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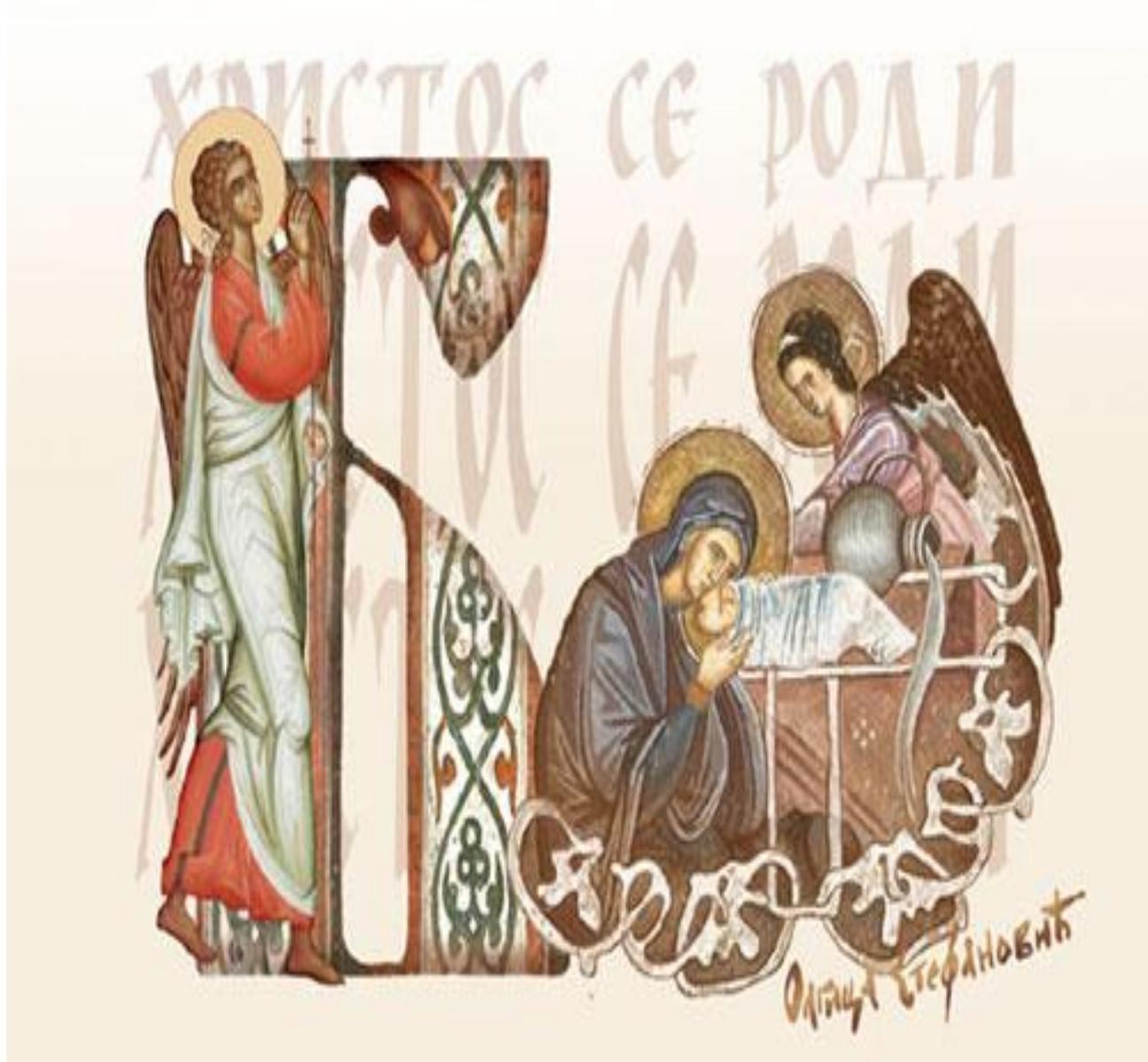


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News of Orthodox parish
Charlotte

St. Simeon Mirotočivi
North Carolina

MONTH OF JANUARY



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OUR HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH CELEBRATES: JANUARY

