

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, February 17 – Sunday of Publican and Pharisee / Недеља Митара и Фарисеја

Epistle II Tim. 3:10-15 Gospel Luke 18:10-14 Tone 5th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church School and coffee hour.

Fr Aleksandar will be in Moline, IL and area visiting the people and blessing homes. There will be no vespers/confession on Saturday.

Sunday, February 24 – Sunday of Prodigal Son

Epistle 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel Luke 15:11-32 Tone 6th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church School. Pastry raffle sponsored by culture club.

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Delores Malinovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Dragan Kremarevic, Slavka Novakovic, Dolly Book, Nicole and Kathy Petkovich, Judy and Scott Lockwood, 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!

Upcoming holy days / events:

March 2 – Memorial Saturday / Zadušnice

3 - Bowling Party organized by culture club

10 – Forgiveness Sunday / Cheese fare Sunday

Pomens: +Mark Davilo, given by Sue Kljaich; +Kimball Mancke, given by Ely Grubisich; +Kimball Mancke, given by Jill, Parker and Everett Mancke; +Stojka Markovic, given by protinica Gordana Bugarin; +Michael Kljaich, given by Sue Kljaich; +Darlene Rizzi, given by Dragana and Angelo Rizzi.

Culture club is sponsoring a Bowling Party and potluck meal on Sunday, March 3. Students of church school admission and shoes will be paid by culture club. Parents, friends of culture club and parishioners are invited to join us. Sign up in lower level.

Just a friendly reminder to our retired parishioners to make an effort to attend Feast Days Services during the week days, especially if you reside in Joliet or not too far from the church.

In our church we have at least 4 bulletin boards. One is in the Narthex and the rest are downstairs. Bulletin Boards are important because all parochial and news from Serbian and other Orthodox churches are posted there for us to get information and to learn about the upcoming events in our church community. Please stop by a Bulletin Board and read the fliers on it. All church groups, please post your fliers on the Bulletin Boards.

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is the first preparatory Sunday for the Great Lent (Fast). Let us start preparing for the blessed journey which God has prepared for us of cleansing and purifying ourselves in anticipation of the Highest Christian Holy Day - Holy Pascha. In addition to Saturday Vespers and Sunday Holy Liturgy, please arrange your schedule now to attend as many Lenten Services as you can. Presanctified Liturgies of St Gregory Dialogist will be served every Wednesday. The first week of Lent in the morning at 9 am, Lenten hours will start at 8 am, confession at 8:30 am and the next week in the evening at 6 pm when Lenten hours will start at 5 pm and confession at 5:30 pm. Serving the Presanctified Liturgy in the morning and in the evening offers an opportunity to all parishioners to attend either the morning Liturgy or experience the special Lenten Evening Liturgy. Please check the church website, FB, Sunday bulletin and bulletin boards in the church for all Lenten Services.

Every Wednesday Evening during the Great Lent, we will have religious discussions in one of the classrooms beneath the church. If the liturgy is in the evening, the discussion will be after the liturgy at approximately 7 pm. When the liturgy is in the morning, a religious discussion will start at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions about the Bible, our practices, Orthodox faith, prayer, or other topics, please tell Fr Aleksandar, and we will have it as a topic of our discussion. If you wish you may bring fruit, pastry and/or other posno snacks especially after evening Liturgy.

When the Presanctified Liturgy is served in the evening, those who will partake of Holy Communion should fast from 12 pm (noon) until receiving communion. For those who can physically endure an all-day total fast, please do so.

On each of the three Sundays before Lent, the church brings before us a plea for repentance, set to sacred music. Here are the words of that prayer. *From the Matins of Publican and Pharisee, Lenten Triodion*

Glory..., The gates of repentance, do Thou open unto me, O Giver of Life, * for early in the morning my spirit seeketh Thy holy temple, * bearing the temple of my body all defiled. * But as One who art compassionate ** cleanse it by Thy loving-kindness and mercy.

Both now..., Guide me on the paths of salvation, O Theotokos: * for I have polluted my soul with shameful deeds * and wasted all my life in slothfulness. ** but by thine intercessions * do thou deliver me from all impurity.

In Tone VI: Have mercy upon me, O God, * according to Thy great mercy: * and according to the multitude of Thy compassion * blot out my transgressions.

As I the wretched one ponder the multitude of evil deeds I have done, * I tremble for fear of the dread day of judgment. * But trusting in Thy compassionate mercy, * like David do I cry unto Thee: ** 'Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy'.

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