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THIS ISSUE

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THE MAGI
PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING
OF THE BADNJAK**

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN PARISH HERALD

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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

THE MAGI

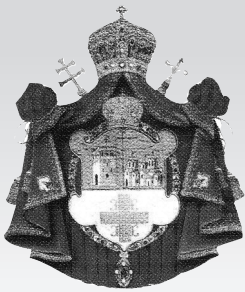
The word Magi is often translated as wise men. St. Justin the Martyr and Philosopher (died 165 A.D.) in one of his letters, interprets the Magi as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy regarding the coming of the messiah. St. Justin cites Isaiah 8:4 "before the child knows how to call 'My father' or 'My mother', the wealth of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria".

The magi were considered priests of an eastern cult and practitioners of magic and astrology. The wealth of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria represented the sorcery and idol-worship that the magi gave up when they worshiped Jesus. Their names are Balthazar, Melchior and Gaspar.

Balthazar, is a Greek corruption of the Babylonian name Belshazzar familiar with the Book of Daniel: it means "O Lord, protect the king."

Melchior, is an Aramaic name often encountered in Assyrian and Babylonian texts. It means "The king is my light."

Gaspar is a Roman corruption of Gondophares, a Parthian name in a language spoken in Persia. Two



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translations of the name are, "May he find glory" or "keeper/master of the treasure"

St. Irenaeus of Lyons alluded to the role of the magi in the allegorical interpretation of their gifts. Gold because he was a king of an eternal kingdom, frankincense (burnt on altars as divine offerings) because he was a god and myrrh (used for anointing corpses) to indicate that he would die and be buried for the sake of mankind.

Venerable Bede (8th Century) recorded a later tradition that the three magi signified the three parts of the world - Africa, Asia and Europe - and that they were thus linked with the sons of Noah, who fathered the three races of Earth.

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 a good and the lover of

mankind and to 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 2016

Sunday, January 3rd
31st Sunday after Pentecost
(Sunday of the Holy Forefathers)

Wednesday, January 6th
Christmas Eve Great Vespers Service
7:00 p.m. with Traditional Burning of Yule Log - followed by the traditional Lenten Meal and Refreshments in the Church Hall

Thursday, January 7th
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - 10:00 am

Sunday, January 10th
32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 17th
33rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, January 24th
34th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 31st
35th Sunday after Pentecost

All Divine Liturgies begin at 10:00am