CHRISTMAS - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



Nativity of the Lord and God our Savior, Jesus Christ. "In the fullness of time, God sent His only begotten Son" (Gal 4: 4), to save the human race. And when nine months of the enunciation pass, where Archangel Gabriel and the blessed camels arrive in Nazareth, Gabriel saying, "Rejoice, of grace ... here conceive and give birth to a son, and thou shalt name him Jesus" (Luke 1, 18 and 31). At that time, the order went out from Caesar Augustus to take a census of all the people in the Roman Empire. Pursuant to that order, all citizens needed to go to the city of their birth to be counted. Therefore, righteous Joseph came with the holy camels in Bethlehem, the town of David, because both of them were from the lineage of David. So in the small town of David, there were many people present for the census and Joseph and Mary could not find lodging in any house, and so they found shelter in an enclave for sheep. In this enclave, in the night between Saturday and Sunday, 25 December was born the Holy Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Bearing Him without pain, like Him and being

without sin and in the Holy Spirit, and not of a man, she herself wrapped the child in linen diapers, worshiped him as God, and laid him in a manger. Then came righteous Joseph, and he worshiped Him as a divine fruit from the virginal womb. Then came the shepherds from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and they worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. It was heard by the shepherds a multitude of angels of God as a choir singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men" (Lk 2, 14). At that time came the three wise men from the East guided by a star, with their gifts: gold, incense and myrrh, and they worshiped the child as the Emperor of kings, and granted him their gifts (Matthew 2). So comes the One, whose arrival was foretold by the prophets, born as they predicted, in Bethlehem, from the lineage of David, at a time when the Jews did not rule in Jerusalem but Herod reigned as a stranger. After many of the delegates, harbingers, prophets, righteous men, wise men, emperors, finally, the Lord of the world and King of kings, begins to carry out the work of salvation of the human. To Him be eternal glory and praise. Amen.

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Sabor Holy Mother of God



The Second Day of Christmas in the Christian Church gives praise and glory to the Most Holy, Our Lady, who gave birth to the Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Parliament is its title this celebration because it is the day the sum of all the faithful celebrate the Virgin Mother, and what the council serves to honor Her. In Ohrid there is an old custom that on the eve of the second day of Christmas evening only serve the Holy Mother of God called The Head. All the clergy with the people here celebrated the Mother of God, the pure.

St. Stefan was the first martyr, the archdeacon



A relative of the Apostle Paul, and one of the Jews who lived by the Hellenic areas. Stefan was the first of the seven deacons, an apostle set on the charge of aiding orphans in Jerusalem. That's why he's called the Archdeacon. By the force of his faith Stefan displayed great wonders among the people. Evil Jews opposed him, but still he won through wisdom and power of the Spirit. Then the ashamed Jews, using slander and libel, and troubling the people and elders of the people against the innocent Stefan, bad-mouthing him as though he blasphemed against God and Moses. Quickly they found false witnesses to confirm. Then Stefan stood before the people, and all they saw his face "as the face of an angel" (Acts 6, 15), that is, his face was beaming as at the first light of grace to Moses, when he spoke with God. And Stefan opened his mouth from it came many blessings and miracles of God, that God had done in the past, for the people of Israel, as well as many crimes and opposition to God on the part of the people. In particular, he scolded them for the murder of Christ the Lord calling them "traitors and executioners" (Acts 7, 12). And while they gnashed their teeth, Stefan looked and saw heaven opened, and saw the glory of God. And what they saw, from their own Testament, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7, 56). Then he was brought out by the spiteful ones outside of town and killed by stoning. Among his torturers was Saul, later the Apostle Paul. At the time, standing in the distance on a rock, Saint Mary and St. John the Theologian eyed the martyrdom of this first martyr for the truth of her Son and God, praying to God for Stefan. It happened a year after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The



body of St. Stephen was secretly taken and buried on his farm Gamal, a Jewish prince and a secret Christian. So ends the first of the Christian martyrs as he moves on to Empire of Christ of God.

Circumcision of the Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ



On the eighth day after giving birth to the divine youth, he was brought to the temple and circumcised according to the law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. On that occasion his name Jesus as the Archangel Gabriel blessed. Old Testament circumcision and New Testament baptism: Circumcision of the Lord says that He took it upon himself as a true human body, though it is not apparent how the heretics subsequently learned about Him. Still, the Lord was circumcised as he wanted to meet the law, which He Himself has given through the prophets and forefathers. Having fulfilled the statutory regulations He replaced them by baptism into His Church. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision helps, but a new creation" (Gal. 6, 15), published by the apostles. (The church service this feast of the Lord does not predpraznistva not popraznistva).

