



1954

2024

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH CONSECRATION

SAN FRANCISCO
OCTOBER 6, 2024

**Saint John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
San Francisco**

**70TH ANNIVERSARY
CHURCH CONSECRATION AND KRSNA SLAVA
PROGRAM**

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Vesper Service - 6:00 PM

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

His Grace Bishop MAXIM

**Very Rev. Stavorofor Vasilije Cvijanovic,
Bishop's Dean for San Francisco Deanary
Very Reverend Vidoslav Vujasin
Very Rev. Stavrofor Djurica Gordic**

**Responses by St. John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Choir**

**70th Anniversary and Krsna Slava Gala Banquet
1:00 PM**

**Program:
Bob Fowler—Piano
Ljubomir Velickovic-Violin**



HIS GRACE BISHOP MAXIM
Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Western America



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the 70th anniversary of St. John Serbian Cathedral in San Francisco, we reflect on the remarkable legacy of our forebears, who, as strangers in a new land, brought their faith to this city with unwavering commitment.

Under the leadership of the late Father Archimandrite George Kodzich, who arrived in 1919, and through the dedicated efforts of Archimandrite Dositei Obradovich, Father Svetozar Djuranović, and Father Dušan Bunjević, this parish grew into a vibrant spiritual center.

The construction of the parish home and the steadfast support of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood stand as a testament to the enduring faith and determination of those who built this community.

Father Marko Matić and the current parish priest, Father Djurica Gordić, have continued this legacy, ensuring the parish's prosperity and spiritual growth.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look to the future with confidence that the generations to come will preserve and strengthen the faith in this important city of San Francisco. May the Eucharistic life of this parish continue to reflect the Kingdom of God, and may the community be blessed with ongoing growth and spiritual prosperity for many years to come.

На 70. годишњицу Саборне цркве Светог Јована српског у Сан Франциску, размишљамо о изузетном наслеђу наших предака, који су, као странци у новој земљи, са непоколебљивом посвећеношћу донели веру у овај град.

Под духовним водством почившег оца архимандрита Георгија Коцића, који је стигао 1919. године, и преданим залагањем архимандрита Доситеја Обрадовића, оца Светозара Ђурановића и оца Душана Буњевића, ова парохија је израсла у живо духовно средиште. Изградња парохијског дома и непоколебљива подршка братства и сестринства су сведочанство трајне вере и одлучности оних који су градили ову заједницу.

Отац Марко Матић и садашњи парох, прота Ђурица Гордић, наставили су ово наслеђе, обезбеђујући просперитет и духовни раст парохије.

Док славимо ову прекретницу, гледамо у будућност са уверењем да ће генерације које долазе сачувати и ојачати веру у овај важном граду Сан Франциску. Нека евхаристијски живот ове парохије настави да одражава Царство Божије, и нека заједница буде благословена сталним растом и духовним просперитетом у годинама које долазе.

Bishop of Western America



Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral **Српски Православни Саборни Храм Светог Јована Крститеља**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we gather with hearts full of gratitude and joy to celebrate a remarkable milestone: the 70th anniversary of our cherished St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. This is not just a celebration of years passed, but a testament to the unwavering faith, love, and commitment of our community.

For seven decades, we have gathered to worship, to pray, and to grow in our faith at our Cathedral. We have shared in the sacraments, supported one another in times of joy and sorrow, and served our neighbors with the love of Christ. Each moment spent in this sacred space has woven a rich tapestry of faith that binds us together.

As we reflect on our journey, let us remember the priests, leaders and parishioners who have guided us, and the countless members who have contributed their time, talents, and treasures to build our church. Their legacy inspires us to continue living out our faith with courage and conviction.

May this anniversary be a reminder of God's endless grace in our lives and a call to renew our commitment to our mission. Let us embrace the future with hope, eager to share the love of Christ with our community and the world.

Together, let us celebrate not only our past but also future that lies ahead.

Драга браћо и сестре,

Данас смо се окупили срца пуних захвалности и радости, да прославимо велики јубилеј 70то годишњицу нашег храма Светог Јована Крститеља. Ово није само прослава протеклих година, већ сведочанство непоколебљиве вере, љубави и посвећености наше заједнице.

Већ седам деценија се окупљамо на богослужењу, да се молимо и да растемо у вери у нашу Саборној цркви. Учествујемо у богослужењима, подржавамо једни друге у временима радости и туге и служимо ближњима са љубављу Христовом. Сваки тренутак проведен у овом светом простору исткао је богату таписерију вере која нас повезује.

Док размишљамо о протеклим годинама, сетимо се епископа, свештеника, лидера и парохијана који су нас водили својим примером, и небројених чланова који су својим временом, талентима и материјалним средствима дали свој допринос за изградњу наше цркве. Њихово наслеђе нас инспирише да наставимо да живимо своју веру са храброшћу и уверењем у Царство небеско.

Нека ова годишњица буде подсетник на бескрајну Божју милост у нашим животима и позив да обновимо и учврстимо нашу посвећеност Цркви Христовој. Загрлимо будућност са вером и надом, жељни да поделимо љубав Христову са нашом заједницом и светом у коме живимо.

Прославимо заједно не само нашу прошлост већ и будућност која је пред нама.

Very Rev. Djurica Gordic

Very Rev. Stavrofor Djurica Gordic



Stan Grgich

Stan Grgich

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Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral San Francisco

“Hands bruised by endless toil at difficult tasks; foreheads and faces wrinkled with worry at the fate of the morrow; hearts heavy and backs aching under the burden of never very prosperous days; yet above all, a never-ending faith and a militant love for Almighty God and His Orthodox Church – that is the story of the children of God in this parish of St. John the Baptist” as written as the introduction in the Consecration Ad Book of September 5, 1954.

The formation of the San Francisco Bay Area Serbian Community dates from the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848. Serbs were to be found among the state's pioneers, and a Serbian-American community has continuously existed in California from its entrance into statehood to the present day.

Among the Serbian settlements of the United States, the San Francisco Bay Area has played a major role. In the early period of immigration, lasting to about 1900, the Bay Area contained one of the larger Serbian communities in America. San Francisco was also the center for all the Serbian settlements in the surrounding mining and agricultural districts of California and neighboring states.

The Serbs were also major factors in the organization of the essentially Pan Orthodox Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches in San Francisco during the 1860's. When the Serbian-Montenegrin Literary and Benevolent Society was organized in San Francisco in 1880, it was the first and only Serbian society in the United States. A newspaper named *Slavjanin* appeared in San Francisco in May of 1870. It seems as though the paper was sponsored by the Russian Orthodox parish in San Francisco, and its lifespan was very short, but this is the first example we have of a newspaper printed in Serbian language in America. Numerous Serbian language publications appeared in San Francisco, which was one of the major centers of Serbian Publishing activity during the first decades of the twentieth century.

In the Bay Area and Northern California, were established the first Serbian institutions in America; the first Serbian society, the first Serbian Orthodox Church, the first Serbian language newspapers, the first Serbian women's society, and the first Serbian school. The first significant generation of American-born Serbs was to be found in California. The earliest known Americans of Serbian parentage were born in California at least 160 years ago, among them the first American-born Orthodox priest, Saint Archimandrite Sebastian Dabovich.

In 1897 at the outset of Alaska's famous Gold Rush, a society of the Serbian goldminers was organized in San Francisco, for the purpose of traveling to Alaska to mine for gold. It was called the Serbian Gold Miners Union, and consisted of 100 Serbian miners. Shortly after the turn of the century, the Alaska Serbs, with the aid of St. Sebastian Dabovich build a small Serbian Orthodox Church and dedicated to St. Sava.

