

## PARISH BULLETIN

### UP COMING CHURCH SERVICES:

FEBRUARY 9.  
Liturgy 10:00AM

FEBRUARY 12.  
Holy Three Hierarchs  
Liturgy 10:00AM

FEBRUARY 16.  
Liturgy 10:00AM

FEBRUARY 23.  
Liturgy 10:00AM

MARCH 2.  
Readers Service 10:00AM

MARCH 9.  
LITURGY 10:00AM

MARCH 16.  
LITURGY 10:00AM

MARCH 23.  
LITURGY 10:00AM

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Parish Annual Meeting  
JANUARY 26, 2025.  
After Liturgy

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The greatest blessing of the year that is beginning brings us the celebration of the 850th anniversary of the birth of the most important Person in our nation's history — Saint Sava. On this occasion, deeply concerned about the current events in our nation, we want to point out two facts from his life, praying that they will be a sign of the lesson that springs from them for the year ahead of us.

First, with his departure to Mount Athos, young Rastko, like the young man from the Gospel story who asked the Christ the most radical question: Good teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life? confirmed the fact that youth is hungry and thirsty for eternity, that is, for fullness, truth, justice, goodness, love, beauty, and meaning in general. However, unlike the young man mentioned in the Gospel story, Saint Sava voluntarily and joyfully followed Christ. In his example and that of many young people throughout history, we see that it is not enough only to be hungry and thirsty for the meaning of life. Transformation is needed, coming out of oneself, living in virtue, and living according to the Gospel of Christ and His Word.

An ascetic struggle of love for God is needed, but also of love for each person as one's eternal brother. And that love is listening, understanding, embracing, and accepting the other as a neighbor in forgiveness, compassion, mercy, sacrifice, in every Christ-like virtue. They are all works of love that Saint Sava, our Enlightener and Teacher forever, following Christ, himself did and manifested, transformed and sanctified by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Precisely because he was transfigured and enlightened by God, as a saint of God, he became a role model and example for everyone, even to his own father. In light of his example, we are called to listen carefully to the youth, respect and protect them, and strengthen them in all that is good and virtuous.

At the same time, in addition to caring for young people with words and deeds of love, and with our whole lives, it is our duty to testify that the fullness they are looking for is found in Christ the Lord, that Christ is the meaning of everything, and that yes, if Christ is the first place, everything



**MARCH 3.  
BEGINNING OF THE  
GREAT LENT.  
May it be blessed!!!**

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Thank you for having us in  
your prayers and for  
supporting us financially.  
May the Lord grant you  
peace & good health.

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will then fall into place.

Another instructive fact for the year before us is the reconciliation of the quarreling brothers that Saint Sava executed over the relics of their father, Saint Simeon the Myrrh-gusher, in the year 1207 in Studenica monastery. His prayer and his effort by themselves were not enough, though the reconciliation would not have happened without them. It was also necessary for both brothers to extend a hand to each other, to embrace and forgive each other. It was the only real evangelical way to achieve peace among the brothers, the state, and the people. Inspired by the Gospel of Christ, Saint Sava has in this way bequeathed to us the model for the Church's acts of reconciliation.

The Church does not judge, divide, or differentiate between brothers; rather, it reminds us that we all need each other and that everything calls for peace and a community of love. Let's not forget that the multitude of accidents, conflicts, and wars begin with the dehumanization of the neighbor by suppressing the humanity of another human being. That is why it is crucial that all of us, as many as there are, stop using a lexicon in which the other is first called a foreigner, then an opponent, then an enemy, and, at the very end, an inhuman being. Let's remember the fatal consequences of such actions in the history of the human race which, unfortunately, are numerous! Let's remember our past and the divisions that still exist today so we can recover! Let us be worthy heirs of Saint Sava, the peacemaker, and his brothers, not the heirs of Cain, the first

fratricide, who directed the most terrible words to the Lord God Himself: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9).

Therefore, brothers and sisters, wherever we live, let us bridge the mutual gaps, listen to each other, and respect each other's views and opinions, especially when they are different from ours! Let's give up aggression and violence as solutions to problems and disagreements! We build bridges of understanding, love, and peace at any cost, although we know very well that the builders of bridges are often stoned from both sides.

-An excerpt from the Patriarchal Nativity Message