



SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CANADA
ST. ARCHANGEL GABRIEL
SERBIAN ORTHODOX PARISH, RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЕПАРХИЈА КАНАДСКА
СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ПАРОХИЈА
СВ. АРХАНГЕЛА ГАВРИЛА, РИЧМОНД ХИЛ, ОНТ.



Issue 4, February 2020.

Upcoming events:

- 14th of February at 8:00pm Milomir Miljanic – MILJAN and Rasko Spasojevic
23rd of February after service Gordana Lakovic poetry for kids and pancake party

Fr. Ljubo's note

The Good News

Dear parishioners, dear brothers and sisters,
For the past ten years of the Serbian congregation in Richmond Hill, several priests have changed. By the grace of God, since the first of October 2019, I have been sent as the fourth minister at the Altar of God, here, to this wonderful community. In a short time, I became convinced that Father Vasilije was right in claiming that "this is, my friend, like one harmonious family." Others who came to us on various occasions had similar opinions. The number of faithful participating in Sunday prayers cannot be compared to other, larger congregations. But in proportion to the number of adults, there are far more children and youth who not only attend but actively participate in Holy Liturgies. After each Holy Liturgy, most stay for a joint lunch, where they hang out and talk. This is reminiscent of the early Christian communities, and we remember with nostalgia that our ancestors, up until a few generations back, have lived this way. I am especially pleased that the patron saint of our parish is the Holy Archangel Gabriel. He is the *announcer* angel. He visited the Old Testament high priest Zacharias and told him the news that he would become a father. When his wife, Elizabeth, was five months pregnant, carrying St. John the Forerunner and Baptist, the same angel visited the Virgin Mary and told her that she would give birth to the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

We, my brothers and sisters have a family, we have children full of love. We have land and a croft at a nice location. The plan is to build a house. Let us build a house for the Lord our God. It's been talked about for a long time, it's been a long time coming. Upon my arrival to this area, I had a meeting with people who are working hard and making great efforts to obtain the necessary permits to build the church. Trust me we are not far and that moment is closer than many people think.

It remains for us to pray to the Holy Archangel, our representative before the throne of God, to visit us soon and to bring us good news.

Archpriest-Stavrophor Ljubomir Rajić



Presidents Note

Peace of God, Christ is born!

It was with great joy and love that we welcomed the Feast of the Nativity of Christ in Richmond Hill. Our humble chapel was full of faithful brethren. With joy in their hearts, our parishioners patiently prayed to the Lord, waited for their turn to light candles and take the hallowed branches of the Badnjak tree after the service. That, for our little Parish a great number of the faithful, their patience, accord, and faith in God reminded me of our brothers and sisters in Montenegro and Kosovo and Metohija, who gather peacefully and patiently with a great faith in God; they bear their crosses and icons and bear witness to their faith. The grace of God is sensed wherever we are.

By Providence, we have welcomed a new parish priest recently. His love and concern for our chapel and the whole parish have already been greatly felt. Father Ljubo Rajić comes to us with great experiences and many acquaintances. I learned a lot from this experienced parish priest in this short period of time. He is very direct and honest with me, his advices are straightforward, concise, and at first glance they may seem harsh, but are full of love! I analyzed each of our conversations and absolutely EVERY ONE of his criticisms, remarks to me or on my views concerning the work of the Parish was in place.

We live in a time of political correctness and in times of oversensitivity. People think that they are of great importance, their titles carry them high. Hypocrisy is at every corner, deceitfulness is within people, lies and gossiping abound. After all of that at work and in our daily lives, the love and honesty of our parish priest, of our kumovi and of friends full of love in our parish reinvigorates and gives hope that we are on the right path, the path of salvation!

As anyone else, I also make mistakes, so if you perceived any of my views, my words, comments, correspondence, or conversation as being insincere or incorrect towards you or your loved ones, please forgive me of me a sinner!

Holy Archangel Gabriel pray to God for us all!

Holy New Martyrs of Prebilovci pray to God for us all!

Your brother in Christ,
Hadji Dejan Jokanović



Site Plan Update

By the end of November 2019, thanks to Mr. Duško Knežević's intermediations, we finally received all feedback from the Richmond Hill City Planning Department and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

On November 28, 2019, we had a meeting with the City planners and experts from the relevant fields of the Richmond Hill municipal office, where it was confirmed that our project was generally/conceptually accepted with some relatively small remarks of technical nature. The greatest objection from the TRCA was that the documentation related to environmental protection during construction was not submitted. Our engineer Mladen Ninković in charge of that explained that this was deliberately omitted before the conceptual solution was accepted, in order to avoid rework in case that there were any serious objections to the proposed environmental protection project.

Work is now underway to address the feedback we got. Eng. Ninković is working on the omitted part of the project and we expect the completed projects to be submitted during February 2020, while the rest of the team are working on their respective projects and coordinating work between themselves. In all likelihood, it seems that this submission should be the final one for the "Site Plan Agreement" phase.

As I mentioned in the previous Bulletin, in order to continue with the detailed project of the church building itself, we need to do a geo-technical survey of the construction site. This involves using larger construction machines for drilling the earth and extracting samples from various depths, which are later analyzed in a laboratory. Such a survey requires a greater amount of funds that we currently do not have. For this reason, we urge that if you know any Soil engineer who deals with such things and would be interested to give us a good price and/or do this as a charitable contribution to our endeavor, to please let us know. Also please reach out to our Church Board members if you would like to contribute financially to this next phase: such an initiative would be greatly appreciated.

Vladimir Brkić



Serbian School and Religious Education

Events in our Parish

Christmas Eve



St Sava Celebration



Sunday after Divine Liturgy:

- 12:30-13:15 Catechism for children in the Chapel
- 12:30-13:15 Spiritual Conversations with adults by the fireplace
- 12:30-13:15 Spiritual Conversations with young adults by the podium

Topics for religious discussion during Sunday's talks for young and adults are welcome and can be sent to office@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com

The Parish Governing Board would like to thank all supporters of St. Archangel Gabriel Serbian Orthodox Parish!

Your donation, monetary or in time volunteered, unselfish efforts and work with organizing events, is what helps us reach the next step in getting the building permit, maintaining the existing building and grounds and with God's help building of our church.

We need your ideas for events, discussions, fundraising and others.

You are very welcome to send it to office@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com

For additional information you can visit our Parish Facebook page at [facebook](#) or on our website www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com.

IMPORTANT:

- Update your e-mail address or your friends to receive this Newsletter.
- Ask for your Tax Receipts to be e-mailed to you instead of being mailed.
- Confirm your mailing address and phone number, including mobile phone number if any changed in last 5 years.

Thank you for considering the environment and saving money for papers, envelopes, stamps etc.

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