



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST / SAINT SAVVA I, FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA

January 14, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Kontakion – Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: “The Savior has come to those in faith;// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.”

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Leavetaking of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The Leavetaking of the Feast of Theophany takes place on January 14. The entire office of the Feast is repeated except for the Entrance, festal readings, Litya, Blessing of Loaves at Vespers, and the Polyeleos and festal Gospel at Matins. The festal Antiphons are not sung at Liturgy, and the Epistle and Gospel of the day are read.

Saint Savva I, first Archbishop of Serbia

Saint Savva, First Archbishop of Serbia, in the world Rostislav (Rastko), was a son of the Serbian king Stephen Nemanya and Anna, daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Romanus. From his early years he fervently attended church services and had a special love for icons. At seventeen years of age, Rostislav met a monk from Mount Athos, secretly left his father's house and set off for the Saint Panteleimon monastery. (By divine Providence in 1169, the year of the saint's birth, the ancient monastery of the Great Martyr and healer Panteleimon was given to Russian monks.)

Knowing that his son was on Athos, his father mobilized his retainers headed by a faithful voevod and wrote to the governor of the district which included Athos, saying that if his son were not returned to him, he would go to war against the Greeks. When they arrived at the monastery, the voevod was ordered not to take his eyes off Rostislav. During the evening services, when the soldiers had fallen asleep under the influence of wine, Rostislav received monastic tonsure (in 1186) and sent to his parents his worldly clothes, his hair and a letter. Saint Savva sought to persuade his powerful parents to accept monasticism. The monk's father (in monasticism Simeon, commemorated on February 13) and his son pursued asceticism at the Vatopedi monastery. On Athos they established the Serbian Hilandar monastery, and this monastery received its name by imperial grant. At Hilandar monastery, Saint Savva was ordained to the diaconate and then presbyter. His mother Anna became a nun with the name Anastasia (June 21).

For his holy life and virtuous deeds on Mount Athos, the monk was made an archimandrite at Thessalonica. At Nicea in the year 1219 on the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Ecumenical Patriarch Germanus consecrated Archimandrite Savva as Archbishop of Serbia. The saint petitioned the Byzantine Emperor to grant permission for Serbian bishops to elect their own Archbishop in future. This was a very important consideration in a time of frequent wars between the eastern and western powers. Having returned to the Holy Mountain from Nicea, the saint visited all the monasteries for the last time. He made prostrations in all the churches and, calling to mind the blessed lives of the wilderness Fathers, he made his farewells to the ascetics with deep remorse, "leaving the Holy Mountain, as if from Paradise."

Saddened by his separation from the Holy Mountain, the saint went along the path from Athos just barely moving. The Most Holy Theotokos spoke to the saint in a dream, "Having My Patronage, why do you remain sorrowful?" These words roused him from despondency, changing his sorrow into joy. In memory of this appearance, the saint commissioned large icons of the Savior and of the Mother of God at Thessalonica, and put them in a church.

In Serbia, the activity of the Hierarchy in organizing the work of his native Church was accompanied by numerous signs and miracles. During the Liturgy and the all-night Vigil, when the saint came to cense the grave of his father the monk Simeon, the holy relics exuded fragrant myrrh. Being in charge of negotiations with the Hungarian King Vladislav, who had declared war on Serbia, the holy bishop not only brought about the desired peace for his country, but he also brought the Hungarian monarch to Orthodoxy. Thus he facilitated the start of the historical existence of the autonomous Serbian Church. Saint Savva also contributed to strengthening the Serbian state. In order to insure the independence of the Serbian state, Archbishop Savva crowned his powerful brother Stephen as king. Upon the death of Stephen, his eldest son Radislav was crowned king, and Saint Savva set off to the Holy Land "to worship at the holy tomb of Christ and fearsome Golgotha."

When he returned to his native land, the saint blessed and crowned Vladislav as king. To further strengthen the Serbian throne, he betrothed him to the daughter of the Bulgarian prince Asan. The holy hierarch visited churches all across Serbia, he reformed monastic rules on the model of Athos and Palestine, and he established and consecrated many churches, strengthening the Orthodox in their faith. Having finished his work in his native land, the saint appointed the hieromonk Arsenius as his successor, consecrating him bishop and giving his blessing to all. He then set off on a journey of no return, desiring "to end his days as a wanderer in a foreign land." He passed through Palestine, Syria and Persia, Babylon, Egypt and Anatolia, everywhere visiting the holy places, conversing with great ascetics, and collecting the holy relics of saints. The saint finished his wanderings at Trnovo in Bulgaria at the home of his kinsman Asan, where with spiritual joy he gave up his soul to the Lord (+ 1237).

At the time of transfer of the holy relics of Saint Savva to Serbia in 1237, there were so many healings that the Bulgarians began to complain about Asan, "because he had given up such a treasure." In the saint's own country, his venerable relics were placed in the Church of Milieshevo, bestowing healing on all who approached with faith. The inhabitants of Trnovo continued to receive healing from the remnants of the saint's coffin, which Asan ordered to be gathered together and placed in a newly built sarcophagus. The legacy of Saint Savva lives on in the Orthodox Church traditions of the Slavic nations. He is associated with the introduction of the Jerusalem Typikon as the basis for Slavic Monastic Rules. The Serbian Hilandar monastery on Mt. Athos lives by the Typikon of Saint Savva to this day. Editions of *The Rudder* (a collection of church canons) of Saint Savva, with commentary by Alexis Aristines, are the most widely disseminated in the