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea

Born in the time of Emperor Constantine. Even while unbaptized, he taught for 15 years in Athens the subjects philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all the other sciences world of that time. His classmates were: Gregory the Theologian and Julian, the latter Emperor. From the age baptized in the Jordan River, together with his former teacher. He was the Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia close to 10 years, and completed his earthly life at 50. A big supporter of Orthodoxy, a bastion of moral purity and religious zeal, a great theological mind, a strident pillar of the church of God - Basil is called the Grand. The church service is called a Doctor of the Church of Christ, which carries between believers and their sting bode heretics. Many are the preserved works of this Father of the Church, theological, apologetic, ascetic and canonical; as well as the service named after him.



This service is used 10 times in the year, as follows: January 1, on the eve of Christmas, on the eve of the Epiphany, in any subject except Sundays Holy Flower, on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Peacefully St. Basil passes from this realm on January 1 379 years, and moves into the realm of Christ.

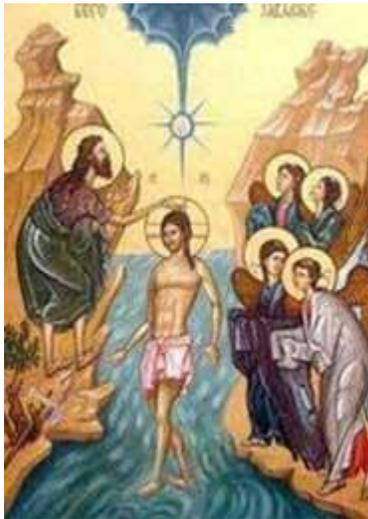


Epiphany of the Lord

Christ has come, truth be told! This day celebrates the memory of Christ's baptism in the Jordan River and the appearance of God in the form of a dove and the voice, "This is my Son, listen to Him."

Epiphany of the Lord, which dwells in the waters of the Jordan, you should remember that the Lord our God is never without a reason not answered at this point. This feast shows us God in the form of singular and indivisible Trinity. That is how each of us by baptism in water are well kept in the Light of the Father, the Son, and thanks to the force of the Holy Spirit.

On this day in all the churches and temples bless water, which is taken by the people to their homes. It has spiritual and healing properties. Its characteristics are reflected in the fact that throughout the year remains fresh and avenged. It is kept in special containers and is used with a sincere belief against illness, or any other adversity. On the very day of the Epiphany can be sprayed with her every corner of the house, but all the other days nothing can be sprayed. The Healthy can drink the previously prepared therefore, by fasting the day, then drinking in the morning and taken when and like the Holy Communion.



When the Lord Jesus was thirty years old, He began His teaching and saving work. And alone, the beginning of the beginning was his baptism in the Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says: "The beginning of holy water, the beginning of the Gospel in Jordan." In the baptism of the Lord in the water announced to the world the secret that she hinted at in the Old Testament, the one in old Egypt, and India, ie. divine secrets of the Holy Trinity.

The father reported hearing feelings, the Spirit contacted feelings of vision, and the son reported the feelings of touch. The Father pronounced his testimony about his Son. The Son was baptized in water and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovering over the water. When John the Baptist saw him approach, he said of Christ: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1, 29) and when he was baptized in the Jordan Lord, at that time appeared the mission of Christ in the world and our salvation. The Lord takes away the sin of the human, and under that he dies and comes alive (out of water); and we must die as an old man of sin and be revived as cleaned, restored and reborn. This is the Savior, and this is the way of salvation. Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany, Greek) enlightens showing us God as the Trinity and One. Second, because each of us by baptism in water enlightens in that we become a Light of the Father, the Son, thanks to the force of the Holy Spirit.

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Saint John the Baptist



Because John's main role in life played out on the day of Epiphany, the Church of antiquity dedicated the day after his mention of the Epiphany. This day is still associated with the right hand of John. Luke the Evangelist wished to transfer the body of John from Sebaste, where the great prophet and was beheaded by Herod, to Antioch, his home town. But he managed only to obtain and transfer the one hand, which is kept in Antioch until the tenth century and, after transferred to Constantinople, where it disappeared during the Turkish occupation. St. John is celebrated several times a year, but most of the celebrants have it on this day, January 7th. Among the evangelical figures, which surrounds the Saviour, the personality of John the Baptist is taking a very special place, both by the manner of his coming into the world, and the way of life in the world, and the role of baptizing people for repentance and baptism of the Messiah, and so finally, after his tragic exit from this life. He was such moral purity that, verily, before he called the angel, as the Bible and the name, rather than mortal man. Of all the other prophets St. John differs particular that he was lucky enough and that he could have a