The San Francisco Bay Area can be rightly considered one of the first centers of Orthodox Christianity in the United States, and Serbs played a major role in its early development. The early Orthodox Church parish in San Francisco was under Russian jurisdiction and was served primarily by Russian priests, yet was Pan-Orthodox in character, consisting of Serbs, Greeks, Russians, Syrians, and other nationalities. The impetus for the organization of the first Orthodox parish in San Francisco came from the Greek-Russian-Slavonian Orthodox Church and Benevolent Society, which was organized in 1864 with initial membership of sixteen, twelve of them whom were Serbs!

The San Francisco Business Directory of 1895 records the Greek-Russian-Slavonic Orthodox Church and Benevolent Society as having 350 members. Soon afterward, though, this Society ceased to exist. Many of the most prominent members and officers of the Serbian Society had been active members of the Orthodox Society. The meetings of the Orthodox Society were held at the Russian Church and at the Serbian-Montenegrin Society Hall, which at the time was located at 10 California Street. Following the demise of

the Orthodox Society, the Serbs of San Francisco made several attempts to build or buy a building for a Serbian Orthodox Church and to secure services of a permanent priest of Serbian Nationality. Saint Sebastian Dabovich tells us of a priest from Montenegro named Matanovich who served three liturgies in the Russian Orthodox Church in 1876, prior to returning to Cetinje, Montenegro due to his inability to receive permanent assignment in America. Of those early Serbian Orthodox Priests who served in San Francisco we know very little due to the scarcity of sources on their missions. Saint Fr. Sebastian Dabovich served the Serbian community from the Russian Orthodox Church in San Francisco, and in 1905 he was officially named head of the Serbian Orthodox Mission in the United States.

The earliest Serbian immigrants to settle in California were natives of the southern part of Adriatic coast of present day Montenegro, from the region of Boka Kotorska, and other coastal towns as Herceg Novi, Risan, Kotor, Budva, and Petrovac famed for their experienced seaman. They were among the first Serbs to reach the New World, serving as sailors and officers on ships that traded with various ports of the emerging American Republic. The Serbian pioneers of San Francisco and Northern California were also found in various occupations. Many were engaged in business as fruit brokers and packers, importers and exporters, liquor merchants, restaurateurs, saloon keepers, and coffee house proprietors.

The dawn of the history of our parish begins with the arrival of the late Right Reverend Father Archimandrite George Kodzic in San Francisco in February of 1919. He was a young Serbian missionary who made his way through Russia via Vladivostok and Siberia and Japan in order to sail for one of the last remaining bastions of religious freedom, the United States of America. He was born on May 10, 1880 in Belgrade, Serbia. He served the Serbian army from August 1914 to March 1918 and was subsequently awarded a decree from His Majesty, King Peter I of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, conferring the decoration of St. Sava, third degree. While doing hard manual labor and living the difficult life of a missionary, Archimandrite Kodzic persevered in his dream by laying the foundation for this parish: The building of a Serbian Orthodox Church in San Francisco. On March 1, 1937, he applied his meager funds to the purchase of a small house at 281 Castro Street, which was eventually converted to a missionary home and chapel, which served the Serbian community of San Francisco as a place of worship until September 5, 1954. Easter Sunday – May 2, 1937 – witnessed the first Divine liturgy. Despite his failing health, he continued his unselfish devotion to his flock and in January of 1938 mandated the organization of the mission's auxiliaries, the Brotherhood of Sts. Cyril and Methodious and the Sisterhood of St. Sophia and her martyred children, Faith, Hope, and Love. It was his clear vision that anticipated the support and dedication of these two organizations, whose work on behalf of the church continues to the present day. Archimandrite Kodzic died on March 10, 1945, but the remembrance of him and his selfless deeds will remain forever in this Serbian colony. He bequeathed the missionary home and all his worldly possessions to the parish of St. John the Baptist.

Our church charter was granted on June 4, 1945 to the Serbian Orthodox Congregation of St. John the Baptist in the City and County of San Francisco, with the Brotherhood then becoming the actual membership of the church and the Sisterhood continuing in its role of auxiliary. At that time, the late Right Reverend Father Archimandrite Dositei Obradovich became the first parish priest, who implemented a rigorous fund-raising campaign, which was instrumental in the building of our present church. Those who worked with him remember his encouraging words when the zeal of the fund-raisers was at its lowest ebb, "No matter how humble the beginning, God will provide." The golden age in the history of our parish begins with the unanimous approval and decision of the membership on July 2, 1953, along with God's help, to erect a new church. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on August 2, 1953 and construction began shortly thereafter. However, the greatest of all days in the history of this humble parish is the day of September 5, 1954 when our church was consecrated to God.

His Grace, the late Bishop Dionisije consecrated church with visiting clergy from the entire western region. On that same day, Father Dositei was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite. The church mortgage

was retired on July 31, 1961 with a jubilant congregation thanking God in celebration.

Right Reverend Father Archimandrite Dositei Obradovich was succeeded by the late Reverend Father Svetozar Djuranovich, who served our parish from 1958 to 1964, at which time Protojerej Stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic became our parish priest. Under Father's spiritual leadership, many special events took place in our parish. One in particular to remember is the construction of our parish home, which was dedicated to the glory of God on June 4, 1966, and with the unremitting labors of the parishioners and sisterhood, the parish home mortgage was liquidated on November 28, 1982.

From 1963 St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church was a part of "Free Serbian Orthodox Diocese" under Bishop Dionisije. Another memorable moment in our parish was the visitation of Patriarch Pavle in 1992. This was the first time in history that a Serbian Patriarch visited our great country. Because of Patriarch Pavle, we witnessed the unification of our Serbian Orthodox Church. Other moments include the completion of the beautification of the iconostas, the large hall, and the painting of the frescoes. Protojerej Stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic retired in 1999 after 36 years as parish priest.

Protojerej Stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic was succeeded by Reverend Father Marko Matic, who continued the path of prosperity and spiritual growth of our parish set on the foundation poured by our forefathers. The purchase of the property next door to our parish home at 918-920 Baker Street gave us the opportunity to continue the never-ending faith, love and hope of our Serbian Orthodox Church. Fr. Marko served our parish until February 2007. In 2007 by the decision of His Grace Bishop Longin, our church was elevated to the rank of the Cathedral.

Reverend Father Marko Matic was succeeded by our current parish priest, Protojerej Djurica Gordic, who has dedicated himself to continue the prosperity of our parish through his never-ending dedication. A special moment in our church's history is the complete administrative unity of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America which occurred in May 2009.

In the light of the above history, one can recognize in the celebration of the Eucharist the primary source of all structure in this parish: authority, institutions such as episcopacy, the composition of the Eucharistic community, the distinction between laity, priests and bishops—everything stems from the Church as communal event and Mystery of the Kingdom. May every ministry in this parish continue to reflect and serve as types or images of the eucharistic Banquet of the Kingdom.

