

## **Vidovdan Celebration in North Port, Serbian Days in North Port, Florida**



In 2019, we started the Vidovdan celebration with the service of Holy Liturgy at the feast day and prayed for the repose of all the military leaders and soldiers who laid down their lives for our homeland and the Holy Cross, from Kosovo and before Kosovo to this day. Father Alexander in the Vidovdan sermon indicated that the Serbs as a nation, are proud to wear and have two Testaments.

These are Svetosavski Testament, who left us St. Sava, and Kosovo Testament, which we weave the St. Knez Lazar. Prince Lazar Testament is nothing other than the fulfillment of the Testament of St. Sava, and confirmation of the election of the heavenly kingdom and the renunciation of everything earthly. All our achievements and victories come through these two vows, and as Saint Bishop Nikolai says: "Many Serbs-Montenegrins during the First World War left a rich America and went to defend their homeland and many did not return, they laid their lives on the bumper of the homeland.

Liturgical hymns and songs were breaking the children's coronation. Following the Holy Liturgy, the choir and folklore group "Heroína Milunka Savić" successfully performed a series of Kosovo songs and folk dances under the leadership of Radica

Nikolić, who took the biggest burden in the launch of folklore and choir with the name “Heroina Milunka Savic”, which successfully entered the Svetosavlje and Vidovdan spirit, so far, all over Florida.

For the first time we will be celebrating “Serbian Days” in North Port. The idea came last year when marking the centennial of the breakthrough of the Thessaloniki Front and the exhibition “There, Far Away”, and on the proposal of the city authorities that supported us at that time and took part in the celebration. On that occasion, Jill Luke, a city commissioner; and Linda Yates, a former city mayor and commissioner, suggested that we could have our yearly day and celebrate the centennial of the proclamation of US President Woodrow Wilson, who on July 28, 1918 called on Americans to pray and pay tribute to the Serbs who were killed in the Great War.

The celebration of “Serbian Days” event in North Port would symbolically start June 28 on Vidovdan and would end on July 28 at the centennial of the proclamation of US President Woodrow Wilson, who on July 28, 1918 called on Americans to pray and honor the Serbs who were killed in the Great War.

This year the centennial event will be celebrated on July 9th in City of North Port.

Relations between the City Administration and the Church of St. Sava in North Port have risen to a high level over the past two years. The meeting of the Most Reverend Bishop Irinej and Jill Luke (commissioner) at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of St. Sava’s parish, on November 25, 2018, has further contributed to bringing the relations to a higher level and that of our culture, history and church performances and closer to the City Administration North Port.





