



Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Missionary Parish, Orange County, California

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April - June 2008

Parish Center Location: 2148 Michelson Drive (Irvine Corporate Park), Irvine, CA 92612

Fr. Blasko Paraklis, Parish Priest, (949) 830-5480 <http://mostholytheotokos.com/> Zika Tatalovic, Board Pres., (714) 225 -4409

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Condemned to Immortality: A meditation on the Resurrection
By Archimandrite Justin Popovic

People condemned God to death; with His Resurrection He condemned them to immortality. For striking Him, God returned embraces; for insults, blessings; for death, immortality. Never did men show more hate towards God than when they crucified Him; and God never showed His love towards people more than when He was resurrected. Mankind wanted to make God dead, but God, with His Resurrection, made people alive, the crucified God resurrected on the third day and thereby killed death! There is no more death. Immortality is surrounding man and his entire world.

With the Resurrection of the God-Man, the nature of man is irreversibly led toward the road of immortality and man's nature becomes destructive to death itself. For until the Resurrection of Christ, death was destructive for man; from the Resurrection of Christ, man's nature becomes destructive in death. If man lives in the faith of the Resurrected God-Man, he lives above death, he is unreachable for her; death is under man's feet. Death where is thy string? Hell, where is thy victory? And when a man who believes in Christ dies, he only leaves his body as his clothes, in which he will be dressed again on the Day of Last Judgment.

Before the Resurrection of the God-Man, death was the second nature of man: life was first and death was second. Man became accustomed to death as something natural. But after His Resurrection the Lord changed everything: and it was only natural until Christ's Resurrection, that the people became mortal, so after Christ's Resurrection it was natural that the people became immortal.

Through sin, man becomes mortal and temporal; with the Resurrection of the God-Man, he becomes immortal and eternal. In this lies the strength, in this lies the power, in this lies the might of Christ's Resurrection. Without the Resurrection there is no Christianity. Among the miracles, this is the greatest one; all other miracles begin and end with it. From it sprouted the faith and the love and the hope and the prayer and the love toward God.

Ускрс 2008.

“А ако Христос није устао, онда је празна проповијед наша, па празна и вјера наша.” (1.Кор. 15:14)

Христос Васкрсе, драга браћо и сестре,

Ваистину је све питање вере. Вера може да лечи, да нас изведе из таме у светлост, да побеђује непријатеље, па и најљућег непријатеља смрт. Без овако јаке вере, смрт мученика, страдање исповедника, и сва сведочења вере више од 2000 година била би узалудна. Све ово, цела историја Цркве, и цео наш животни пут од почетка до краја је безсмислен ако не верујемо у централну и свесадржајну чињеницу, да је **Христос васкрсао из мртвих, својом смрћу уништио смрт, и свима у гробовима даровао живот вечни.**

Прослављајући Васкрсење Христово - Свету Пасху Господњу, морамо да се стално подсећамо ове централне истине наше вере. Да је држимо пред нама као најдрагоцјени драгуљ, који светли свим људима, који запањено гледају у њену тајну. Јер, са Христовим Васкрсењем долази и нада у наше Васкрсење. Са Христовим Васкрсењем долази уништење геха и сваке корупције. Са Христовим Васкрсењем долази обећање свега узвишенијег... обећање вечног живота.

Тако, наша вера мора да буде вера у Васкрслог Христа. Наша вера мора бити, вера која сија из празног гроба. Наша вера мора бити, вера жена мироносица које су дошле да помажу тело Христово и нашле празан гроб и белог Анђела који објави васкрсење. Наша вера мора бити, вера Св. Апостола Петра и љубљеног апостола који су потрчали ка празном гробу. Као вера двојице апостола који су потрчали у Јерусалим, да објаве да су видели Васкрслог Господа на путу за Емаус. На крају, наша вера мора бити вера апостола Томе који је и за све нас видео и поверовао. Са овако јаком вером у Васкрсење победићемо смрт, победићемо грех и претворити сваку тугу у радост. Нека Господ дарује да наша вера не буде вера порицања, већ радосна вера у Св. Васкрсење Христово.

Са великом радошћу прославимо наше животну духовно путовање, да идемо путем вере која нас приводи празном гробу и Васкрслем Господу Исусу Христу.

Нека наш сваки Ускрс буде величанствен и испуњен радошћу. Нека Господ наш Исус Христос кроз своје свето Васкрсење испуни све наше наде и сва наша исчекивања.

Ваш у Васкрслем Господу,

О. Блашко Параклис

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ !

