



HOLY TRINITY

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.stlserbianchurch.org

August 2026

Пут Крста - Вести Цркве Свете Тројице The Way of the Cross-News of the Church of the Holy Trinity



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Vujnich

Kolo President:
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Choir President:
Nada Buha

Sunday School Director:
Kris Chkautovich

Stewardship Committee Chair:
Nick Dopuch

Cemetery Manager:
Dragan Acamovic

Church Hall Manager:
Zoran Kurtuma

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, where you'll find reflections to nourish your spirit, important community updates, and highlights of upcoming events. Each section is designed to help you stay connected with the life of our parish and deepen your walk with Christ.

Below, you'll see a brief overview of each section in this issue along with the page number where you can find it.

- Message from the Church Board President / Now is the time to join your Choir! (p. 2)
- FOCUS Update (p. 3)
- Saint of the Month by Fr. Vladimir in Srpski & English (p. 4 -5, 6)- Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina
- SOCA Festival (p. 7): Save the dates 10/9-10/11/26
- Prologue- Dormition of the Mother of God (p. 8)
- Spomenka Corner (p. 9): Church news from Sharon
- Missions Dinner - Nov. 14 (p.10)
- 3-month calendar: Schedule of Liturgy & Services (pp. 11-13)



MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD PRESIDENT

Michael Vujnich

By the time this newsletter comes out we will be underway with SerbFest. For all those who have volunteered their time and talents, thank you very much. It takes a lot of work to put on this event. As always, we want to ensure that our guests receive the hospitality we are known for.

September 13th begins the first day of Sunday School. Kris and her helpers work very hard to ensure that the children receive proper Orthodox teachings. Please take time this month to contact her for any help she may need in planning future events for Sunday School.

It may be a couple of months away, but please mark your calendars regarding the 60th Anniversary of the SOCA Festival to be held on October 9th, 10th, and 11th. More information to come.

Thank you once again for everyone's help in all the programs and events that support Holy Trinity.

In Christ,
Michael Vujnich

Your Choir Needs You!

If you are interested in joining the choir, this is a terrific time to see who we are! No pressure to join, but you might actually like us! Take a look at the schedule and see if you can commit to singing with us for the Serbian Orthodox Choral Association Festival October 9-11. It's a great opportunity for potential new members. We are always happy to include new singers!



To join contact:
Nada Buha
(636) 626-9486
or
Adam Chkautovich
(314) 302-7592

Choir Practice Schedule

August 9
August 23
August 30
September 13
September 20
September 27
October 4

Focus Gateway City has recently experienced a marked increase in the use of its food pantry. The pantry was frequently running out of food, so the pantry is now sadly closed on Sundays during Sunday Supper. It still operates during the Wednesday breakfast service. If you feel a Godly calling to assist this important ministry, you may purchase pre-selected online food items that get shipped directly to Focus Gateway City from the following address:
<https://tinyurl.com/FocusFoodPantry>.

As a reminder, Focus Gateway City provides guests with breakfast and access to the food pantry on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. You may volunteer for breakfast service directly online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABAC2FA7F9C70-56810254-breakfast#/>

Holy Trinity will sponsor its final Focus Sunday supper of 2026 on December 20th. It is not too early to volunteer online to assist in this food service:
<https://tinyurl.com/FocusSuppers2026>.

In Christ,
 Nick Dopuch



RED THREAD

BAKERY

Serbian-inspired pastries & baked goods

	TRADITIONAL CINNAMON ROLL Soft, fluffy dough swirled with cinnamon and brown sugar, topped with creamy vanilla icing.	\$5
	HONEY WALNUT ROLL Cinnamon and brown sugar swirled with honey and crunchy walnuts, topped with vanilla icing.	\$6
	WILD BLUEBERRY MUFFIN Moist and tender muffin bursting with wild blueberries and a touch of cinnamon.	\$4
	APPLE CINNAMON CRUMBLE MUFFIN Moist muffin filled with tender apples and warm cinnamon, topped with a buttery crumble.	\$4
	VANILICE <i>Serbian Sandwich Cookies</i> Delicate, buttery cookies sandwiched with apricot jam and dusted with powdered sugar.	2-PACK \$4 6-PACK \$10

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A SMALL, LOCAL BAKERY!

