

**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](mailto:abugarin@kc.rr.com)

**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's memory be eternal! Vječnaja Pamjat!**

**Sunday, Dec. 27 - Sunday of the Holy Forefathers / Serbian Mother's Day, Materice / Epistle Col. 3:4-11; Gospel: Luke 14:16-24, Tone 4<sup>th</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school.**

**Friday, January 1** Vespers/confession at 6 pm

**Saturday, January 2 – St Ignatius of Antioch/St John of Kronstadt / Forefeast of Nativity**

Divine Liturgy at 9 am; Vigil / confession at 5 pm

**Sunday, January 3– Sunday before Nativity / Serbian Father's Day / Očevi Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25; Tone 5<sup>th</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Decoration of badnjak in church.**

**Upcoming Feast days and events:**

January 6 – Nativity Eve / Badnji dan/

7 - The Nativity of our Lord and Savior / Божић

9 – St Stephen the First Archdeacon and Protomartyr / Св Стефан првомученик и архиђакон

**Pomens (Litany for departed):** +Patriarch Irinej; +Paul Shimek, given by Gayle Shimek and Nenad/Stephanie Javkvljevic; +Julia Jovanovich, +Paul Shimek, and +George Enich, given by Nancy Jovanovich; +Rada Albu, given by Radoica and Dan Kilgore and family, +Rada Albu, given by Joana Albu; +George, +George and +Julia, +Joseph and +Stella Enich, +Richard and +Julia Jovanovich, +Alexander and +Danica Grabavoy, given by Janice/Wm Taylor;

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

**Two Sundays before Nativity is Serbian Mother's Day, Materice**, when children tie their mothers' and grandmothers' legs together, and in return 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 traditional Serbian Orthodox greeting** for the Nativity season is Christ is Born and the reply is Indeed He is Born or Truly He is Born. In Serbian it is Hristos se rodi and the reply is Voistinu se rodi. Many Slavic people such as Russians and Ukrainians say Christ is Born, Glorify Him! Either all together or One person would say Christ is Born and another Glorify Him. The Christmas greeting in Greek is Christ is Born, give glory! Again, either just one person or two with Christ is Born and reply Give glory. The Christmas greeting is used from the day of the Nativity until the Apodosis or Leave-taking of the Feast which is January 13.

**Holy Mysteries never have been stopped in our church.** Holy Communion is offered at every Divine Liturgy. Communicants should put their head back and open their mouth wide to receive communion so the spoon does not touch their lips. Confession is on Saturdays after the vigil or on Sunday and other Holy Days, 30 minutes before any Divine Liturgy. Confession and communion can also be taken at any other time in church or at a parishioner's home. There is no reason to be without the saving Mysteries! Please let Fr Alex know which way you would like to receive confession and communion. To be a member in good standing of an Orthodox church, a faithful parishioner should be in good standing in his/her Sacramental/liturgical and financial obligations.

**During the pandemic**, four of our parishioners continued to read 3rd & 6th hours before Sunday Liturgy. Many thanks. If you would like to read the hours and feel safe and are healthy, please let the priest know.

**A few months ago, we had instructions** for making and baking the prosphoras - liturgical bread, in our kitchen. Some parishioners were not able to attend, but we will have another one in January. Please let Fr Aleksandar know which day of the week would work the best for you if you would like to participate.

**Зидни календари могу се узети у цркви, један по фамилији.** Крај године је ту и проверите да сте финансијски помогли вашу цркву у 2020 години. Ако нисте а желели би да постанете чланови црквена општине, јавите се о. Александару да вам да форму коју треба да испуните. Користите коферте са вашим именом кад дајете цркви прилог да се зна од кога долази. Јавите о Александру ако планирате доћи у цркву за Божић због ограничене посете богослужењима за време пандемије. Обавезно ставите маску у цркви и направите размак.

**Ако немате свете воде у кући** донесите флашу у цркву и питајте свештеника да вам успе да имате за кућу. **Погледајте у** парохјским новинама које сте добили електронском поштом или на црквеном фејсбук распоред богослужења са Божић. Уколико се нисте још исповедили у току поста и причестили, није касно. Помозите вашу цркву вашим прилозима како сад за Божић тако и преко године.

**Традиционални Божићни поздрав је** Христос се роди и одговор је Воистину се роди.

**Coronavirus Prayer**

O Lord our God enter not into judgment 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!**