The parish has been well-served by the diligent efforts of the Opstina's presidents, who have served so honorably with the help of their constituents. The first president was Stevo Gerunovich, who served in 1945. He was succeeded by the following: Marko Zambulich (1946); Maxim Cepernich (1947); Petar Lucich (1948, 1949, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963); Milan Churich (1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955); Savo Sosich (1956); Nikola Novakovich (1957); Bill Stepanicich (1957, 1974, 1975, and 1976); Lazar Dropo (1958 and 1959); Jovo Milkovich (1964 and 1965); Petar Kentera (1966, 1967, 1972, 1973, 1981, and 1982); Svetozar Shero- vich (1968, 1969, and 1970); Milorad Golubovich (1971, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2010); Miroslav Medan (1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1995); Milos Davidovich (1979, 1980, and 1986); Pavle Bunjevic (1987, 1988, 1989, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999); Voy Cheyovich (1990, 1991, and 1992); Don Kosovac (1993, 1994, and 2000); Steve Davidovich (2001, 2002, 2011, 2012), Mita Postich (2006, 2007, and 2008), Bob Medan (2017, 2018), Micaelee Ellswythe (2019, 2020, 2021) Stan Grgich (2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, 2023, 2024),



Dear Honored Clergy and Fellow Parishioners,

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our church, the Sisterhood warmly extends greetings to each of you. This milestone reflects the dedication, hard work, and sense of togetherness that has shaped our community over the years.

We offer our deepest appreciation to those who came before us—the founders, leaders, and all who helped establish this church. Their vision and sacrifices created the strong foundation we continue to build upon today.

At the same time, we are equally grateful to all of you who presently contribute your time, energy, and talents for our church. Whether through volunteering, organizing, or simply offering support to others, your efforts make a meaningful difference.

As we honor the past and celebrate the present, we look forward to the future, confident that, together, we will continue to nurture and grow our beloved community for many years to come.

With sincere gratitude,

Liliana Perazich
St Sophia Sisterhood President



Поштовани часни свештеници, сестре и браћо парохијани,

Док слави́мо 70. годишњицу наше цркве, сестринство срдечно поздравља сваког од вас. Овај јубилеј обележава посвећеност, напоран рад и осећај заједништва који је обликовао нашу заједницу током година.

Изражавамо најдубљу захвалност онима који су били пре нас — оснивачима, вођама и свима који су помогли да се успостави ова црква. Њихова визија и жртве створиле су јаку основу на којој настављамо да градимо данас.

У исто време, подједнако смо захвални свима вама који тренутно доприносите својим временом, енергијом и талентима за нашу цркву. Било кроз волонтирање, организовање или једноставно пружање подршке другима, ваши напори чине значајну разлику.

Поштујемо прошлост и слави́мо садашњост, радујемо се будућности, уверени да ћемо заједно наставити да негујемо и развијамо нашу вољену заједницу дуги низ година.

Са искреном захвалношћу,

Љиљана Перазих, председница Кола сестара



St. Sophia Sisterhood of San Francisco

St. Sophia Sisterhood was founded in 1937 by the late Right Reverend Father Archimandrite Georgije Kodzic. Dedicated to Faith, Hope and Love, the Sisterhood is an integral part of St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church. With great devotion, the Sisterhood has carried on its work in selfless support of our church, beginning with the modest missionary home on Castro Street to the magnificent church we call our own today. This auxiliary has persisted in its efforts to add to the church's finances with its various activities, such as the annual Valentines Day Luncheon, Sarma Dinner, Rummage Sale, Champagne Brunch and Lenten Suppers. Their benevolence is not restricted to our church. As members of the National Kolo of Srpskih Sestara for the New Gracanica Metropolitanate, they have contributed financially and physically to our St. Sava Camp in Jackson, California for all these years.

The members of St. Sophia have always been most generous with their financial support, have worked so faithfully and untiringly, year after year, and have served enthusiastically and devotedly whenever time and energy permitted. There are those who washed the first dish in the little missionary home kitchen, cooked and served the first meal, and are still most active and helpful today. As new members join our Sisterhood, they immediately take on the task to be done and give sincerely and devotedly of their talents.

Sadly, some of our most dedicated sisters are no longer with us, but they shall be eternally remembered and shall remain as an inspiration to us all. In today's rapidly and drastically changing world, the words of St. Paul still hold true, "There are three things that are unchangeable. They are Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is Love." The late Right Reverend Father Archimandrite Georgije Kodzic chose well the name for the Sisterhood of his church – St. Sophia and her three daughters, Faith, Hope and Love. It is these qualities which have inspired and motivated our endeavors and accomplishments during the past years and we now look confidently to the future: Secure in our Faith, Sustained by our Hope, Strengthened by our Love for God, Our Church and Our Fellow Man.

The Sisterhood's presidents have given much of their time and efforts to fulfill the realization of the organization's dreams. Because of their wholehearted and enthusiastic leadership and the sincere support of their officers and members, the Sisterhood continues in their selfless support of their church. The past presidents are: Anka Dropo

(1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, and 1947); Milena Konevich (1945 and 1946); Olga Radovich (1948); Helen Cepernich (1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1960); Draga Milkovich (1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967); Danica Sosich (1961); Bessie Popovac (1968 and 1969); Vera Davidovich (1970, 1971, 1978, 1979, and 1994); Rose Brdar (1972 and 1973); Helen Stepanicich (1974, 1975, and 1976); Martha Kardum (1977); Geneva Miraglia (1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983); Dorothy Kokalis (1984 and 1985); Cil Grgich (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2001, and 2002); Joy Davidovich (1990 and 1991); Bitsy Kosovac (1992 and 1993); Mimi Runjavac (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000); Suanna Gurovich (2003), Protinica Ljiljana Bunjevic (2004 and 2005), Zlata Postich (2006, 2007 and 2008), and Sharon Grgich (2009), (Liliana Perazich 2010-present)

HISTORY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF SAN FRANCISCO

By Robert (Bob) Fowler, Choir Director and Librarian, Oct 2024.

An earlier version of this article appeared in the cathedral's 60th slava souvenir booklet (Oct 2014).

CHOIR & CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

The completed church building of Saint John Baptist SOC of San Francisco was consecrated on 09/05/1954, but, at that time, the Saint John Baptist Conception date (old calendar Sep 23 / new calendar Oct 6) was chosen as the church Slava date. Consequently, our church celebrates its 70th Slava this year on Sunday, 10/06/2024. The Saint John Congregation, however, legally dates back to 06/04/1945, and the Mission/home where services first began dates further back to 05/02/1937. Our church's continuous history thus spans 87 (not 70) years.

A somewhat similar situation exists with our choir. Serbian Orthodox choirs do not generally have Slavas, so their anniversaries are based on when they were formed, organized, or reorganized. The Saint John Choir was first formed in June 1945, at which time it was a joint choir with our sister parish, Saint George SOC in Oakland. In 1951, the choirs further united by adopting the joint name "SSS (Serbian Singing Society) Kosovo". The choirs formally separated in June 1956, but the separation was an amicable one. At this time, the Saint John Choir adopted the new name "SSS Ljubomir Bosnjakovich". Finally, the Saint John Choir internally reorganized in 05/08/1964 as simply "Saint John Serbian Orthodox Church Choir", but the congregation (and most of the choir) probably noticed no outward changes. Even so, this final reorganization has come to be considered the starting date for the choir's anniversaries, making 2024 the choir's 60th anniversary, even though our continuous history spans 79 years.

CHOIR HISTORY TIMELINE.

Following this article is a condensed list of important events in Saint John Choir's history. It was compiled from dozens of sources, which are listed following the timeline. The timeline also includes important landmark dates from the church's history, which often parallels the choir's history. In particular, the 35-year tenure of Fr Bunjevic as parish priest (1964-1999) spans the same 35 years during which Voy Cheyovich directed the choir.