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Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church

Raising Children in Faith, Tradition, and Love



Sunday School Registration
 for children ages Kindergarten-8th grade
 Begins on September 13, 2026
SIGN UP BEFORE 9/1

Contact Sunday School Director, Kris Chkautovich, for more information @314-574-4827

The Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina



The Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina are among the most moving witnesses to the suffering of the Serbian Orthodox people in the twentieth century. They were martyred during the time of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) in the summer of 1941, solely because they were Orthodox Serbs. The Serbian Orthodox Church glorifies them as Holy New Martyrs, recognizing that through their innocent sacrifice they bore faithful witness to Christ.

The village of Prebilovci, near Čapljina in Herzegovina, was one of the largest Serbian villages in the Neretva Valley before the Second World War.

In August 1941, the Ustaše rounded up nearly the entire population of the village. Most of the men had already been arrested or murdered, while the women, children, and elderly were gathered under the false pretense that they would be relocated.

On August 6, 1941, more than 550 women, children, and elderly people from Prebilovci were taken to the village of Šurmanci and thrown alive into the Golubinka Pit, a deep abyss. Many did not die immediately but endured unimaginable suffering for days before succumbing to their injuries.

Out of approximately one thousand inhabitants of Prebilovci, more than 800 were murdered during the war, making it one of the villages with the highest percentage of civilian losses in all of Europe during the Second World War. The tragedy extended far beyond Prebilovci. Thousands of Orthodox Serbs from villages and towns throughout Lower Herzegovina—including Klepci, Tasovčići, Opličići, Gabela, Čapljina, Stolac, Ljubinje, Bileća, and many others—were brutally murdered. Many victims were thrown alive into natural pits, which became mass graves. It is estimated that several thousand Orthodox Serbs from Lower Herzegovina perished in this manner during 1941.

After nearly fifty years of silence, the recovery of the victims' remains began in 1990 and 1991. Speleologists, clergy, and many volunteers descended into the deep pits to recover the bones of the martyrs. Their holy relics were then placed in the crypt of the newly built church in Prebilovci.

This was one of the most emotional and significant events in the modern history of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The tragedy did not end there. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, the church in Prebilovci, where the relics of the martyrs had been enshrined, was deliberately blown up and completely destroyed. The holy relics were once again scattered and desecrated.

After the war, whatever remained was carefully gathered once more. On the site of the destroyed sanctuary, the magnificent Church of the Resurrection of Christ and the Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina was built. The church was solemnly consecrated on August 8, 2015, when the recovered relics of the martyrs were once again reverently placed in its crypt. Today, it stands as one of the most important pilgrimage sites dedicated to the Serbian New Martyrs. The Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church formally glorified the Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina and added them to the calendar of saints.

Their feast day is celebrated annually on August 6 (July 24 according to the Julian Calendar), commemorating the day when the greatest number of women and children from Prebilovci were thrown into the Golubinka Pit.

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The Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina are remembered not only for the unimaginable suffering they endured but also as witnesses of unwavering faith and forgiveness. Their sacrifice reminds us that evil never has the final word and that Christ's Resurrection is the ultimate victory over death. Their holy relics, recovered after decades of silence and suffering, remain a sacred treasure of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Serbian people.

Today, Prebilovci is a place of pilgrimage, prayer, remembrance, and hope. The Serbian Orthodox Church commemorates more than 4,000 Holy Martyrs of Prebilovci and Lower Herzegovina, who suffered during the genocide against Orthodox Serbs in 1941. Their witness remains an enduring testimony of faith, sacrifice, and the hope of the Resurrection.

