

**St. George Serbian Orthodox Church**  
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436  
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest  
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**Sunday, January 28- 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Parish celebration of St Sava**

*Epistle Col. 3:12-16 Gospel Luke 18:18-27 tone 1<sup>st</sup>*

3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Blessing of kolac and zito, kumovi Maria Vercelote and the Kourkoumelis family. Children's poems in church. Luncheon in the church basement, all parishioners are welcome.

**Sunday, February 4 - 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Epistle I Tim. 1:15-17 Gospel Luke 18:35-43 tone 2<sup>nd</sup>*

3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school and coffee hour. Kolo sestara annual meeting

**Upcoming Feast days and events:**

February 15 – The Meeting of our Lord in the temple / Sretenije

18 – Annual Sarama Cook off / Donesite sarme po vasem receptu da vidimo čija ce biti najbolja

March 18 – Beginning of Great Lent / Početak Časnog posta

**Reminder- All Parishioners:** If you are not in attendance at Divine Liturgy on any given Sunday and do not receive the weekly bulletin, please go on our St. George Church's Facebook page or web site and read the weekly bulletin. If you have any personal information newsworthy, please contact Father by phone or email. We will be glad to put it in the weekly bulletin or the Serb.

**We are praying especially for:** Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Christopher, Sandy Grundy, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Craig Vercelote, Steva Iacsin, Nicholas Malinovich, Natalie Radakovich, Alexandra Starcevic, Genevieve Ostoich, Donald Laketa, Milenko Rajak, 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!

**Pomens (Litany)** +Dimitrije Sajić, given by Velibor Sajić & family; +Vlada Dmitrov, given by Steva Lukin family; + V Rev Nedeljko Lunich, given by Bill/Marty Seemann; +V Rev Nedeljko Lunich, given by Olga Schumann; +V Rev Nedeljko Lunich, given by Joseph Orlovich Jr family; +V Rev Steve Bithos.

**After the blessing of your home,** use the holy water throughout the year in time of illness, temptations or any other problems with this prayer.

**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.

**We will get more out of the services** if we pray rather than merely attend them. Allow the hymns to enter your heart, and make their words your own. Remember that the services are not a time for private prayers but for sharing in the common worship of the Church.

**Father started blessing of homes on Theophany after the liturgy,** first in Joliet, Crest Hill, Shorewood, Plainfield,... He will contact you via email, call, or text to schedule your blessing of homes. Please let him know if this time will not work out for you and if you would like your home blessed later on this year.

**The Forty-Day Blessing of a mother and a newborn baby** takes place before the Divine Liturgy or any other time in the narthex and essentially consists of prayers of joyful thanks for the safe delivery of mother and child. The service blesses the mother who has been absent from the sacramental life of the Church for forty days and formally presents the newborn child to the Church family for the first time. During the 40 days between the birth of the child, the mother and newborn should refrain from regular sacramental life/attending church services. In imitation of Christ's forty-day blessing (Luke 2:22-38), the parents of the newborn bring the baby to the church in order for the child to be dedicated to the Lord.

This beautiful tradition is practiced throughout the Orthodox World. The parents become a symbol of the Virgin Mary and Joseph, while the priest symbolizes St. Symeon who held Christ in his arms at the time of the presentation.

When a baby is born the parents should inform the parish priest to come to the hospital to say prayers for the mother and baby a day after birth. Eight days after the birth special prayers of naming the baby should be said by the priest in the parent's home and finally, the 40 days prayers are said in the parish church. Baptism of an infant can be done any time after the birth, but usually, parents wait until after 40 days so the mother can attend the service as well. Waiting for a long time to baptize the baby is not recommended. Every baptized baby should be brought to Holy Communion regularly and the preparation for confession will start as the child is 7 or 8 or at any time a parent thinks he/she is available to start preparation for fasting and confession. Lord, we raise Israel and Gaza to You, and pray for those suffering. We ask that You provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted. We lift our prayer to You, Lord, hear us.

**Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!**  
**Идите у миру, волите и служите Господа!**