

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436

Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest

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"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- John 3:16

Sunday, January 19 – Holy Theophany / Богојављење Epistle [Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7](#) Gospel [Matthew 3:13-17](#) 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. **Great blessing of water.** Church school, coffee hour

Monday, January 20 – Synaxis of St John the Baptist / Св Јован Крститељ Divine Liturgy at 9 am. Slava kolac' s will be blessed after the liturgy

Saturday, January 25 Vigil / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, January 26 – 32nd Sunday after Pentecost / St Sava parish celebration Epistle [Hebrew 4:7-13](#) Gospel [Matthew 4:12-17](#) tone 7th 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. 40th day parastos for +Rada Albu. Blessing of kolac and children's program, dinner in Social Hall.

Upcoming feast days/events:

February 2 - Kolo sestara annual meeting / Super Bowl party, sponsored by ASSC

12 – Holy Three Hierarchs / Св Три Јерарха

The Greek word **Synaxis** is often retained in English, or else translated to "Meeting"; in Russian, the word used is sobor. In both the Greek and Russian meanings, it denotes an assembly of the faithful for liturgical, celebratory, reasons.

Prayer before Partaking Holy Water

O Lord, my God, may Thy holy gift and Thy holy water be for the remission of my sins, for the enlightenment of my mind, for the strengthening of my soul and body, for the health of my soul and body, for conquering of my passions and infirmities, according to Thy mercy that hath no limit, through the prayers of Thy Most Pure Mother and all Thy saints. Amen.

The priest will start blessing homes in our parish after the Theophany and bring the grace of Theophany to every house. For the blessing of your home you will need: a bowl with fresh water half filled, church candle, Orthodox Icon, either to be on wall near the table or on the table and a list of living members of your family. In the bowl you pour fresh water and not the Theophany water from last year. If you still have Theophany water in your home, please keep it in a special container and just add the new holy water to the same container and use it throughout the year with faith. Candle can be previously used either for slava or other occasions, as long as it came from church. If you have home censer and would like the priest to cense your house, please leave it by the bowl. Let the priest know if you want him to sprinkle the entire house or just the area around the table. Fr Aleksandar will contact you before he comes to bless your home.

The 2020 weekly envelopes are available in the narthex for all families to take home and to use this year.

Weekly donations and offerings are the main source of our church income, and we encourage you all to use the envelopes every week for your tithes.

With the New Year beginning, please remember to pay your 2020 stewardship to the church and to all organizations you belong to. Remember to use your weekly/other envelopes for your donations, and commit this year more to the Orthodox way of life.

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Judy Lockwood, Stevan Iacsin, Stevan Lunich, George Cizmas, George, Christopher, Milorad Ristich, 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!

As voted at the 2019 Annual Assembly, St. George publishes a list of donors, listed in \$1,000 increment tiers. Contact John Dauer to be listed as "Anonymous" within the respective tier. Contact John at Jd1901@me.com or call/text 847-420-4055.

All Orthodox faithful are encouraged to prepare and receive Holy Communion more often. Christ is giving us His Precious Body and Blood in every Eucharistic Service, Liturgy, out of His great love for humankind to all repented sinners and not because we are "worthy". Repent and pray daily and receive the Gift which God gives you for the remission of your sins and unity with Him and all saints. Receive the life which only God gives.

Almost every year since 2002, Fr Aleksandar has organized pilgrimages to the old country for American Serbs who do not speak Serbian and have never been there but would love to visit the country of their ancestors and especially the villages where their ancestors came from. Upon request, Father Aleksandar will organize a pilgrimage this fall leaving the US on Monday, September 28 and returning October 11. If you would like to visit the country of your ancestors, visit the most important middle age monasteries that you have heard about all your life, see the towns and museums and a beautiful early fall landscape, and visit the village from which your family came, please let Fr Aleksandar know by the middle of April. If you need more information about the trip, prices, accommodations, places to be visited, etc, please talk to or give a call to Fr Aleksandar.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!