

St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church of Saratoga



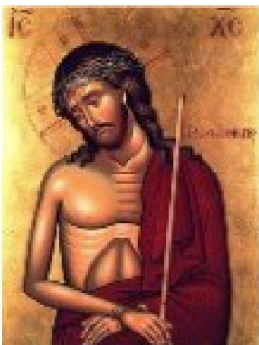
On the Right Path

April 23, 2008

Getting approval for our new Church building on Allendale Avenue has been like traveling up the long, winding road to the Monastery Ostrog. It is a difficult road, measured with many twists and turns, much like the planning process for the approval to build our new Sanctuary. However, once at the top of the mountain, it is every bit "**worth the trip**" in order to receive the gifts that await the faithful.

This coming **Good Friday**, April 25, the response period for those wanting to make comments regarding our Initial Study will end. Then, another 30-day period begins. The City will be working with the Environmental Consultant to respond to any comments that come forward regarding any possible environmental detriments to the community that have been raised. Afterward, a Planning Commission hearing date will be set. This is the last stretch in the Planning Department process. We should be in a public meeting before the end of June!

The **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** process is proceeding under the laws of the State of California. Presently, it is on track and this is the most encouraging news we have had since the City Council upheld the Planning Commission's decision for our new Conditional Use Permit in September of last year. You can read the Initial Study on the City's website: <http://www.saratoga.ca.us/>. Just look for "St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church - Draft Initial Study/MND".



It is more than a mere co-incidence that we bear this struggle, with God's help, at this time. We are beginning Holy Week! In the past few years how many times have we heard, "**Love your neighbor as yourself**"? Through this long process of building our Serbian Orthodox Church, we have been commanded to look for **Christ in others** and to see their struggles, as well as our own. Please, continue with your prayers for our Church and for our community.

In Christ!

Rev. Fr. Slobodan Jovic

Members of the **Board of Directors** and
the **Building Committee**