

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
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Sunday, January 6 – Eve of the Nativity & Sunday of the Holy Fathers / Serbian Father's Day / Бадњи дан / Очеви

Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40 Gospel Matthew 1:1-25 Tone 7th

Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour. **Nativity vespers / Божићно вечерње** at 12:30 pm, confession to follow; Ladies are asked to bring a posno dessert and/or snack for the refreshments after the blessing of Badnjak
Nativity Vigil / Божићно бденије at 6 pm. **Blessing of Badnjak** in the hall, refreshments.

Monday, January 7 - The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ / Rodjenje Gospoda Isusa Hrista / Bozic

Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 10 am Blessed Christmas / Srećan Bozic

Tuesday, January 8 - The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos / Sabor Presvete Bogorodice

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Vespers / confession at 5 pm

Wednesday, January 9 – St Stephen the First Martyr and Archdeacon / Sv Stevan Prvomucenik I Arhidjakon

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday, January 12

Vespers / confession at 5 pm

Sunday, January 13– Apodosis of the Nativity & Sunday After Nativity / New Year eve/ Odanije Bozica

Epistle Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel Matthew 2:13-23 Tone 8th

Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Oath of officers. Church school. Coffee hour

Vespers/ confession at 5pm

We are praying especially for: Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Ceba Severns, Radovan Jovanovich, Delores Malinovich, Art Schumann, Richard Jovanovich, Dragan Krcmarevic, Sophia and Slavka Novakovic, Linda, 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:

January 14 – St Basil the Great / Old calendar New Year / Св Василије Велики / Старокалендарска Нова Година

19 – Theophany /Bogojavljenje

20 – Synaxis of St John the Baptist/ Sabor Sv Jovana Krstitelja

Pomens: +Peter and +Leona Petkovich, +Nicholas and +Beda Nikolich, given by Pete and Kathy Petkovich & family

This year, our Sveti Sava celebration will be on the Feast of Sveti Sava on Sunday, January 27. After the Divine Liturgy, there will be a blessing of festal bread and koljivo in the hall, lunch and a children's program. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend this important event!

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** or you may hear sometimes **Vaistinu se rodi**, which means the same.

The Christmas greeting is used from the day of the Nativity of Christ until the Apodosis or Leave-taking of the Feast which is January 13.

From Nativity on Jan. 7 until the eve of Theophany, Jan. 18 is a fast-free period. The Church lets us enjoy the feast and eat all the food we love. Remember this isn't the time for us to neglect our spiritual life. On the Feast of Theophany, Jan. 19, which is a Major Holy Day, we are invited to partake of the Holy Mystery of Communion. Some might say, "I did not fast, I cannot take communion." If the Church tells us not to physically fast then why would we question it? We have enough time of the year when we should physically fast, but we all ought to practice spiritual fasting

Please keep the Nativity Fast until the Feast of Nativity and receive the Mysteries, especially on the Feast of Nativity. Let us remind ourselves that members/stewards in good standing are not just the one who pay their financial obligations but who are active in worship and church life and who receive the Mysteries regularly.

Clergy brotherhood calendars/yearbooks are available in narthex for sale for \$15. They contain the addresses/phones of every Serb Orth Church in North and South America.

Cross Medallions left from our 90th anniversary are available for sale on wardens table, \$20 each. They are graciously donated by Anka Laketa and Mr. and Mrs. Radovan Jovanovich. All proceeds to our church.

Badnjak: A Yule Log. The branch of an oak tree is blessed in church and brought home on Christmas eve. Some people burn it in the fire place and some save it by the slava ikon in their ikon corner.

Cesnica (chesnitca): A traditional Christmas bread with a coin inside. It is broken/cut before the meal on Christmas and the one who gets the coin in his/her piece will be lucky for the rest of the year. In some Balkan areas, cesnica is made as a regular bread from wheat flour, some make it with wheat and corn flours and in Vojvodina (northern Serbia) it is similar to a baklava with filo dough, ground walnuts, raisins, sugar or honey and chopped dry figs. The host of the house will buy back a coin from the cesnica and save the coin for next year. It is usually saved inside the frame of the slava ikon.