

# CARMICHAELS MARKS *68 Years*

by Father Rodney Torbic

CARMICHAELS, PA – For almost seven decades the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Carmichaels has been consistently serving the faithful in the area, including nearby West Virginia. The parish church was consecrated sixty-eight years ago. The parish has endured through the economic changes with dramatic job losses in area coal mines. It was originally built and sustained by miners and their families and has carried on and attracted new members.

When NATO bombs were dropping on our beloved Serbs in the former Yugoslavia, the parish offered daily prayers in support of their Serbian Orthodox brothers and sisters deeply affected. During the time of the 9/11 attacks on America and the days that followed, St. George Church offered a peaceful and comforting haven. The parish exists today with resolute faith in a bright and growing future.

In celebration and thanksgiving of God's blessings during the past 68 years, the parish faithful and friends gathered around their Diocesan Bishop for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a festal banquet on November 6, 2022. His Grace Bishop Irinej officiated accompanied by the newly elevated host priest Protopresbyter Sasa Nedic, Protopresbyter Stavrophor Dr. Rodney Torbic, Reverend Deacon Daniel August, and Reverend Deacon Darko Tripkovic.

It was during the Divine Liturgy that the parish joyously experienced the elevation of their beloved priest to Protopresbyter. During the same service, Bishop Irinej prayed for parish faithful living and departed and friends and supporters. In his heart-centered homily, His Grace spoke with clarity and detail of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Seed planted in he-

arts to grow in humility to bring forth fruit with patience.

Joy was added to the Divine Liturgy by the festal singing of the guest Czar Lazar Choir under the direction of George Milosh. Choir members are men from parishes in the Pittsburgh Deanery glorifying God through their singing.

The festal banquet followed at Dolfi's Restaurant in Masontown. Protopresbyter Sasa Nedic expressed his great joy for having Bishop Irinej, fellow clergy, parishioners, and friends being a part of the celebration. As part of His remarks at the banquet, His Grace Bishop Irinej recognized the many officials attending the banquet including Pennsylvania State Senator Camera Bartolotta, State Representative Pam Snyder, former State Speaker of the House William Deweese, Masontown Mayor Toni Petrus, former Masontown Chief of Police Joseph Ryan, West Virginia House of Delegates member Mark Zatezalo, and United Mine Workers of America Local #1980 President Jim Riggi.

Economos Very Reverend Father Branimir Golic drove from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church in Aliquippa to be present for the celebration at the banquet.

Following his remarks, Parish Executive Board President Stan Brozik was honored by State Representative Pam Snyder with a Certificate of Recognition for his contributions to St. George Church.

Drustvo Orchestra played during the banquet for the listening pleasure of the attendees, which was the largest gathering of faithful and friends in more than twenty years, a sign of both the health of the parish and God's continuous blessings.

***Beloved parish priest Father Sasa Nedic, center, was elevated to Protopresbyter by His Grace Bishop Irinej during the Divine Liturgy as the Carmichaels parish celebrated 68 years.***



## East European Festival 2022 University of Pittsburgh

by Milos Rastovic

PITTSBURGH, PA – On October 16, 2022, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia, Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs, Ukrainian Culture Club, and University Center for International Studies at University of Pittsburgh sponsored the East European Festival at the Cathedral of Learning. On behalf of the Serb National Federation, I participated at this event along with many other ethnic groups from the Balkan region and Eastern Europe, gathering people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Slovakia, and Serbia, among other places. I am grateful to Deborah Studen-Pavlovich of SNF Lodge #72 "Alexander Karadjordjevič" Midland, and Kenneth Kornick, representatives of the Yugoslav Nationality Room, who offered excellent support during the festival.

The festival beautifully demonstrated the richness and diversity of Eastern European and European culture in general, a lineage claimed by many in the Greater Pittsburgh area. I spoke with many visitors about Serbian-American history and the mission of

the Serb National Federation. Visitors showed their interest in Serbian culture and history. Guests enjoyed different ethnic delicious cuisines, music, traditional dances, and cultures. The program was opened by Gypsy Stringz who performed music from different East European regions in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning. Kathleen Manukyan and Zuly Inirio, sopranos, accompanied by Robert Frankenberry on piano, gave an excellent performance enchanting the audience.

The SNF joins all participants in the festival in thanking the sponsors who made this event possible, and expresses hope they will continue this effort for many years to come.



From left are Kenneth Kornick, Milos Rastovic, and Deborah Studen-Pavlovich



Traditional Eastern European costumes are on display



Gypsy Stringz entertained



Soprano Kathleen Manukyan was accompanied by Robert Frankenberry