

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436

Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest

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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.

“Do not fear, only believe” Mark 5:36

May His Holiness Patriarch Irinej memory be eternal! Vječnaja Pamjat!

Sunday, December 13 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost / St Andrew the first-called apostle/ Ан Андреј првозвани
Epistle Eph. 6:10-17; I Cor. 4:9-16 Gospel Luke 13:10-17; John 1:35-51 Tone 2nd 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. 40 days parastos for +Milovan Kisich

Thursday, December 17 – Great Martyr Barbara / Св Варвара мученица Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Friday, December 18 Vespers / confession at 6 pm

Saturday, December 19 – St Nicholas the Wonderworker / Св Никола Divine Liturgy at 9 am, Vigil / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, December 20 – 28th Sunday after Pentecost / St Ambrose of Milan
Epistle Col. 1:12-18 Gospel Luke 17:12-19 Tone 3rd 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. One-year parastos for +Rada Albu. Curbside Cooke bake sale.

Upcoming Feast days and events:

December 25 – St Herman of Alaska / St Spiridon / Св Герман аљаски и Св Спиридон

27 – Serbian Mother's Day / Materice

Pomens (Litany for departed): +Patriarch Irinej; +Paul Shimek, given by Gayle Shimek and Nenad/Stephanie Jakovljevic; +Zorka Miller, given by Vivian Tadin; +Eva, +Vaso and +Helen Grubisich, +Milovan Kisich, +George Enich, given by Ely Grubisich; +Milovan Kisich, +Petar Katic, and +George Enich, given by M/M Jack Book Sr; +George, +Violet, +Michael, +Joseph Sr, and +Stella Enich, +Danica and +Alex Sr Grabavoy, given by M/M Michael Keer; +George Enich, +George Rydman, +Paul Shimek and +Nicholas Ostoich, given by Genevieve Ostoich;

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Stevan Iacsin, Christopher, Richard Kovacevich, Stevan Lunich, Milorad Ristich, Ilija Hrnjak, Allan Miller, 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!

Wishing you a blessed and spiritually beneficial Nativity Fast which started on Saturday, 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. The Sacraments have never been stopped in our church, not even during this Pandemic. 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. Holy Communion can also be received at any time during the week. Please let Fr Aleksandar know the day and time you want to come. Fr Aleksandar can also bring communion to your home if you prefer to take communion that way. There is no reason to deny yourself Holy Confession and Communion.

As you know, our Annual Assembly has been temporarily postponed due to COVID meeting restrictions. So, for anyone still interested in a St George management position, there is still time to apply. The positions are for Hall Manager, Kitchen Manager, Bar Manager, Church Custodian & Hall Custodian. The term runs from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Please submit your interest in an email or letter to Father Alex by Sunday, December 20th.

Also, for church members in good standing that would like to be on the 2021 St George Church Executive Board, you can still submit your application to Father Alex. Current board members wishing to continue serving must also re-apply. Forms for the Executive Board are located at the Warden's desk. These applications also need to be submitted by December 20th. Heads of church organizations need to submit their year-end annual reports to Father by December 20th. These are used in the Annual Assembly and will be included in the next issue of The Serb.

In preparation for a joyous Nativity, some Orthodox Serbs plant wheat in a pot on the Feast of St. Barbara, and eat the cooked and sweetened wheat together with other cooked grains like barley and corn. In some areas this is the tradition on St. Nicholas. Two Sundays before Nativity is Serbian Mother's Day - Materice, when children tie their mothers' and grandmothers' legs together, and in return they get symbolic presents. The same is done with fathers and grandfathers on the next Sunday. Tying the legs represents the bonds and love in the family before the Feast of the Birth of our Savior.

The Curbside Cookie Bake Sale will be December 20th. For \$20, you will get a container with an assortment of Serbian and Christmas cookies for the upcoming holidays. **Last day to pre-order is Sunday, December 13th.** Pickup on December 20th is at the upper level of the Social Center between 11:30am - 12:30pm. Call or text Danielle at 630-709-7437 with your name and number of containers. Cash or Checks payable to St George when you pick up. Let us bake for you this holiday season while supporting your parish for the final fundraiser of 2020.

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 your liturgy book. Please return to the pew after you receive 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. It is best if one person starts and the rest follow. If you are in hurry that Sunday for a good reason, please read by yourself after you receive prosphora.

The 2021 wall calendars are available in the narthex, one per family for free. Many thanks to Tezak funeral home for sponsoring it again this year. 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 years.