

# SERBIAN

# CROWN

News of Orthodox parish  
Charlotte



St. Simeon Mirotocivi  
North Carolina

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## MONTH OF OCTOBER



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St. Simeon - Serbian Orthodox Church, Mallard Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262  
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## OUR HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH Celebrates: OCTOBER

### THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS



From time immemorial, the Church has celebrated the Most Holy Theotokos as the patroness and protectress of the Christian people, who, by her intercessory prayers, implores God's mercy for us sinners. The help of the Most-holy Mother of God has been clearly shown numerous times, to individuals and to nations, in peace and in war, in monastic deserts and in densely populated cities. The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today confirms the Theotokos' consistent protection of Christian people. On

October 1, 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, there was an All-night Vigil in the Blachernae Church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was full of people. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ was standing in the rear of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Most-holy Theotokos appeared above the people, holding her omophorion outstretched as a protective covering for the faithful. She was clothed in gold-encrusted purple, and shone with an ineffable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins. St. Andrew said to Blessed Epiphanius: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady of all praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "I see, Father, and am struck with amazement!" The Feast of the Protection was instituted to commemorate this event, and to remind us that we can prayerfully receive the unceasing protection of the Most-holy Theotokos in any time of difficulty

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## Holy Mother Paraskeva - St. Petka



This glorious pleaser of God was born in Epivat (pivati - by Turkish painters), between Silinaurius and Constantinople. She was of Serbian origin, from a wealthy and very pious family. She had a brother named Jevtimije, and who became a monk at a very young, and would later be elected Bishop. Even as a little girl, up until with her mother she went to church and heard the words of the Divine Gospel: "Who wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk. 8:34), it was then in her heart to belong to the Lord and to grow up to be a devoted to God. After the death of her parents, the holy virgin ascetic left her parents' home and went to Constantinople, and then went to the desert of Jordan, where for Christ's sake she remained ascetic and worked for Him until her old age. Then, she would hear the voice of an angel of God, leave and return to her hometown, Epivat. Here she was called for two more years of continuous fasting and prayer, and then was given to God in the 11 century. Her body would be buried by the faithful using Christian traditions, but not at the town cemetery with everyone else. Her relics would be transferred and revealed over the court of time in particularly wonderful ways. First, in Istanbul, and from there to Trnovo, to again be returned to Constantinople and from Constantinople to Belgrade. Now the sacred and miraculous relics lie in the Romanian city of Iasi. In Belgrade, the miraculous and healing waters (agaizma) of the saint, who heals all patients, who with faith in God and love for this saint is for all those who rally to her.

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## St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist



He was a native of Antioch of Syria. Still in his early teens he studied Greek philosophy, medicine and painting.

During the Lord's work here on earth, St. Luke met face to face with the Savior, heard His saving doctrine and witnessed the miracles. Because of this, his heart was filled with wisdom and Divine knowledge. St. Luke believed in the True God and would be one of the seventy apostles to be sent to preach the Gospel of the Divine to the world.

Together, with Cleopas, he saw the resurrected Christ, our Lord, on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24). After the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, Luke returned to Antioch and there joined the apostle Paul, traveling everywhere with him in Rome, and converting to the faith of Christ the Jews and Gentiles.

He wrote the gospel at the request of many Christians around the 60th of this year, after the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul began to preach the Gospel of Christ and Dalmatia, Italy, Macedonia and elsewhere.

His work is also reflected in the fact that he painted icons. And this icon: Holy Mother of God (the three icons), and the icon of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. For this reason, he is considered the founder of Christian iconography. There is no age that could not prevent St. Luke to travel and spread the Holy Gospel. His preaching continued to Livia, upper Egypt, where he returned to Greece, and would continue the conversion of people to the Christian faith. He also wrote many works of Acts, which is dedicated to Theophilus, the prince AGAJA. He died at 84, when he was put on trial hanged on a single olive tree, for Christ's sake.

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**St. Peter of Cetinje**  
(1749-1830) Petar Petrovic Njegos I



St. Peter, Metropolitan of Cetinje, was born on 1 April 1749. in Njeguši, to Marko and Mary, born Martinovic. When Peter was 10 years old, Metropolitan Sava Petrović and Marko, brought him to the Cetinje monastery, to learn the Bible. At the age of twelve he received the monastic shave and at fifteen was sent to Russia to continue his education. In 1766, Metropolitan Basil retired and Peter returned to Cetinje. Bishop Sava was quick to recognize Peter and would in time raise him to archimandrite. With the blessing of Metropolitan Sava in 1777 he went to Russia to obtain help and seek the protection of his Serbian people . Metropolitan Sava died in 1781, and his elected successor would be Arsenije Plamenac, his nephew, who died three years later. It was then that the spiritual and the secular ruler of Montenegro would be the elected