The timeline focuses on special events where the choir was invited to perform concerts or provide liturgical responses, usually for important anniversaries. In particular, at least five Serbian churches located in cities distant from San Francisco—Fresno, Arcadia, Van Nuys, San Diego, Phoenix—invited (and trusted!) our choir to sing at their consecration ceremonies, perhaps the most important liturgical event in the life of any church.

The timeline omits activities which the choir considers to be "normal". This includes singing at Sunday liturgies, holidays, weddings, funerals, memorials, Slavas, the Four Kolos fundraisers, and invitations to sing with the choirs of the other Serbian churches in the San Francisco area. These "normal" events are by no means less important than the special events in the timeline, but in fact constitute our primary role in the church. Weddings and funerals are especially important, because they are "once in a lifetime" events.

There is not enough room here to detail the full significance of many events in the timeline. And regrettably, there is not enough room to acknowledge the many people who sustained (and still sustain) the choir through the years—singers, directors, officers, volunteers, benefactors. However, details on these events and the people involved can be found in the sources listed following the timeline, which reside in the choir library, the main parish office, and a few in the priest's office. For the convenience of future researchers, photocopies of the relevant pages from all these sources were assembled into a single binder in the choir library labelled CHOIR HISTORY, and the timeline below serves as an index to that binder.

VOJISLAV (VOY) CHEYOVICH.

Any discussion of the choir and its history must eventually focus on Voy Cheyovich. He and his wife Doris (Diki) were both active in the choir for 51 years (1948-1999). In 1959, Voy was already being acknowledged for "procuring our music", and in 1964 he became music director. During his 35 years as director, he was instrumental in building the choir's reputation, its musical repertoire, and its music library. When choir attendance was low, he canted the liturgical responses, and for a while hired outside singers. When Voy and Diki both retired from their "regular jobs" and moved to Jackson CA in 1988, they continued to drive the 260-mile round trip to the Saint John Choir each Sunday for 11 more years.

After Voy's retirement from the choir, until his passing in 2007, he continued to keep an eye on us via his "Serbian Spy" (me). He would often call on Sunday evening to ask how the choir was doing, who was singing, and what we were singing. He was truly concerned that the choir should preserve its quality, repertoire, and reputation, and made it clear to me whenever he approved or disapproved of our direction. For my part, I must confess that I kept no secrets from The Master. Vjechnaja pamjat, Vojislav.

CHOIR LIBRARY

By the time he retired in 1999, Voy had built the choir library into a large collection of both sacred (liturgical) and secular (folk) Serbian choral music. Since then, I have tried to follow in his footsteps by obtaining music from a variety of sources, both published and unpublished. Two major sources of unpublished music are musical liturgy books used at other Serbian churches, and personal music collections brought from Serbia by new choir members. Adding this music to our own library has not always been easy. I usually offer to borrow the music, copy it, and return it within a week. Often, the owner assumes (despite my reassurances) that they will never see their music again, but (of course) they cannot say this and instead make other excuses. Sometimes my diplomacy succeeds, sometimes not. I have heard that Voy sometimes employed more devious methods to obtain new music.

After 15 years of accumulating additional music, the music library needed a major cleanup and recataloging. This reorganization was completed first for all of the liturgical music (July 2014) and later for all of the folk music (May 2017). It is now much easier to locate existing music and to file new music. If you want a copy of any music that the choir has sung, just ask for it. If you are looking for something that you heard elsewhere, it is probably in our library. If you want a quick tour of the library, ask the librarian (me).

CHOIR MUSIC

Our music has many origins. It was composed by Serbs, Russians, Americans, Bulgarians, Ukrainians, Georgians, and others. We sing and chant words primarily in Church Slavonic, Serbian, and English. We have sung responses to clergy who served the liturgy in all these languages (and sometimes in the Georgian language).

CHOIR PUBLICATION

In 2004, all of the music that had been actively used by Voy and subsequent music directors, most of it in manuscript form, was reprinted using musical software and published in a 420-page book titled *Liturgical Music for Mixed Choir*. A copy of this book has even reached Germany, where it is used by the Saint Michael Serbian Orthodox Church of Hamburg.

CHOIR MEMBERS.

Our choir members come from varied musical backgrounds. Some are trained musicians, while others read printed music with difficulty. Many learned the liturgy in Serbia as children, while others learned it in America as adults. Still others have only recently begun to learn the liturgy. Some prefer the ancient chants, while others prefer 4-part arrangements.

The choir is flexible. When there are adequate singers, we sing responses with all four voice parts (SATB). Otherwise, we can sing with three, two, or even one voice part. Perhaps you have noticed this as a different "sound" on some Sundays. This flexibility was important during the COVID pandemic of 2020-2021, when restrictions on public gatherings limited us to few singers (and initially none). No matter what our size, however, it is most important that the congregation always experiences the liturgy as it has been celebrated for ages. And that is the common hope of our choir members—to make a sound that uplifts the spirits of the congregation.

The choir welcomes new members - both young and old, Serbian and non-Serbian. If you wish to join in our tradition, introduce yourself to the choir at the Sunday liturgy, which starts at 10:30 am, or contact me at the phone number or email given below. If you have thought about singing in the choir, but do not feel experienced enough, you can get extra musical help to get "caught up" by coming to the church before the liturgy. There is almost always someone here at 9:30 am or earlier on each Sunday morning.

If you prefer to study the music at home, ask to borrow one of our music books. All of the music that we use is printed neatly and is easy to read.

Benefactors

With appreciation to our Benefactors for their
additional financial support!

Dr. & Mrs. Zarija Lukic
First Serbian Benevolent Society
Drs. Miodrag and Jovanka Vujkovic
Mrs. Nadine Radovich
Mr. Stevan Davidovich
Mr. Stan Grgich
Mr. Perry Narancic
Dr. Stanislav Miskovic
Kardum/Portillo Family
St. Sophia Sisterhood
Ms. Alexandra Vuksich





FIRST SERBIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

SERBIAN MONTENEGRIN LITERARY and BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



CONGRATULATIONS!

St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of
San Francisco on the 70th Anniversary

First Serbian Benevolent Society
Serbian Montenegrin Literary and Benevolent Society
Serbian Cultural Center Museum and Library
Dusan Silni High Degree
Junior Order FSBS
Serbian Cemetary

Greetings and prayerful wishes to St.
John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
and to it's faithful on the occasion of
70th Anniversary!



In Loving Memory of
+Mijo and +Anna Miljevic

Founding Members of
St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church
Saratoga, California

Theodor Miljevich & Family

Congratulations and Best Wishes
on the 70th Anniversary
of St. John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

With gratitude to our founding members,
and all those that followed with their love
and dedication to our Church

In Loving Memory of my parents
Danilo and Olga Radovich



Nadine Radovich & Family

Породица Вујковић
срдачно честита 70 година
од освећења
цркве светог Јована Крститеља у Сан
Франциску
свим православним верницима!



Вања, Мики и Лазар Вујковић



Честитамо седамдесетогодишњицу нашег
храма Светог Јована Крститеља и желимо
свима пуно среће и успеха!

Миа, Сенка, Ајуми и Зарија Лукић

Saint John Serbian Choir Congratulates
 Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
 on it's 70th Anniversary
 The choir invites new members
 PLEASE COME SING WITH US!

