

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436

Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest

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Lord of the Powers be with us, for in times of distress we have no other help but You.

Lord of the Powers, have mercy on us.

"Do not fear, only believe" Mark 5:36

Sunday, February 21 -Sunday of Publican and Pharisee / Недеља Митара и Фарисеја

Epistle II Tim. 3:10-15 Gospel Luke 18:10-14 Tone 4th

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

Fast free week / ова недеља се не пости

Friday, February 26 – St Simeon the Myrrh-gusher / Св Симеон Мироточиви

Saturday, February 27 – St Cyril Equal of the Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs /Св Кирил словенски

Vigil / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, February 28 -Sunday of Prodigal Son / Недеља Блуднога Сина

Epistle 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel Luke 15:11-32 Tone 5th

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

Upcoming Feast days and events:

March 6 – Memorial Saturday /Покладске задушнице

14 – Forgiveness Sunday /Недеља праштања

15 – Beginning of Great Lent / Почетак Часнога Поста

Pomens (Litany for departed): +Rada Albu, given by Radoica/Dan Kilgore and family, +Rada Albu, given by Joana Albu; +Paul Shimek, given by Gayle Shimek, Nenad/Stephanie Jakovljevic; +Stojka Markovic, given by Protinica Gordana Bugarin; +Paul Shimek, given by Joseph Orlovih family; +Kimball Mancke, +Peter Cucuz and +Paul Shimek, given by Dan/Vicki Dorsey; +Mariann Gura, given by Sandy Fenili; +George Jovanovich, +Walter Dulevich, +Daniel and +Olga Kowalchuk, +Judy Lockwood and +Chuck Anderson, given by Nancy Jovanovich;

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Christopher, Richard Kovacevich, Stevan Lunich, Milorad Ristich, Sandy Grundy, Nick Malinovich, for all who are afflicted by coronavirus, 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!

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday. The Church eases us into the Lenten [fasting](#) discipline during this period. The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is fast-free. The week following the Prodigal Son is a normal week -- we fast as usual on Wednesday and Friday. In the week following Meat fare Sunday, no meat is eaten; eggs, fish, and dairy are permitted on any day.

What a Deal!!! New tables were ordered for the hall and we are now selling the existing 60" round folding tables for \$10 to interested parishioners. Contact Tana at 815-207-0737 to arrange a time for pickup in the next few weeks. In March, any remaining tables will be advertised for sale to the public.

Here are great opportunities to help your church. St George has two management positions that remain open. These are 2-year paid positions at the Social Center: 1) Hall Manager and 2) Bar Manager. If interested, send a letter to Father or the Church Board indicating your interest and qualifications. Should you have any questions about these positions, feel free to contact Bonnie Dauer at 815-715-2189.

It is useful to remind ourselves occasionally how to properly and respectfully enter and behave in the church. Before the church door, please leave all conversation and laughing outside and think about entering God's House. Make sure you have a mask. If you forgot, we have masks by the candles, and you may take one. As soon as you enter the church cross yourself and say "O God, have mercy upon me a sinner". The ikon which sits on the ikon stand in the vestibule by the entrance should be venerated and not neglected. In fact, all the ikons in the church must be venerated! The proper way of venerating an ikon is to cross yourself and make a small metania twice, kiss or bow down in front of ikon, cross again and make another metania. This is the proper Orthodox way to venerate all ikons in church. Metania is performed by first making the [sign of the cross](#). Then, one bends from the waist, reaches toward the floor with the right-hand open and facing outward, and touches the floor. In case you physically have a problem doing it, just do your best.

If you come to church before liturgy and during the reading of hours, please piously listen to it. During the reading of psalms, you can sit down. A reader will give a sign when you can sit or stand. If you prefer to sit down because of health issues, you may do so.

During the liturgy, all type of conversation in the church is not permitted. During the liturgy and other services, everyone should be in the sanctuary taking part in the worship and never congregating in the back, around the candles, or downstairs! During the pandemic, we can spread out in the sanctuary and maintain social distancing because our church is big enough.

Many Sundays we don't have a choir, and we are expected to sing as a congregation together.

At the end of the liturgy, remember to venerate all ikons, and before you approach the priest place your right hand over left and receive the blessed bread. You can either kiss or bow down in front of the cross.

Leave the church piously and quietly, but before leaving the church turn toward the altar and bow down saying a small prayer or just "O Lord, Jesus Christ, thank you for today's service".

Coronavirus Prayer

O Lord our God enter not into judgement with Thy servants, and protect us from the pestilence coming onto us. Spare us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, who in repentance, with a warm faith and contrition of the heart, are falling down before Thee, our merciful and beneficent God, and trusting in Thy mercy. Thine is mercy and salvation, our God. Glory to Thee, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!