

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-Stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
Phone 815-741-1023; Cell 913-558-5031 abugarin@kc.rr.com

Sunday, March 24 – Sunday of St Gregory Palamas / Недеља Св Григорија Паламе
Epistle Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Gospel Mark 2:1-12; John 10:9-16 Tone 2nd
3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 10 am. Church school, coffee hour
Lenten Vespers in St. Arch Michael Serbian Orthodox Church in Lansing at 6 pm. Homilist Fr. Aleksandar Bugarin.

Wednesday, March 27 - Lenten hours at 8 am; Confession at 8:40 am; Presanctified Liturgy at 9 a.m.
Religious discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30 – St. Alexius the Man of God / St. Patrick the Enlightener of Ireland.
Fr. Aleksandar will be in Moline, Illinois to serve the liturgy in the Greek Orthodox Church for the Serbs living in the area
Vigil / confession at 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 – Veneration of Holy Cross / Поклоњење Крсту
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Gospel; Mark 8:34-9:1, Tone 3rd.
3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 a.m.; Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 10 a.m. Church school, coffee hour
Lenten Vespers in St Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville at 6 p.m. Homilist Fr. Aleksandar Bugarin.

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Arthur Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Dragan Krcmarevic, Slavka Novakovic, Dolly Book, Nicole and Kathy Petkovich, Judy Lockwood, Alysha Bojovic, George Cizmas, and all others in our parish who are ill, afflicted, suffering and/or unable to attend services. May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand Note: Please call the parish priest in case of sickness and hospitalization.

Pomens: +Jeff Lockwood, given by Pat Mancke; +Delores Malinovich, given by Fr. Alex Bugarin and family; +Joseph Kranovich, given by Fr. Alex and family; +Delores Malinovich, given by John and Desanka Taylor, from Michigan; +Delores Malinovich and +Louise Resanovich, given by Anka Laketa; +Louise Resanovich, given by Roger and Reenie Trizna; +Daniel Petrich, given by Bonnie & John Dauer and Family; +Daniel Petrich, given by Vicki & Dan Dorsey and Family' +Daniel Petrich, given by Tana Petrich and Alan Miller.

Lenten Fish Fry Fridays: March 8 through April 19, from 4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.. Please bring your family and friends.

Mark your calendars now to attend our Lenten Retreat on Tuesday, April 2 at 6 p.m. Invite your family and especially non-Orthodox friends who will have an opportunity to learn about our religious beliefs and traditions. The topic is Spiritual Exercise.

All parishioners should observe Great Lent by attending services, increasing prayers and strengthening relationship with God. Great Lent is not meant to be a "burden" for the faithful but rather a voluntary change of everyday routine and to be more attentive to one's spiritual life. The reason for serving Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday is to enable everyone to receive spiritual food more often and become closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Confess your sins and receive Holy Communion often, every week at least once. Suggested reading for Lent is the Old Testament, the first five books and the prophesy as well as appointed verses in the New Testament for every day. Spend more time with your prayer book instead of your cell phone and time on social media. Share your free time to help others. Mark your calendar now to attend as many Lenten Vespers and specially to come to our Lenten retreat on April 2nd at 6 pm. The topic is Spiritual Exercise, and the speaker is Fr Alexii Altschul from the Holy Arch Michael Monastery in Cameron, Missouri.

Make this Great Lent a special and beneficial time for your soul and body. **Please let Fr. Aleksandar know to bring Holy Communion to your home if you are unable to attend worship services.** Divine and Presanctified Liturgies during Lent are the worship services when you may receive Holy Communion. Vespers, Vigil, Hours and other services are not Eucharistic and Holy Communion is not offered in these services.

A special booklet for the preparation and the service of confession can be found on the warden's table. Before confession, please take one and read the prayers and the questions to help you with your confession. In the same booklet you will find a service of confession which will be conducted before you go to make your personal confession with the priest. One of the faithful should read the prayers and everyone should read the Creed together. If you want, you may take the booklet home and get more familiar with it. Please return it back to the warden's table on the next Sunday.

Almost every year since 2002, Fr Aleksandar has organized pilgrimages to the old country for American Serbs who do not speak Serbian and have never been there but would love to visit the country of their ancestors and especially the villages where their ancestors came from. Upon request, Father Aleksandar will organize a pilgrimage this fall leaving the US

on Monday, September 30 and returning October 12 or 13. If you would like to visit the country of your ancestors, visit the most important middle age monasteries that you have heard about all your life, see the towns and museums and a beautiful early fall landscape, and visit the village from which your family came, please let Fr Aleksandar know by the middle of April. If you need more information about the trip, prices, accommodations, places to be visited, etc, please talk to or give a call to Fr Aleksandar.

Please donate for the Good Friday and Pascha flowers. This year you may make your donation in memory of your reposed beloved ones or for the health and salvation of your family and or friends. Please write down the names on a piece of paper and give it with your donation to Nadine Paukstys, Kolo Treasurer.

Coming to church services late after the service has begun is not spiritually beneficial for many reasons. First you are missing many important prayers and especially if a person is not on time for the epistle or gospel message. If you come late you might disturb others in their prayers and finally it can become a very bad habit for you and your family who will learn from you that it is ok to come to church late and miss half of the service.

Lenten Prayers of St. Ephraim of Syria

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not. *Prostration*

But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant. *Prostration*

Yea, O Lord King, grant me to see my own failings and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. amen. *Prostration*