archimandrite Petar Petrović. ordained by the bishop in Karlowitz 1784 by Metropolitan Moses Putnik. St. Petar Cetinjski specifically advocated to prevent blood feuds among the serbian tribes in Montenegro, and he gave the first written code 1796. He wrote a history of Montenegro until 1711, praised the late Karadjordje Petrovic, a few songs and over 260 letters. After 46 years as the archpriest, he was presented to the Lord, in the Cetinje monastery, on this day in 1830, after 81 years of earthly life. Life and Service of Saint Peter of Cetinje by the 1893 Belgrade Metropolitan Mihailo from historical sources and oral narratives of Cetinje Metropolitan Mitrofan Ban. Metropolitan Peter, called Peter of Cetinje, honored by the world even while still alive. Many temples around the Serbian Patriarchate dedicated to this saint. His miraculous relics of today rest in the Monastery of Cetinje.

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## *PATRON SAINT*

### On the eve of Slava

On the eve of a slava, the housewife will take holy-water and mix the slava cake and cook the wheat and wheat grain;

The host will procure the Candles, incense, red wine and oil.

It is recommended that the hostess herself, or one of the people of the house, to make the slava cake, rather than buying it ready-made. The Slava cake, mixed by someone of the house, is an expression of gratitude to God, and will give life and health to the day of your slava - let it be a prayer to the Lord for blessing. But if the Slava cake is made from someone outside the house, then when it arrives home, it needs to be covered with the blessed water.

The work around readying the slava needs to be arranged, so that you may portion out time to go to the church for the evening or vigil (the time is usually spent to carry and deliver oil and incense as a contribution the church, and in memory of the Saints). In the church, light a candle for your health and the health of your family, and let the user give warm and sincere prayers to the Almighty, praying for his representation of the saint. Some will remember their loved ones and the deceased and light a candle for their souls.

If for any special reason, one can not go to church, let all, after completing the work, gather in front of an icon of his saints, light a wick lantern and pray to God and a saint for good luck, health and all the best. The landlord let Okada incense icon, all those present and all rooms in the house. The host or someone younger will recite the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father" ... and "Virgin Mother" ... If you know how to sing a hymn, do so. Let the prayers be demure, done with a pure heart, because only then can they be answered.

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## On the day of Slava

Let the hosts put on clean clothing, light a candle before the icon of the Holy One, and with some member(s) of the family, go to the church during Sacred Liturgy.

On the day of the slava, at an arranged time the host will take the Slava cake, wrapped in a clean, white scarf, a little red wine in a bottle and a small candle which will be placed in the grain and burn it until the ceremonial consecration of the cakes done. If possible, the host will take the cake and carry it to the church, and if he can not then let it a family member do it, and no one else!

Parents who carry cake to the church, should bring with them the children that participate in the Liturgy and the prayer and to act together communion with the Holy Mysteries of Christ, because they were so dignified prepared fasting and confession (as determined by a priest), as well as that in their young souls become more deeply engraved with memories of this beautiful day and our customs.

When Liturgy is completed, the priest will perfume the Slava wheat, cake and wine, will sing the saint's hymn, and will read the wheat prayer and bless him.

In this prayer, the priest prays that the Lord God blesses the gifts, which are stored in honor of the saint; that they abound both in the home, which is celebrated on that day, and throughout the world; to cleanse from sin and revenge those who are prepared, as well as those who will taste of it; that those who are wheat prepared and submitted by the consecration and blessing - in honor and in memory of his saints who glory - to fulfill all the requests and desires of all, referring to their life on earth and in heaven.

Then, the priest blesses the wine and Slava cake, asking God to receive our offer to commemorate the saint who is celebrated.

Then he takes the cake, cuts it crosswise on the lower side, across the wine, and with the candle turns, singing three songs:

1. The first song is sung about the martyr and saints who are celebrated, who are our intercessors before God and teachers of the faith and the spiritual and physical feats of the Christian:

**" Holy Martyrs who suffered, pray to the Lord to have mercy on our souls "**

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2. In another poem, celebrating Christ, praises the Apostles and Martyrs joy:

**" Glory is to you, Christ our Lord, the Apostles praise the work of the martyrs, ihze sermon Three Jedinosusnaja "**.

3. The third song is expressing the Son of God's birth:

**" Isaiah, rejoice, Virgin birth has borne a son, Emmanuel, God already "**.

Then, each should hold their own half and break the cake while the priest recites:

**" Christ amidst us "**. ("Christ between us "):

**" I is and will be "**. ("I is and will be ").

Do this three times. Then receive a cake candle from the priest, taking the wheat, and carry it to your house, where it will be put on a table or in front of the icon.

Then ignite at home your Candles, Okada, and then the icon and all local, then all of us pray to the Lord and his saints, for stuff such as the work done for the slava.

After prayers, family members congratulate the host and one another, and love all...

2. If the cake is cut in the home, the host, along with family members, after they return from the church from matins or Liturgy, wait for the arrival of the priest who will, if he's called to the house, arrive at the arranged time to cut the slava cake.

