо услед великог милосрђа и љубави Пресвете Богородице према нама.

Међу празницима Пресвете Богомајке прибројан је и празник Покрова Пресвете Богородице, који је установљен у спомен благословеног догађаја у 10. веку (911. године), за време византијског цара Лава Мудрог, у цариградском храму Влахерни. Богородичин храм у Влахерни налази се у северозападном делу Цариграда покрај Златног рога. Овај знаменити храм саградила је супруга цара Маркијана, царица Пулхерија, док је цар Лав Велики поред главног храма подигао мањи храм у који је положио ризу Пресвете Богородице,

која је 469. године донесена из Светог града Јерусалима, а која је чувана у раскошном кивоту обложеном златом и сребром. Крај овог кивота са ризом Пресвете Богородице служило се свеноћно бденије у част Пресвете Богомајке.

У четврти час ноћи, изнад сабраног верног народа појавила се Пресвета Богородица са раширеним омофором на рукама, као да покрива сав народ. Сва је блистала у неисказаном сјају, окружена апостолима, светитељима, мученицима и девицама. Преклонивши колена, Она се дуго молила, заливајући сузама своје боголико и пречисто лице. Свети Андреј видевши то јављање Пресвете Богомајке показа руком свом ученику, блаженом Епифанију, и упита га: *"Видиш ли, чедо моје, Царицу света како се моли за сав свет?"* Одговори Епифаније: *"Видим, оче свети, како је покрила својим часним покровом, који је светлији од муње, сав народ који је у храму!"* Овим благословеним јављањем Пресвета Дјева је потврдила молитвено заступништво и утеху за васцели свет.

Када је у питању служба овог празника, који је вероватно установљен од стране Руса, занимљиво је да се у Грчкој Цркви и грчким богослужбеним књигама не помиње, али је мисао о овом празнику била присутна јелинском народу, што нам потврђују неке од богослужбених химни које Пресвету Богородицу називају *покровом* и *покровитељком* сваке хришћанске душе. Као што мало дете сву безбедност и заштиту види у својој мајци, тако свака душа

хришћанска прибегава Пресветој Богомајци која нас својим покровом закриљује и чува од сваког искушења и зла. У тропару празника молимо се да нас наша Молитвеница својим Покровом избави од свакога зла:

Данас као благоверни народ светло празнујемо, обасјани и осењени Твојим доласком, Богомати, и гледајући Твој пречисти лик, са умиљењем говоримо: Закрили нас славним Твојим Покровом и избави нас од свакога зла, молећи Сина Твога, Христа Бога нашег, да спаси душе наше.

Професор Лазар Мирковић у својој *Хеортологији* напомиње да у Русији већ од 12. века постоје многи храмови посвећени Покрову Пресвете Богородице. У српским месецословима и типцима из 15. и 16. века не помиње се празник Покрова Пресвете Богородице, што значи да је у Српској Цркви служба овог празника ушла захваљујући

руским богослужбеним књигама крајем 17. и почетком 18. века.

Занимљиво је да, поред 12. великих празникâ, једино празник Покрова Пресвете Богородице и празник Обрезања Господњег у типнику имају знак +, зато што на јутрењу ових празника појемо само празнични канон. Празник Покрова, за разлику од осталих Богородичиних празника, нема ни претпразништво ни попразништво. У освештаној традицији Цркве увек се након великих празника наредни дан прослављају светитељи који су учесници тог празника. Такав случај је и са празником Покрова Пресвете Богородице, где наредног дана прослављамо Светог Андреја Христа ради јуродивог.

Дјева данас у цркви предстоји и невидљиво се са свима светима моли Бога за нас. Ангели се са архијерејима клањају, а Апостоли се са Пророцима веселе, јер Превечног Бога за нас моли Пресвета Богородица.



“How to Return to a Regular Church Life after Quarantine If It Is Difficult For You?” – Priests

Reply

“Soul Has Muscles Too”

The main thing the quarantine reminded us of is that a person is not only a bodily being, but also a spiritual one. A person does not only need to be well-fed and healthy. Participation in church sacraments is as essential for a Christian as going to a hospital or a store.

Such refreshing of our senses was useful for us. We understood the value of Holy Communion.

If today, when churches reopened to everyone, you find it difficult to return to regular church life, simply ask yourself: why do I need this? What do I want from going to church? Such questions to yourself are generally important in many situations of our life. If you find the answer, your energy will be renewed, going to church will have a meaning, and you will find strength to do it.

When a person really has a need to participate in the Eucharistic life, if he cannot live without communication with Christ through the sacrament, he goes to church and takes Communion. If he does not feel such a craving for Christ, if he was merely forced to do it by his relatives, as it sometimes happen, or by the circumstances of sorrow or illness, then Communion unfortunately turns into an unnecessary rite for him.

