

ST. GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE SHIELD



ISSUE 1: JANUARY 2019

The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - January 7th

"Christ is born, glorify Him.
Christ is from heaven, go to meet Him.
Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up.
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing out with gladness, all ye people.
For He is glorified."

- Ode 1 of the Christmas Canon

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER!

SEASONAL ARTICLES

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG
THOSE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!**

- LUKE 2: 14

2019 CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY - FEBRUARY



Sunday	January 6	Adult Education - Antiphons	9:30 AM
		Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Folklore/Dance	12:00 PM
		Blessing of the Waters at Stadium Park - Shelter #5	1:00 PM
		Nativity Eve Vigil / Badnje Vece / Badnjak	7:00 PM
Monday	January 7	Nativity of Our Lord - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
Tuesday	January 8	Synaxis of the Mother of God - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
Wednesday	January 9	Holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
		Bible Study	6:30 PM
Sunday	January 13	Adult Education - The Little Entrance	9:30 AM
		Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Junior Choir Rehearsal	12:00 PM
Monday	January 14	Circumcision of Our Lord / St Basil / Serbian New Year - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
Saturday	January 19	Feast of Theophany - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
Sunday	January 20	Adult Education - The Word and Teaching	9:30 AM
		Synaxis of St John the Baptist - Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Folklore/Dance	12:00 PM
Wednesday	January 23	Bible Study	6:30 PM
Sunday	January 27	Adult Education - Augmented Litany	9:30 AM
		Feast of St Sava - Divine Liturgy, Church School St Sava Program	10:00 AM
Sunday	February 3	Adult Education - The Great Entrance	9:30 AM
		Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Folklore/Dance	12:00 PM
Friday	February 8	Liturgical Music Workshop - Lecture and Social Hour	6:00 PM
Saturday	February 9	Liturgical Music Workshop - Lunch, PM Sessions	12:00 PM
Sunday	February 10	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - His Grace Bishop Irinej	10:00 AM
Friday	February 15	Meeting of the Lord in the Temple - Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
Sunday	February 17	Adult Education - Anaphora	9:30 AM
		Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Folklore/Dance	12:00 PM
Sunday	February 24	Adult Education - Anaphora	9:30 AM
		Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM

New-Year's Greetings from Father Aleksa



Christ is born! Hristos se rodi!

It is by God's grace that following the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are afforded the opportunity of another beginning - that of the new calendar year. We are given the chance to shed the 'old man', the person we were in years prior, and take on the 'new man'.

For us, that 'old man' is the sinful self - our struggles and our passions. The parts of us that reach out an ancient, withered hand to greet death as it finds us in the choices we make, each day, that fail to bring the light of Christ into this world. That 'old man' of sin grips us as we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life that we forget what's truly important - our faith, our family, our community.

The 'new man' is, for us, the image of Jesus Christ. This festal season provides us a new opportunity to re-orient ourselves, and renew our baptismal image. That is an image of life and resurrection and an image that lifts up not only us, but those around us in this world.

Putting on that 'new man' is much more than any one resolution we might make in the new year - it is a commitment to try and make Christ a part of our lives.

That starts, first and foremost, with our church community. We are called by our Lord Jesus every week to be filled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit, through Christ, in Holy Communion. From there, we work on identifying that dying, 'old man' within and asking God to help us be renewed. If we decide to make such an effort, then our old, hopeless eyes that look cynically upon this world, fearful of death, are replaced with new eyes - eyes that see life and hope even in the most dire of circumstances; eyes that can find Christ in difficult people and challenging situations; eyes that will start to see a tapestry of vivid and magnificent colors shining in this world... and not the gray and dull tones of despair.

So let's make this year one of renewal - first, personally, as we commit to renewing that image of Christ, the 'new man', within us; and second, corporately, as we commit to giving life to our community by becoming a living and breathing part of our Sunday services.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Aleksa

THEOPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

Blessing of homes will begin **January 19**, following Divine Liturgy. Contact Fr Aleksa to arrange a time for him to visit your home: fralek-sa@gmail.com or 440-654-1880.

