

ST ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Parish Handbook



Divine Liturgy Sundays - 10am

Weekday Feast Day Services - 9:00am

Sunday School - 10am

Fellowship Luncheon Sundays - 12 noon

18870 Allendale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070
408.867-4876
www.samichael.org
info@samichael.org

ST ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Dear visitors of St. Archangel Michael Church,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

On behalf of the entire parish board of St. Archangel Michael, Serbian Orthodox Church, we want to extend a warm welcome to everyone visiting us for the first time. Whether you're just having a look or are searching for a place to worship, we are blessed to have you here.

Every person who walks through our doors is important to us. We're all about relationships. We hope to cultivate and grow meaningful and positive relationships with one another and go further by getting and growing in our relationship with God.

We encourage you to fill out our contact card, which you will find in this bulletin. Please include your name, email, and phone number; we'd love to stay in touch and let you know about upcoming events we're planning for the next few months.

Feel free to contact us after the services or email us at info@samichael.org if you want more information. Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

With love in Christ,

Father Vido

(Very Reverend Father Vidoslav Vujasin)

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History of St. Michael Parish

A small but dynamic group of local Serbs met at the Greek Orthodox Church in Saratoga on August 27, 1960 and founded Holy Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church with the help of the Kolo Srpskih Sestara (Circle of Serbian Sisters).

The fledgling church's first president was Obrad Kosich. In June of 1961, the Mijo Miljevich family donated 3 ½ acres in Saratoga on which to build a church. In addition to a church, the parishioners' plan included a social hall, Sunday School building, children's play area, parish home, and ample parking. The Kolo began Sunday School classes with 26 children and were conducted at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Saratoga.

Following Diocesan approval of the newly organized church, the "opstina" celebrated its first Krsna Slava on November 26, 1961 in a local Episcopal church. Services were performed by Reverend Fathers Svetozar Djuranovic and Borivoj Pavlovic of the San Francisco and Oakland parishes, respectively.

Thereafter, work immediately began to hire an architect to build the social hall, which would temporarily serve as a place of worship and for social gathering. The groundbreaking took place in May of 1962 and dedication of the hall followed in April of 1963. It was blessed by His Grace The Right Reverend Bishop Dionisije. The parish's first assigned priest was the Very Rev. D.J. Shoukletovich, Dean Emeritus of St. Sava Cathedral of New York City.

In November of 1968, under the leadership of Rev. Stoilo Ilich (1967-1976), the Sunday school building as well as the parish home were dedicated. The home was built through the efforts of a small, but dedicated group of parishioners. The Trifco Ivancovich family donated the Sunday

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school building which had a capacity for three classrooms, but has since served as the parish chapel pending completion of a future church.

In May of 1963, an unfortunate decision caused a division of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the diaspora. The St. Archangel Michael parish was divided, with many parishioners leaving to establish a new church in Cupertino. The schism endured until 2000 when, by the Grace of God, unity was restored between the parishes. The membership of St. Sava Church in Cupertino sold the property. Proceeds of the sale, together with the building fund of St. Archangel Michael Church, created the means to build a larger church on the Allendale Avenue property.

In June of 2001 a building committee was formed to organize the process. As of August 2023, church construction is still in progress, but is nearing completion with us holding Sunday Services there. In March 2000 the parish welcomed Very Rev. Protopresbyter Slobodan Jovic, his Protinica Djurdja and son Predrag. His last service, preretirement, was on May 23, 2021. He was succeeded by Very Rev. Protopresbyter Vidoslav Vujasin with his wife Protinica Carolina. Fr. Vidoslav held his first service with the parish on June 6, 2021.

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Great Feasts of the Church

Please check the website Calendar www.samichael.org for a list of feasts and service times.
Please sign up for our weekly bulletin for the latest information.

January 6th	Christmas Eve - Badnje vece	January 9th	St. Archdeacon and Protomartyr Stephen
January 7th	Christmas - Nativity of Christ	January 14th	St. Basil the Great - New Year
January 19th	Theophany / Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ	January 20th	St. John the Baptist
February 15th	Meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	January 27th	St. Sava, 1st Archbishop of Serbia
April 7th	The Annunciation	8 days before Pascha	Lazarus Saturday - St. Lazarus
Sunday before Pascha	Palm Sunday / Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem	May 6th	St. George the Great Martyr
Great and Holy Pascha	Easter Sunday - Pascha - Resurrection of our Lord	May 12th	St. Basil of Ostrog
Forty days after Pascha	Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ	June 28th	St. Lazar the King - St. Vitus - Vidovdan
Fifty days after Pascha	Pentecost	July 12th	Sts. Peter and Paul
August 19th	Transfiguration of our Lord	August 2nd	Holy Prophet Elijah
August 28th	The Dormition of the Theotokos	October 27th	St. Petka - Parasceva of Serbia
September 21st	The Nativity of our Most Holy Theotokos	October 31st	St. Apostle Luke
September 27th	The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross	November 8th	Hl. Great Martyr Demetrios
December 4th	The Entry into the Temple of the Most of Holy Theotokos	November 21st	Hl. Archangel Michael
		December 19th	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

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Church Events

Please check our website for dates related to these annual events.