Tropar Začeca Sv. Jovana Krstitelja **21-2**
 Hymn of the Conception of St. John Baptist

Tone 4 arr. Marija Drezgić (2005)

①
 S A
 Per - vje - je ne - raž - da - ju - šča - ja ne - plo - di - - - - - voz - ve - se - li -

⑥
 S A
 sja: se bo - - - - - za - ča - la - je - si soln - ca svje - til - ni -

⑪
 S A
 ka - - - - - ja - vje, pro - svje - šča - ti i - mu - šča - - - - - vsju vse -

⑮
 S A
 len - nu - ju, slje - po - to - ju ne - du - gu - ju - šču -

⑲
 S A
 ju. Li - kuj Za - ha - ri - je, vo - pi - ja so - - - - - der - zno -

⑳
 S A
 ve - ni - - - - - jem: pro - rok vi - šnja - go jest, ho -

㉔
 S A
 tjaj - - - - - ro - - - - - di - ti - sja. - - - - -

Благословена 70. годишњица
нашој парохији Св Јована Крститеља



Браћо и сестре, Господ нас благословио животом за који су се Апостоли молили (2 Сол):

11. Зато се и молимо свагда за вас, да вас Бог наш учини достојним звања и испуни сваку благу намјеру доброте и дјело вјере у сили,
12. Да се прослави име Господа нашега Исуса Христа у вама и ви у њему, по благодати Бога нашега и Господа Исуса Христа.

С љубављу Христовом,
Др Станислав Мишковић



**Честитамо седамдесетогодишњицу
нашег Саборног храма Светог Јована
Крститеља у Сан Франциску и
желимо свима Божији благослов и
напредак!**

Fr. Djurica and Family



In Memory of +Baka Tanja



With gratitude and congratulations to the
V. Rev. Djurica Gordic, Protinica Marija,
Jovan and Petar
along with the parish family of
St. John the Baptist
for keeping the faith alive
and doors open to all who seek
the One, True God in San Francisco.

God has not called us to be like those around us. He
has called us to be like Himself.

With prayers and wishes for many more years!



James and Jasminka (Chenich) Gabrie
Los Angeles, California

Congratulations on your
70th anniversary!

From the Medan Families
Danica, Dushan, Gigi, Ilija, Kevin, Marina, Robert, Mira, Aleksandar,
George, Tomislav, John, Jelena, Stefan & Juliana



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIRO MEDAN



Our dear husband, father, father-in-law, djedo.
A remarkable and well loved man who was a proud supporter of
St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church



Sretna Slava
from Predrag Narancic
and Jasenka Rakas
with
Nikola and Diana!



May God grant our parish
many more years!

The Year was 1954

- ✓ Building of the Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church was completed in September
- ✓ Walt Disney broadcasts its 1st TV Show on ABC in October
- ✓ Jefto and Vera Davidovich were married in Zagreb in November



The Davidovich family, *past and present*, is thankful and blessed to have been just one cog of the many families that have shared in the sweat, struggles and triumphs over the last 70-year journey of this Cathedral. We all extend our heartfelt congratulations for a journey well-traveled. Since we arrived in San Francisco 69 years ago, this Cathedral and its many families, that form the congregation, have been a continuous part of our lives.

In seeking words to encourage the future congregation, we offer Jeremiah's words (Chapter 29. Verse 11) as he spoke to the captives in Babylon:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Нека буде још много лета

In remembrance of generations past

Vera (Oct-2011)



Jefto (Aug-2017)



Baba Andja (Jan-2006)



and generations today

September, 2013





On behalf of the management and employees of
Sloga Works, LLP,
we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the
Serbian Orthodox Congregation
of Saint John the Baptist in San Francisco
on the 70th Anniversary of their sanctuary!

From its humble roots a century ago, when a young Serbian missionary, Fr. Kodzic, came to San Francisco at the end of World War I, this parish community has grown to be a beacon in the Bay Area as it looks out across the city from its perch on top of Turk and Baker. The current Cathedral community can take pride in its embrace of Saint Sava's message of "Sloga" with its history of accomplishments by:

- Welcoming immigrants to America,
- Promoting a connection to our Serbian homeland,
- Offering a place to pray and take part in sacraments,
- Baptizing children born to its parishioners
- Marrying both young and old,
- Comforting the sick in body and mind,
- Presiding over the burial of our predecessors.

May there be many more Seasons!

Од својих скромних корена пре једног века, када је млади српски мисионар о. Коџић, који је дошао у Сан Франциско на крају Првог светског рата, ова парохијска заједница је израсла у светлонику у области залива јер гледа преко града са свог места на врху Турка и Бејкера. Садашња Саборна заједница може да се поноси својим загрљајем Светосавске поруке "Слоге" са својом историјом остварења:

- Дочекивање имигранта у Америку,
- Промовисање везе са нашом српском отаџбином,
- Нудећи место за молитву и учествовање у sacramентима,
- Крштење децу рођену од својих парохијана
- Жени се и младо и старо,
- Теши болесне телом и умом,
- Преседавајући сахрану наших претходника.

Нека је још много лета!



In Memory of +Nick and +Celia Grgich



Nick Dushan Grgich—Celia Ann Grgich
February 1922-July 2011 July 1923—December 2023

From their sons
Steve, Stan, Dan and Mitch

**Happy 70th Anniversary
Saint John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral**

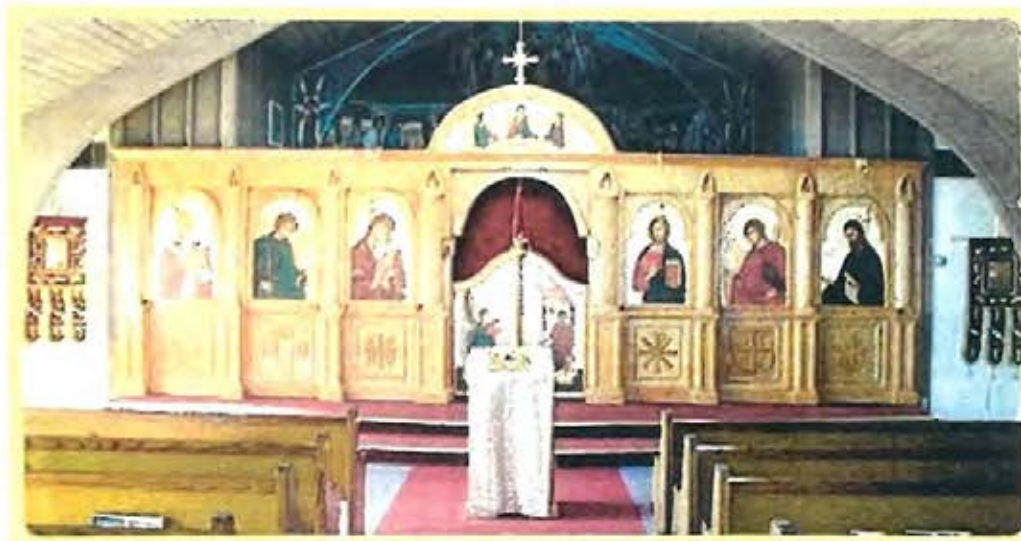


Don Kosovac sang in the choir for many of the church's 70 years.
We all miss hearing his beautiful bass sound.



Vjecnaja Pamjat!
Don E. Kosovac
February 16, 1934 - December 26, 2023

*In Memory of
Vic Shapona (Vítomír Šaponja)
and
In Recognition of our Nephew, Steven Shapona*



The icons were painted by a very talented young artist, Steven Shapona.