Have a candle, a small bowl and a list of the living and departed members of your family available on a table. You will lead Father through the rooms of your home that you wish to have blessed. Make this visit of your priest a blessed event for you and the members of your family!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ ST. GEORGE



This liturgical year at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, the community focus has been on engaging with our Orthodox faith through education. Our first outreach is to the children of our parish, which have a team of teachers, including Marina Quinn, Svetlana McCully, Rajko Radonjich, Sally Hein, and Gligo, Anastasia, and Jovana Sekulic, educating them at the preschool, elementary, and middle school levels. These classes are supplemented by our St. Sebastian Youth Association, led by Subdeacon Mark Resanovich, our Youth Choir, led by Protinica Emily Pavichevich, and our Culture and Folklore taught by Marina Quinn.

The parish committee on Enrichment recognized, however, that a children's education must find a firm grounding at home if it is going to be successful. As such, a number of educational opportunities for adults have been added this year, and continue to grow in size. First, prior to Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, Fr. Aleksa Pavichevich and Subdeacon Mark Resanovich co-teach adult education classes that follow the flow of Fr. Thomas Hopko's series on "The Orthodox Faith." Each Sunday, a number of adults and a few teens come early to church for a fifteen-minute lesson, a question and answer session, and then the reading of the hours.

New in November, the parish began a Bible Study led by Fr. Aleksa Pavichevich. This ongoing, bi-weekly program is coordinated by parishioners Tiffany Kochovski and Melissa Laskovski. Beginning with the Gospel according to St. Mark, the participants will not only learn about Holy Scripture, and how reading it can impact their lives, but they are also learning about "how" they should read it in light of the Orthodox faith and Holy Tradition.

For parents in the church, quarterly workshops are offered to help families navigate the challenges inher-



ent with raising children in the 21st-century. The first workshop was on “Faith, Children, and Technology”, where a group of parents not only learned about some of the risks that our children face in this digital world, but also strategies to address those risks. As usual, these workshops are not merely lectures, but provide group activities and workshops to get participants engaged and working together!

In February of 2019, St. George will host a Liturgical Music Workshop under the direction of Protodeacon Jovan Anicic, director of Religious Education for the Eastern American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church. This event will be Pan-Orthodox and have sessions aimed at helping faithful Christians better engage with their worship through music and song.

As always, the parish also offers annual and bi-annual pilgrimages to give the faithful people opportunities to connect with their Orthodoxy as they visit holy sites throughout the world. Each Great Lent, the parish takes a retreat to New York City to spend time at the Diocesan Center, visit St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and join the St. Sava Pro-Cathedral community for Divine

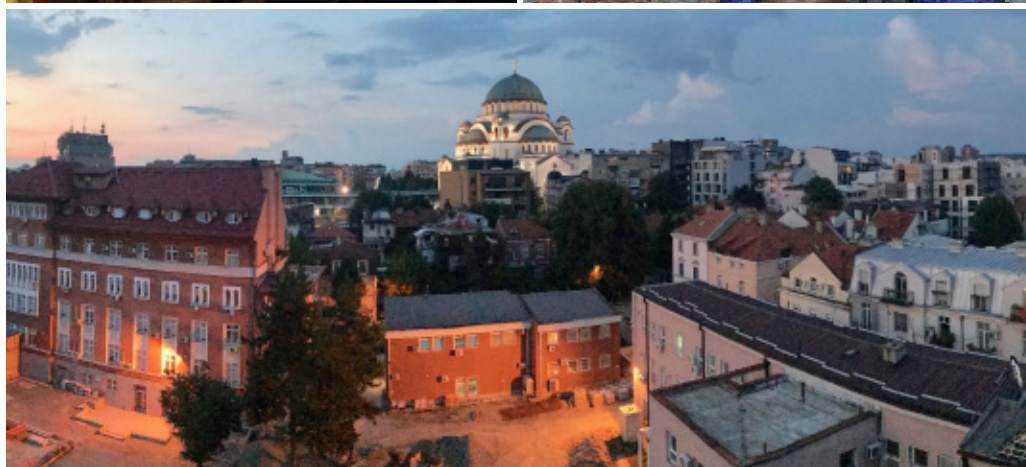
Liturgy. Beginning in 2018 with a successful trip to the holy and historical sites of Serbia, St. George parish is already looking forward to future pilgrimages – the next in 2020.