“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith also is empty.” 1 Cor 15:14

Christ is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is truly all a question of faith--faith which can heal, faith which can lead us from darkness to light, faith which destroys enemies and conquers death. Without this faith, the death of martyrs, the suffering of the confessors, and the witness of more than 2000 years would be in vain. For all of this, for all of the history of the Church, for all of our journey from beginning to end is without reason if we do not believe in the one central and all-encompassing fact that *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the toms bestowing life.*

As we celebrate this Pascha, we must remind ourselves of this central fact. We must hold it before us as a precious gem shining its light before all the people as they gaze at its mystery. For with Christ’s Resurrection comes the promise of our own. With Christ’s Resurrection comes the destruction of sin and corruption. With Christ’s Resurrection comes the promise of something more....the promise of life eternal.

So our faith must be the faith in the Risen Christ. Our faith must be the light shining forth from the empty tomb. Our faith must parallel that of the myrrthbearing women who came to anoint the dead body of Christ only to find the empty tomb and the angel announcing the resurrection. Our faith must be that of Peter, the beloved disciple, racing to empty tomb and that of the two disciples running back to Jerusalem after they encountered the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus. Finally, our faith must be that of Thomas who saw and believed. With this faith we conquer death; we conquer sin; we turn weeping into joy. May our faith be not one of cynical denial but rather one of joyful belief.

So Let us celebrate this journey, this journey of faith, that brings us to the empty tomb and the Risen Christ.

May each of our Paschas be glorious and joyful. May each of our Paschas be full. May all of our expectations be fulfilled through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I greet you all with the joy of the Great Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Blasko Paraklis

EASTER GIFT

NAME / IN NAME OF: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE: _____ ZIP _____

Easter Donation \$ _____

Make your check payable to: Most Holy Theotokos Church

Please Mail to: 2148 Michelson Drive
Irvine, CA 92612

THANK YOU

Schedule of Services

The Divine Liturgy is served regularly at 10:00 am every Sunday and on major Feast days at our Parish Center at Irvine Corporate Park, 2148 Michelson Drive, Irvine.

10:00am: *Divine Liturgy*
11:30am: *Sunday School*
12:00pm: *Lunch & Adult Bible Study*

Vespers service followed by the Sacrament of Holy Confession will be served every Saturday at 5:00pm and on the eve of major Feast days at 7:00 PM.

Akathist Service to the Mother of God is served on Fridays at 7:00 PM

LITURGIJA PRE\EOSVEJENIH DAROVA PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY

During Great Lent, Presanctified Divine Liturgy is served each Wednesday at 6:30pm, and each Friday at 9:30am.

April 7th BLAGOVESTI-THE ANNOUNCEMENT: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30am.

April 19th - LAZARUS SATURDAY: Divine Liturgy at 9:30am: The gospel clearly relates how six days before Christ's own death, He raised his friend Lazarus from the dead (John 11:42). We see the humanity and divinity of Christ combined as well as the foreshadowing of his own death.

April 19th - LAZARUS SATURDAY VESPERS - VRBICA at 5:00pm: I ask all of the parents to bring children. PLEASE ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 4:45pm to receive vrbica/palms and zvonice on this great Feast of Christ's entry into the city of Jerusalem.

THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK

Since the early days of the Church, there has been a cycle of services celebrated during Holy Week and Pascha.

Evidence of this goes all the way back to Egeria, a female from the West who experienced Orthodox Holy Week and Pascha in 383 AD in Jerusalem. She stated that the tradition was already long established.

These exact same services are still conducted today by the Orthodox Church. Here is a brief outline of the services of Holy Week. Many of the services are anticipated or served the day before.

April 20th - CVETI ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am: This liturgy heralds the end of the Great Fast and the beginning of Holy Week as Christ triumphantly enters into Jerusalem. The tradition, as the tropar states and the icon shows, is for a procession of palms led by the children. So begins our journey into Holy Week. During Holy Week, we fast from meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fish, wine and oil.

April 20th - Bridegroom Matins at 1:00 pm: Known in the Church as The End, the imagery here is about the Last Judgment. It relates the deep anguish of Christ as He prepares for His Passion. The services tell us to be ever vigilant for we do not know when God will come. These services are a triumph of the eschatological (last days) imagery in the Church.

April 21nd - Veliki Ponedeqak Great and Holy Monday Presanctified Liturgy at 9:30am:

The readings from Exodus during these services tell of the Passover which precedes the Passover (Pascha) of Christ.

April 21nd - Bridegroom Matins at 7:00 pm.

April 22nd - Veliki Utorak Great and Holy Tuesday Presanctified Liturgy at 9:30 am

April 22nd - Bridegroom Matins at 7:00 pm

April 23rd - Velika Sreda Great and Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy at 9:30 am

April 23rd - Velika Sreda Great and Holy Wednesday Holy Unction at 7pm, at St. Steven Serbian Orthodox Cathedral at 1621 West Garvey Ave., in Alhambra. For Holy Unction there should be more priests serving, therefore, all of us Serbian priests gather together at the Cathedral to perform this Holy Sacrament for all the Faithful. This service relates to the event when the harlot anoints Christ and is forgiven. On this day we customarily anoint the people with Holy Oil as a sign of healing and remission of sins.

