

Christmas Eve celebrated in Cincinnati, Ohio

On Saturday, January 6, 2014, the parishioners and friends of St. George Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, gathered around their church to traditionally celebrate Christmas Eve and prepare for Christ's Nativity, although many churches canceled their services due to the extremely cold and bad weather.

Vesper Service was served by Very Reverend Fr. Petar Petrovic at 6:30 pm., which officially announced the arrival of Christmas. During the evening service the priest was assisted in the altar by Adam Meador, Veljko Uverić, Thomas Fraser, Marko Petrovic and brothers Michael and Matthew Thompson.

In a crowded Church you could notice Serbs, Romanians, Bulgarians, Russians and members of other nationalities. Father Petar prepared brochures about the schedule of services to all present in their native languages: in English, Serbian, Romanian and Bulgarian, and at the end of the evening service Father Petar briefly welcomed all those present in several languages which caused their great joy.

After the evening service and sermon, the treasurer of the Church Council Dimitrije Jovic brought straw into the church, and parishioners Damjan Gligorević and Sasa Krsmanovic yule logs. When they were entering the church with the song "Oh Yule Log, Oh Yule Log ", the children were throwing nuts and wheat .

After the blessing of yule logs, parishioners were reverently approaching and kissing the holy gospel, icon and cross. Fr. Petar greeted everyone with the words "Peace of God, Christ is Born". Vice President of the Church Council, Marko Mijac, handed to all parishioners free church wall calendar in the church, and on behalf of Serbian Sisters Protinitza Gordana Petrovic presented Christmas gifts to all children at the church hall.

Beginning of joyous Christian Holiday was marked by the presentation and burning of Yule Log and straw, on the fire already prepared on parking lot. Large number of parishioners attended the burning of the Yule Log. After evening prayer and burning of the Yule Log, Fr.Petar urged all those present to come to church hall, for free Dinner and traditional "Šumadijski Tea".

Overall impression was that the parish in Cincinnati progresses, both spiritually and materially.

One of the parishioners in the church hall told me: "This celebration means a lot to me, I've had it since my childhood; my parents raised me this way that I am really looking forward to this holiday as to Easter."

Then let us rejoice: PEACE OF GOD! CHRIST IS BORN!

Very Reverend Petar Petrovic