All of these are in addition to seasonal opportunities to grow in the faith, including the annual KSS-sponsored Lenten Workshop, Lenten Seminar with a guest speaker from the Cleveland Deanery, and a guest speaker brought in by the Stark County Clergy Brotherhood for the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

It is with great joy that the faithful parishioners of St. George seek life in their faith through continual catechism. As their understanding of their Orthodox faith in Christ continues to grow, their experience at Divine Liturgy not only deepens – it expands outside the doors of the physical church structure into their lives!

2018 Pilgrimage to Serbia & Kosovo



Church Board News

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For charitable giving or volunteer information:
Please visit the St. George website: stgeorgenc.org

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. - 1 Peter 4:10

2018 was certainly a busy, busy year for our St. George parish! On one hand, it was a very challenging year for our facility - we had a number of necessary fixes that were rather costly. On the other hand, we continue to get creative with our fundraising, and are well positioned to continue growth in our catering - and sustained success for our large-scale events (like our annual SerbFest).

Here's a list of some of the work done over the past year at the parish:

- Roof sealing (hall)
- Fire panel replacement (church)
- AC unit (hall)
- AC unit (rental property)
- Sealing and painting of the parking lot
- Transition away from professional (and expensive) cleaning services

All of this has been undertaken in addition to Committee driven, Board-supported initiatives in the life of the parish including:

- A family night in the spring
- Pilgrimage to Serbia
- Fall Family Festival

Not mentioned above, of course, are the regular and ongoing maintenance and enrichment opportunities throughout the year. We have volunteers that donate their time to clean the church, and a crew of people that are cleaning the hall on an as-needed basis.



To that last point, however, we are in need of people to continue that good work - it saves the church a tremendous amount of money, and makes our hall a wonderful place to congregate, celebrate, and enjoy fellowship.

Finally, it's important to note that this work is only possible through the prayerful, loving support of our entire, dedicated parish family. As Sbdn Mark Resanovich said during a Maintenance Committee Meeting - "One person can do possible things... with God, many people, together, can accomplish impossible things."

So, on behalf of our 2018 outgoing Board, thank you for your prayers and support!





Liturgical Music Workshop

February 8th - 9th, 2019

FRIDAY - 6pm

Lecture and Social Hour

SATURDAY - 12pm

Lunch

Afternoon Session 1

Afternoon Session 2

Workshops specific
for adults
and children.

Presented by
Protodeacon Jovan Anicic, PhD,
Director of Religious Education for the
Eastern American Diocese



Registration at stgeorgenc.org

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

February 10th , 10:00 am

Greeting and Vesting of His Grace Bishop Irinej will begin at 9:45am

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
North Canton, Ohio



Luncheon following Divine Liturgy at the St. George Serbian Center Hall

Orthodox Parenting - Our Bedtime Routines



It's getting harder and harder to find time, together, as a family. One of the most accessible, and precious, opportunities for such a moment is right before our children go to bed. A nice routine not only promotes healthy sleeping habits for our little ones, but grants us some time to snuggle in with our children.

These routines will be as diverse as each family has its own unique needs, but still there are some common elements to consider:

Brush teeth — Healthy habits of brushing teeth, bathing and self-care are good to establish with little ones. It also helps them to calm down for the night. Of course, this could also include other important aspects of hygiene you want your children to follow.

Engage — Interact with your children by reading a book, or having a little chat about something. Even better, read a story from the Bible and ask your child questions about it. This is special, private, and quiet time for you and your little ones!

Dialogue — Talk with God and say a prayer together. This could be as simple as the Lord's Prayer, finished by crossing yourselves. Alternatively, this could be as complex as the Trisagion and reading the Gospel. A special place in the bedroom should be set aside for this.

Put all that together, and you've got "BED"!

