

**St. George Serbian Orthodox Church**  
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436  
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest  
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**Sunday, December 16 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Prophet Zephaniah / Пророк Софроније**

*Epistle Col. 3:4-11 Gospel Luke 17:12-19 Tone 4<sup>th</sup>*

Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour. Palacinke sale.

**Monday, December 17 – Great Martyr Barbara / Св мученица Варвара**

**Tuesday, December 18**

Vespers / confession at 6 pm

**Wednesday, December 19 – St Nicholas the wonderworker / Св Николај чудотворац**

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

**Saturday, December 22**

Vespers / confession at 5 pm

**Sunday, December 23 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Euphrasius of Alexandria**

*Epistle Col. 3:12-16 Gospel Luke 21:12-19 Tone 5<sup>th</sup>*

Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour.

**We are praying especially for:** Ceba Severns, Mary Book, Millie Stapinski, Radovan Jovanovich, Delores Malinovich, Art Schumann, Zoran Nikitovich, Richard Jovanovich, 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:**

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

December 30 – Badnjak decoration after the service. / Украшавање бадњака после литургије /Serbian Mother's Day

**Pomens:** +Julie Starceвич, +Zorka Miller, +Draga Tadin, +Paul Kateris, +Roy Kuriger, +Tom Laketa, given by Neddie Astorino; +Michael Sr, +Joseph and +Hazel, +Nicholas, Kljaich, + Michael O'Leary, +George, +Anna Malinovich, given by Susan Kljaich and Frances Juarez; +Nicholas Ostoich, given by Genny Ostoich; +Zorka Tadin, given by Vivian Tadin; +Lois Orlovich, given by Judy Lockwood; +Lois Orlovich, given by Ely Grubisich

**The 2019 wall calendars** are available in the narthex, one per family for free. 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.

**The end of the 2018 calendar year** is coming soon and let us examine our conscience: did we did everything we could to improve our spiritual life in this year, strive to become more Christ-like, and did we support our parish church, home of St George, truly and wholeheartedly. And how strong has our love, time, talents and treasure towards St George been so far and should we improve it? Now is the time if you wish to complete all your church donations for the year of 2018.

**In preparation for a joyous Nativity**, some Orthodox Serbs plant wheat in a pot on the Feast of St. Barbara (Sveta Varvara), 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.

**Krsna Slava Day (Patron Saint)** is a very important feast day in the lives of Orthodox Serbs. Slava is represented with festal bread, kolac, cooked wheat, koljivo or zito, it depends on how you learned, both are fine, and a Slava Candle. On Slava Day people should attend church service and pray for the living and the deceased family members. It is appropriate to have a pomen for your deceased family members and of course to prepare to receive holy communion. Kolac and koljivo (zito) can be brought to church for blessing or the priest will come to your home. Slava is a day of spiritual reflection and not just a day of enjoying food. If Slava Day falls during fasting season or on Wednesday or Friday during the year, the food should be Lenten.

**Parents**, please remember to bring your child/children to church every Sunday and to attend Church School after communion.

**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.

**На крају литургије** кад узмете нафору-освећени хлеб и примите благослов од свештеника, мирно изађите из цркве. Гласан разговор пре или после литургије у цркви није пожељан јер верници који су се причестили читају молитве после причести и треба да се сконцентришу на молитве. Уколико желите поразговарати са пријатељима, идите доле, можете попиту кафу и тамо поразговарајте.

**Зидни православни календари** су у цркви и можете узети један бесплатно за вашу породицу.

Припремите се за исповест и за причест овога поста, Погледајте у билтен кад је исповест а причест је увек кад се служи Света Литургија. Молите се Богу, постите и тражите опроштај за Ваше грехе. Пост није само у не једењу неке хране него и у контролисању речи и нашег понашања.

**Читајте Свето Писмо свакога дана** по неколико стихова. То је Реч Божија и духовна храна за дан. Ако немате Свето Писмо на српском, јавите о Александру да Вам нађе.