Steven is the son of Vic Shapona, who painted the original icons and other religious paintings on the walls and domes of the St. John's Serbian Orthodox Church in San Francisco. Approximately forty years later, after studying numerous publications on iconography and literally hundreds of photographs of famous icons, Steven, like his father before him, undertook the task of painting the Church icons for Holy Trinity.

*Forever in Our Hearts
Family Amerine and Family Shapona*

In Loving Memory of



Teresa Golubovich

Wife, Mother, Grandmother



The Golubovich & Perazich Family

Честитамо нашој цркви Св. Јована Крститеља 70 година освећења свога храма а са пијететом и љубављу сећамо се нашег супруга, оца, свекра, деде и прадеде ставрофора проте Душана Буњевића који је оставио велики траг за собом служећи у њој пуних 35 година. Од нас му је вечито сећање, љубав и хвала а од Господа радост и награда у царству вечном.

**Његови најмилији,
Протиница Љиљана са породицом**



Congratulations!

**The Serbian Church has been the back
bone of our ancestors.**

**A special thanks to Father Dusan,
Protenica & Family for their
unwavering support**



Kardum Portollo Family



**Protodeacon Triva Pavlov
(Tom Paul) 1951-2021**



**Danica Milosovich
(Dorothy - "Dodo")
1928-2024, Mother**



**Melanija Pavlov
(Millicent
"Mitzi" Paul)
1931-2022, Mother**



**Marine + Policeman
Peacekeeper + Husband
Father + Friend**



*Memory
Eternal!*

Protodjakonica Danica Pavlov (Paul) & Family

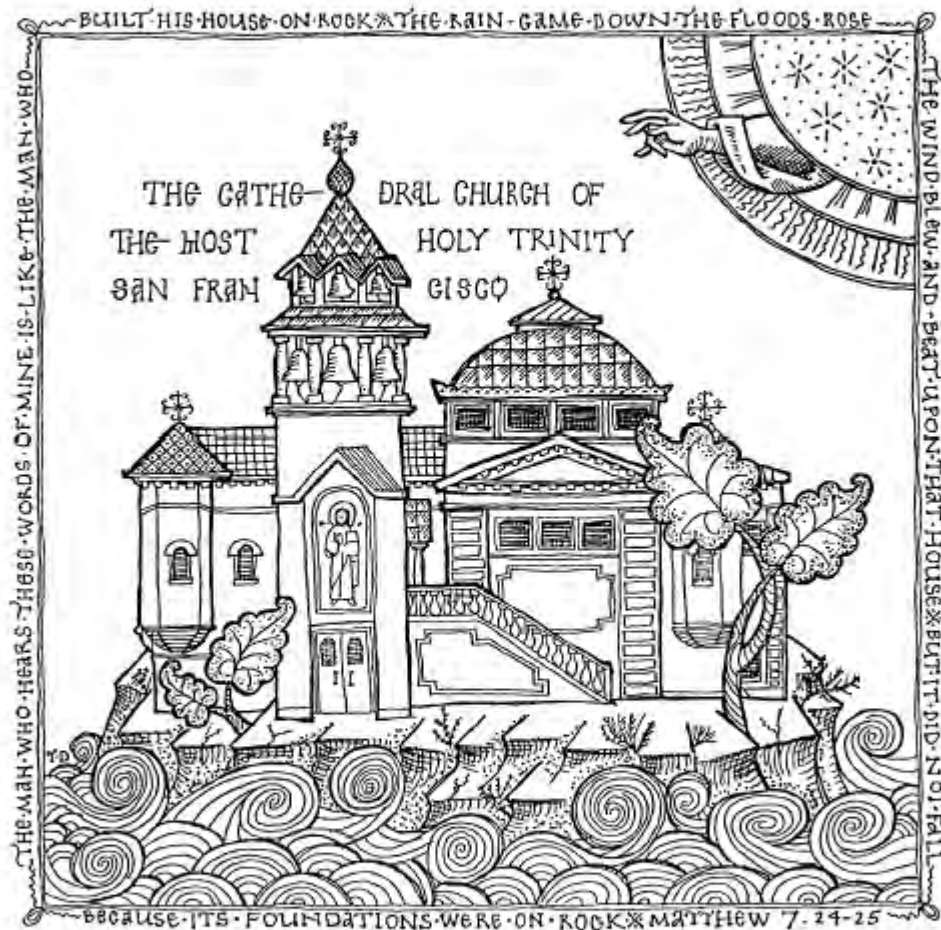
Greetings on St. John's 70th from guess who?



Paul Vuksich Family

To Our Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John Cathedral
On Your 70th Anniversary:

We wish you congratulations and many more years
through the prayers of our Holy Father Sebastian
and of all the saints who labored in our City of San Francisco



Most Reverend Archbishop Benjamin
Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean
Reverend Andrew Smith, Associate Priest
The Faithful of your sister parish,
Holy Trinity Cathedral
1520 Green Street + holy-trinity.org



A blessed and joy-filled 70th Anniversary of
St. John Cathedral to Fr. Djurica Gordic
and all Parishioners!

May the Lord grant you wisdom and guidance to
continue growing in Christ and witnessing our
Holy Orthodox Faith - Svetosavlje!

Mnogaja Ljeta!

With love and prayers,

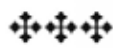
Fr. Bratislav Bratso Krsic
Fr. Paul Germain
Church Board and All Auxiliary Organizations
and Parishioners
St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
San Diego, California
StGeorgeInSD.org

IN MEMORY OF
BILL AND HELEN STEPANICICH
AND THEIR DEDICATION
TO THE CHURCH
AND CELEBRATING 110 YEARS OF THE STEPANICICH FAMILY
BEING IN SAN FRANCISCO

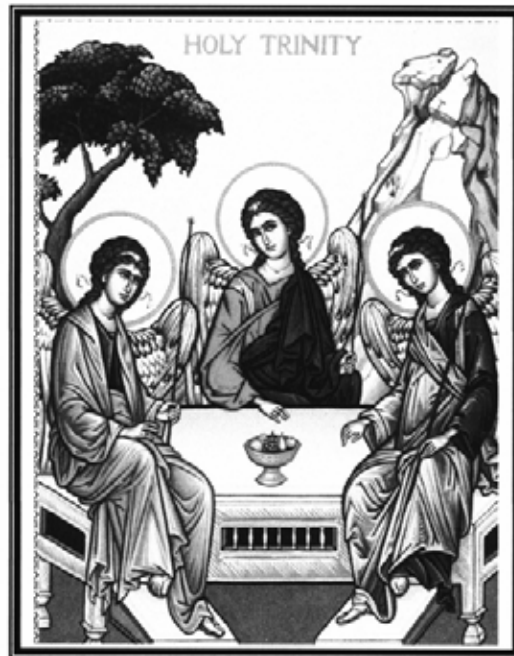
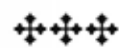


JANINE, TED, GREG, KAREN, DANNY & MELANIE

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church



Moraga, California

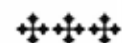


In the spirit of Unity and with brotherly love
the Board and members of Holy Trinity extend
heartfelt congratulations to all of you on the
70th Anniversary of the Consecration of

**St. John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral**

May God continue to bless you
and our Serbian Orthodox Church!

Na Mnogaja Ljeta!



Congratulations on your 70th Anniversary!

CHRISTIAN HEARTS

COMMUNITY SPIRITS

CLASSICAL MINDS

EDUCATION WITH INTEGRITY



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Congratulations to St. John the Baptist
Cathedral on your 70th Anniversary
Thank you for all your good works



The Radakovich Family
His Grace Bishop Maksim with Nikola, Kata, Lika, Drina
and Maksim



With Loving Memory of
+ Agnes Zelalich

Congratulations

to past and present parishoners of
St. John's Serbian Orthodox
Cathedral on this
70th anniversary.



