



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 8, May 2021.

Upcoming events:

Sunday and Holiday Services start at 10:00am.

Father Ljubo's note

Dear brothers and sisters and dear parishioners

Christ is Risen!

We have celebrated, once again, the greatest Christian feast day in extraordinary conditions. It is in a way sad when you look at the people from the Altar on Easter, and there are barely a dozen people standing present. It is much more beautiful to see a crowded church, to feel the joy of communion, to experience the fullness of the Feast. But, that's how it will be for us for now, until the Lord shows mercy on us and until He removes this plague from us.

Infectious diseases have existed since life came to be on this planet. And there have always been some measures enforced to control these infections. Our Lord Jesus Christ, when He came among the people, encountered a wicked infectious disease, leprosy, as it is still called. The mortality rate of it was very high. Those who would survive were left with severe consequences, so visible, that it was terrible to look at them. Physicians at the time even trained priests to recognize who was infected and who was cured, and to help the people in that way. We read from the Gospel of Luke how the Lord healed ten lepers and said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." (Luke 17:14). That was the only way they could get out of isolation.

I am writing this to you, brothers and sisters, on the first day after coming out of isolation. I was infected, as were some members of my family, and no matter what you hear from others, who have not yet had the virus, it is neither pleasant nor harmless. God forbid. Eight priests of the Diocese of Canada, including our father Vasilije, went through this. Some are still enduring it. None of the eight of us recorded the Holy Liturgy in an empty temple and broadcast it online. We were with the people not only at the services, but we went everywhere where our parishioners invited us. We did not change the way of communion, as some other Orthodox have, but we kept the tradition of the Church.

Now that it's all over for me, or I at least hope it's over, I'll share with you what was the hardest thing for me. In the moments when I couldn't raise my head up and when I struggled to keep my eyes open, I received messages from idle conspiracy theorists. Links to portals where you can "corroborate" that COVID-19 does not exist. They offer "evidence" that it is not a virus, but that they are poisoning us from the air. There is a simple remedy, "but it has been removed from sale"

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and what not! God, what nonsenses I've heard! Then one wonders: How can it be easier for some people to believe in all this than in what is obvious? On the other hand, it is a human thing. People have always longed to learn about the unfathomable secrets while often ignoring what is obvious. Let them believe in what they want, but they should not haste to "show themselves to the priests". At least not to this priest.

Protopriest Ljubomir Rajic

President's Note

Dear parishioners!

Christ is Risen!

For the second year in a row, we have been celebrating the feast of Christ's Resurrection in these abnormal conditions. Some would call them the "new normalcy", but I don't see any normalcy. If a team loses five games in a row, the coach must either change the team and its tactics, or get fired. And so we have been using the same tactics and have kept losing with the same result for a whole year now and nothing has been done about it. Neither do the tactics change, nor was anyone fired!

Although everything is too politicized and difficult to predict, I sincerely hope that soon after this rain the sun will shine again, and that, with the help of the Lord, we will be able to come freely to our Church again to pray to God, and to, as social beings, fraternize, talk and exchange opinions and experiences.

I sincerely believe that as soon as the restrictions are lifted, we will fill our Church in great numbers (especially our wonderful youth) and resist the aggressive atheist struggle against the traditional Church and family and the imposition of immorality, debauchery, drugs and vices. We must show strength and perseverance in our faith because it is written in the Psalms of David, "Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing is upon Your people!" (Psalms 3:8)

With faith in God, I look forward to seeing you soon,
Dragan Kosmajac
Chairman of the Governing Board



Accountant's Note

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Archangel Gabriel Serbian Orthodox Parish,

The last twelve months have been a challenging time for everyone, and the Church is no exception. We have followed orders to operate with extremely limited numbers in attendance for services. While we have been diligent in applying for government sponsored COVID relief programs, the negative impact on the Church's income cannot be overstated.

Over and above our normal operating expenses, we are trying to ready ourselves for the rapidly approaching successful conclusion to the building permit application. There are significant fees to be paid when approval is granted but the progress with this application has been a positive in an otherwise difficult period.

With hope that the future will
some semblance of normality
for your financial support in



be brighter and we can return to
in the not too distant future, we ask
the current time of need.

Stephen Smyth

Site Plan Update

Dear brothers and sisters!

Everything points to the good outcome with respect to the latest efforts on the "Site Plan Agreement" process. We received affirmative answers for most of the parts of our project. There are still some minor harmonizations around the "Landscape Project". After this we are left with the official presentation and signing of the contract with the city.

Of course, as I have mentioned several times before, the payment of deposits (for which we do not have enough money yet) may become a significant obstacle to bringing this part of the business with the city to a closure. We know that these "COVID-19" times are a burden to everyone, both mentally and materially, but we must not allow that to prevent us from achieving our goal, the building of our dear church.

As our sister Svetlana always says: God is with us!

All the best,
Vladimir Brkić



Serbian School and Religious Education



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

Electronic donations can be sent by interac e-transfer via your online-banking services directed to treasury@arhangelgavrilotoronto.com.

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