



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 6, Sept 2020.

### Upcoming events:

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** Serbian Sisters Slava, The Holy Martyr Vera, Nada and Ljubav and their mother Sofia

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup>** Brothers will prepare lunch to celebrate Serbian Sisters Slava

### Father Ljubo's note

Under siege

Dear parishioners, dear brothers and sisters,

Summer is coming to an end and we are all witnessing the changes in nature. There's no more heat, the air is fresher, the leaves change colour, the crops ripen. It is true what our people say: "The mountain and the water are transformed at Transfiguration." Thank God for arranged it that way. I have always felt His presence when observing nature.

This year, there have been changes in people, which worry me. Sometime around mid-February, the story of the "Covid 19" virus began. At first it seemed insignificant to us. Somewhere in the Far East, a virus appeared, so what! However, the media around the world accepted it and the fear spread faster than the virus itself. The World Health Organization came out with warnings and instructions. Governments went along with this and introduced measures. Various restrictions have come. Borders were closed, businesses stopped, schools disbanded, children were sent home. It was ordered to constantly wash and disinfect hands, wear masks, forbid socializing and any other gathering. Neighbours immediately started reporting each other to the authorities, and at the slightest sign that the prescribed measures were not being respected. We heard about the fines people paid and wondered; who so quickly prescribed the amount of fines that people and institutions should pay in case they are caught in disobedience?

I listened to our people who completely believed in this story and locked themselves in their houses, and I also listened to others who claimed from the beginning that none of this was true and ignored all the instructions. I am especially sorry for people who did not dare to see their loved ones, children and grandchildren.

As Orthodox Christians, we did not experience Pascha or St. George's Day properly this spring. The fact is that we don't know anyone who got sick from that Covid. Of course those who were frightened and cautious were not infected, nor were the heedless ones.

What is worrying is: Each of us has a mask in our pocket and is ready to put it on our face wherever we are asked to. Also: in a very short time, we are used to greeting each other with fists

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or elbows, instead of shaking hands or hugging. We are used to stepping away from each other. Many have even canceled their Slavos.

Autumn is coming, our Slavos are approaching. Let us think and ask ourselves the following: who would be so keen to have us not celebrating, not visiting people, not socializing, not glorifying the Lord and His saints? I think we all know the answer to these questions. For let us remember what the Lord tells us: "...where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20).

Archpriest-Stavrophore Ljubomir Rajić

### President's Note

Dear parishioners, brothers and sisters,

We are going through some strange, or even confusing times. The abundance of contradictions and all sorts of information that flood us through all possible media can hardly leave anyone indifferent. But I would point out that we are rather blessed and happy because we have our community. Everything is much easier when we gather on Sunday, pray to God at the holy liturgy, and after the liturgy, with a glass of conversation with "our people", we break the daily monotony. A little bit about sports, then about politics, then some jokes, and some realities... and so we recharge our batteries for the week ahead.

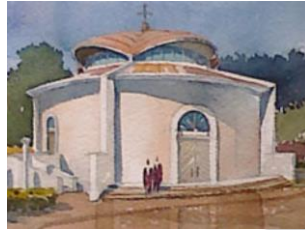
I like to say that we have shown more faith than fear all these months, and God certainly has seen this and rewards us by having us gather in large numbers from week to week. Especially striking is the large number of our youth, our Serbian beauty, who regularly come to the holy liturgies and that makes me especially happy. This way our efforts for this parish to come to life and survive and, God-willing, to build our church, acquire a purpose and a future. Glory and praise to God, I cannot fail to mention the concord and harmony that is felt, both among the parishioners and with Father Ljubo, who is a true parish priest and pastor and always ready to help. I have to, also, thank everyone for respecting the rule of wearing masks indoors. Whether we like them or not, we must respect the laws.

