



THIS ISSUE

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST - LONGIN

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SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN PARISH HERALD

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

"Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice" (St. John Chrysostom).

That "Sun of Righteousness", about which St. Chrysostom is speaking, dear pious brothers and sisters, is constantly born in our hearts, developing itself into all things and all people. It does not stop to shine with unwaning light onto all who regularly relive the commemoration of one of the most wondrous nights in the history of the creation of the world. "The Sun of Righteousness" has for all times and all worlds destroyed darkness. It brightens every human heart prepared for the spiritual renewal by way of Christ's Birth by the Most-Holy Mother of God.

"Bethlehem this day resembles heaven." This small city awaited the King of Glory in the name of the entire planet. It became one great cradle and unstopably made heaven close to earth. That is why in song we emphasize this importance of the little-known town: "O Bethlehem, the glorious city of God, you are the most beautiful of all cities." As the Savior made his most glorious apostles and followers from regular and ignorant fishermen, in the same way he made this unknown city the most

glorious, deciding to be born in it specifically. The Savior could have been born in the center of the Roman Empire – Rome, in order to choose the most educated people of the times for His apostles, but He did not do so. He did not do this because

by His precense He consecrates, enlightens, teaches and makes others great. For Him, only the pure heart of man is necessary, not a head that is "wise" according to man.

Having in mind that which was said above, let us open our hearts, for the entrance of the Newborn from the Virgin, for Him Who is, the Creator and Redeemer, the All-Powerful and our Savior, so that we could become more spiritual and be reborn and ourselves connected with the glorifying of the all-joyous

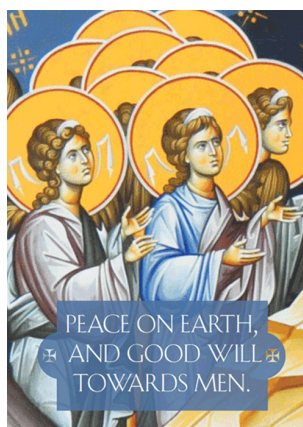
Nativity and to hear the angelic song that "comes from the stars."

To all of you, our brothers and sisters, members of our God-protected Diocese, we congratulate you most joyously, with the wish that all will be well: Peace of God! Christ is born! Happy and God-blessed New Year 2015!

Your intercessor before the cradle of Christ the God-Child,

LONGIN

Bishop of New Gracanica and Midwestern
America





SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN PARISH HERALD

CONTINUED

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, CHRIST IS BORN! INDEED HE IS BORN!

To all members and parishioners, to the youth and children of our church, we extend the warmest greetings upon the Feast Day of Our Lord's Nativity, together with the sincere wish that all of you celebrate it in good health, joy, and good fortune. It is our deepest prayer that the new-born Savior bless You all with the wonder and joy of this Season.

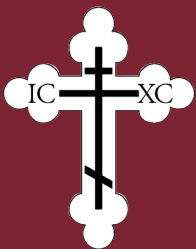
Very Reverend Father Serge Veselinovich together with the Church School Congregation of Saints Constantine & Helen

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF THE BADNJAK

PRIEST: O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, who didst plant the tree of life in Paradise so that it might bestow upon us eternal blessedness, but on account of our sin didst close the way into paradise; who on the Cross didst raise up again us who had fallen and didst lead us to salvation, do thou the same, O Lord, bless also now this tree which is a symbol of thy Cross and the Tree of Life in Paradise, and which reminds us of thy holy Birth and of the logs which the shepherds of Bethlehem kindled to warm themselves they came to worship thee, the Divine Infant, and thereby the salvation bearing cross.

Bless also our homes with the divine blessing and cleanse us all who venerate thy Nativity.

Help thy holy church to unite all with the cross, for thou art good and the lover of mankind and unto thee we send up glory, thanksgiving and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages, Amen.



CALENDAR OF CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS AT STS CONSTANTINE & HELEN JANUARY 2015 JANUARY

Sunday, January 4th
30th Sunday after Pentecost
(Sunday before the Nativity)

Tuesday, January 6th
Christmas Eve Great Vespers Service
@ 7:00p.m.
followed by the Burning of Yule Log
(Badnjak) and Traditional Lenten Meal &
Refreshments

Wednesday, January 7th
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 11th
31st Sunday after Pentecost

Wednesday, January 14th
Circumcision of our Lord;
St. Basil the Great (New Year)

Sunday, January 18th
32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, January 19th
THEOPHANY Baptism of our Lord
(Great Blessing Of Water)

Sunday, January 25th
33rd Sunday after Pentecost

All Divine Liturgies begin at 10:00 am