April 24th - Veliki ^etvrtak Great and Holy Thursday: Holy Vespers Liturgy of Holy Thursday at 9:30am: This solemn Liturgy commemorates the First Eucharist also known as Red Thursday. The darkness of the week is broken slightly because of the importance of the Eucharistic event. Traditionally the priest prepares the reserve sacrament of the year. The passion of Christ is now close.

April 24th - Veliki ^etvrtak - Great and Holy Thursday Matins of Holy Friday Thursday evening at 7:00pm. The service, commonly known as "The Twelve Gospels" as the Church, remembers the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ by reading the twelve Gospel accounts. A climatic point of Holy Week emphasizing the reality of actions.

April 25th - Veliki Petak - Great and Holy Friday Royal Hours at 9:00am: Known as Royal because there is a Gospel reading and the Emperor would attend this service. It recounts the entire Gospel and Passion of Jesus Christ.

April 25th - Veliki Petak - Great and Holy Friday Vespers at 4:00pm: Remembering the crucifixion and death of Christ. There is a solemn procession as the burial shroud (plashtanica) is brought out to the people. Christ is laid in the tomb and our vigil of the Resurrection begins.

SCHEDULES OF EVENTS (continued)

April 25th - Veliki Petak - Great and Holy Friday
Matins of Holy Saturday on Friday evening at 7:00pm:
Known as the Praises of the Lamentations, the service begins the Sabbath as Christ lays in rest in the tomb. Often seen as a funeral service for Christ, in fact it is a commemoration of the law and love of God towards His people.

April 26th - Velika Subota - Great and Holy Saturday
Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Saturday at 10:00am: The death of Christ is linked with the creative acts of God. It is here that Christ descends into Hell and breaks the doors. The service inaugurates the paschal celebration as the service is bright and uplifting. The tomb is revealed as a place of life.

April 26th - Velika Subota Vaskrsno jutrewe - Great and Holy Saturday: The Services of the Great and Holy Pascha Saturday evening starting at 11:45pm: The Joy of Joys, Holiday of Holidays, celebrating Christ's Resurrection. The service begins with nocturn anticipating the Resurrection. The procession follows at midnight announcing the Resurrection to the world. We then celebrate the Paschal matins. **Baskets will be blessed after Ruserrecional Matins on Pascha night and again following Divine Liturgy on Sunday.**

April 27th - "VASKRSEWE HRISTOVO" - EASTER CELEBRATION, Divine Liturgy at 10:00am at Parish Center, 2148 Michelson Dr., Irvine. This is the Great and Joyous Liturgy celebrating the Pascha of our Lord. The Parish celebrates the Resurrection with a feast and events for the children and adults. Banquet will be held after the Divine Liturgy. See the detailed information later in this Newsletter. Musical entertainment will be provided by A SERBIAN ORCHESTRA.

April 28th and 29th - Vaskrsni ponedeqak i utorak - Bright Week (on Monday-no Liturgy here - there will be Liturgy @ the Monastery in Escondido) and Tuesday, April 29th, the Divine Liturgy will be held at 9:30 am.

May 6th - \ur|evdan - St. George the Victorious Great Martyr - Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND & EGYPT – July 2008

With the blessing of His Grace Bishop Maksim, the trip is planned for 17 days with departure on July 8th, 2008. Those interested in going on this Odyssey of Orthodox Spirituality are asked to contact me as soon as possible. Do not miss such a unique opportunity to participate in this wonderful experience **WALKING THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR LORD**. For more information please read the enclose itinerary. The number of pilgrims is limited to a maximum of 30 people. So far we have 15 people on the list. - **Fr. Blasko**

HOLY LAND -PILGRIMAGE 17 DAYS
July 8-24 2008

May 12th - Sv. Vasilije Ostro{ki - St. Basil of Ostrog
Wonderworker Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

May 22nd - Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy at 9:30am

May 24th - Sv. Kirilo i Metodije - Sts. Cyril and Methodius: Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

June 3rd - Holy Constantine and Helen - Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

June 5th - Vaznesewe Gospodwe - SPASOV DAN ASCENSION of our Lord Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

June 14th - Zadu{nice - Memorial Divine Liturgy at 9:30am: Please bring the names of your deceased members of the Family.

June 15th - Silazak Sv. Duha na Apostole - SVETA TROJICA - DUHOVI - Pentecost Sunday HOLY TRINITY DAY- PENTECOST Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

June 16th - Duhovski ponedeqak - Pentecost Monday Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

June 17th - Duhovski utorak - Pentecost Tuesday Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.

THE APOSTLES FAST Just a reminder that the fast leading up to the Feast of Apostles Peter and Paul begins June 23rd. It, of course, ends on the Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul, July 12.