Priest Vladimir Terzic



Свети мученици пребиловачки и доњохерцеговачки

Свети мученици пребиловачки и доњохерцеговачки представљају једно од најпотреснијих сведочанстава страдања православних Срба у XX веку. Они су пострадали у време Независне Државе Хрватске (НДХ), током лета 1941. године, само зато што су били православни Срби. Српска Православна Црква их прославља као свете новомученике, јер су својом невином жртвом посведочили верност Христу.

Село Пребиловци, код Чапљине у Херцеговини, пре Другог светског рата било је једно од највећих српских села у долини Неретве. У августу 1941. године усташе су извеле готово целокупно становништво села. Највећи број мушкараца био је већ ухапшен или убијен, а жене, деца и старци су сакупљени под изговором да ће бити пресељени. Дана 6. августа 1941. године, више од 550 жена, деце и стараца из Пребиловаца одведено је до села Шурманци и бачено живо у крашку јаму Голубинку. Многи нису одмах страдали, већ су данима у најстрашнијим мукама умирали на дну јаме. Од око хиљаду становника Пребиловаца, током рата је убијено преко 800 људи, што представља један од највећих процената страдалог становништва једног села у Европи током Другог светског рата.

Страдање није задесило само Пребиловце. На подручју Доње Херцеговине убијене су хиљаде Срба из:

- Клепаца
- Тасовчића
- Опличића
- Габеле
- Чапљине
- Стоца
- Љубиња Билеће
- као и многих других места.

Многи су бацани живи у крашке јаме, које су постале масовне гробнице.

(наставак на 6. страни)

(наставак са 5. стране)

Најпознатије јаме су:

- Голубинка код Шурманаца
- Бивоље Брдо
- Јагодњача
- Хутово
- Пандурица код Љубиња
- Поплат
- као и бројне друге природне јаме широм Херцеговине.

Процењује се да је током 1941. године у доњој Херцеговини на овај начин страдало више хиљада православних Срба.

После скоро пола века ћутања, 1990. и 1991. године започето је вађење костију мученика из херцеговачких јама. Спелеолози, свештенство и бројни добровољци извлачили су остатке страдалих из дубоких бездана. Сакупљене мошти положене су у крипту новоподигнутог храма у Пребиловцима.

То је био један од најпотреснијих догађаја у новијој историји Српске Православне Цркве. Трагедија је добила и свој наставак. Током рата у Босни и Херцеговини, 1992. године, храм у Пребиловцима, у коме су биле положене мошти мученика, миниран је и савијен са земљом. Кости мученика су поново разбацане и оскрнављене.

Ипак, оно што је могло бити пронађено поново је сакупљено. На месту разрушеног храма подигнут је величанствени Храм Васкрсења Христовог и Светих пребиловачких и доњохерцеговачких мученика у Пребиловцима. Храм је освешћен 8. августа 2015. године, када су мошти мученика поново свечано положене у крипту. Данас је то једно од најзначајнијих места молитвеног сећања на српске новомученике.

Свети Архијерејски Сабор Српске Православне Цркве уврстио је пребиловачке и остале доњохерцеговачке мученике у диптих светих. Њихов празник прославља се 6. августа (24. јула по старом календару), на дан када је највећи број пребиловачких жена и деце бачен у јаму Голубинку. Свети пребиловачки и доњохерцеговачки мученици нису запамћени само по страшном страдању, већ и као сведоци вере и праштања. Њихова жртва подсећа да зло никада нема последњу реч, већ да је Христово Васкрсење победа над смрћу.

Њихове мошти, сабране после деценија, представљају светињу читавог српског народа, а Пребиловци су данас место ходочашћа, молитве и сећања на невино пострадале.

Укупно је у календару Српске Православне Цркве канонизовано више од 4.000 Светих пребиловачких и доњохерцеговачких мученика, међу којима су најпознатији страдалници из Пребиловаца, али и из читаве Доње Херцеговине, који су 1941. године мученички пострадали у бројним јамама и стратиштима. Њихов подвиг остаје трајно сведочанство вере, страдања и наде у васкрсење.

