

December 5, 2021

**Dear St. George Parishioners:**

I would like to thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. It truly has been a continual learning experience, as I have attempted to uphold the position to the extremely high standards that were set by previous Presidents. I continue to strive to balance my religious, family and work life but find it very difficult at times. I hope and pray that as long as you believe you are giving all that you can, you should feel proud of yourself and know that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is understanding and appreciative of your hard work.

The past four years that I have been president of our church have brought us very unexpected situations that required us to develop strategies and implement plans to address these situations as best we could for our parish. **Here is a list of just some of these situations, along with some accomplishments:**

1. Former priest being transferred to a new parish
2. Renovating the parish house
3. Receiving a new parish priest
4. Hosting our first-ever Folklore Festival
5. Addition of a new basketball court
6. Payoff of the mortgage for our property
7. The closing and sale of the St. Archangel Michael Church and their parishioners joining our church
8. World-wide Covid-19 Pandemic
9. Limiting of the attendance for Divine Liturgy
10. Providing a live stream for Divine Liturgy
11. Developing the ability for online sales, which allowed for a very successful “Curbside-only” Kolo Bazaar and Serbfest.
  - a. This can now be used going forward as a supplement to in-person festivals!
12. 2021 Church Slava & Mortgage Burning Celebration
  - a. Attendance by His Grace Bishop Longin and visiting clergy
13. Hosting of our EOYC day camp during August 2021

As the Church President, along with Father Radomir and the Church Board, I believe we tried to take various factors into consideration when establishing protocols and making decisions that affected our parish. I would like to believe that based on these decisions, our parish has become stronger and have better prepared ourselves for the future.

There is a quote I recently read that I truly believe our parish represents: “***There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit***”. Based on how our parish responded to these situations, I believe we have proved this quote!

I would like to thank the Choir for their unrivaled dedication in singing responses for Divine Liturgy, weddings, funerals and other services. Their ability to mobilize and accept requests is to be commended. Whether it be 5 people for a weekday funeral or 40 people for a wedding, they sing responses beautifully.

Although I always had tremendous respect for what the Kolo provides to our parish, these past four years working more directly with the Kolo has brought me an increased appreciation of their role in our Parish. Thanks to our Kolo for all their hard work. They truly are the backbone of our parish!

Additionally, I would like to give a SPECIAL THANKS to those parishioners who have dedicated their time and energy to perform the “behind-the-scenes” work, as without you, it would be difficult to accomplish our goals. All of us play an important role in the success of our Church community.

On a sad note, our parish has lost numerous parishioners during this time, including several very influential members that will be greatly missed. May their memories be eternal. Fortunately, we have also experienced the *miracle of prayers* as several of our parishioners who had very difficult health issues have been able to regain their health or are working through these challenges. Let’s continue to extend our prayers and well-wishes to all of our parishioners.

Continuing and building relationships with our Serbian parishes in Omaha, NE and Des Moines, IA should be a high priority for our parish. Participating in each other’s Slava weekends is a great way to accomplish this goal. There was a nice contingent from these parishes for our Slava weekend and we represented well at their Slava weekends. Please consider traveling to these cities in the upcoming year.

As I have previously mentioned, I believe that our Church should be a place where we can all attend and look to one another for support, guidance and friendship. With that being said, I would again challenge all of us to be more encouraging and positive towards one another. We have enough problems, stress and various other issues in our daily lives that we can use our Church to offset these issues with heart-warming activities that are available in our Church community. Additionally, please continue to increase your dedication of time and energy to assist our Church in providing us a bridge to become closer to our Heavenly Father and provide a place of worship and fellowship for our current and future generations.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for their support these past four years. My wife Shauna and my daughters, Anna & Maia who never hesitate to help when it comes to church activities and understand when I have to “do church stuff”. Their understanding and ability to join me in holding their church and family as their highest priorities is truly a blessing.

With God’s blessing and guidance, I hope to continue to serve this Church in whatever capacity that is required of me. Thanks again for everyone’s support.

Paul Bajich – Church President, 2018 – 2021

***“Ask not what the Church can do for you,  
But what You can do for YOUR Church”***