June 28th - Sv. Velikomu~enik Lazar i sv. Mu~enici srpski-Vidovdan - St. Lazarus The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30am.

Tue 08, Jul California(Lax / Tlv) Israel
DAY 02- BEN-GURION / BETHLEHEM.
Wed 09- Arriving at Ben-Gorion Tel-Aviv airport will be met and assisted.

Transfer to Bethlehem for checking in at the
Or similar / welcoming dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 03- BETHLAHEM / JERUSALEM.

Thu 10- Breakfast at the hotel. Full day tour starting in Bethlehem, visiting

Nativity Church, Where our Lord Jesus was born, Manger Square & Shepard's fields.

Where the Angels announced the birth of our Lord, Judeah Desert, St. Savva Monastery,

St.Theodosius Monastery and Monastery of Prophet Elijah.

Return to hotel in Bethlehem for dinner & overnight.

DAY 04- SECOND DAY IN JERUSALEM.

Fri 11- Breakfast at hotel. continue to Jerusalem Visit Tomb of Rachel, Ein Karem
Home of St. John the Baptist there were Mary, the Mother of Jesus visited Elizabeth her Cousin and new that she was with child by the Holy Spirit; Russian women's Monastery. Annunciation Church & Then proceed to Mt. Zion/ St. Peter Gallicantu Last Supper room, King David's tomb, Dormition abbey.
Return to hotel in Bethlehem for dinner & overnight.

DAY 05- BETHLAHEM//CAESAREA/NAZARETH

Sat 12- Check out at hotel. Drive to Tel Aviv (Jaffa) to the Russian Convent of Apostle Peter & Paul for celebrating the feast day (Holy Liturgy) also visiting tomb of St. Tabitha, then proceed to Caesarea continue to Nazareth. Check in at Nazareth Plaza Hotel or similar for dinner & overnight.

DAY 06- HAIFA/NAZARETH.

Sun 13- Sunday mass at 9:00am on Mt. Carmel the Church of Elijah where he was lifted to Haven.
Bahai Gardens, Muhraqa where Elijah proved that our God was more Powerful and the false prophets were slaughtered (1 Kings 18). Drive on to Nazareth visiting Annunciation Church & Holy Virgin Mary's well. Return to hotel for dinner & overnight.

DAY 07- NAZARETH/CANA/MT. TABOR/JORDEN RIVER

Mon 14- Breakfast at hotel. & Check out, Continue to Cana where the first miracle was preformed by the Lord Jesus. Then drive to Mt. Tabor non as Mt. of Transfiguration. Continue to Jordan River
Baptismal site (Symbolically renew your baptism) Check in at Caesar hotel for dinner & overnight.

DAY 08-TIBERIA/JERICHO

Tue 15- Breakfast & check out at hotel. Visiting Ginosaur, Capernaum, Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha, to
See the splendid mosaic about the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. Primacy Church, St. Peter's home.
Megdal the city where St. Maria Magdalena was born. Russian monastery Discover the beauty Sea of Galilee. Continue along the Jordan valley thro Jericho to Check in At the Pilgrim Residence hotel for
Dinner & overnight.

DAY 09- JERICHO/QUMRAN/EIN GEDI/DEAD SEA.

Wed 16- Breakfast at hotel. Visiting the Mount of Temptation (Mt. Quarantel) Where the Lord isolated Himself and Fasted for forty days (Luke 4:5).
The Sycamore tree of Jericho none as Zaccheus tree. Monastery of Geracimo.
Then proceed to the Dead Sea area visiting Qumran caves where Dead Sea scrolls Were found. Continue to Ein Gedi, Leisure time at the Dead Sea enjoy floating in the Dead Sea & try different Spa programs available. Drive to Bethlehem & check in at PILGRAIM RESIDENCE HOTEL. For dinner & overnight.

DAY 10- OLD CITY- JERUSALEM.

Thu 17- Breakfast at hotel. Walking tour in the old city. Bethany Greek Monastery of Martha and Mary and the Church of Lazarus resurrection, The Church of the tomb of the Holy Virgin MARY, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa The 14 Station of the cross, Holy Sepulcher Church,
& visiting Mount of Olives panorama of the Old City-Jerusalem.
Back to the hotel for dinner & over night.

DAY 11-EGYPT/ISRAEL (TABA BORDER).

Fri 18- Breakfast at hotel & check out. 7 hours trip to the borders between Israel & Egypt
We will be crossing the borders to Taba and transfer to St. Catherine's Village
And check in hotel dinner & overnight. Rest of the day is free for rest.
(Rest as much as you can big day ahead).

DAY 12- Sinai St.Catherine / Mt. Moses.