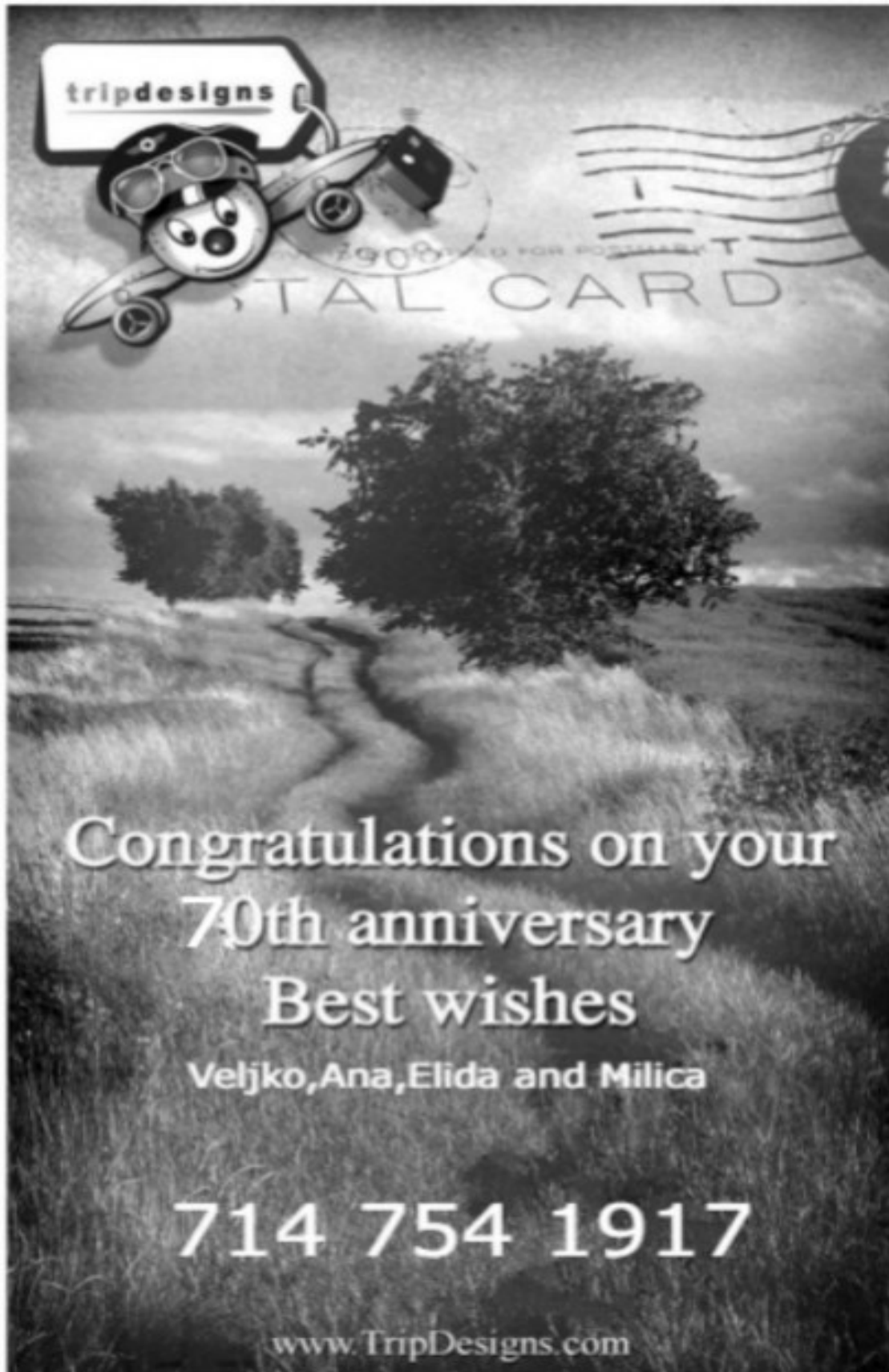
Thank you for the many special
memories our family has made in
this church since 1964.



Best wishes for the future!

Bogdan Zelalich
Blage, Sergio and Elisa
Carabarin





In Loving Memory

John Krsto & Danica (Dorothy)
4-5-24 ~ 7-26-92

5-31-28 ~ 4-23-24

MILOSOVICH



Memory Eternal

Sambo and Cathy Kostich & Family
Chris and Peggy Milosovich & Family

Happy 70th Anniversary



In Loving Memory of
Past President - Milan Churich,
Katie Churich, and Mickey Churich
Forever in our hearts, and never forgotten ...



Danica Paul & Family
Chris and Peggy Milosovich & Family
Sam and Cathy Kostich & Family



We congratulate the
St. John the Baptist Cathedral for
70 years of love, faith and hope!

Iri Landscape INC
Award Winning Design &
Build Landscape Company

Irilandscape.com

Best wishes to Saint John the Baptist
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
on its 70th anniversary.



In loving memory of
+ Miroslav Michael Djordjevich,
a proud and dedicated Serb.



With brotherly love,
the Board and Members of
St. Archangel Michael
Church
Saratoga, California
extend congratulations
and best wishes on the
occasion of your Slava and
70th Anniversary

Very Rev. Vidoslav Vujasin
and the Church Board
Chris Milosovich, President
Dragoslav Grbovic, 1st Vice President
John Medan, 2nd Vice President,
Nenad Vukicevic Financial Secretary
Tanja Vrcelj, Treasurer
Alexandra Lisonek, Secretary

Board of Directors
Mary Bogdanovich
Ted Miljevich
Rob Adzich
Mihailo Vrcelj

St. Sava Church, Jackson

First Serbian Orthodox Parish in America



Slava of St. Sebastian, Saturday, November 30, 2024

Founders' Day, Sunday, December 1, 2024

724 North Main Street, Jackson, CA 95642

Info (Parish Priest): marko_bojovic@yahoo.com | +1,317-490-5379

www.stsavajackson.org | www.facebook.com/StSavaJackson

Congratulations on 70 Years!

In Memory of Bob Visnick



The services and celebrations with family and friends at St. John's always brought a big smile to his face.

His loving family,

Bea, Kathleen, Milo, Lisa, Shahab, Dan, Karin, Brennan & Max

Срећна и благословена
70-ту годишњица нашег саборног храма
Св. Јована Крститеља у Сан Франциску!

Данило, Невенка и Саша Максимовић

A business card with an orange and brown textured background. The logo 'DM' is in large, bold, black letters at the top left. Below it, 'CONSTRUCTION' is written in white on a black rectangular background. To the right of this, 'HARDWOOD FLOORS' is written in bold black letters. Below the logo, the text 'CA License: 863230' and 'Bonded & Insured' is listed. To the right, a list of services is provided with bullet points: 'Installation, Repair and Refinishing', 'All Varieties of Wood and Finishes', 'Finishing Carpentry', and 'High Quality Custom Work'. At the bottom left, the address '140 Locksley Avenue #4', 'San Francisco, CA 94122', and 'Fax: (415) 564-1090' are listed. At the bottom right, the name 'Danilo Maksimović' and phone number '(415) 290-6606' are displayed in bold black text.

