

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436

Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest

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Hristos Voskrese Christ is Risen Hristos Anesti

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18

Sunday, May 23 – Sunday of the Paralytic / Church school graduation / Недеља Раслабљеног

Epistle Acts 9:32-42 Gospel John 5:1-15 tone 3rd 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Thanksgiving at the end of church school

Monday, May 24 – Sts Cyril and Methodius / Св Кирило и Методије, учитељи Словенски Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday, May 29 Vigil / Confession at 5 pm

Sunday, May 30 – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman / Недеља Самарјанке

Epistle Acts 11:19-26,29-30 Gospel John 4:5-42 tone 4th 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Culture club meeting.

Upcoming Feast days and events:

May 31 – Memorial Day, blessing of graves starting at 8 am at Woodlawn cemetery

June 3 – Sts Constantine and Helen / Св Цар Константин и царица Јелена

10 – Holy Ascension / Spasovdan

Pomens: +Rada Albu, given by Joana Albu, +Rada Albu, given by Dan/Radoica Albu; +Zika Stamenkovich, given by Emma/Niko Stamenkovich; +Vlado Chuk, given by Ely Grubisich;

We are praying especially for: Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Christopher, Richard Kovacevich, Stevan Lunich, Sandy Grundy, 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!

It is important to periodically remind ourselves about the proper way of entering and behaving in church during worship services. Part II When the time for communion comes, if you are prepared, please come out of the pews and loudly read the prayers before communion. Venerate the ikon and cross your arms on your chest and approach the chalice with great contrition of heart. In some Orthodox traditions, the faithful turn toward the congregation after the prayers are read, turn and bow down to the faithful on each side asking their forgiveness and prayers. I think it is a wonderful Orthodox tradition which we should accept. Please tell the priest your baptism name before you receive communion. Please don't cross yourself in front of the chalice, rather kiss the bottom of it after you partake of the communion. Take a piece of blessed bread and with bowed head go back to your place. Ladies should cover their heads during communion and not wear a heavy lipstick which leaves marks on the spoon.

At the end of the Liturgy, please come to venerate ikons in the middle of church and all ikons in front of the altar. Kiss the cross from the priest's hand and receive the blessed bread or prosphora. Please consume it and all crumbs from your hand. If you partook of Holy Communion, please go back to your place and open the liturgy book at the end where the prayers after communion are located. At the end the priest will start with "Glory to Thee o Lord, glory to Thee" 3x and after everyone is loudly reading the prayers. If we have guests or visitors in our church, please be kind and welcome them.

After the Liturgy it is not appropriate to stay in church and visit and loudly talk because the prayers after communion are being read. The place for visiting and conversations is downstairs where the coffee is or in the hall. As you leave the church please turn back facing altar and bow down and cross yourself.

Hope this will help.

All Orthodox faithful are encouraged to prepare and receive Holy Communion more often. Christ is giving us His Precious Body and Blood in every Eucharistic Service, Liturgy, out of His great love for humankind to all repented sinners and not because we are "worthy". Repent and pray daily and receive the Gift which God gives you for the remission of your sins and unity with Him and all saints. Receive the life which only God gives.

The blessing of homes in our parish will begin after Memorial Day in June. First, we will start with Joliet and then continue with other areas. You can expect to receive either an email or phone call from Fr Alex to schedule the blessing of your home. In case you still don't feel comfortable and would like to postpone the blessing of your home for a later date this summer, please notify the priest. After the blessing of your home, please save the holy water to use throughout the year with prayers and faith in God's everlasting mercy.

As we are beginning to be more open in our community and the pandemic is getting under control, thank God, people feel more comfortable attending the services. If you feel comfortable you can come to church without a mask and if not, please feel free to wear your mask. Masks are still available in church as well as hand sanitizers for all to use.

We will get more out of the services if we pray rather than merely attend them. Allow the hymns to enter your heart, and make their words your own. Remember that the services are not a time for private prayers but for sharing in the common worship of the Church.

Христос Воскресе Воистину Воскресе

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!