

# The Bells of St. George

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No. 555

Nativity 2009

*"And when they beheld the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."  
(Mt 2:10)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Two thousand years ago, wise men from the East rejoiced beholding the star which led them to Bethlehem in Judea. Who knows how many days they travelled to behold the newborn King of the Jews? When they saw Him, they bowed down to Him and gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh (Mt. 2:11). They gave Him the very best that they had. And it is our belief that they exerted themselves to obtain the gold, frankincense and myrrh. And we also, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do today what they did then whenever we give to His Church. We give the best, that most precious, from our treasure. For when we give to our brothers and sisters, we give to Him. Instead of decorating our homes, let us decorate our souls. Instead of buying expensive gifts for the coming holidays, let us purchase something for the poor. Let us not forget His words: And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward (Mt 10:42). Let us remember all the poor and orphans in our prayers and works, especially our brothers and sisters in Kosovo and Metohija.

Let us not forget the words of Christ: It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). In other words: He who gives receives more than he who receives. The joy of giving is greater than the joy of receiving. It is by the grace of God that we are able to give (1 Cor 8:1). Besides this, we rejoice in that we celebrate this Christmas in complete ecclesiastical unity. For the Lord heard our prayers, especially the prayers of our holy forefathers and our recently departed His Holiness Patriarch Pavle of blessed memory. Let us strive to spread this unity more and more among ourselves, as well as in all of the churches and parishes of our God protected Diocese. In this He who is the source of all joy, heaven and earth, the entire Church of Christ and our entire Serbian Orthodox people, rejoice.

In the name of all of those whom you have helped, from the depth of our heart and soul we thank you warmly. Likewise, thank you for helping your churches, monasteries and Diocese. May God grant that you continue to do so! May God grant your hearts and homes the angelic joy of the first Christmas.

With all of our hearts we greet you exclaiming:  
CHRIST IS BORN! INDEED HE IS BORN!

Your intercessor before Christ-child:

+MITROPHAN /signed/  
THE BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA

## News *from the* Parish

The American poet William Ward wrote once, "Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." And he was right. In the beginning of November our Kolo Sestara celebrated their Krsna Slava of St. Petka. It was a nice celebration with a modest attendance leaving one the impression that there should have been more people. Apart from joining the Sisters on that day to celebrate the feast together with them we come also to their Slava to show them our appreciation. And surely the two most active groups in our parish, worthy of our gratitude, are the members of our choir, whose beautiful voices at the liturgies help us pray, and the Kolo Sestara who spend their time at all of our doings in the kitchen preparing the meals.

If the above goes for our Sisters then I'm certain it would apply to our children as well. At the end of the month of January our children will, as they do each year, prepare a St. Sava Day Program. On behalf of our youngest members I invite all of our parishioners to join our children for the annual program.

In December our parish hosted the annual Christmas program put on by the pan Orthodox Youth Group. Since all of our parishes are experiencing low numbers in Church School attendance the members of the Orthodox Clergy Association of the Shenango Valley decided to combine our efforts. And so, last year we initiated the pan Orthodox Youth Group.

We thank Mara Ivanovich, Catherine Jankovich and Honey Vuich for helping in the kitchen and preparing a delicious meal for this year's pan Orthodox event.

**Donations:**

**In memory of Slavko & Edythe Gracenin**

Milos Miodrag	\$20
M/M George Kusich	25
Milan & Stephanie Shumkaroff	40
Mira Solic	10
Mary Kasich	20
Regina Tatomirovich	20
Raymond & Joyce Delasko	20
Irene Delasko	25
Bertha Coffee	50

**In memory of Dr. Pete Jankovich**

Sam Jankovich	\$100
Catherine Jankovich	100
Milos Miodrag	25
M/M Slavko Sormaz	25
Jovo Dragicevich	20
Robert & Betty Kosanovich	25
Dan Kosanovich	25
M/M Milan Ivanovich	50
John Rakoci	15
M/M Bogdan Ivanovich	75
M/M Bran Vuich	25
Yvonne Klaric	20
Zorica Jelic	20
Alexis Lener	20
M/M Bozo Grkinich	50
M/M Dmtar Vucenovich	30
Dusan Cica	50
M/M Milos Vignjevich	20
M/M George Kusich	25
Rose Sangregorio	20
Margaret Erceg	10
M/M Ed Fabian	20

M/M Sam Backo donated \$25 in memory of Eleanor Kovacevich

Men's Club donated \$2,743 for the painting of the inside of our social center.

