

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 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.

Tuesday, April 2 – Lenten Retreat in our church. Vespers at 6 p.m., posno dinner after the services in the hall and presentation at 7 p.m. Q & A session. Topic: Spiritual Exercise. Guest Speaker: Fr Hieromonk Alexii Altschul from Missouri.

Wednesday, April 3 - Lenten hours at 5 p.m.; Confession at 9:40 p.m.; Presanctified Liturgy at 6 p.m. Religious discussion and potluck after the services

Saturday, April 6 - Vespers / confession at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 7 – Annunciation /Благовести / Sunday of St John the Climacus / St Justin of Ćelije

Epistle Heb. 6:13-20; Heb. 2:11-18; Gospel: Luke 1:24-38; Mark 8:34-9:1 Tone 4th

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 George Serb Orth church in East Chicago at 6 p.m. Homilist Fr Marko Matic.

Lenten Vespers in St Nicholas Serb Orth church in Brookfield at 6 p.m. Homilist Fr. Radovan Jakovljevic.

Sunday, April 14 – Posno luncheon sponsored by the church choir after the Liturgy.

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Art 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: +Delores Malinovich, given by Ely Grubisich; +Delores Malinovich, given by the Kolo Sestara; +Delores Malinovich, given by Nadine Paukstys and Zoe Evans; +Delores Malinovich and +Louise Resanovich, given by Joseph Orlovich Jr family; +Jeff Lockwood, given by Judy Lockwood; +Delores Malinovich and +Louise Resanovich, given by Millie O'Leary; +Delores Malinovich and +Louise Resanovich, given by Annette O'Leary; +Delores Malinovich, given by Tana Petrich and Allan Miller; +Delores Malinovich and +Michael Kljaich, given by Sue Kljaich; +Delores Malinovich, given by Kirk Stapinski; +Delores Malinovich, given by Millie Stapinski; +Anne Orlovich, +Jeff Lockwood and +Delores Malinovich, given by Bob Orlovich; +Delores Malinovich, given by Genevieve Ostoich; +Mihajlo and +Draginja Jurisic, given by Steva and Draginja Lukin.

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.

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.

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.

The traditional Orthodox greeting is "Christ is in our midst" and the reply is "He is and ever shall be." In Church Slavonic it is "Hristos posredye nas" and the reply is "Yest i budet." Orthodox Ukrainians and Carpatho-Russians greet each other with "Glory to Jesus Christ" and the reply is "Glory forever." You have heard this probably either in the OCA or other Orthodox churches. The Serbian greeting is "Pomazhe Bog" and the reply is "Bog ti pomogo." In English it is "God is helping" and the reply is "May God help you."

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*