But if you suddenly felt that you cannot find the answers to the questions “why?” and “is it important?” yourself, talk to your confessor and try to find these answers with his help.

There is a joke on the Internet: “Lie on the couch as if it will be sold tomorrow”. There is some truth in it, but you must admit, you also experience the joy from movement. This is a muscle joy. Our soul has muscles too, and they also need to have such muscle joy. With God’s help, I hope you will experience this joy.

“Overcoming Laziness, With an Effort, Stand Up and Go to Church”

Returning to the church after a break is like returning to work from a vacation. It’s hard to start going to bed early and waking up again on time.

I remember one of my friends, an athlete, got a serious leg injury. He could not walk at all for six months, and then he was recovering for another six months. When his leg stopped hurting, he realized that it was difficult for him to return to his usual life: “I am lazy, I stopped doing sport, I don’t run up the stairs, I use the elevator, I don’t walk, but take a taxi and the subway.” He lost his motivation for sports, he lost the joy from physical activity. The same thing happens with our spiritual life.

Regime is important here: overcoming laziness, with an effort, stand up and go to church. Soon you will fall into the familiar, pre-quarantine rhythms.

It is better to return to your usual routine not by yourself only, but together with your whole family. I notice with horror that if I am alone, I do not always force myself to read the morning and evening prayer rules. But together with my family there are no problems. After dinner, everyone stands together. We pray and go to bed. The feeling of responsibility towards each other helps you to overcome yourself, and most importantly, to remember that where two and three are gathered in His Name, there is Christ in their midst.

If you do not feel the spiritual need to return to the church, then ask yourself: How alive is my church life? How much do I need it? In fact, for many people, going to the church brings nothing – they go there out of habit or out of fear. For those people whose spiritual life was on its last legs before the quarantine, this forced break played its negative role.

When, after the massive arrival of people in the Church in the 90s, their numbers suddenly decreased, it was customary to explain this by the fact that the faith stopped being fashionable. But I believe that this is not the case. People who left the church as quickly as they came simply did not get the response they were waiting for: they left the church without feeling comforted, without feeling moved. They felt that they went to church in vain.

A person in general is made in such a way (if you do not take into account the sense of duty) that we communicate only with those people with whom we like to communicate. If after communicating with a person there is a feeling that we wasted our time, then we stop this communication. The same is true with respect to God. After all, this is also a personal relationship. It is in our own power to build them.

Translated by pravmir.com

7 Legit Reasons Why So Many Kids are

Bored by Church

Last Sunday, our church did its annual multilingual service, with three congregations—Mandarin-speaking, Spanish-speaking, and English-speaking—all coming together for worship. We had readings in multiple languages, and a sermon was given in Spanish with an English translator. There was no Sunday school this week, so kids joined their parents in adult church.

When we informed our kids Sunday morning of what would be happening, there was a collective and passionate, “NOOOOOOOOOOOO!” (Honestly, I

should have typed *more* o’s to reflect the true level of protest.)

“PLEASE, let us stay home! We can do home church! Please not THAT service! It’s SO BORING!”

Apparently, they remembered it well from the prior year. We dragged them into the car in spite of the whining and endured their pleas all the way there.

I’d be lying if I said this was a rare occurrence of my kids not wanting to go to church. The nature of this service perhaps made them complain more loudly than normal, but there are plenty of typical Sundays when our kids ask, “Do we *have* to go?” I’d

bet a lot of money that you've been asked the same.

The question of what to do when kids don't want to go to church has been one of the most frequent ones I've received over the years from readers, and it's one of the most commonly discussed questions in various Christian parenting forums

The running theme of kids' complaints is usually that church is *boring* and they don't want to go because of it. Parents tend to assume it's their job to convince their kids that church *isn't* boring and are looking for ways to do so.

But that's a really bad assumption.

I think there are actually quite a few *legitimate* reasons why so many kids are bored by church and/or Sunday school. In other words, kids aren't always just making up random excuses to not go; a lot of times, their avoidance reflects a *genuine problem*.

Here are several "legit" reasons for boredom at church that parents should consider.

1. There's too much emphasis on fun at Sunday school.

This probably sounds counterintuitive. After all, if Sunday school is a lot of fun, then kids should *want* to go, right? No, no, and no. Now, if Sunday school truly was some kind of incredible amusement park-like experience, that could be the case (and kids would choose to go for the wrong reasons). But Sunday school "fun" usually consists of relatively mild amusement like crafts, foosbal, or maybe an indoor relay race using spoons and M&Ms.

This kind of "fun" can never compete with your child's idea of fun at home, where they can do anything they want.

Of course they will want to stay home; church fun is boring compared to home fun. When a Sunday school program focuses on entertainment, this is the natural apples-to-apples comparison a kid's going to make. Who can blame them?