Sat 19- Those who desire & are physically capable will depart for a memorable early morning walk
Up to Mt. Moses. Where God gave Mouses the ten commandments. You may choose to Ride a camel part way, stop at one of the station
To take in the scenery along the climb to the summit (750 steps) for a sunrise to remember.
Once at the top, enjoy a time of praise & then depart down the mountain for breakfast.

Breakfast at hotel. Visiting the Church of St. Catherine monastery it is located at the Foot of Mt. Sinai. It was built around what was thought to be Moses burning bush.
Visiting Al Aresh Red Sea, then Back to hotel for dinner & overnight.

DAY 13- St. Catherine

Sun 20- Sunday mass (Holy Liturgy) in the monastery of St. Catherine
check out. Crossing the borders back to Israel 7 hours trip Check in Pilgrim Residence hotel

for dinner & over night.

DAY 14-BACK TO JERUSALEM.

Mon 21- Breakfast at hotel We will stop & visit Wady al Qilt

St. George's monastery, where the Prophet Elijah was fed by ravens & see how the Christian monks maintained their ancient way of life & it was the main route from Jericho to Jerusalem. The Good Samaritan story.

Return to hotel in Bethlehem for dinner & over night.

DAY 15-SHOPING FOR SUVENIRS in THE OLD CITY JERUSALEM.

Tue 22- Breakfast at hotel walking in the old-city of Jerusalem visiting the Western Wall non as (Wiping wall) Masged Al Aqsa. Shopping, revisit the tomb of our Lord Jesus for blessing & Safe arrival to the U.S. Return to hotel for dinner and meting.

DAY 16-BETHLEHM/BEN-GURION.

Wed 23- Breakfast at the hotel. And we will fill the day according to the flighty seagull.

Tel Aviv Ben-gorion airport for departure to U.S.A via Belgrade, Serbia.

DAY 17- ISRAEL/ CALIFORNIA L.A

Thu 24- Arriving (Lax/ Los Angeles California).

Price includes (3,200.00)
1-Round trip air fair
2-Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily
3-Twin bedded rooms in hotel listed or similar
4-A professional registered tour guide (English).
5-Sightseeing by motor coach featuring air-conditioning

For more information please contact
Rev. Father Blasko Paraklis at frparaklis@aol.com or
(949) 830-5480 or

Yuri A. Romashouk at (714) 350-1963

Due to the high season and the price of the Air line tickets, Our Dead line is May 1, 2008

Please reserve you seat on or before this date and make your check payable to

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Church
2148 Michelson Drive
Irvine, CA 9261 Memo: [Holy Land Pilgrimage.](#)

For more details visit our Website

<http://mostholytheotokos.com/>

MONTHLY LECTURES AT OUR PARISH

As you all know we began lecture presentations on a topics of interest. On Sunday, February 10th 2008, Dr.

Aleksandra Jovanovic Poole presented a wonderful lecture on Cancer - prevention and Treatment. The lecture was very well attended and a lots interest in the topic was demonstrated through questions paused by large Audience. The second lecture was presented on **Saturday, March 29th 2008, by University Professor Dr. Bosko I. Bojovic**, on the topic "**Byzantium: A Paradigm of Ideology and Economy.**" Professor Bojovic talked about the raise and fall of Byzantium Empire making a comparison with today's world situation. His presentation was most edifying in many ways. My sincere gratitude goes Dr. Alexandra Jovanovich Pool and Professor Bosko Bojovic for their excellent presentations. **The next lecture** will be given by **Dr. Jasmina Zarecky Dermatologist.** The topic and time of the lecture will be announced via email. Please do not miss the opportunity to listen and to learn from these experts who donate their time and share their expertise for our benefit. If you are interested in giving a lecture in your field of expertise, please let me know as soon as possible.

KIDS DAY AT BOOMERS: MAY 17TH

Dear children and students:

In appreciation of your efforts in attending Sunday School and participating in the children's programs for St. Sava and Vidovdan holidays, your Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God is happy to invite you to celebrate the end of this school year in Boomers Park, close to our Church. All Church children are invited: Saturday May 17, 2008, 12-Noon to Vespers. Vespers will start at 5 pm. Free pass will be provided to all attractions (except the batting cages) for all students and for the parents of children who are 5 and under. (Call 714/723-2303 or 949/702-0706 if you are late, so that we can meet you at the ticket booth right away and give you your pass). Parents are solely responsible for supervising and the safety of their children.

Thank you for your continued support.

