

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
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Sunday, June 5 – Sunday of the fathers of 1st ecumenical council

Epistle Acts 20:16-18,28-36 Gospel John 17:1-13 tone 6th 3rd & 6th hours at 8:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 9 am. Čevap lunch in Social Center sponsored by Kolo Sestara

Friday, June 10 Vespers / confession at 6 pm

Saturday, June 11 – Memorial Saturday / Zadušnice Divine Liturgy and general parastos at 9 am, Vigil / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, June 12 – Holy Pentecost / Trojice / Duhovi

Epistle Acts 2:1-11 Gospel John 7:37-52; 8:12
3rd & 6th hours at 8:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 9 am. **Vespers and kneeling prayers.** Coffee hour

Upcoming Feast days and events:

June 20 – Beginning of Apostolic Fast / Početak Apostolskog Posta
26 – Parish Vidovdan celebration / Parohijska proslava Vidovdana
July 17 – Annual Church Picnic at St Joe's Park

We are praying especially for: Radovan and Darlene Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Christopher, Sandy Grundy, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Craig Vercelote, Millie Skoryi, Donna Moses, Steven Pyevich, Rebecca Prieboy, Tatjana Voight, 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!

Pomens (litany for departed +Christy Zirkelbadn, given by N N; +Lilly Voulgaris, given by Jack/Dolly Book; **There will be no pomens on Pentecost, Sunday, June 12**

Sundays Divine Liturgy from June 5 to Labor Day will **start at 9 am**. Please inform your family and friends about this change. **Let us all be on time for church!**

Our Orthodox people have many beautiful customs which are practiced especially on the main Holy Days of the church. These customs give a festive feeling to the day and one can't help but to realize that it is a special day! One of these customs is the decorating of the church and home with foliage on Pentecost. The greens usually spread over the floor of the church and the foliage is used to decorate the entrance of the church, iconostas and other areas. In the Serbian Orthodox church, the faithful braid the greens into wreaths during the kneeling of prayers at the vespers which follows the Divine Liturgy.

The custom of decorating church/home with boughs is an ancient one. Goes back in the Old Testament temple during the Jewish Pentecost (Lev 23:10-17) Branches of trees, flowers, and grass remind the Jews how Israel lived in tabernacles round Mt Sinai.

The first Christians were Jews and so without a doubt on the day of Pentecost the house where the Apostles were meeting when the Holy Spirit descended upon them was decorated in the traditional manner. From the Apostolic times, the Christian churches and homes were decorated in like manner.

Flowers and foliage are tokens of the renewal of nature in the spring and they thus typify the renewal of mankind through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The words from our Patriarch Porfirije (paraphrased) When do we fast, make our confession and partake of holy communion? We fast when the Church asks us to fast during the fasting seasons and on certain holy days, we partake of holy communion at Divine Liturgy and confess regularly from our hearts and not mechanically. For historical reasons, we stopped frequent communion, and it must be restored. Regulations on fasting, how much and whether it will be increased or decreased for certain parishioners, when and how many times to confess, before every communion or once per month or so, and the preparation for the communion, first and foremost is between every faithful parishioner and their spiritual father, the priest. The old "tradition" was that you fast one week or five days, go to "confession" mechanically and are ready to commune. This is truly the "old way" and should be replaced. Please think about the words and suggestions of our beloved Patriarch!

Our Social Center is open and we always need more workers for events. This is your church and Social Center. Please call Olga Blagojevic at 708-420-1117 to offer your help. Let her know that you want to work, so she has your name and phone number and can contact you when needed. This is a perfect job for you and your family and especially for your teen children.

If you are planning your vacation this summer make sure you look for an Orthodox church or Monastery in the area where you will be vacationing to attend on Sunday. Please remember your weekly donations to St George, even though you are not in church, we still have to pay our bills.

Just a friendly reminder to our retired parishioners to make an effort to attend Feast Days Services during the week days, especially if you reside in Joliet or not too far from the church.

Attention Amazon Shoppers - You can now shop at AmazonSmile to support St George SOC Joliet. The direct link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0599738>, or just go to AmazonSmile and add St George as your charity. Support us every time you shop. Amazon will donate 0.05% of the purchase price on eligible products to St George SOC.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!