If most of what your kid takes away from church is that there's a little lesson with a lot of social time, you're going to have a hard time convincing them that "church" isn't boring (when "church" is Sunday school entertainment in their mind).

2. "Adult" church is beyond their current grasp.

Parents sometimes try to get around the lack of substance found in many Sunday school programs by keeping their kids with them in "adult" church each week. This can work really well for some kids. My 11-year-old daughter has recently been opting out of Sunday school to come with us to adult church because she's able to follow along and says she learns much more than in class. When my 9-year-old daughter saw that her sister was doing this, she wanted to come too. But when she did, she spent most of the service with her head on my shoulder trying to sleep—she just doesn't have the interest or attention span yet that my older daughter does. When she told me after church that day that it was boring, I told her, "Of course it was! You chose to sleep!"

For kids like my older daughter, who *want* to attend adult church in lieu of Sunday school, this can be a great choice. But for those like my

younger one who aren't ready to track with what's being taught and instead spend the time doodling in a bulletin or daydreaming, boredom will be the inevitable outcome. That doesn't necessarily mean that kids' Sunday school will be seen as *less* boring, but rather that adult church isn't always the answer.

3. Their family attends church sporadically.

Every pastor I know laments the fact that families are attending church with less regularity than they used to, for all kinds of reasons (Sunday morning sports being a big one). A "regular" attender is now someone attending once per month.

I know this is going to rub some people the wrong way, but it's important to say: A church could have the best Sunday school program in the world, but if a family only attends sporadically, it's natural that a child will find it boring—they're not really connected to what's going on or what's being taught. You can't blame a kid for mentally checking out at that point.

4. Faith in their family is mostly about going to church on Sundays.

Even if your family attends church every week, if you're not regularly praying together, studying the Bible together, and having conversations about faith at home, your kids will rightly wonder why they should bother going to church. Church will come to be seen as just one more thing they have to do each week, without any meaningful connection to their daily lives. In other words, it will become an unnecessary time burden in their minds because it's irrelevant for the rest of the week.

5. They regularly engage in deep faith conversations at home.

Here's another counterintuitive point, but I've seen it happen in a lot of families that are very committed to their faith. If your family consistently has deep faith conversations (the kinds I write about in my books, [*Keeping Your Kids on God's Side*](#) and [*Talking with Your Kids about God*](#)), in all likelihood your kids are gaining a far more intellectually robust faith than they'll get from the average Sunday school—and Sunday school will seem extremely boring in comparison. A telltale sign that this is the problem is when your kids complain they aren't "learning anything" or say that it's the "same stories over and over."

Though parents often assume there's some kind of problem with their kids' spiritual development when they don't want to attend Sunday school, it can mean the opposite in this case; kids may simply have much higher expectations for what *should* be discussed in a Sunday school environment and be bored by the 600th telling of Noah's ark followed by popcorn.

6. They have doubts about God or the truth of Christianity.

It should be obvious, but I'm surprised how many parents never consider this possibility: If kids have stopped believing in God or in the truth of Christianity, *they're going to find church boring.*

Imagine for a moment that *you* had to attend a church (or other group) you didn't agree with every single week and someone expected *you* to take interest. They study a book you think is fiction, but apply it as truth in their

lives and think you should too. Chances are, you'd find that boring because you don't believe what they do. Why study a fictional book so deeply each week?

In the same way, kids who no longer hold a faith in Jesus are going to get tired of hearing about Him every Sunday. It's outside the scope of this post to weigh the pros and cons of making such kids attend church, but there are two points for our current purpose to take away here:

- If your kids find church boring and/or fight you on going, have a conversation with them about what they currently believe regarding God, Jesus, and the Bible. You may be surprised what you learn.
- If you discover that their boredom with church is rooted in unbelief, your greater concern (by far) should be to discuss their doubts and to have [conversations about the evidence for the truth of Christianity](#).

7. They're human.

On the drive to the church service I described at the beginning of this post, I turned to the kids in the back of the car and said, "Hey guys. I have something surprising to tell you." They got quiet, and I continued.

"I don't feel like going to church today either. I don't really enjoy this particular service. I would rather be at home this morning."

They looked at me with wide eyes, anticipating we might go home.

"But I'm going anyway. You see, as humans, it's often easiest and very

tempting to stay home from church on Sunday mornings. That's a *totally normal* feeling, and adults have it too sometimes. But we make it a priority to go in spite of those occasional feelings for several reasons: 1) It's one way of putting God first in our lives (by committing to church each Sunday morning); 2) Church isn't only about learning—it's also about worship, and worship transforms our relationship with God; and 3) It's important to develop relationships with other believers and be in community (Hebrews 10:25). I'm not going to church this morning because I can't think of anything else I'd like to be doing, but rather because I love the Lord and this is one way I put him first."