Christine Miller donated \$100 towards our building fund.

Jovo Dragicevich donated \$20 towards the purchase of new fridge in hall.

**Pogacha Sale -**

November sale .....	\$997.50
December sale.....	\$1,252.00

**In memory of Zoran & Spiro Kolar**

M/M Slavko Sormaz	\$100
M/M Srdjan Solic & family	100

**- REMINDER -**

**St. Sava Day Program**

**Sunday, January 31**

10am Divine Liturgy

Cutting of the Slava Kolach,  
Children's Program and lunch  
to follow.

***“They are the Serbs”***

**T**he German priest Friedrich Griesendorf, offered the following words to his parishioners before retiring:

“Our country lost the war. The English, Americans and Russians won. Maybe they had much better equipment, larger armies, better leadership. In reality, it was an explicit material victory. They took the victory. However, here among us is one nation that won another more beautiful victory, a victory of the soul, a victory of the heart and honesty, a victory of peace and Christian love. **THEY ARE THE SERBS.** We knew them earlier, some a little and some not at all. But we all knew what we did in their homeland. We killed hundreds of the Serbs who defended their country for one of our soldiers who represented the occupier — the oppressor. And not only that, we looked favorably when others shot at Serbs from all sides; The Croats, the Italians, Albanians, Bulgarians and Hungarians. Yet we knew that among us in the prisoner of war camps were 5,000 Serbian officers, who earlier were the elite of the society and, who now resembled living skeletons, exhausted and spent from hunger. We knew that among the Serbs smoldered the belief ‘He who does not revenge is not sanctified’.

“We are truly afraid of the revenge by these Serbian martyrs. We were afraid that after our capitulation they would do what we did to them. We imagined murder, plunder, rape, demolition and destruction of our homes. However,

what happened? When the barbed wires were torn down and 5,000 Serbian skeletons found themselves free in our midst, those skeletons caressed our children. Only now can we understand why our greatest poet, Goethe, studied the Serbian language. Only now can we comprehend why the last word for Bismark, on his deathbed, was — ‘SERBIA.’

That kind of victory is more sublime than a material victory. It seems to me that only the Serbs could win such a victory, being brought up in their St. Sava's spirit and epic poetry, which our Goethe loved so much. This victory will live for centuries in the souls of us Germans. I want to dedicate my last clergyman's sermon to that victory and the Serbs who won it.”

**Everyone Who is Treated Unjustly**

**W**hen the righteous are treated unjustly, then, we ask, why does God allow this? The answer is given by St. John Chrysostom: “Whatever we may suffer unjustly in the hands of another, God will count this injustice either to cover some of our sins or to give us a reward.” In other words for all the injustices which we endure, we either wipe out sins, or earn brighter rewards if we have

*see page 3*

**Fresco Fund Total**

**\$19,083.80**

Бр. 555  
Пред Божић 2009

*А кад видјеше звијезду, обрадоваше се веома великом радости  
Мат. 2,10*

Драга браћо и сестре,

Пре две хиљаде година, мудраци са Истока обрадовали су се видевши звезду која их је водила до Витлејема Јудејског. И ко зна колико су дана путовали да би видели новорођеног Цара Јудејског? Кад су Га видели, поклонили су Му се и даривали Га златом, тамјаном и измирном (Мт. 2,11).

Они су му дали оно што су најбоље имали. И верујемо да су се много трудили на набаве злато, тамјан и измирну. И ми данас, љубљена браћо и сестре, чинимо оно што су они некада чинили кад год дарујемо Његовој Цркви. Дајмо најбоље и најскупље из наше ризнице. Јер кад дајемо нашој браћи и сестрама, Њему Самоме дајемо. Уместо кићења наших кућа, окитимо наше душе. Уместо да купујемо скупе ствари за ове празнике, купимо нешто за сиротињу. Не заборавимо Његове речи: “И ако неко напоји једнога од ових малих само чашом студене воде у име ученичко, заиста вам кажем, неће му плата пропасти” (Мт. 10,42). Сетимо се свих сиромашних и сиротих у нашим молитвама и делима, а нарочито наше браће и сестара на Косову и Метохији. Не заборавимо речи Христове: “Блаженије је давати него примати” (Дела 20,35). Другим речима: више добија онај који даје од онога који прима. Већа је радост давања од радости примања. Благодат је Божија да можемо давати (2 Кор. 8,1).

