

**St. George Serbian Orthodox Church**  
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**Sunday, December 23 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus 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.

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

**Wednesday, December 26**

Culture class at 6:30 pm

**Saturday, December 29**

Vespers / confession at 5 pm

**Sunday, December 30 – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Holy Forefathers & The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Youths / Serbian Mother's day / Materice**

*Epistle Colossians 3:4-11; Hebrews 11:33-40 Gospel Luke 14:16-24; Luke 11:47-12:1 Tone 6<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, Dragan Krcmarevic, 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 7 - The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ /  
9- St Stephen the Archdeacon /

**Pomens:** +Dayna Less, given by Radovan and Darlene Jovanovich; +Joe Resanovich, given by Anka Laketa and family; +Bob Miller, +Helen and +Dorn Johnston, +Joe and +Lynn Enich, +Michael Kljaich, given by Edythe Miller.

**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.

**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.

**Orthodox boys who are 7 years** or older should serve in the altar. Before sending their child to serve in the altar, it is important for parents to explain the position, and that it is an honor to serve and help the clergy during the service. Parents should also remember to bring them on time.

**Occasionally we see dates in religious books**, bulletin or calendars like June 4 / 17 or September 1 / 14 and we may get confused about why we have two dates. The first number is the church calendar date and the second is the date according to our old Julian calendar, which is always 13 days behind. The celebration of the Birth of Christ Jesus is December 25 / January 7. This means the church calendar states the Nativity of Christ is December 25, which is true but for us who follow the Julian calendar December 25 is actually January 7, again because we are 13 days behind.

**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.

**После литургије сиђите** доле у салу на кафу и разговор са пријатељима и парохијанима.

**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.