

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

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.

Sunday, April 12 – Entrance of our Lord in Jerusalem / Palm Sunday / Цветна Недеља *Epistle Philippians 4:4-9; Gospel John 12:1-18, 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am.*

Holy Week is observed by strict fasting, reliving the Passion, Crucifixion and Death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Blessed palms and pussy willows will be left outside the church door after the liturgy until 5 pm for all who would like to pick them up for their home.**

Monday, April 13 Bridegroom Matins at 6 pm

Tuesday, April 14 Bridegroom Matins 6 pm

Wednesday, April 15 Lenten hours at 8 am confession at 8:40 am; Presanctified Liturgy at 9 am

Thursday, April 16 Divine liturgy of St Basil at 9 am, Matins at 6 pm, the reading of twelve selections from the Gospels, all of which are accounts of the passion of Christ.

Friday, April 17 – Great and Holy Friday / Велики Петак, Royal Hours at 9 am, Vespers/ placing of Plashtanitca / Shroud at 6 pm. *About 15 minutes break. Then the service of Matins, Lamentations /burial of Christ*

The Vespers and Matins of the Blessed Sabbath, together with the Divine Liturgy which follows, form a masterpiece of the Orthodox liturgical tradition. These services are not at all a dramatic re-enactment of the historical death and burial of Christ. Neither are they a kind of ritual reproduction of scenes of the Gospel. They are, rather, the deepest spiritual and liturgical penetration into the eternal meaning of the saving events of Christ, viewed and praised already with the full knowledge of their divine significance and power.

Saturday, April 18 -Great and Holy Saturday / Blessed Sabbath / Велика Субота

Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 9 am. Christ lies dead, yet he is alive. He is in the tomb, but already he is “trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.” There is nothing more to do now but to live through the evening of the Blessed Sabbath on which Christ sleeps, awaiting the midnight hour when the Day of our Lord will begin to dawn upon us, and the night full of light will come when we will proclaim with the angel: “He is risen, he is not here; see the tomb where they laid him” (Mk 16.6).

Resurrection Matins and Paschal Divine Liturgy at 11 pm, *Epistle Acts 1:1-8 Gospel John 1:1-17*

Sunday, April 19 – Holy Pascha / Вакрц Christ is Risen Hristos Voskrese

Agape Vespers at 10 am *Gospel John 20:19-25*

We are praying especially for: Fr. Nedeljko Lunich, Mary Book, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Judy Lockwood, Stevan Iacsin, Stevan Lunich, George Cizmas, Sandy Grundy, Christopher, George, Ely, Don and Diane Grubisich, Donald Laketa, Natalie, 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!

For Palm Sunday and Pascha, we will try to live stream our liturgies and you will be able to see it on our church Facebook. If you are not on Facebook you can see it. Because of the corona virus and our congregation not allowed to attend the services, we will celebrate Paschal Liturgy immediately after the Resurrection Matins which will start at 11pm on Saturday. On Pascha Sunday at 10am will be Paschal Vespers

Since the Serb will not be mailed anymore and the future issues will be sent via email, please make sure Fr Aleks has your correct email! Several hard copies of the Serb will be available in the church narthex for parishioners who do not have email.

Unless the stay at home ban is lifted, we will not celebrate St George Church Slava on Sunday, May 3, but we will have services on May 6 - St George Feast Day with clergy and chanters only. If St George is your Krsna Slava, please talk to Fr Aleks regarding your slava rites. **Parishioners**, if you would like to light candles in church during the services for the health and salvation of your family and/or repose of souls of your beloved ones during the Holy and Bright Weeks, please call or send a text or email to Fr Aleksandar with their names and check made out to: St George Church 300 Stryker Ave, Joliet, IL 60436. Father will gladly do it for you. Our Church calls upon all of us to please follow the directions of medical and civil officials to stay at home. **All services in church are being conducted by clergy and chanters.**

This is the first time in our lives, and we hope the last, that together we are not allowed to attend the services and celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Holiest Day in our Church. We all know how we feel about it and that there is nothing we can do. We already miss seeing each other in our church worship.

Our prayers are offered for the health and salvation of all, and for the repose of the souls who passed away because of coronavirus. I know we will get through this with the help of God and hopefully with stronger faith.

Please stay home as much as you can and even if you have to go out to a store or finish your errands, let it be quickly.

We are ordered to be careful, protect ourselves, stay home and to use common sense. Let fear never be part of our life. Knowing that God is with us, we shouldn't fear. If we have fear and don't deal with it, the next level is panic and hysteria. The scientists and physicians have proved that fear lowers your immune system and can cause us to get ill more quickly. After panic usually comes madness and total dysfunction.

Let's try to get rid of our fear and embrace God's love and dedicate ourselves to Him. If you have any questions and/or spiritual needs, please call Fr Aleksandar at any time.

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 Thou, our merciful and beneficent God, and trusting in Thy mercy. Yours is mercy and salvation, our God. Glory to Thou, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.