hand to show the world the One who he prophesied. For the hand of St. John is the story, that every year on Saintsday, the Bishop brought it and stood before the people with it. Sometimes this hand occurred widespread and sometimes dejected. In the first case marked the birth and abundant year, and in another barren and hungry (see the dates of the year: February 24, May 25, June 24 and August 29) OHRIDSKI PROGLOG (Ohrid's Prologue) - of bishop Nikollaj Velimirović.

Свети Сава, архиепископ српски



The son of Stefan Nemanja, from the Great Prince-Župan of Serbian, born 1169. As a young man he longed for a spiritual life, which has run away to Mount Athos where he became a monk and with rare zeal passed the whole ascetic constitution. Furthermore as in case of Nemanja's son, and himself came to the Holy Mountain, where a nun and died as a monk Simeon. Sava obtained the independence of the emperor and the Patriarch for the Serbian Church, and became the first Serbian archbishop. He builded, along with their father, the Chilandar monastery, and later many other monasteries, churches and schools around the Serbian lands. He traveled on two occasions to bow Holies in the Holy Land.

He has reconciled his brothers, fighting about power; Serbs with their neighbors and creating a Serbian church, created through this Serbian state and culture. He has brought peace among all Balkan peoples and worked for the good of all, which is why he was

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respected and loved by all those nations. To the Serbian people he gave a Christian soul, which did not fall with the collapse of the Serbian state. He died in Trnovo during the reign of emperor Asen, when he got sick after the Epiphany, on January 12, 1236. His body was conveyed by the king Vladislav to Mileševa monastery, but by Sinan Pasha took out and burned it in Vračar, Belgrade, 27 April 1594 (v. 27 April):.



The act of taking the holy waters of the Epiphany

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere and fulfills, Treasury goods and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us and cleanse us from all impurity and save our souls.

Holy God, holy strong, holy immortal, have mercy on us (three times).

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Bishop forgive our transgressions;

Saint visit and heal our infirmities name of Thy love.

Lord, have mercy (three times).

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Thy Holy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

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as in heaven, so on earth.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors,

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy (twelve times).

Come near so we may pay tribute to our King and our God.

Come near to worship and accompanying Christ, our God Emperor.

Come near to worship and the devotion of Christ, King and our God.

(Psalm 50) GOD have mercy, according to Thy great mercy and abundance of Thy mercy cleanse my iniquities. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and from sin cleanse me, because I know my iniquity, and my sin is continually before me. I have sinned, and have done evil before thee, and thou art just in your words and pure in their court. Behold, I was conceived in iniquity, and in sin my mother bore me. Because you love truth in the heart and the inside, return my wisdom. Hyssop sprinkled about me to cleanse; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness, and rejoice bones potrvne.

Turn away thy face from my sins and all the iniquities of my cleanse. Make me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me from Thy and Your Holy Spirit take not from me. Give me the joy of Your salvation, and strengthen me with the spirit of the ruler. I'll teach Thy lawless roads, and the wicked shall be addressed to you. Deliver me from blood, O God of my Salvation; delight to my tongue Thy justice. Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will announce Thy glory. Because you wanted sacrifice, offered up to, for burnt offerings do not care. The sacrifice of God is a contrite spirit; a heart that is contrite and calm, God will not despise. Lord, for its gentleness makes a good

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Zion, let's raise the walls of Jerusalem. There be pleased with the sacrifices of justice, yields and burnt offerings; then it will make at the altar, your calves.

Then hymn:

The only merciful Lord, whose glass is inexhaustible, give me thirst to get water for the forgiveness of sins.

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amin.

The clean Virgin, I ask you from my soul, weakened by sin, do to our house with the holy spirit, and I will have gratefully celebrated.

Lord, have mercy (thirty times).

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JANUARY 14 - SERBIAN NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL START January 14, beginning at 7 pm in our hall. Entry \$20 per person and includes dinner. FOR CHILDREN UP TO 16 YEARS FREE ENTRANCE. PLEASE book your place.