Sunday School Slava

The Sunday School Slava is dedicated to St. Sava, the first Archbishop of Serbia, the founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and who is viewed as the protector of children. The actual date of this Slava is January 27.

Kolo Slava

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Archangel Michael Church are also known as our Kolo (or 'Circle' in Serbian). They celebrate the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary as their patron saint. The actual date of this Slava is September 21.

Church Slava

Our church is dedicated to Saint Archangel Michael. The actual date of this Slava is November 21. On the Sunday closest to this day, the clergy and parishioners of the Serbian Orthodox parishes within the Bay Area come and join us in celebration of our patron saint.

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Annual Community Events

Blood Drive

In partnership with the American Red Cross, our parish hosts an annual blood drive that is held in our church parish hall.

Serbian Food Festival

We open our doors to the greater San Francisco Bay Area and welcome the community to enjoy some Serbian savory delicacies and sweet treats, as well as wine and beer imported from Serbia. Guests can enjoy listening and dancing to Serbian music as well as being exposed to our rich and beautiful culture.

Sarma Festival

Sarma is a Serbian stuffed cabbage that many Serbs serve for special occasions. We invite parishioners and the community to come and enjoy homemade Sarma and other Serbian foods which are usually served with Sarma.

Cevap (Chevap) Festival

Considered a national dish of the Serbs, Cevaps are grilled minced meat in the shape of mini sausages. We invite parishioners and the community to come and enjoy homemade Cevaps and other Serbian foods which are usually served with Cevaps.

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Ministries

Contact us at 408.867.4876

Ministry	Lead	Contact	Ext
Parish Council (Board)	Chris Milosovich	parishcouncil@samichael.org	510
Kolo	Susan Pavich	kolo@samichael.org	512
Choir	Chris Milosovich	choir@samichael.org	514
Children's Education	Filip Petronijevic	school@samichael.org	516
Adult Education	Father Vidoslav	adultschool@samichael.org	518
Altar Boys	Father Vidoslav	altarboys@samichael.org	520
Tutoring	Vojo Sredanovich	tutors@samichael.org	522
Welcoming Committee	Chris Milosovich/Dragoslav Grbovich	welcome@samichael.org	526
Outreach/Visitation	Maja Bulatovic	outreach@samichael.org	528
Building Committee	Ted Miljevich	building@samichael.org	530
Humanitarian	Jelena Vukicevich	humanitarian@samichael.org	532
Stewardship	John Medan	stewardship@samichael.org	534

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PARISH BOARD

Board Leadership

Fr. Vidoslav - Parish Priest
Chris Milosovich, President
Dragoslav Grbovic, First Vice President
John Medan, Second Vice President
Mary Bogdanovich, Secretary
Tanja Vrcelj, Treasurer
Nenad Vukicevic, Financial Secretary

Board Members

Robert Adzich
Ted Miljevich
Michael Vrcelj
Alexandra Lisonek

The Parish Board of the church is responsible for developing a strategy and plan to achieve the church's core mission. It oversees and ensures there is responsible stewardship of church resources and that it maintains financial accountability and solvency. As a non-profit organization, the Board of Directors has a responsibility to ensure that the church stays true to its core and comply with all the governing laws. It is elected at the annual stewardship / membership meeting and its composition is governed by the by-laws of the church and Western American Diocese of the Serbian Church. The members of the board are elected on a one-year term with certain limitations for the positions of the president, treasurer, and financial secretary. Any member in good standing can be elected for a position in the Administrative Board. Contact us at Board@samichael.org

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Church Groups

Kolo

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Archangel Michael (or "Kolo"), which is the short Serbian term for Circle of Serbian Sisters), plays an integral part in our church community. Their never-ending efforts to help support and preserve our beautiful church, community and grounds is a shining example of their volunteering efforts and devotion to the church to help preserve our traditions and encourage us all to do what we can to be better Serbian Orthodox Christians. The Kolo is involved in almost every aspect of the running of the church and we are truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of women who work relentlessly to support the teachings of Jesus Christ and our church congregation.

If you are interested in learning more about the Kolo or in becoming a member, please contact Susan Pavich, Kolo President. kolo@samichael.org

Choir

The St. Archangel Michael Choir has been performing Liturgical responses since the founding of our Church in 1960. The Choir also has performed concerts at many bay area churches and responded at countless wedding and funeral services for our Church. The Choir practices weekly and is always interested in new singers to join.

Please reach out if you are interested in participating to Chris Milosovich. choir@samichael.org

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Education

Children's Education

The mission of the Sunday School is to enable and facilitate education of children by teaching Serbian Orthodox faith, Serbian language, Serbian culture and traditions and to promote community building among the families of Serbian Orthodox and other Orthodox descent or affiliation. The School is a nonprofit volunteer organization. It shall be an official auxiliary of St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church. As an official auxiliary of the Church, the School shall work in accordance with the religious doctrine of the Orthodox church, all church-sponsored affairs, and the bylaws of the Church. The Sunday school is led by Filip Petronijevic.