Свештеник Владимир Терзић



SAVE THE DATE!

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

60th ANNIVERSARY

October 9th, 10th and 11th

Hello Friends!

I hope you are having a great summer ! Your choir is inviting you to support us for the 60th anniversary of the Serbian Orthodox Choral Association(SOCA) the weekend of October 9th through the 11th 2026. Our choir hosted the first SOCA festival in 1966 and we have continued to support and perform throughout the USA and Canada!

The weekend will start with a casual welcome at our hall for the choirs who come in early on Friday. Posno food will be served throughout the evening and the bar will be open. The band "Becari" Will be playing for some great background music.

The concert will take place Saturday afternoon with a dinner/bbq to follow. The popular and well known band "Mladost" will be playing all evening for your singing and kolo dancing fun!

A farewell luncheon will be served after Liturgy on Sunday.

All events will take place at our church hall. Times and prices will be firmed up as we move forward.

So far, we have 7 choirs participating from the US and Canada and we look forward to hear from more! Please support your choir by attending this fun weekend!

We will have more news as the weeks go on.

Your choir has been active without a pause for 119 years!! We are here for you every Sunday. Please be here for us on this special weekend!

God Bless,
Nada Buha



From the Prologue by Saint Nikolai

The Lord Who, on Mount Sinai, gave the Fifth Commandment, Honor thy father and thy mother, showed by His own example how one should respect one's parents. Hanging on the Cross in agony, He remembered His Mother, and indicating the Apostle John He said to her: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He said to John: Behold thy mother. And so, providing for His Mother, He breathed His last. John had a home on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, in which the Theotokos then lived. She dwelt there to the end of her days on earth. By her prayers, kind guidance, meekness and patience, she greatly assisted her Son's apostles. She spent most of her remaining time on earth in Jerusalem, often visiting those places that reminded her of the great events and of the great works of her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem, and the Mount of Olives.

Of her few distant journeys, her visit to St. Ignatius the God-bearer in Antioch is recorded; as is her visit to Lazarus (whom our Lord resurrected on the fourth day), the Bishop of Cyprus. She also visited Mount Athos, which she blessed; and she stayed in Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist during the time of the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. In her old age, she often prayed to her Lord and God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible. On one of these occasions, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that she would find repose within three days. The angel gave her a palm-branch, which was to be carried in her funeral procession. She returned home with great joy, hoping in her heart to see her Son's apostles just once more in this life.

The Lord fulfilled her wish, and the apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered together at the house on Mount Zion. With great rejoicing she saw them, encouraged them, counseled them, and comforted them. Then she peacefully gave her soul to God without pain or physical illness. The apostles took up her coffin, from which a heavenly fragrance arose—and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the sepulcher of her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna. By God's providence, the procession was concealed by a cloud from the evil Jews. Even so, Aphthonius, a Jewish priest, grabbed the coffin with the intention of overturning it, but an angel of God severed both his hands. He then cried out to the apostles for help, and was healed upon declaring his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Thomas was absent—again, according to God's providence—in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would be revealed. Thomas arrived on the third day and desired to venerate the body of the Holy Most-pure One. But when the apostles opened the sepulcher, they found only the winding sheet: the body was not in the tomb! That evening, the Theotokos, surrounded by a host of angels, appeared to the apostles and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always." The Theotokos' age at the time of her Dormition is not known exactly, but the overwhelming opinion is that she was over sixty years of age.

SPOMENKA'S CORNER

COFFEE HOUR

Can you believe summer is about over and it will soon be time for children to go back to school. And all of our vacations will be over too! We are still in need of sponsors for coffee hour; the signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the bar. Please take a minute to check the dates.

Thanks to the following who did sponsor coffee hour for the month of July:

July 12: Folklore group families had a celebration in honor of Ema Kijanovic. She and her family are moving back to Serbia on the 28th of this month. Ema was the kolo teacher for the children and purchased the beautiful costumes for them. You will be missed by all. Thank you for all the time you devoted to the children; what a joy to watch them perform for us!