DM
CONSTRUCTION **HARDWOOD FLOORS**
CA License: 863230
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► Installation, Repair and Refinishing
► All Varieties of Wood and Finishes
► Finishing Carpentry
► High Quality Custom Work
140 Locksley Avenue #4
San Francisco, CA 94122
Fax: (415) 564-1090
Danilo Maksimović
(415) 290-6606



The Antovich family
is grateful to celebrate this milestone
Happy 70th Anniversary to St. John's cathedral!



Честитамо 70-ту
годишњицу нашег
храма светог
Јована Крститеља
у Сан Франциску!
Живели на многаја
љета!
Породица Гајић

Ранко, Данијел и Јасна Гајић 1995. године по доласку у
Сан Франциско
Ranko, Daniel & Jasna Gajic 1995. when they arrived to
San Fransicko

With heartfelt gratitude, we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of St. John
the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral!

This church has been an important part of our family's life beginning
with Aleksandra Mandaric's parents, Milan and Gordana, and
continuing with us. Our children, Milan and Daniela were baptized
here and we look forward to becoming more active in the community.
Ian Parker, while raised as an Episcopalian is working with Fr. Djurica
and planning to convert to the
Serbian Orthodox Faith after worshipping here.

We are thankful for the church that has supported our family through
generations.

For the past 20 years Ian is deeply grateful for being welcomed by the
church community and for the warmth and fellowship shared with it's
members!

With Love and Blessings,
Ian Parker, Aleksandra Mandaric-Parker, Milan and Daniela



20. septembar 2024. Tačno je prošlo tri godine i pet
dana od mog dolaska u San Francisco, a Jamal je stigao
dva mjeseca kasnije. Odmah sam pronašla utočište u
crkvi, gdje sam se osjećala prihvaćeno i nikada sama. Kad
smo ja i Jamal tek stigli, već smo bili zajedno devet
godina i tek zaručeni, ali naš život se značajno promijenio
kada smo ovdje krstili Jamala, koji je postao Dragan, i
uzeli slavu moje pokojne bake Janje. Proputovali smo i
živjeli na raznim mjestima, i ako Bog da, zajedno ćemo
još mnogo toga doživjeti. Ipak, vrijeme provedeno u San
Franciscu i značaj ovog Hrama Svetog Jovana Krstitelja
ostat će u našim srcima zauvijek.

Katarina & Jamal Dragan Al-Sheikhly



Породица Јаковљевић
Бранислав, Јасминка,
Никола и Марија



To the Parishioners
and our Friends at
St. John's
Cathedral
Congratulations on
the
70th Anniversary!
God Bless All!



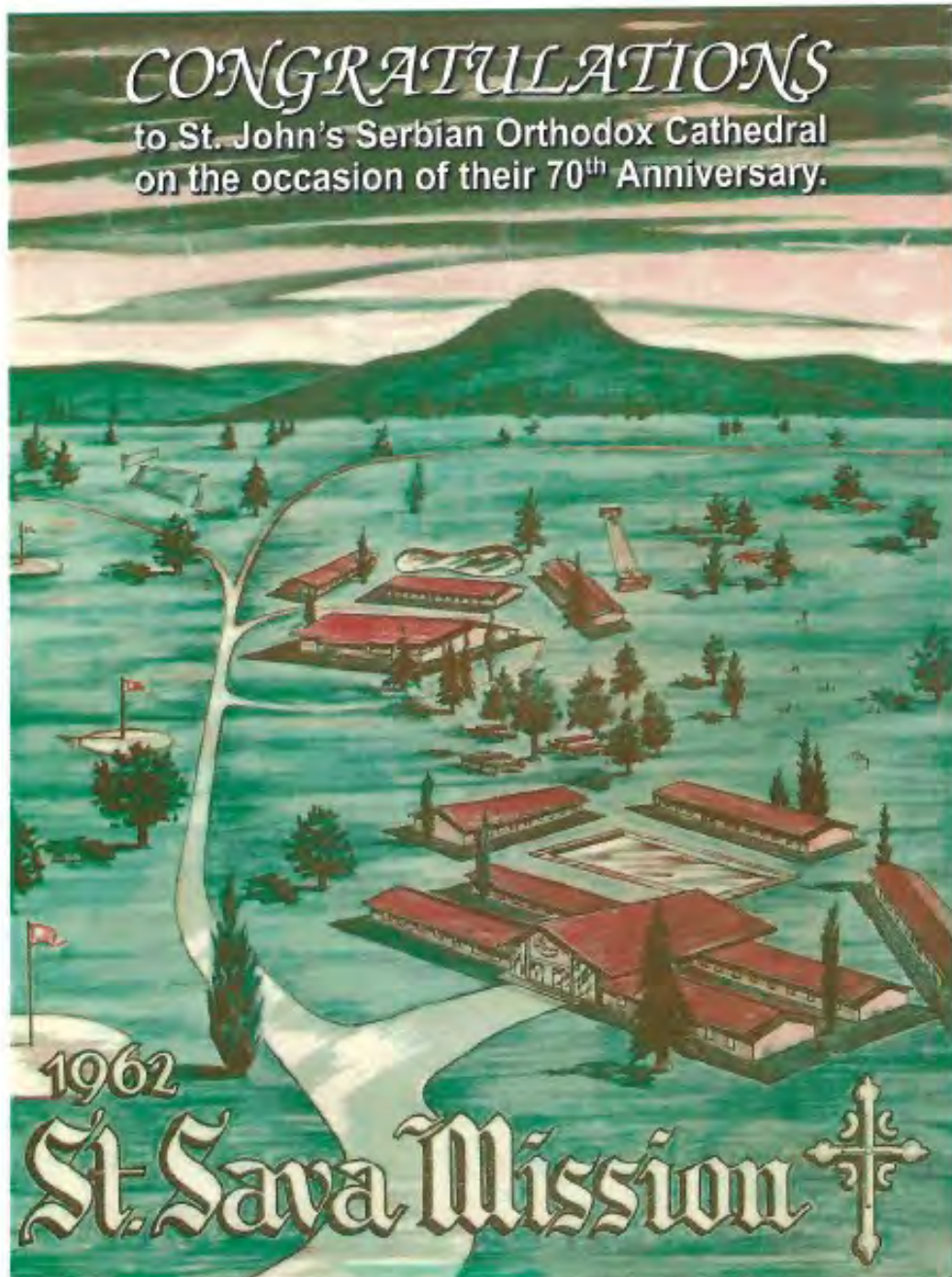
Congratulations on the
70th Anniversary!

Alex Dzigurski Family

Vojo & Vera
Sredanovich
and family

CONGRATULATIONS

to St. John's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
on the occasion of their 70th Anniversary.



Founders' Vision, circa 1962, including Children's Camp, Senior Home, Recreation and Serbian Culture

ST. SAVA MISSION FOUNDATION

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 [STSAVAMMISSIONFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/STSAVAMMISSIONFOUNDATION)

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With Congratulations and Best Wishes
on your 70^h Anniversary and Krsna Slava

Diana Zora Mihailovich
William Davidovich
Simona and Vukasin Cupic
Sandy Popovich



Special thanks to Tea & Jonathan York and Dragana & Sasa Kalezic for your generous donations! Your support has enabled us to restore these important symbols of our faith, enhancing the beauty and sanctity of our worship space. The newly refurbished crosses not only stand as a testament to our shared beliefs but also serve as a reminder of the love and dedication that our community holds for one another. We are deeply thankful for your kindness and commitment to our church. Your contribution has made a significant impact, and we are excited to see how these revitalized symbols will inspire both our congregation and visitors for years to come.



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