<http://www.boomersparks.com/parks/irvine/parkinfo.cfm>
Address: 3405 Michelson Drive Irvine, CA 92612
Phone: 949-559-8341

VIDOV DAN COMMEMORATION, JUNE 29th

Our Parish will commemorate **Vidovdan** on Sunday, June 29, 2008, at our Parish Center, at 2148 Michelson, Irvine. Divine Liturgy will start at 10:00am. A banquet will follow with a **lecture and program.**

The guest speaker will be announced. Our Sunday School children will recite poems about Vidovdan and Kosovo. By attending this commemoration, we join together in prayer with all the Holy Martyrs of Kosovo for our brothers and sisters who still suffer there. **If you want your children to participate at the Vidovdan program please contact Fr. Blasko in the May.**

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP

July 13th through Aug. 2nd 2008

Summer camp is a unique opportunity for our children to learn about our Orthodox faith and culture as well as to meet other children from within our diocese. Every summer our Diocese organizes summer camp at St. Sava Camp in Jackson where many children from parishes within our diocese attend. There are still places available for the first and the last weeks of camp. Adult volunteers are needed, especially for the last week (Aug. 5-11), to work in the kitchen, or as counselors, etc. If you plan to send your child or if you can volunteer, please contact me as soon as possible.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of our Parish was held at our Parish Center, 2148 Michelson Dr., Irvine, California, on Sunday, February 17th following the Divine Liturgy.

The following parishioners were elected to the Parish Board for 2008: Zika Tatalovic, President; Christina Djokovich-Austin, 1st Vice President; Uros Seferovic, 2nd Vice President; Ilija Vitomirov, Secretary; Radivoje Rakic, Treasurer; Peter Djokovich, Financial Secretary; Slobodan Petric, Uri Romashuck, Igor Novachuk, Stevan Dubljevic, Radmila Richter, Dragan Stankovic, Sinisa Petkov, and Milan Knezevich, as members; and Svetlana Miletic as Auditing Board member. May God bless and reward all of them a hundredfold for demonstrating such a great love for God's Church and our Parish. Your prayers and support are vital for their and our success!

May God bless and rewarded a hundredfold all of you for all your work and efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Blasko Paraklis, Parish Priest

говорил им о Едином Боге, о сотворении мира, о необходимости покаяния, о явлении в мир Иисуса Христа. Афиняне с интересом слушали апостола до тех пор, пока он не начал говорить о воскресении. Услышав об этом невероятном факте, они стали расходиться, с сарказмом бросив Павлу: «Мы послушаем тебя в следующий раз». Рассказ о воскресении Христа показался им нелепостью.

Но ведь в проповеди Павла было главным именно то, что Христос воскрес из мертвых.

Христос победил смерть. Своей смертью и воскресением Он привел к жизни каждого, для кого событие, произошедшее в погребальной пещере, является фактом неоспоримым и воспринимается так близко, что становится фактом его собственного воскресения. «Если мы веруем, что Иисус умер и воскрес, то и умерших в Иисусе Бог приведет с Ним» (1 Фес. 4:14).

Христос воскрес на второй день после еврейской Пасхи – праздника, установленного в честь освобождения израильского народа из египетского рабства. Воскресение Христово стало новой Пасхой – радостью освобождения от рабства смерти. «Слово "Пасха", – пишет святой Амвросий Медиоланский, – означает "прехождение". Назван же так этот праздник, торжественнейший из праздников, в ветхозаветной Церкви – в воспоминание исхода сынов Израилевых из Египта и вместе с тем избавления их от рабства, а в Церкви новозаветной – в ознаменование того, что Сам Сын Божий, чрез Воскресение из мертвых, перешел от мира сего к Отцу Небесному, от земли на небо, освободив нас от вечной смерти и рабства врагу, даровав нам «власть быть чадами Божиими» (Ин. 1:12).

Значение воскресения Христа для человечества делает Пасху самым значительным торжеством среди всех других праздников – Праздником Праздников и Торжеством из Торжеств.

Ночное пасхальное богослужение пронизано оптимизмом. Каждое чтение и песнопение вторит словам огласительного слова святителя Иоанна Златоуста, которое читается уже тогда, когда за окнами православных храмов просыпается утро: «Смерть! Где твое жало? Ад! Где твоя победа?»

Христос победил смерть. За трагедией смерти следует триумф жизни. После Своего воскресения Господь всех приветствовал словом: «Радуйтесь!». Смерти больше нет.

Эту радость апостолы возвестили миру. Эту радость они назвали «Евангелием» – благой вестью о

О Пасхе Христовой

На Страстной, среди предпраздничных хлопот, сугубо постились, говели. К вечеру Великой Субботы дом наш светился предельной чистотой, как внутренней, так и внешней, благодной и счастливой, тихо ждущей в своем благообразии великого Христова праздника. И вот праздник наконец наступал – ночью с субботы на воскресенье в мире свершался некий дивный

перелом, Христос побеждал смерть и торжествовал над нею. Воскресение Христово – суть православной веры. «Если Христос не воскрес, то и проповедь наша тщетна, тщетна и вера ваша», – обращается к христианам апостол Павел. Однажды он проповедовал в Афинах. Жители города, с древних времен славившиеся своим любопытством ко всему новому, казалось, готовы были слушать Павла... Он



воскресении Христа. Эта же радость переполняет сердце человека, когда он слышит: «Христос

STEWARDSHIP 2008

First, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart all of the individuals from our community and others who support us in so many ways.