The table with the slava candles should be placed in front of an icon as noted above, and the candles are near the front, to the left is the slava cake, to the right the grain, and in the middle of a glass or bottle of red wine, with a cake knife, incense and paper on which are written the names of all family members (and deceased), only to be read by the priest in prayer mentioned. Embers should also be prepared to put in the censer. The lamp before the icon is still burning until the following morning.

When the priest comes to the house of his parishioner, he enters using the evangelical words: Peace to this home and those living in it! The host responds: Amen. God please give!



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After the domestics gather all the candles, the priest then gives the coals in the censer and spreads the incense in the home. The purpose of incense nicely expresses verse hymns: "Let my prayer be lifted as incense before Thee, O Lord"!

Then the priest read a prayer for the sanctification of grain (wheat), Slava cake and wine.

Afterwards, before the icon is lifted, the Slava will be like our sacrifice to the glory of God and the honor of the saint who celebrate;

Then cut the cake and cross it with wine; turn the Slava cake and sing these three songs:

- Sainly Martyrs...

- Slava Tebja, Christ our Lord...

- Isaiah Rejoice...

The whole church ceremony is much more solemn and soulful when the whole family is closer together with the priest to sings these songs, so all need to learn the songs. When all three sing songs, the priest breaks the cake with the host, and then all family members approach and venerate (kiss) the cake. When the priest speaks to us saying: Christ amidst us - which means: Christ among us!.

And we answer:

- "I jest i budet!" - Which means: He is and He will be!

Family members should be instructed to provide answers to the priest. After that, the priest says the prayer which mentions the names of all household members, which are printed on a special paper, which is ready on the table. At the end of the ceremony all present will venerate (kiss) the Cross.

All this is needed for the worship, so be ready before the start of the holy rite, a ritual begins and the whole family should be together to peacefully and devoutly stand and be exalted together with a priest giving prayers to the Lord, warmly and sincerely, because, the priest does not come as any clerk who needs to do the other things like the custom of the world - he comes for prayer, for the spiritual needs of the family. Therefore, all present at the domestic worship should behave as the temple of the Lord and to follow the ceremony with

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care and participate in it, praying and baptizing in the meaning of the name of God. We take this opportunity to pray to God for your health and prosperity of all our living and for the repose of the souls of the dead, and because our own goods, and out of love and respect for our deceased loved ones to be on this occasion to pray to God reverently, humbly and from with all our heart.

Serbs are everywhere proud with glory of their Slava (Family St. Patron's Dya) and try to be as worthy of celebration and in freedom and in captivity, in their country and abroad. This our domestic worship and traditions associated with them, to develop in our children and religious and national feelings. Children can look forward to domestic ceremonies, and the duty of the parents to the children we dedicate the ancestral Orthodox faith and educate them in the Church, its sacraments and its Tradition, and to them as a living offering, pleasing to God, bringing God and His Hollies in the temple of God and own home, on their and our salvation.

Amen.

## PRAYER BOOK

Prayer is our souls talking to God. To God we should always turn to the language of prayer, which is the language of calm, gratitude, thanksgiving, the language in which we ask the heavenly kingdom. It is therefore very important that we spend every day some time praying (speaking) to God. Our ancestors and saints began and ended each day with prayer prayers and prayer done before any work / business, eating ... That's why we need to see them and pray.

In this and the following numbers of our newsletter, will be published prayers that we should all practice in our lives.

**Prayer before starting work**

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Very merciful Lord, You who by yourself said that without You, we can do nothing good, be merciful Assistant to me and do that this my work start per Your holy will. Come on, Lord, lover of honest toilers and charity workers, that the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, measure this work of our hands, that it be for the glory of Thy holy name, for the benefit and good of our loved ones and our own. Because every good work is determined by thy will Your blessing.

Blessed Lord, the leader of our salvation and progress. Bless therefore, O Lord, that these works be successfully concluded and completed, to the glory of Thy holy name and the salvation of souls and our bodies. You, the donor of all good, and Begetter of our salvation, glory and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer at the end of work**

Blessed be thy Thy holy name, O Lord Jesus Christ, God and our Saviour, that you strengthen our poor ability to finish this job today. You, Very Merciful, the fullness of every good and reward everyone to God satisfied effort and work: fulfill our hearts and for the work of our hands, strengthen and bless our actions, to the glory of Thy holy name, Thy Father and Thy Divine Spirit. Amen.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**On October 2, 2016, starting at 18.30** at our church house will have guests of perform **folk-art group Talija from Serbia.**

Admission is free but you will be able to order food and drink - a contribution from it as before going to church funds to repay loans.

This artistic group went out to meet us and will not charge a regular fee to our church, but we invite all parishioners primarily to come in large numbers to see and participate in something beautiful, and our voluntary contributions to support the work of these groups-our brothers and sisters from the Fatherland.

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