I hope and believe that we will continue to gather at our church and minister to it, both financially and by volunteering, when and how ever much possible, and God will certainly reward us, for God is not indebted to anyone. You can send your contributions electronically (e-transfer) at [treasury@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com](mailto:treasury@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com) or mail checks to the church address.

Thank you all and God bless you!

Your brother in Christ,

Dragan Kosmajac



## Site Plan Update

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are in the phase of final preparations and final coordination of the complete documentation for the "Site Plan Agreement". Eng. Ninković is working on harmonizing all of the individual projects. I expect any day from now that everything will be finally ready for printing and submission.

Unfortunately, we were not able to submit this as we have originally planned: due to the "covid 19" virus, we could not establish contact and cooperation with some of the associates, and thus everything was delayed until recently. We are trying to hand it in as soon as possible.

All the best to all,

Vladimir Brkić

## Serbian School and Religious Education

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the restrictions established in March of this year, our Sunday School activities have been interrupted as it was not possible to meet with the children at our Parish on a regular basis anymore. Hence I have compiled tables of "online" lessons published at our parish website that included:

- The program for the entire academic year 2019-2020:  
[www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/03/19/веронаука-за-најмлађе-on-the-web/](http://www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/03/19/веронаука-за-најмлађе-on-the-web/)
- The Holy Week and Pascha lessons:  
[www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/04/11/online-веронаука-страсна-седмица-и-васкрсе/](http://www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/04/11/online-веронаука-страсна-седмица-и-васкрсе/)
- Special lesson on Pascha and New Pascha:  
[www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/04/17/online-веронаука-пасха-и-нова-пасха/](http://www.arhangelgavrilotoronto.com/sr/2020/04/17/online-веронаука-пасха-и-нова-пасха/)

Each lesson in the tables included a reference to the online Children's Bible Reader ([www.cbr.goarch.org](http://www.cbr.goarch.org)), practice/colouring worksheets and where adequate a YouTube link to an animated Bible Stories episode, dubbed into Serbian.



The idea was to enable families to read, watch and work on the given worksheets on their own, so that the children could continue with our program despite the restrictions. However, with the schools switching to online instruction, and having that consume the families quite a bit, I'm quite certain that very few have even attempted to work on any of these on their own.

Hence, with the relaxing of the restrictions, on September 20th we have commenced with our Sunday School lessons, continuing from where we have stopped last time. Of course, we will conduct lessons with required precautions: all attendees need to have a facemask on, and an appropriate physical distance has to be maintained.

During the closure of churches and schools in order to engage our youth of high school and college age, with Fr. Ljubo's blessing, we're starting an online "Orthodox Youth Reading Club". The idea was to have everyone read a book on some Orthodox Christian topic that was published in English, and then meet once a week to talk about what we have read: share impressions, questions, opinions, criticisms and hopefully try to learn more about our Faith and life in general.

We started with reading Clark Carlton's "The Faith: Understanding Orthodox Christianity, An Orthodox Catechism" ([www.amazon.ca/Faith-Clark-Carlton-ebook/dp/B0088RDBKS/](http://www.amazon.ca/Faith-Clark-Carlton-ebook/dp/B0088RDBKS/)), and kicked-off with our first meeting on April 26th. There were a total of 10 meetings spanning through July 11th, and we managed to cover the first part of the book, "The Doctrines of Christ". I was very happy to meet on an almost weekly basis with four young bright people, two of whom were from our parish, and the other two from other parishes. At our last meeting we tentatively agreed to continue, time permitting, with the readings later in the year so that we can finish the book, specifically the second part "The Life in Christ".

Anyone interested to learn more about our Sunday School for our youngest, or about the Youth Reading Club, please contact me directly at [zoranradisic@yahoo.com](mailto:zoranradisic@yahoo.com).

Yours in Christ,

Zoran Radisic





## Events in our Parish

Prayer for all students from preschool to PhD



**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](mailto:office@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com)

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

### IMPORTANT:

- Services starts at 10:00am every Sunday and on Holydays
- 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, envelops, stamps etc.

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