In other words, I explained to them why their boredom shouldn't be the deciding factor in attending church.

I *didn't* try to convince them that they shouldn't ever think church is boring.

This is a critical distinction for kids to understand, because as I've hopefully shown in this post, there are many *legitimate* reasons why kids may find church boring at times. When they understand why church matters even *when* they find it boring, it can lead to far more productive conversations than just ramming heads every Sunday morning.



Greetings from S. S. S. Mita Topalovich Choir



FALL 2020

As I wrote in my last report, I believe this message still pertains today and bears repeating:

Hoping all of you are staying healthy and safe, as all of us continue to work together to rid our world of this unforeseen virus that has affected our lives, one way or another. We continue to pray together as a parish that this will soon pass, and we can get back to our normal ways of life.

As far as our church life is concerned, our choir is slowly but surely starting to gather again upstairs in our loft. Even though it feels wonderful to be singing again, and would love for any and all of our members to join us... We do realize that this decision is something that each individual singer must decide for themselves, and understandably so. However, if you feel well and comfortable to come upstairs and sing on a given Sunday... You will be more than welcome to.

SSF CONVENTION

Our Serbian Singing Federation will be holding our annual Convention on September 25-27th, hosted by the St. Bishop Nikolai Choir of Lake Forest, IL. We are pleased to announce that along with Bonnie Dauer (SSF Executive Secretary) and myself (SSF 1st Vice President), we have 2 first-time delegates from our choir that will be attending... Nina Starcevic and Theodore Prieboy. We thank Nina and Theodore for giving their time for this worthwhile/annual event, and wish our Federation a successful and productive Convention weekend.

CONDOLENCES ARE IN ORDER

Our Mita Topalovich choir was saddened to hear that a long-time choir supporting member, Judy Lockwood passed away after a long/lingering illness. We extend our sincere sympathies to her son Scott, sister Patti, and brother Bob. We will always remember her kindness and generosity to our organization, and how she was always willing to help at any event our choir sponsored.

We also recently lost another long-time choir supporter, George Rydman. Our sympathies to his extended family. May their Memories be Eternal.

GET WELL WISHES

We extend get well wishes to those in our choir and church community that has in any way been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and wish all of you a quick recovery.

In addition, we wish Mita member Jack Book "get healthy" wishes after his recent arm surgery. Looking forward to seeing you back and singing soon!

SAVE THE DATE

Like most events this year, the wedding of Jackie Deschamps and Cole Schlegel has been rescheduled once again, for Saturday, June 12th, 2021, at our St. George Church.

Please all Mita members... put this **new** date on your calendar, as we have been asked to sing for their wedding.

JOIN US

Please feel free to join us anytime! We are always looking for new members...

No try-out required!

The Mita Topalovich Choir Wishes Each and Everyone
a Peaceful and Healthy Fall Season!

Musically Yours -

Alexandra Starceвич S.S.S. Mita Topalovich Reporter and Directress

Venerable Parasceva (Petka) of Serbia

Saint Paraskeva the New was born into a pious family, living during the eleventh century in the village of Epivato, between Silistra and Constantinople. Her older brother Euthymius became a monk, and later he was consecrated as Bishop of Matidia. One day, while attending the divine services, the words of the Lord pierced her heart like an arrow, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself" (Mt. 16:24). From that time, she began to distribute her clothing to the needy, for which reason she endured much grief from her family.

Upon the death of her parents, the saint was tonsured into monasticism at the age of fifteen. She withdrew to the Jordanian desert where she lived the ascetic life until she reached the age of twenty-five. An angel of the Lord ordered her to return to her homeland, so she stayed at Epivato for two years.

Saint Paraskeva departed to the Lord at the age of twenty-seven, and was buried near the sea. Because of the many miracles which took place at her grave, her

relics were uncovered and found to be incorrupt. They were placed in the church of the Holy Apostles at Epivato, where they remained for about 175 years.

Saint Paraskeva's relics were moved to Trnovo, Bulgaria in 1223 and placed in the cathedral. Patriarch Euthymius wrote her Life and established the day of her commemoration as October 14. The Turks occupied Bulgaria in 1391, and her relics were given to Mircea the Elder, Prince of the Romanian Land (one of the districts of Romania). In 1394 the relics were given to Princess Angelina of Serbia (July 30), who brought them to Belgrade. For 120 years Saint Paraskeva's relics rested in Constantinople in the patriarchal cathedral.

On June 13, 1641, her incorrupt relics were transferred to the monastery of the Three Hierarchs at Jassy in Rumania, where many healings took place. On December 26, 1888, after being rescued from a fire, Saint Parasceva's relics were moved again. This time they were placed in the new cathedral at Jassy, where they remain until the present day.

