

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, December 4 – Entry of the Theotokos into the temple / Vavedenije Presvete Bogorodice
Epistle Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 9:1-7 Gospel Luke 10:25-37; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 tone 8th
3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Bear game watching and luncheon

Wednesday, December 7 – Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria / Sv mučenica Katarina

Friday, December 9 – St Alipiyus the Stylite / Sv Alimpije Stolpnik Confession at 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday, December 10 Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, December 11 - 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Ephesians 5:9-19 Gospel Luke 12:16-21 tone 1st

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Posno luncheon and annual assembly of the church school congregation

Upcoming Feast days and events:

December 12 -St Mardarije of Libertyville
17 -Great martyr Barbara / Father will serve the liturgy in Moline, IL
19 – St Nicholas the wonderworker / Sv Nikola

We are praying especially for: Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Christopher, Sandy Grundy, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Craig Vercelote, Millie Skoryi, Steven Pyevich, Steva Iacsin, Nicholas Malinovich, George Cizmas, Sofija Komadina Peters, Ely Grubisich, 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 reposed): +Betty Grubisich, given by Jack/Dollie Book; +Zorka and +Životije Pavlović, given by Milinka Pavlović and family; +Milan Brkljač, given by Danielle, Serdar; +Donna Moses, given by Wm/Jan Taylor; +Jeffrey and +Judy Lockwood, given by Pat Mancke and family;

Please be advised Saturday, December 17, and Sunday, December 18, a new kitchen floor will be installed and thus there will be no access to the upper-level kitchen on these dates

Wishing you a blessed and spiritually beneficial Nativity Fast which started on Monday, November 28, and will last until Christmas, January 7. During this time of preparation for the joyous Holy Day of the Christian Church, let us all fast, repent, cleanse our hearts from all spiritual impurity and sin and anticipate the joyous Nativity. This season of anticipation for us Orthodox Christians is the time to confess our sins and partake of Holy Communion at least once. Confession can be done in the church at any time. If Saturday evening after the vigil does not work for you, please let Fr Aleksandar know which day you can come to church to make your confession. **Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Liturgy.** Please check the bulletins regularly for the schedule of services in our church. Let us find a way to combine our busy life and our faith and continue to be good Orthodox faithful during the month of December. We can do this but we need a strong will and obedience. I ask and recommend you to please get one of the Orthodox religious books and finish it during the Nativity Fast.

The ASSC and Cultural Club will be sponsoring Bears game luncheons in the upper-level bar for the following noon games immediately following the church services: December 4th and 18th.

Food will be provided by the ASSC and Cultural Club. Friends and family are welcome and donations for the church are appreciated. For questions or more information, please reach out to Zakk Kocoj

After the liturgy, all who received Holy Communion should remain in church to read the required prayers after receiving Holy Communion. The prayers are at the end of the Divine Liturgy book for your use. Return to the pew until everyone receives the blessed bread, prosphora. The priest will then start the prayers loudly with “Glory to Thee, O God, Glory to Thee” three times. Then everyone will read the prayers aloud.

The 2023 wall calendars are available in the narthex, one per family for free, graciously sponsored by the Tezak Funeral Home. Every calendar has a nice Orthodox ikon on it and if you like it, you can frame it at the end of year, if not you can burn it in your fireplace together with your last year's badnjak branch, old bulletins, Pentecost wreath or any other sacred item which you have in your home, rather than just throw it in the trash. You can bring old slava candles to church and burn them. Theophany water should be prayerfully used during the year and not just saved. By the time new Theophany water comes, you can mix it with the last year's.

Visit our St George Bookstore under the church to purchase your Orthodox Christmas and other cards and gifts for the upcoming Holidays.

The end of the 2023 calendar year is coming soon and let us examine our conscience: did we do everything we could to improve our spiritual life in this year, strive to become more Christ-like, and did we support our parish church, home of St George, truly and wholeheartedly. And how strong has our love, time, talents and treasure towards St George and all groups of the church been so far and should we improve it? Now is the time if you wish to complete all your church donations for the year 2022.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!