JANUARY 29 - celebrate St. Sava. TAKE YOUR CHILDREN TO THE TEMPLE SO THEY MAY, WITH THEIR PURE HEARTS, recite a poem dedicated to the patron and enlightener and the Serbian birther.

FEBRUARY 11 – **TRADITIONAL HUNTING EVENING**

FEBRUARY 25 – **will celebrate the glory of our TEMPLE - SV. SIMEONA**

On this occasion, our joy is to magnify the newly minted Eastern American Bishops Irinej G. G.

Divine Liturgy at 9:30 below Slava lunch.

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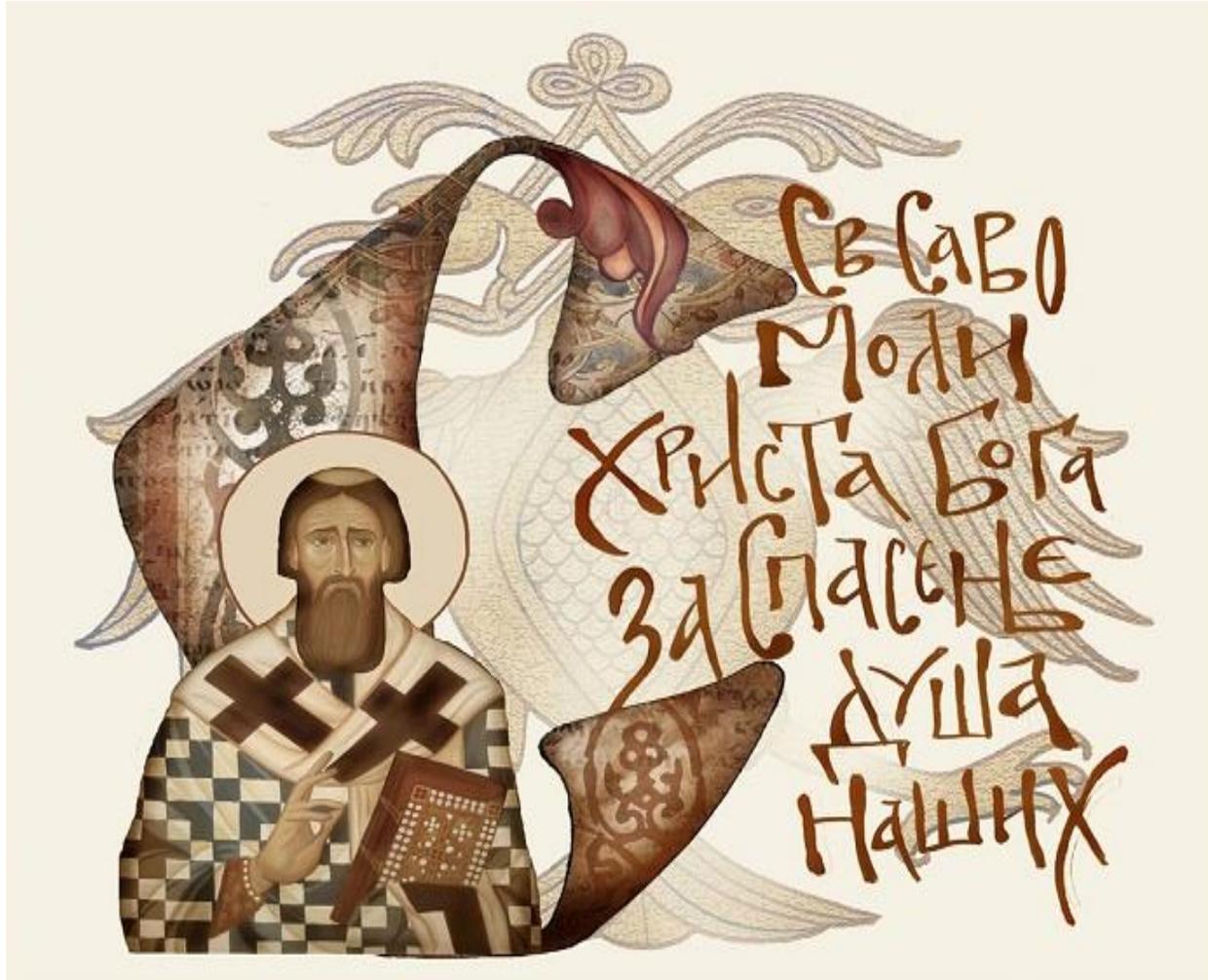
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