ST. GEORGE KOLO NEWS

Fall/Winter 2020

Kolo Slava – Our 90th Slava, Velika Gospojina, was celebrated on August 30th. This effort was spearheaded by Protinica Gordana, Olga Blagojevic and Draginja Lukin who donated the food and planned the meal and dessert. Thanks to all who helped in the kitchen, cleaned, accepted donations and in any capacity to make this Curbside meal a success. We hope all who supported this event enjoyed their Chicken Paprikash.

Parish Home

Kolo purchased a new washer and dryer for the parish home. We got a great deal and are happy that Father, Protinica and their family have working appliances once again.

Lifeline Fundraiser 2020

Original plans for the October 4, 2020 annual fundraiser organized by the 3 Kolos had to be rescheduled due to COVID. The planned event will be rescheduled for 2021. In order to do something to help those in need during 2020, there is a Tailgate Party COVID Style taking place in Lansing. It's like our curbside lunches. There will be a cash raffle that day and we thank all who purchased tickets.

We are also appealing to our parishioners for donations for Lifeline. Several projects were already identified by Lifeline that can be completed with the monies generated by the 3 Kolos. So, this time our donations go toward a few known projects. They are:

1) Diapers and toiletries for abandoned, special needs children at the Vera Blagojević Children's Home in the Banja Koviljaca, Serbia. These are just basic necessities that are needed on an ongoing basis.

2) The 42 year old Ljolja School in the Municipality of Vozdovac, Belgrade is in disrepair and needs help. The school's kindergarteners have grown to 200 students and they desperately want to establish a library for these children. Our donations would fund books, educational toys, bookcases and seating to give these kids a better start at learning. The total amount needed for both these projects is estimated to be \$4,000. Lets hope we can work together and fund these for 2020! Please give your donations to Danielle Serdar or Helen Malinovich or mail to St George Church, 300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436. Attn: Church Kolo. Please make checks payable to Lifeline Chicago.

Kolo Donations

Following our successful June Cevap Luncheon, organized by Helen Malinovich, our Kolo donated \$500 to our St George Church.

Kolo News

Our Kolo was saddened to learn of the July passing of our sister, +Judy Lockwood, after a long health battle. She was a lifelong church member and supporter and will be missed. Our condolences to Judy's sister, Pat Mancke, and her son, Scott Lockwood. May +Judy's memory be eternal.

Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendars

Kolo Meeting

Next Kolo meeting is planned for October 11th. We will have an in-person meeting in the Social Center. This will allow us to be socially distanced and keep everyone comfortable and safe.

Kolo Chicken Luncheon

Kolo is tentatively planning a chicken curbside luncheon on November 15th. More to come via email, the church bulletin and St George Facebook.

March 29 Pomens: +Daniel Petrich given by Dan and Vicki Dorsey; +Daniel Petrich given by Tana Petrich and Alan Miller; +Daniel Petrich given by John and Bonnie Dauer family; +Daniel Petrich given by Erin and Joey Eric family; +Daniel Petrich given by Ryan and Mirjana Dorsey family; +Daniel Petrich given by Danilo and Connor Dorsey family; +Michael Kljaich, +Delores Malinovich, +George and +Ann Malinovich, Michael O"Leary, and +Milan Laketa given by Susan Kljaich, +Michael Kljaich, +Delores Malinovich, +George and +Ann Malinovich, Michael O"Leary, and +Milan Laketa given by Francis Juarez; +Danica Belfield given by Jean and Chuck Panella, Janet Belfield & Dennis Belter, Andrea & Marwen Popovich-Maachaoui, Jovana, Tijana, & Jameson Popovich. +Jeff

Lockwood given by Judy Lockwood; +Delores Malinovich given by Shimek & Jakovljevic families; +Paul Shimek given by Shimek & Jakovljevic families;

April 5: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +Milan Laketa given by Millie Rowe; +Anne Olovich, +Kimball Mancke, +Jeffrey Lockwood, +Delores Malinovich, and +Paul Shimek given by Bob Olovich; +Milan Laketa given by Susie Kljaich; +Kimball Mancke, +Anne Olovich, +Jeffery Lockwood, +Paul Shimek, +Delores Malinovich given by Pat Mancke family; +Delores Malinovich given by Kolo; +Paul Shimek and +Delores Malinovich given by Gayle Shimek; +Joseph and +Lena Gioannure, +Paul and +Marion Bertucci, +Joseph, Mildred, and +JoAnn Olovich, +Paul Shimek, +Nicholas Ostoich, and +Rada Albu given by Josephine and Joseph Olovich Jr. Family.