Once again I appeal to all of you to become a steward of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Parish through your financial commitment to support the work and mission of our church. Show your love for the Lord and your willingness to do His work by completing and sending in your Pledge for 2008.

As I stated in the past that Stewardship is one of the most important tasks for our spiritual growth and the future of our parish. Whether we are aware of it or not, we are all in our lifetimes stewards of everything we have: our time, talents, and material goods. The goal and the purpose of the parish's stewardship program is to ensure that people are good stewards. A good steward is one who understands that everything we have belongs to God, and that we need to give back to God through His Church everything that we have. We must take the time that we are given to live and sequester a part of each day for prayer to God. We need to participate in the Holy Liturgy. We are obliged to multiply our talents and apply them toward contributing to the Church of God. Our material goods including money must be returned to God through our contributions to the Church within each person's ability. By being good stewards, we praise God for giving us health and for giving us the ability to acquire the material goods required for the sustenance of our lives and the lives of our families. We shall all answer before God and be required to account for how we have used all the gifts with which God had endowed us. Our Faith reflects in deeds. Holy Apostle James says: "Show me your faith without your deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." And our Holy Patriarch Pavle always highlights: "God does not ask us to do what we cannot do, rather what we can do, we shouldn't do more, but we also shouldn't do less than what we can do." I pray to God and appeal to all of you, for every family and every one of us individually to contribute within our possibilities toward this mutual house of ours. Planning for the future of our parish is very important and without a more solid stewardship program it is impossible to plan and create a vision of our parish in the years to come. The real estate prices started to come down and it is our wish to do something concrete in a very near future, whether to buy property or a building which we would use until the erection of the church. Certainly we should never forget that prayer is the foundation of every labor and planning. It is only through prayer to God and by working together that we can continue to build that which we have commenced with God's help.

- **Fr. Blasko and Parish Board**

Воскресе!», и она же отзывается в нем главными словами его жизни: «Воистину воскрес Христос!

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Priprema i deqene hrane besku }nicima u organizaciji Antiohijske Pravoslavne Crkve Sv. Luke u Garden Grove-u je svakog ~etvrtog utorka u mesecu, od 1 do 2 sata posle podne. Ukoliko ste zainteresovani da pomognete javite mi se telefonom. Our sister parish, St. Luke's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Garden Grove, invites us to help feed the homeless at the United Methodist Parish at 12741 Main St. in Garden Grove. Everyone is to meet there. The actual feeding of the homeless is every fourth Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2 pm. You're encouraged to go earlier at 10 am to help prepare the food and set up and/or to stay after to clean up. For more information and directions, call the church secretary, Anna Nassir, at St. Luke's, 714-971-2244, or Fr. Blasko at 949-830-5480.

FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT FOR HOMELESS AT OUR PARISH

Our Parish has sponsored an independent homeless project every Sunday. We collect any food, fresh or canned, which we ask you place on the table located next to the playroom. We gather all your donations along with the left-overs from our parish meals and the change from the collection box on the same table, and donate it all to the Salvation Army Shelter located in our neighborhood. We urge you to leave food each week on that table. If you would like to help deliver it to the shelter, please tell Fr. Blasko, or Sanja Rakonjac. It is such a great help. Big thank-you's to Sanja, Igor and John for delivering our donations. Check your fridge and cupboards before coming to Church on Sundays and bring whatever you can donate.

HELP YOUR PARISH THROUGH CAR DONATION

You can now help the parish by making a tax-exempt donation of a car, truck, RV, or boat. All DMV details will be handled for you, and your vehicle will be towed for free. The church will receive funds equaling the full value of the vehicle. Please call with any questions. Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising activities to benefit our parish, please pass them along to Zika Tatalovich or Fr. Blasko.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Another way to help our parish is to establish an endowment fund in memory of deceased members of your family. While the principal will always stay in tact, the income from the fund is used for various church needs and programs, as the donor may designate. The main thing is that the parish will pray regularly for the donor and his/her family members.

Communique of the Holy Synod of Bishops its meeting in Peć Patriarchate on march 4, 2008

The members of the Holy Synod of Bishops [of the Serbian Orthodox Church], escorted by an Italian KFOR contingent, arrived yesterday in the holy lavra of the Peć Patriarchate Monastery, where they held their fifth regular session this year, having first served Holy Hierarchical Liturgy in the Church of the Holy Apostles.

Holding today's session in this patriarchal seat and ancient spiritual heart of the Serbian Orthodox Church is a sign of the Church's concern for its holy shrines and its faithful in Kosovo and Metohija, who were addressed with words of encouragement and paternal love in this period burdened with suffering and new trails.

