

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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**JULY 7, 2019**

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**The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John:** The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children since Elizabeth was barren.

Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, who predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son. Zachariah was troubled and he had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave.

Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Epistle - Romans 5:1-10 Epistle - Romans 13:11-14; 1-4 Gospel - Matthew 6:22-33  
Gospel - Luke 1:5-25; 57-68; 76-80**

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**SERVICE THIS WEEK:** Friday, July 12 – **Sts. Peter and Paul, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 am**

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**VISITS:** Andrew Malobabich -At Home

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On occasion of the **upcoming Assembly of the Serbian Orthodox Dioceses** in the United States of America, His Grace Bishop Longin, President of the Episcopal Council and host hierarch, issued today the following statement:

*"In just a few days, from July 13-16th, my brother hierarchs and I will have the joy of convening the quinquennial Assembly of our Holy Serbian Orthodox Dioceses in the United States of America, commemorating the **800th Anniversary of the granting of Autocephaly to our local church and to Saint Sava, our first archpastor, at the historic monastery dedicated to him in Libertyville, Illinois.***

We encourage all parish representatives to attend this once in a lifetime event and we sincerely look forward to welcoming you all to this joyous celebration and feast. - Dobro nam dosli!" More info at [www.stsavamonastery.org](http://www.stsavamonastery.org)

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**NEXT Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a CUPOLA FUNDRAISER LUNCH following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. The menu will consist of Burek, Gibanica, Serbian Salad, Dessert and Beverages. Donation is just \$10.00.**

**We are excited to inform you that the project is moving along and construction was started several weeks ago and progress is being made.**

**In your July envelopes that you receive in the mail you now have an envelope that says CUPOLA. PLEASE remember your loved ones and use this envelope to make a donation to this fund in memory of them.**

**Thank you and we hope you will be able to join us for lunch NEXT SUNDAY!**



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**PURSE BASH TICKETS: PLEASE SEE SAMANTHA MILOSH-BALDWIN TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!**

**OR EMAIL HER AT: [smilosh14@gmail.com](mailto:smilosh14@gmail.com) or call 724-462-1402**