April 12: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +Milan Laketa given by Millie Rowe; +Milan Laketa given by Susie Kljaich; +Zorka Pavlovic given by Milinka Pavlovich; +Lois Ann Orlovich given by Josephine and Joseph Olovich Jr. Family.

April 19: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +Milan Padezanin given by Anka Laketa; +Lisa Maffeo given by Josephine and Joseph Olovich Jr. Family; +Vlado Blagojevic given by Milenka Cvjetkovic; +Mara Cvjetkovic given by Dusan Cvjetkovic +Nick and +Millie Rydman, +Bertha O'Brien, +Paul Shimek, +Delores Malinovich, +Paul Shimek, and +Milan Laketa by Genevieve Ostoich.

April 26: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +Joseph, +Lena, +Paul, +Marion, +Joseph, +JoAnn, +Mildred, +Nicholas, +Paul, +Rada, +Lois Ann, and +Lisa Olovich given by Josephine and Joseph Olovich Jr. Family; +Michael Krajnovich given by Father Alexander; +Mara Cvjetkovic given by Dusan Cvjetkovic; +Vlado Blagojevic given by Milenka Cvjetkovic; +Violet Enich, +Michael Enich, +Joseph Enich Sr., +Stella Enich, +Julia Enich, +Danica Grabavoy, +Al Gabavoy, +Joseph Plecas, +Helen Plecas, +Sam Plecas, +Pete Petkovich, +Leona Petkovich, +Iso Ciganovich, and +JoAnn Olovich given by Nadine Keer

May 3: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +George Malinovich, +Anna Malinovich, +Andrew Elich, +Martha Elich, +Mike O'Leary, +Mike Kljaich, and +Delores Malinovich given by Millie O'Leary; +George Malinovich, +Anna Malinovich, +Andrew Elich, +Martha Elich, +Mike O'Leary, +Mike Kljaich, +Delores Malinovich given by Millie O'Leary; +Milan Laketa and +Paul Shimek given by Ely Grubisich; +Dusan and +Anica Lunic given by Father Ned Lunich Family. +Milan Laketa and +Fr John Kuchta, given by Susie Kljaich. +George and +Ann Malinovich given by Nick and Helen Malinovich. +Loisann Orlovich and +Lillian Bonczek given by Pat Mancke and family. +Lois Ann Orlovich given by Kathy Harper

May 10: +Dusica Jurisic given by Steva Lukin; +Bertha O'Brien, +Mary Shimek, +Sophie Ostoich, and +Helen Petkovich given by Gayle Shimek; +Eva Grubisich, +Betty Grubisich, and +Rosie Kupresin given by Ely Grubisich; +Drogica Susich and +Mary Laketa given by Anka Laketa; +Draga Vuicich, +Stoja Prica, +Tanya Starcevic, +Mary Jovanovich, and +Andrew Pavich given by Darlene and Rodovan Jovanovich. +Lois Ann Orlovich given by Kathy Harper

May 17: +Vlado Chuk given by Eli Grubisich; +Paul Shimek given by Gayle Shimek; +Mike Kljaich given by Annette O'Leary; +Mike Kljaich given by Nadine O'Leary and Josh Potts; +Lois Ann Orlovich given by Kathy Harper

June 14: +Milorad Dmitrov and +Ruziica Dmitrov by Mr. and Mrs. Stevan Lukin

June 21: +Milorad Dmitrov and +Ruziica Dmitrov by Mr. and Mrs. Steven Lukin; +George Jovanovich, +Nikola Vuicich, +Samuel Starcevic, and +Jovo Prica by Mr. and Mrs. Radavan

Jovanovich; +Peter Laketa, +Trifko Laketa, Pavao and Paul Susich by Anka Laketa and family;
+Kimball Mancke and +Ely Olovich by Pat Mancke and family.

June 28: +Milan Laketa and +Paul Susich by Annette O'Leary; +Ceba Severns by her friends

July 5: +Charles Murray and +Irv Schrader by Ely Grubisich; +Vitimir Spasovic by Father Alex; +Paul Susich by Pat Javich; +Smiljana Eror by Dr. Howard Grundy

July 12: +Michael O'Leary by Millie O'Leary; +Michael O'Leary by Annette O'Leary; +Michael O'Leary by Nadine O'Leary and Josh Potts; +Milan Laketa by Joseph and Josephine Orlovich; +Nicholas and +Beda Nikolich, +Paul Shimek, +Peter and +Leona Petkovich by Pete and Kathy Petkovich; +Violet Enich, +Michael Enich, +Stella Enich, +Joseph Enich Sr., +Danica Grabavoy, +Al Grabavoy, +Iso Ciganovich, +Julia Enich, +Helen Plecas, +Jovo Plecas by Nadine and Michael Keer.

July 19: +Milan Laketa by Olga Blagojevich; +Kimball Mancke by Pat Mancke and family.