If you are interested in volunteering to help organize the school or teach a class, please reach out via email to Filip Petronijevic school@samichael.org

Adult Education

The gospel teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church fathers are timeless, and they maintain their importance throughout history. It is our goal to fulfill the mission and task that our Lord gave to his disciples, "Go (therefore) and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you." (MT28,19).

The adult education ministry of our parish strives to fulfill that commandment. Besides the Divine Liturgy, the Gospel readings, and sermons, we occasionally organize lectures, book presentations, religion classes for adults, and cultural events with the purpose of educating adults to better understand the basics and principles of our faith. These programs are open to all existing parishioners, those who are newly baptized and converted adults in our community, as well as any other adult who wishes to learn more about our faith and the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The knowledge learned, passed, and shared among the faithful should refresh, build and form the consciousness of all our parish members. *As long as we live, we learn to understand the will of God in our lives.* Contact Fr. Vido at adultschool@samichael.org

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Church Service Support

Altar Boys

Altar boys play an important role in the church by assisting the parish priest during services. They carry the cross, candles or liturgical fans in processions and entrances, maintain the censer, ensuring it has enough live charcoal, loading it with incense and handing it to the parish priest when required. They also prepare the hot water in time for it to be added to the chalice at the Divine Liturgy, prepare the Holy Bread (Nafora) for people to receive after Holy Communion and at the end of the services. They may also be responsible for reading from the Epistle. Altar boys wear an Altar robe, which is blessed by the parish priest prior to placing it on. While there is no age requirement to become an Altar boy, it is recommended that the boy understand the importance of this position before taking on these responsibilities.

If you are interested in becoming an Altar boy or have a son who is interested, please contact Father Vido for additional information at altarboys@samichael.org

Tutor

Our church tutors are the first individuals whom visitors and parishioners meet as they enter our church. They play an important role in welcoming all who come to the church, whether to learn more about our Orthodox faith or come to participate in the liturgical services.

In addition to welcoming people to the church, the tutor is also responsible for selling the candles, passing the church plate, collecting offerings from the church congregation, recording the collections and delivering them to the appropriate church elder for deposit at the end of each service. Our Tutors are organized and led by Vojo Sredanovich. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, reach out to him at tutors@samichael.org

Committees

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee's responsibility is to reach out to new members of the parish and make them feel welcome. Another important role is to be sure new members are familiar with all the services of which they may avail themselves and all the ministries in which they can become involved. The Welcome Committee contacts newly-registered families and collects their contact information. There are no special requirements for joining except a willingness to help newcomers get started in a way they feel comfortable in their new Parish environment.

For more information, please contact the Welcoming Committee Coordinators, Chris Milosevich or Dragoslav Grbovich at welcome@samichael.org

Building Committee

Our grand home of worship and gathering is a lasting and timeless treasure we all enjoy. With its use, comes constant care and maintenance. Our building committee keeps our property, both inside and outside, in a good state of operation. Repairs, upgrades and new projects are always taking place. Basic landscape maintenance and watering is always an area we can use volunteer help. Basic handyman skills and volunteer labor help are always appreciated. Please contact us to volunteer your time or skills and or make a pledge to a project.

Contact: Ted Miljevich at building@samichael.org

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Ministries

Humanitarian

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

The church's humanitarian ministry is based on teachings from the Bible, where charity and assistance to the poor and those in need are well established in the Old Testament. As Jesus taught much about the subject of charity, our permanent humanitarian effort is there to help the underprivileged and people with disabilities, no matter friends or foes. Our efforts are both in our local communities in the US and worldwide, mainly in the area of the Balkan peninsula. We also strongly support the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and their efforts throughout the Orthodox Christian world.

Four KOLO's is the humanitarian effort of the Bay Area Serbian Orthodox churches to support children and families, primarily in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo & Metohija with the basic essential needs to survive. Our parish partners with the IOCC effort in providing children with school essentials, along with the community rebuilding program called "Roof Over." We also provide support for 'First Harvest Food Bank' in feeding the poor of the Bay Area. In addition, support is provided for various shelters in the Bay Area. This committee is organized by Jelena Vukicevic. If you are interested in helping, reach out to her at humanitarian@samichael.org

Stewardship

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This ministry involves the complete participation of each household that makes up our parish family. All are called to give their time, talent and treasures to our Lord and to His church.

Through the Stewardship Ministry, Together with Fr. Vido and the Stewardship team, our mission is to further the spiritual growth, vibrancy and enthusiasm of our community.

As a member of the stewardship committee, you will be participating in the implementation, outreach and management of the stewardship program of our church. Our ministry will educate our parishioners about stewardship through personal visitation with parishioners, speakership sessions, implementing and tracking pledges and talents given in our tracking database. People of all ages are welcome to participate. If you would like to help be part of the organizing committee, or perform community on behalf of the committee, reach out to John Medan at: stewardship@samichael.org