With their visit to Kosovo and Metohija, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops also sent yet again a powerful appeal to a part of the international community against the unilateral recognition of the so-called state of Kosovo, asking it to re-examine its responsibility for this illegal and highly coerced move which completely destroys international law, the United Nations Charter and [UN Security Council] Resolution 1244. It is incomprehensible to common sense that at the beginning of the 21st century an entire people can be collectively punished with the harshest of punishments without a trial or justification for this decision. Such unilateral and forcibly imposed solutions are, in fact, a sign of the moral division of modern justice-seekers, not a sign of strength; a sign of confidence in [the use of] force as the ultimate method of resolving human conflicts, not in God and His justice, and human justice upon which the world rests.

As a Church, we will defend Kosovo and Metohija with our faith, hope and love but above all, with the repentance that also adorned our ancestors, who erred but ever returned to God. Morally and in prayer we are with the state of Serbia and with all justice-loving individuals and peoples, and we lend them our support to find just, rational and dignified means so that Kosovo and Metohija, which is the heart of Serbia, remains forever in Serbia. We also pray for the nation's leaders that God may give them wisdom, unite and gather them so they may

harmoniously navigate the boat of Serbia at this difficult historical moment, guided primarily by faith in God's justice, which sustains countries and cities.

We must retain and preserve our Kosovo and Metohija, this holy place where we were created, matured and survived as a people, knowing that the only thing lost is what we ourselves renounce. That is why we also call on refugees to return to their ancestral homes, which no can take from them or dare to try.

At the same time, we call on our brother Archpriests, state officials and all institutions to collect material assistance for those who have returned and who will return to Kosovo and Metohija.

We are close to the beginning of the Great Fast of forty days. Therefore, we call on all the faithful to fast and pray, to forgive each other and repent. Never have we been in greater need of fasting and prayer than today for according to the word of the Lord every demon, every demonic evil, including the one that we are now experiencing, can only be expelled through fasting and prayer. What is impossible for mortals is possible for God. We place our hope in Him and we place our future, as well as the future of all persons and all peoples, in the Hands of Him who was crucified and Resurrected. He, our Lord and Savior, teaches us to love not only those who love us but also those who hate us. Hence we are all duty-bound to forgive and ask for forgiveness, in community with all well-meaning persons, with profound awareness that this is the only path that leads us to the realization of justice and peace with all those with whom we share this piece of blessed Kosovo and Metohija land, as well as with all well-meaning persons and peoples. After the meeting the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops visited Visoki Dečani Monastery, Đakovica and Prizren. The Holy Synod met with our people, faithful to their holy shrines and churches, who have not lost hope in the victory of the good and freedom, praying that the Lord may grant us all the strength to endure on the path of God's justice and truth.

Υεκρε - Easter Celebration 2008

*Celebrate The Resurrection of Our
Lord Jesus Christ!*

Sunday, April 27, 2008

***Divine Liturgy:* 10:00am @ Parish Center**

***Banquet:* 12:00pm – 4:00 pm**

***Where:* Parish Center @ 2148 Michelson, Irvine**

- ***VLADAN BELJIC ORCHESTRA***

- *Live Serbian Music and Kolo Dancing*
- *Delicious Lunch: Serbian Food and Pastries!*
- *Easter Egg Hunt, Gifts and Surprises,*
- ***Safe Enclosed Play Area for the Children***
- *Plenty of Seating with Room for the Entire Family and Friends*
- *\$25 Adults, \$15 Teens, Kids 9 & Under Free!*

***PLEASE R.S.V.P. IN
ADVANCE...***

Email to: frparaklis@aol.com

OR Buy Advance Tickets at Parish Center on
Sunday, April 1st

OR Mail Payment to 2148 Michelson, Irvine, CA
92612

We Expect a Big Turnout!

...RSVP Soon!

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Please call me to discuss options that will fit your needs. I am committed to providing you with the service you deserve.

Please mention this ad when you call and appropriate donation will be made to the: "Most Holy Theotokos Church" in Irvine, CA after close of your Escrow.

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Omega Capital Properties
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or send an e-mail to "dr_branka@hotmail.com" to get information about Ayurveda or to set up an appointment.

DIRECTIONS...to the Parish Center:

Location: Irvine Corporate Park
2148 Michelson Dr., Irvine
Between MacArthur & Von Karman

Directions: From North take San Diego Fwy 405 South. Exit at MacArthur Blvd., south toward airport. Turn left onto MacArthur. Turn left onto Michelson Dr. Pass Dupont. Parish Center on right side of street.

From South take San Diego Fwy 405 North. Exit at Jamboree Rd. Left onto Jamboree Rd. Over the freeway bridge to turn right onto Michelson Dr. Pass Von Karman. Parish Center on left side of street.



Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Missionary Parish
 2148 Michelson Drive
 Irvine, California 92612