July 19: In honor of Nikola Marincic 90th birthday...it was great that he was able to join the great group of friends and family...even those who made the trip from Indiana, Illinois and other areas. We were treated to delicious lambs cooked by Zoran Kurtuma and cevaps grilled by Tom Britt and friends. The Marincic family and friends provided sides and desserts. What a beautiful celebration it was!

July 26: Thanks to Mike Franco for bringing sandwiches along with Georgia, Melanie and Maria Karich for bringing some sweets for the day.

MISCELLANEOUS:

We still have one silver cross left for sale available with a continuous chair for \$125; see Sharon if interested!

SERBFEST DONATIONS:

Thanks to Kathy and Vero Chkautovich for their cash donation along with Draga Krosnjarić donating 2 pigs! Hvala! Thank you too to Predrag Vukadinovic and his crew for preparing over 700 sausages on Sat 6/20.

STEWARDSHIP:

We are truly appreciative of everyone's support of our Church and its ministries through their annual stewardship commitment of time, talent and treasure. May God reward you for the good things you do!



July 12th going away party for Ema

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

As the old saying goes, "You don't truly know someone until you've shared a pound of salt with them." That's why, after Divine Liturgy, coffee hour is one of the most meaningful parts of our week at Holy Trinity.

It's a time to share food, strengthen friendships, and grow together as a church family. Hosting is simple; bring a dish to share, and everything else is provided. Whether it's something small or more elaborate, your contribution helps nourish both body and spirit.

Sign up by the kitchen or let Sharon know, and join us in building community, one cup of coffee at a time!





Mission Team St. Louis requests that you...

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 14, 2026

at St. Thomas the Apostle Church & Hall

6501 Nottingham Avenue, St Louis, MO 63109

A MISSIONS BENEFIT DINNER EVENT

5 pm Vespers, 6 pm Cocktails/Dinner, 7 pm Presentation

*"Mission begins with presence, grows through love,
and bears fruit through patient formation"*



For questions contact: Mission Team St. Louis at MissionTeamSTL@gmail.com

HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар

August / Август

August 1st - Saturday

12 pm - 10 pm SerbFest (Food stops at 8 pm)

August 2nd - Sunday, Holy Prophet Elijah

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

12 pm - 6 pm SerbFest

August 9th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

August 14th - Dormition Lent Begins / Почетак Госпојинског поста

August 16th – Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

**August 19th - Wednesday, Holy Transfiguration / Преображење
Господње**

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

August 23rd- Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

**August 28th - Friday, Dormition of the Mother of God / Велика
Госпојина**

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

August 30th – Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија



HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар

September / Септембар

September 6st - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

**September 11th – Friday, Beheading of St. John the Baptist / Усековање главе
Свето Јована Крститеља**

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 13th - Sunday / FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 19th - Saturday

5 pm- Vespers / Вечерње

September 20th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 21st – Monday, Nativity of the Mother of God / Мала Госпојина

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 27th - Sunday, Exaltation of the Precious Cross / Крстовдан

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

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HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар

October-Октобар

October 4th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

October 9th - Friday, Serbian Orthodox Choral Association Festival (S.O.C.A.)

6 - 11 pm: Welcome Social posno dinner and music by Orkestar Becari

October 10th - Saturday - S.O.C.A. Festival

10 am Divine Liturgy- Memorial Saturday / Света Литургија - Задужење

2:30 pm- Choral Concert

4:30 pm- Vespers / Вечерње

6:30 pm - Banquet, Dinner, Dancing with Musical entertainment by Mladost

October 11th – Sunday

9 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

11 am- S.O.C.A. Closing of Festival Luncheon

October 18th – Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

October 25th - Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

October 27th - Tuesday, Venerable Mother Paraskeva / Преподобна Мати Параскева

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