The Birth of the King

Luke 2: 1-20 (NIV)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

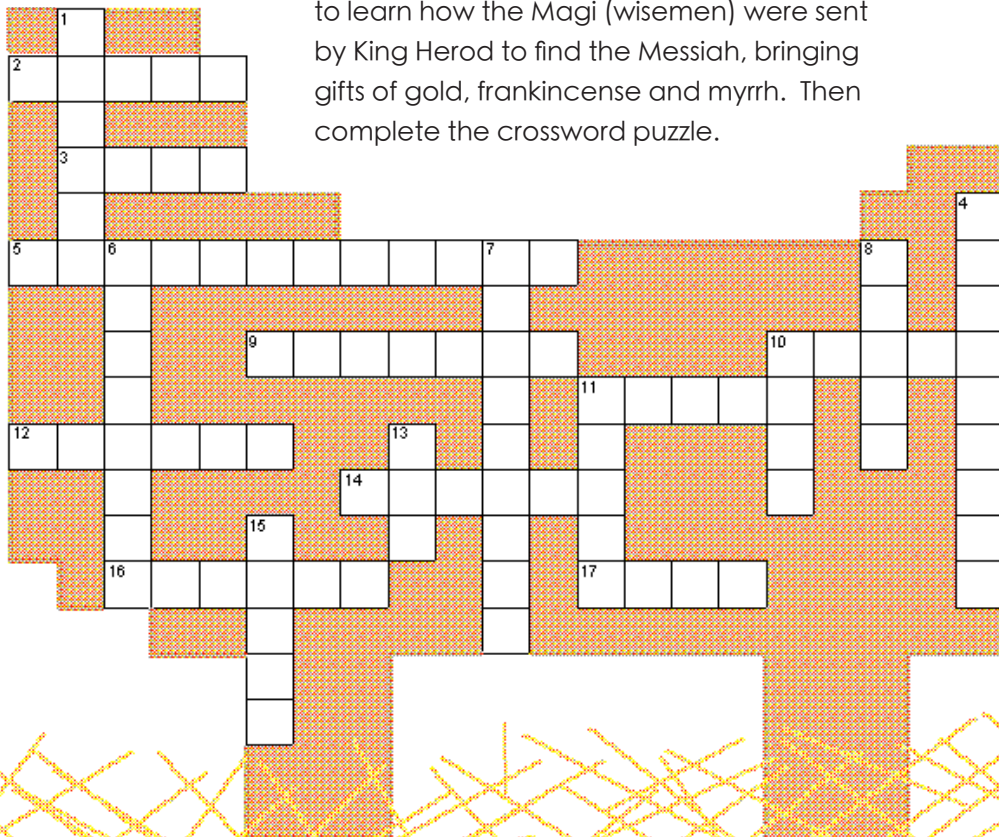
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Also read Mark 2: 1-12 together as a family to learn how the Magi (wisemen) were sent by King Herod to find the Messiah, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these.
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings.
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen.
9. The 3 kings from the east.
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen.
11. Bethlehem is here.
12. Mary's husband.
14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ.
16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a _____, which is Christ the Lord.
17. This led the wisemen to Jesus.

DOWN

1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one.
4. The city of His birth.
6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone.
7. Angels told these men about His birth while they were watching their flocks.
8. The King of Judea when Jesus was born.
10. Christ's mother.
11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____.
13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here.
15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas.

Recent Events and Outreach at St. George

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 30th, the Bozo Joksimovic Choir gathered for their annual caroling event, visiting members of the community who currently reside in care facilities and nursing homes throughout Stark County.

The choir members visited Lucille Rogich and Nellie Evans - matriarchs of the church who offered much of their time and lives to building up the church community.



St. Nicholas Celebration

Following the Divine Liturgy, on December 16th, the faithful gathered in the St. George Event Center for their annual St. Nicholas celebration. This year's program was organized by the Kochovski and Laskvoski families. They decorated the hall, prepared food, and put together a wonderful and education program for the children of the church. The program concluded with an opportunity for the children to greet St. Nicholas himself, sit with him, and ask questions.



Baptism of Lex Bowers

The faithful celebrated a baptismal Divine Liturgy on December 16th, welcoming Lex Bowers into the Holy Orthodox Christian church. This summer, he joined the pilgrimage to the holy and historical sites of Serbia where he was profoundly moved by the deep faith and spirituality of the Orthodox faithful and monastics. Upon returning to the United States, Lex and his wife Paula began attending services weekly at St. George. The entire community joyfully and prayerfully gathered around Lex and welcomed him into the body of Christ!