Russian Church. In 1270 the first copy of *The Rudder of Saint Savva* was sent from Bulgaria to Metropolitan Cyril of Kiev. From this was copied one of the most ancient of the Russian Rudders, the Ryazan Rudder of 1284. It in turn was the source for a printed Rudder published in 1653, and since that time often reprinted by the Russian Church. Such was the legacy of Saint Savva to the canonical treasury of Orthodoxy.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Christina (12/24)

Father Paul (12/31)

Matushka Mary (12/31)

Alexandra (12/31)

Liam (1/7)

Kelly (1/7)

Carmine (1/14)

Marianne (1/14)

Bill (1/14)

Anthony (1/14)

For the Deceased

Pearl (1/7)

John (1/7)

Michael (1/14)

Katherine (1/14)

Olga (1/14)

Pauline (1/14)

Kyra (1/14)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of January 14

Sunday January 14 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday January 20 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday January 21 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

January 7 – 78 adults, 21 youth, \$3,302

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on January 28 during Coffee Hour. All parishioners should plan on being in attendance for this yearly update on our parish.

Your donations are needed to sustain Coffee Hour. Very little is being donated every Sunday, so please remember to put some money in the basket on the food table so we can continue to have Coffee Hour. Thank you!

A sign-up sheet for House Blessing is on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up and Father Volodymyr will contact you to set up a time.

Coffee Hour Support Persons are needed. If you would like to volunteer to assist once or twice a month, please see Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Father Volodymyr. We encourage everyone to get involved in this weekly parish event.

The FOCA Club will have a Chili Cook-off Fundraiser before the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 28. There will be two categories – Mild and Hot. Sample cups will be sold for \$1 each; cups will be numbered so the chili can be voted on for Best Mild Chili and Best Hot Chili! The winners will receive a gift card. **If you would like to volunteer to make a pot of chili, please see Nina Laushell or Herman Meyer to register your name – today is the last day.**

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, **please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken. It is important to get your picture taken soon!**

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! We are interested in your favorite recipes, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tatiana Bagritsevich – January 13

Cezar Mateiescu – January 15

Nicholas Cassar – January 18

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Frozen desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Jan. 14 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock

Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey

Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING / Chili Cook-Off** - Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer

Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett

Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir

Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger

Feb. 25 Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Matthew & Kris Bohush

Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa

Mar. 10 FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser

Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistos Amleset

Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss

Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe

Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny
Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava
Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko
Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski
May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**
May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss
May 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Valeria & Timothy Srock

CHURCH HISTORY

From an article published in the former "Colonial Crier" FOCA publication, **November-December 1954**
Written by Pauline Denko (mother of parishioner Paul Denko and aunt of parishioner Darice Keyes)

St. Vladimir's Church of Trenton is Enlarged and Remodeled

A few years ago, it was most evident that our church (established in 1915) was in need of expansion very badly. Our vestibule is crowded during Divine Liturgy, as well as our little church, and people even stand outside. When brought before a Parish Meeting, there was controversy on the part of some members, and others thought we should concentrate on a hall, still others wanted to build a school. After much discussion, it was decided that we should enlarge the church and at the same time our basement would be enlarged and could satisfactorily be used for Sunday School, meetings, dinners, and various other church affairs.

Then came the blueprints showing our church in better form and more beautiful architecture than the original building. One-third its length had been added. The work began – down came the sanctuary walls – the dust flew. Each week the church had to be cleaned and prepared for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. This continued for some time, and finally the new sanctuary walls were up, and down came the canvass. Already, the people who had originally disapproved of the extension, were beaming with pride. How beautiful the three white columns on each side of the church looked! What a grand feeling it was to walk down that long aisle to reverence the icon on the lectern! With these satisfactory results, pledges and contributions were readily made.

One thing began to lead to another. Painting the walls was considered. To properly decorate the walls in Iconography of Byzantine Art would certainly not compare with the paintings on the Iconostas. The next step was to get a new Iconostas. The people agreed without hesitation. Plans were drawn up and work started. The old Iconostas was sold to a Serbian parish. It was surprise after surprise. One Sunday we came to church – the old Iconostas was there. A few Sundays later – no Iconostas. Still a few Sundays later - a partial new Iconostas. A while later - a complete new Iconostas.

With all this new beauty, we couldn't ignore the lecterns, Table of Oblation, Altar, hrobnitsa (sepulchre), memorial table, etc. All these are being made of carved wood in the traditional Russian style. About half of this new church furniture has already been completed. With the help of God and our parishioners' contributions, our progress and results have been excellent.

While all the work was being accomplished in church, the exterior of the church was painted. The basement, too, was being remodeled. Complete new restrooms were installed. The ladies also got a nice new kitchen with modern cabinets, new stove, new sink, etc. The kitchen is not yet completely furnished but will be in the near future. The entire hall was walled with knotty pine along with a complete new concrete floor and a new system of baseboard heat.

Recently we welcomed the arrival of the iconographer, Pimen Sofronoff, an authority on Byzantine painting. The painting of the icons for the new Iconostas has already begun, and we are eagerly looking forward to the day when the iconography and interior beautification of our church will be fully completed.

Up to this date a total of about \$55,000 has been spent on the remodeling of the church, and it is expected that at least \$15,000 more will be needed before the project is satisfactorily completed. Thus far, we have been fortunate in not incurring any debts.

All this was accomplished in only a few years. That's what can be done, as the proverb says, "Where there is a will, there is a way." With complete willingness and cooperation, and the Lord's help, we've really given our church, hall, and church grounds a new look.