July 26: +Judy Lockwood by George Enich; +Drginaja Dusica by Steve Lukin; +Judy Lockwood by Joseph and Josephine Olovich; +Judy Lockwood by Ron and Donna Moses; +Judy Lockwood by Circle of Serbian Sisters; +Judy Lockwood by Nadine and Vyjs Paukstys; +Judy Lockwood by Ely Gubisich; +Judy Lockwood by Pat Mancke and family.

August 2: +Barb Kozak and +Judy Lockwood by Kirk and Jackie Stepinski; +Michael Kljaich and +Michael O'Leary by Susan Kljaich, +Judy Orlovich by Susan Kljaich; +Judy Lockwood by Art and Olga Shuman; +Judy Lockwood by Bob Olovich; +Judy Lockwood and +Paul Shimek by Gayle Shimek

August 9: +Judy Lockwood by M. and Ms. Roger Trizna; +John Gura Jr. by Sandra Fenili; +Delores Malinovich by Nadine O'Leary and Josh Potts; +Delores Malinovich by Annette O'Leary; +Delores Malinovich by Millie O'Leary; +Ozzie Belfield; +Janet Belfield, +Dennis Belter, +Marwen and +Andrea Popovich, +Marchovi, +Jovana, +Tijana, and +Jamenson Popovich by Jean and Chuck Penella. +Dusan Grubisich, +Mila Grubisich by Ely Grubisich; +Paul Shimek by Genny Ostich; +Judy Lockwood by Genny Ostoich.

August 16: +Michael Kljaich by Millie O'Leary; +Michael Kljaich by Annette O'Leary; +Michael Kljaich by Nadine O'Leary and Josh Potts; +Millie Stapinski by Kirk and Jackie Stapinski; +Millie Stapinski by Andrew Stapinski; +Millie Stapinski by Lauren and Steve Wojcik; +Millie Stapinski by Greg Stapinski; +Millie Stapinski by Edward Stapinski; +Milorad Dmitrov and +Ruziica Dmitrov by Mr. and Mrs. Stevan Lukin; +Joseph, +Hazel, +Michael, +Nick Kljaich and +Judy Lockwood by Sawdy Burcenski; +Joseph, +Hazel, +Michael, +Nick Kljaich, +Michael O'Leary' +Delores Malinovich, +George and +Anna Malinovich, +Judy Lockwood by Susan Kljaich and Francis Juarez. +Anne Orlovich, +Judy Lockwood, +Kimball Mancke by Bob Orlovich; +Kimball Mancke, +Anne Orlovich, +Judy Lockwood by Pat Mancke and family.

August 23: +Jelica Bugarin by Father Alex Bugarine family; +Joanne Olovich by Joseph and Josephine Olovich; +Michael Kljaich, +Delores Malinovich, +Michael O'Leary, +Judy Lockwood by Mildred Rowe; Radmila Djvich by Dragana Rizzi; +Michael Kljaich and +Judy Lockwood by Sandy Burcenski; +Michael Kljaich and +Judy Lockwood by Susan Kljaich; +Judy Lockwood by Reverend Ned Lunich; +Kimball Mancke, +Sam Kupresin and +Nick Kupresin by Ely Grubisich; +Paul Shimek, +Richard Jovanovich, +John and +Bertha O'Brian, +Mimi Dejanour, +Pete Katic and +Judy Lockwood

August 30: +Judy Lockwood by Father Alex Bugarin and family; +Helen Sebastian by Nadine Paulksky

Sept 6: +Judy Lockwood and +Peter Katic by Ely Grubisich; +Peter and +Velma Budimilja by Mike and Nancy Cora.

Sept 13: +George Rydman and +Peter Katic by Joseph and Josephine Orlovich, +Peter Katic by Anka Laketa; and +George Rydman by Genny Ostoich.

Feast Days:

\$100 St. Peter and Paul given by Gayle Shimek

\$15 St. John Maximovitch given by Marlo Perry

Memorials:

\$10 +George Rydman by Anka Laketa

\$25 +Judy Lockwood by George Enich

\$25 +Judy Lockwood by Daniell Serdar

\$25 +Judy Lockwood by Dan Pyvich

\$25 +Judy Lockwood by Steve Malinovich

\$25 +Judy Lockwood by Michael and Nadine Keer

\$35 +Judy Lockwood by George and Danielle Arangelovich

\$100 +Judy Lockwood by Susan Kljaich

\$100 +Judy Lockwood by Joseph and Josephine Olovich

\$100 +Peter Katic by Joseph and Josephine Orlovich

\$100 +Judy Lockwood by Joseph and Josephine Olovich

\$100 +Judy Lockwood by Genny Ostoich

Задушнице - молитвено сећање на покојне сроднике

Задушнице су дан посвећен молитвама за покој душа наших преминулих сродника. У Цркви се увијек молимо како за живе тако и за оне који су се упокојили, који су у Богу живи, јер Господ Исус Христос је Бог живих, сви су у Њему живи и они који су у овом свијету и они који су већ у наручју Божијем.

