

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, March 3 - Meat-fare Sunday / Sunday of the Last Judgment / Месопусна недеља

Epistle 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 Tone 7th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church School. Bowling Party organized by culture club

On this day we commemorate the inescapable second coming of Christ, ordained by the most divine Fathers to be observed after the second parable of the Prodigal, so that no one who has learned of the love of God for mankind from it will live in laziness saying, "God loves mankind, and when I am separated from Him by sin, all is prepared for my restoration."

Fish and dairy allowed to eat all week

Sunday, March 10 - Cheese-fare /Forgiveness Sunday /Беле Покладе и Недеља Праштања

Epistle 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 Tone 8th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Forgiveness vespers right after liturgy. Church School. Kolo sestara anniversary potluck

Let us begin the Lenten time with delight ... let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.

Thy grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance (Vesper Hymns).

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Delores Malinovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Dragan Krcmarevic, Slavka Novakovic, Dolly Book, Nicole and Kathy Petkovich, Judy Lockwood, Alysha Bojovic, 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!

Upcoming holy days / events:

March 11 - Beginning of Great Lent / Почетак Часног Поста

April 2 - Lenten Retreat in our Church on April 2. Guest speaker Fr Alexii. Topic: Spiritual Exercise. Plan to attend!

Lenten Fish Fry's Wednesday March 6 and Friday's March 8 through April 19. From 4 pm - 7:30 pm. Please bring your family and friends.

Pomens: +Mary Lou Suitca, given by Annette O'Leary, +Mary Lou Suitca, given by Genevieve Ostoich; +Kimball Mancke, given by Jack Book Jr family; +Milorad and +Ružica Dmitrov, +Sava Ančin and +Ljilja Belančić, given by Steva and Draginja Lukin; +Michael, +Violet, +Joseph, +Stella, +Joe, +Lynn, +George, +Julia and +Stevan Enich, given by George Enich family;

For the health and salvation of Stevan and Draginja Lukin;

Mila Rauser and Vivian Sherer, given by Anka Laketa;

Every Wednesday Evening during the Great Lent, we will have religious discussions in one of the classrooms beneath the church. If the liturgy is in the evening, the discussion will be after the liturgy at approximately 7 pm. When the liturgy is in the morning, a religious discussion will start at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions about the Bible, our practices, Orthodox faith, prayer, or other topics, please tell Fr Aleksandar, and we will have it as a topic of our discussion. If you wish you may bring fruit, pastry and/or other posno snacks especially after evening Liturgy.

When the Presanctified Liturgy is served in the evening, those who will partake of Holy Communion should fast from 12 pm (noon) until receiving communion. For those who can physically endure an all-day total fast, please do so.

You are welcome to take one of the Orthodox books from our library home to read during Great Lent and return it when you are done reading it. Please see Fr Aleksandar if you need a recommendation for the book.

On each of the three Sundays before Lent, the church brings before us a plea for repentance, set to sacred music. Here are the words of that prayer. *From the Matins of Publican and Pharisee, Lenten Triodion*

Glory..., The gates of repentance, do Thou open unto me, O Giver of Life, * for early in the morning my spirit seeketh Thy holy temple, * bearing the temple of my body all defiled. * But as One who art compassionate ** cleanse it by Thy loving-kindness and mercy.

Both now..., Guide me on the paths of salvation, O Theotokos: * for I have polluted my soul with shameful deeds * and wasted all my life in slothfulness. ** but by thine intercessions * do thou deliver me from all impurity.

In Tone VI: Have mercy upon me, O God, * according to Thy great mercy: * and according to the multitude of Thy compassion * blot out my transgressions.

As I the wretched one ponder the multitude of evil deeds I have done, * I tremble for fear of the dread day of judgment. * But trusting in Thy compassionate mercy, * like David do I cry unto Thee: ** 'Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy'.

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***

"The benefit of fasting," teaches Saint Basil the Great, "is not limited by the abstinence of food alone, because true fasting is the eradication of evil deeds. Everyone should become liberated from lies. Forgive your neighbor when he insults you; forgive him his debts. You don't eat meat, but hurt your brother ... We will fast in a way that is pleasing to God. A true fast is the elimination of evil, restraint of what one says, suppression of anger, the alienation of lust, malignant gossip, lies, and perjury. Abstinence from all these is true fasting." In summary, just as we fell into sin and lost heavenly bliss because of the lack of restraint of our forefathers, so through voluntary fasting we can restore in ourselves the grace of God.

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As we are about to begin Great Lent, I would like to ask all for forgiveness and wish you a blessed and spiritually beneficial journey to Pascha. The best way to experience Great Lent is to attend the services and try to change your everyday routine and modify it according to the Lenten practices. *Fr. Aleksandar*