

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, December 22 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel Luke 13:10-17 2nd

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Teachers meeting.

Wednesday, December 25 – St Spyridon / St Herman of Alaska

Friday, December 27 Religious discussion in church at 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 28 Vigil / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, December 29 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost/ Sunday of Forefathers / Serbian Mother's Day

Epistle Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel Luke 14:16-24 3rd

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour

Upcoming feast days/events:

January 2 – St Ignatius / St John of Kronstadt

5 – Serbian Father's Day / Organizations meeting

Pomens: +Sam Konjevich, given by Peter Grubisich; +Sam Konjevich, given by Sue Kljaich and Frances Juarez; +Sam Konjevich, given by M/M Mike Cora; +Nicholas Ostoich, +Bertha O'Brian, +Millie Rydman, given by Genevieve Ostoich; +Eva and +Helen Grubisich, +Rada Albu, given by Ely Grubisich; +Kyle Pleacher, given by M/M Mike Cora

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Judy Lockwood, Stevan Iacsin, Stevan Lunich, George Cizmas, George, Christopher, Slavka Novakovic, 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!

Two Sundays before Nativity is Serbian Mother's Day - Materice, when children tie their mothers' and grandmothers' legs together, and in return they get symbolic presents. The same is done with fathers and grandfathers on the next Sunday. Tying the legs represents the bonds and love in the family before the Feast of the Birth of our Savior.

Part I It is important to periodically remind ourselves about the proper way of entering and behaving in church during worship services. The church is the House of God and even before we enter, we must prepare ourselves and realize where we are entering. All loud talking and laughing should stay outside. Please take candy or gum out of your mouth since it is inappropriate to chew in church. Immediately after you make your entrance into the church, you are in the church and you should cross yourself with a bow and say "Lord, have mercy upon me a sinner" and venerate ikons which are in the narthex. The faithful should always make two small metanias, bows, before an ikon, kiss the ikon either the hands or feet of the Saint who is depicted in the ikon and the third bow. Proceed to the nave of the church and venerate the ikon in the middle isle and other ikons in front of the altar. After this, purchase and light your candles and go to your place and piously wait for the beginning of the service. Please read all prayers before the Liturgy. Loud conversations and congregating in the back is not appropriate in church. If you come to church you should be participating in the worship with all the faithful and not socializing in the back. **Please come to church on time** and before the service starts.

During the service you should follow the Liturgy book, if it is a liturgy, or other booklets which are usually available on the warden table for vespers and other services. Try to sing responses and actively participate in the worship. In the Divine Liturgy book, it is marked when you should stand and when you may sit down. If you have health issues and/or children and elderly, you may sit down at any time. When the deacon/priest senses you, you should bow down and cross yourself. When the priest turns and gives blessing to the faithful, they should bow down **and not cross themselves**.

If you are late for the service, please don't purchase or light your candles nor walk through the church during the small or great entrance and during the reading of Scriptures and during the homily.

The end of the 2019 calendar year is coming soon and let us examine our conscience: did we do everything we could to improve our spiritual life in this year, strive to become more Christ-like, and did we support our parish church, home of St George, truly and wholeheartedly. And how strong has our love, time, talents and treasure towards St George been so far and should we improve it? Now is the time if you wish to complete all your church donations for the year of 2019.

Fr. Alex would like to have a meeting with the church board president, other church organization presidents, and one more from the boards, like Vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc., on Sunday, January 5th after the Divine Liturgy. If anyone else from the boards desire to attend they are more than welcome to do so. The goal of this meeting is to create the 2020 church calendar events, to improve our ministries and to work closer together, more effectively and proficiently for the benefit of St. George Church. If you have any questions please call Father Alex.

During the celebration of certain feast days during the year, you can bring cut flowers to make our church even more beautiful. If you choose to bring flowers, please contact father a day or two before. Vases are available in the church.

Сви сте позвани после литургије доле у подрум цркве на кафу да попричате са осталим верницима и свештеником. **Припремите се молитвом и постом за исповест и причест у току поста.** Причест на Божић и остале велике празнике је од велике важности за душу и живот у Христу.