

**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

**Blessed Pentecost!**

**Sunday, June 12 – Holy Pentecost / Trojice / Duhovi**

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

**Fast free week ova sedmica se ne posti**

**Monday, June 13 – Day of the Holy Spirit** Divine Liturgy at 9 am

**Tuesday, June 14 – Pentecost Tuesday** Divine Liturgy at 9 am

**Sunday, June 19 – Sunday of All Saints / Nedelja Svih Svetih**

*Epistle Hebrews 11:33; 12:2 Gospel Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30* tone 8<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 8:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 9 am. 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!

**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!

**Those of you who would like to partake holy communion more frequently, please talk to Fr Alex.**

**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.

**Recently our church has had some unexpected expenses** and we kindly ask our parishioners to please help their church. A new refrigerator was purchased, the church Dome was sealed and a new carpet installed in the upper-level hall, we have to secure the gate at Stryker Ave, the church bells are out of order and have to be fixed, ... Please be kind and open your heart as much as you are able to do so.

**Забележите у ваш календар** да ће црквени пикник бити у недељу 17 јула у St Joseph Park, Joliet, IL од 12 до 21 час. Поред добре хране, биће и српска музика и лепо парохијско дружење. Ако не знате где је парк, позовите о. Александра да вам да дирекције.

**Troparion of Pentecost, Tone 8:** Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, /Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, /and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. // O Lover of mankind, glory be to Thee.

**Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!**