Поред тога, радосни смо што ћемо овај Божић дочекати у потпуном црквеном јединству. Јер је Господ услишио наше молитве, а нарочито молитве наших светих предака, и нашег недавно преминулог блажене успомене Свјатјешег Патријарха Павла. Потрудимо се да то јединство све више и више пројављујемо међу нама самима, као и по свим црквама и парохијама наше Богом чуване Епархије. Томе ће се радовати Он, Који је извор свих радости, небо и земља, цела Црква Христова, и сав род наш српски православни.

У име свих оних које сте помогли, из дубине душе и срца топло вам благодаримо. Исто тако, хвала вам што помажете своје цркве и манастире и своју Епархију. Дај Боже да и даље тако чините! Нека Бог обрадује ваша срца и наше домове анђелском радости првога Божића. Од срца вас поздрављамо, кличући:

**ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ!  
ВА ИСТИНУ СЕ РОДИ!**

**СРЕЋНА И БОГОМ БЛАГОСЛОВЕНА 2010!**

Ваш молитељ пред Богомладенцем Христом Господом,

**ЕПИСКОП  
ИСТОЧНОАМЕРИЧКИ**

no sins. This is why we never put such questions to God, especially if we want our faith to be like that of Abraham, and to have the privilege to serve actively the will of God.

Jesus Christ was pursued from the very beginning and He had to flee from His place because of the murderous fury of Herod. The one who left was He who would save His people according to the order that Joseph received from the Angel. What does this mean for us? It means that we must never be anxious, when what is done to us is contrary to what we expect. God often fulfils His plans by contradictory events, giving us in this way the greatest proof of His power. Let us never forget the saying, “Mine is the retribution. I will recompense, says the Lord.” In other words, to God belongs both the retribution and the recompense (Heb. 10:30).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by becoming man and going through all the events of the Divine Economy “came out as a victor to accomplish victory.” In other words, He was given the crown of victory, and departed as a victor in order to accomplish new victories. One of these, which is the most substantial, will be the one in which God will come to dwell among the people for ever, and will wipe out every tear from their eyes (Rev. 21:3-4). “O Lord may Your kingdom come.” AMEN!

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church  
65 S Keel Ridge Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## New Year's Dance

Saturday, January 16th

6pm - midnight

*Musical guest: Djuro Klipa.*

\$7.00 entrance

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## Дочек Нове Године

у суботу 16. јануара 2010. године

Свира Ђуро Клипа

\$7.00 улазница

JAN./FEB. 2010

### Church Services During the Week: Jan./Feb. 2010

**Wednesday, Jan. 6 -**

Christmas Eve Day,  
Бадњи дан

9 am Liturgy

6 pm Vigil

**Thursday, Jan. 7 -**

Nativity of our Lord -  
Божих 10am Liturgy

**Friday, Jan. 8 -**

Synaxis of the Most Holy  
Theotokos; Сабор  
Пресвете Богородице  
9am Liturgy

**Saturday, Jan. 9 -**

St. Stephen the  
Protomartyr - св. Стефан  
првомученик  
9am Liturgy

**Thursday, Jan. 14 -**

St. Basil the Great - Св.  
Василије Велики  
9am Liturgy

**Tuesday, Jan. 18 -**

Feast of the Holy Cross -  
Крстовдан 9am Liturgy

**Wednesday, Jan. 19 -**

Theophany - Богојављење  
9am Liturgy

**Thursday, Jan. 20 -**

St. John the Baptist - св.  
Јован Крститељ 9am Lit-  
urgy

**Wednesday, Jan. 27 -**

St. Sava - Савиндан  
9am Liturgy

**Friday, Feb. 12 -**

Three Hierarchs - Св. Три Јерарха 9am Liturgy

**GREAT LENT -**

begins Monday, February 15

**ВЕЛИКИ ПОСТ -**

почиње у понедељак, 15. фебруара

# Game Dinner

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010**

**Doors open at 4:00 pm. \$20.00 all you can eat**

## Home Blessing Schedule:

Farrell / Sharon

January

18 - 28

Hermitage /  
W. Middlesex

January 29 -

February 6

Greenville and  
all other areas

February

6 - 14