У току године више пута свенародно обављамо задушнице, а сваке суботе, поред осталих служби, служи се и служба за упокојене. Али није само субота дан посвећен молитвама за покојне, јер се у Цркви увијек молимо како за живе, тако и за упокојене. То је потпуно у сагласности са нашом вјером и са Јеванђељем, јер Господ наш Исус Христос је разапет на Велики петак, а на Велику суботу је почивао у гробу, и та субота је основа сваке суботе. У дан недјељни Господ је васкрсао и однио побједу над смрћу, даровавши свима нама нови живот, нову заједницу, ново заједништво са Богом и једних са другима. Православни хришћани, ако су у прилици, сваке суботе треба да дођу у цркву, запале свијећу и у молитвама се сјете својих покојних сродника.

Веома је важно да се заједно помолимо Богу за све, да освештамо жито у спомен на оне који су преминули у благочестивој вјери православној. Важно је за оне који су отишли од нас. Њима су потребне наше молитве, а такође, њихове молитве су потребне нама. Треба да знамо да се и они моле пред лицем Божијим. Они су добили слободу да се моле Господу, а ми се надамо да ће за све оне који су крштени, који су са вјером живјели, који су живјели у страху Божијем, Господ наћи мјеста у Царству небеском. Њих неће бити мали број, већ много више од оних 365 имена које читамо за сваки дан у календару, али нам све то још није откривено.

Гледано из божанске перспективе, они који су у наручју Божијем имају прави живот, а то су светитељи Божији, и према њима ми смо у смрти, а они су у животу. Од оних који су отишли из овог свијета у нови свијет ми не знамо колико их је светих, јер је Господ само поједине пројавио као светитеље још овдје у историји, али, у Царству небеском ће бити много више оних који ће се показати као свети, праведни и који су задобили живот вјечни, задобили близину Божију.

Митровданске задушнице послуже оних прољећних, задушница пред Васкршњи пост, имају највећи значај. Код нас се и на Видовдан врше посебни помени за наше претке, као и на михољске задушнице, и то је нешто што постоји само код српског народа. Митровданске и прољећне задушнице су свеопште, а не треба, свакако, да заборавимо ни оне које се у свим црквама врше у суботу уочи Тројичиндана. То је устројство које важи за све Цркве Православне, али знамо, да свака помјесна Црква има и нешто своје што није обавезујуће за остале Цркве, него чини једно богатство у тим различитостима. То су разлике које доприносе јединству, а не раздвајају, него нам је драго кад код других - наше браће православних хришћана са којима смо у јединству вјере, љубави и евхаристијског заједништва - видимо нешто посебно, као што многе задивљује наша крсна слава.

Епископ будимљанско-никшићки Јоаникије

Cultural Club Report

This is the day which the Lord hast made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

It is the beginning of a new Church year and Church school is back in session. Our students now have lessons for enrichment online, and traditional lessons onsite. We wish all of our Church school children a beneficial and inspiring year, full of the bounty that our Church has to offer.

Our *Saint George the Great Martyr Bookstore* is open for business and offers our parish easy access to religious items. We recently organized our merchandise to prepare for upcoming sales for Christmas and Slavas. We invite you to check out our store any Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Many of our items are imported from Serbia, Russia, and Greece, and we also have some beautiful items that are "Made in America."

Our Saint George Cultural Club will make a \$150.00 monetary donation to Lifeline Chicago . We support the fundraising efforts of our Kolo and Sisters of the 3 Kolos. Their efforts, along with our support, helps women and children in shelters, orphanages and hospitals that Lifeline Chicago supports.

Our next Cultural Club meeting will be held on Sunday October 18th and we invite you to attend. We look forward to spending time together and making new memories!

Christ is in our midst!

Nancy Cora

Cultural Club President

Up coming Feast days and events in church calendar:

September 27 - The Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross - always fast day

October 10 - Memorial Saturday / Zадusnice

14 - Protection of the Theotokos / Pokrov Bogorodice

27 - St Parasceva / Sv Petka

November 1 - Church anniversary

7 - Memorial Saturday / Mitrovske zadusnice

8 - St Demetrius

14 - Sts Cosmas & Damian, the unmercenary healers

21 - St Arch Michael

28 - Beginning of Nativity Fast

December 4 - Entrance of the Theotokos in to temple / Vavedenije

6 - Annual assembly of the congregation

19 - St Nicholas the Wonderworker / Sv Nikola

27 - Serb mother's day / Materice