

**St. George Serbian Orthodox Church**  
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436  
Protojerej-stavfor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest  
Phone 815 741-1023; Cell 913-558-5031 [abugarin@kc.rr.com](mailto:abugarin@kc.rr.com)

**Sunday, February 15 – The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple / Sretenije / Meat-Fare Sunday**

*Epistle I Cor. 8:8-9:2; Heb. 7:7-17 Gospel Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 2:22-40 tone 3rd*

3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am Church School and coffee hour. Taco Bar in the lower level of the church. All invited. Kolo meeting, all ladies from the church invited.

Fish, eggs and dairy allowed all week. Riba, jaja i mlečni proizvodi cele nedelje

**Saturday, February 21** Vigil/confession at 5 pm

**Sunday, February 22 – Cheese-fare Sunday / Sunday of Forgiveness / Bela Nedelja i Nedelja praštanja**

*Epistle Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel Matthew 6:14-21 tone 4th*

***“Forgive me, a sinner.” The response is, “God forgives.”***

***Oprosti mi grešnome/grešnoj, odgovor, Bog da prosti***

3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am Forgiveness Vespers. Church School and coffee hour.

Deanery Vespers of Forgiveness at St Sava church in Merrillville, IN at 6 pm. Holimist: Fr Aleksandar Novakovic

**Upcoming Feast days and events:**

February 23 – Beginning of Great Lent / Početak Časnog Posta

**We are praying especially for:** Richard Jovanovich, Michelle and Pete Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Steva Iacsin, Sandy Grundy, Nicholas Malinovich, Dusan Cvjetkovic, Roger Trizna, John Radakovich, Russell Johnston, Barb and Edward Phelon, Gayle Shimek, Kathy Petkovich, Angela Hartz, and all others in our parish who are ill, afflicted, suffering, in need of our prayers, and/or unable to attend services. May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!

**Pomens (lityny for departed)** +Dimitrije Sajić, given by Velibor Sajić and family; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Kirk/Jackie Stapinski; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Sandy Burcenski; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Cynthia Bosnich; +Amy Jovanovich, given by Jack/Dolie Book; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Circle of Serb Sisters; +Kimball Mancke, given by Pat Mancke & family; +Paul Shimek, +Radovan Jovanovich, +Nicholas and +Beda Nikolich, +Pete and +Leona Petkovich, given by Pete/Kathy Petkovich; +Paul Shimek and +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Gayle Shimek and Stephanie Jakovljevic; +Josephine Orlovich, given by Marlo Perry/Joel Orlovich/Paula Weller;

**The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period** prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

The Church eases us into the Lenten [fasting](#) discipline during this period. The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is fast-free. The week following the Prodigal Son is a normal week -- we fast as usual on Wednesday and Friday. In the week following Meat fare Sunday, no meat is eaten; eggs, fish, and dairy are permitted on any day.

**The Sunday of Forgiveness is on March 17.** After the Liturgy, we will have vespers of Forgiveness and ask each other, “Please forgive me”, and the reply is “God forgives”. We will then continue with the Lenten prayers of St Ephraim of Syria with prostrations. These are three small prayers and after each prayer, we make a prostration. Go down to the floor with your arms and try to touch the floor with your fore head and then stand up. If you are physically unable to do that, at least make a bow and cross yourself. The best way to do the prostrations is to get out of the pews. Remember the prostrations are not only for the clergy but for all the faithful! Do the best you can. These prayers and prostrations we do every day at home from Sunday evening until Friday. Try to memorize the prayers and use them throughout the Great Lent.

The first week of Great Lent is called the clean or pure week which is observed as a strict fast and an increase of prayers and repentance. Try to attend all services in church especially Canon of St Andrew of Crete and Presanctified Liturgy. The Great Lent should never be a “burden” for us, but rather a blessed time of the year which the Church gives us for our salvation and regaining the grace and connection with God which we lost during the year. If the changes in our lives are not practiced, and this sacred time is like another, we will never truly experience nor understand the meaning of Great Lent. Therefore, let us change our “regular” daily routines with the ones the Church offers. Preparation for and going to confession and communion often is spiritual medicine and strength during the Great Lent. May God open our minds and help us to understand and experience this year’s Great Lent in the best and most beneficial way.

**Presanctified Liturgies** will be served every Wednesday during Great Lent. The first week will be in the morning at 9 am and the second week in the evening at 6 pm and will be alternated. Confession will start half an hour before. Lenten hours will start an hour before the liturgies. The presanctified Liturgy was created by St. Gregory the Dialogist in the 7th century as a Lenten Vespereal Liturgy without the Eucharistic prayer. The Communion - Body and Blood of Christ, is consecrated in a previous Liturgy. These Liturgies are served to enable Orthodox Christians to partake of Communion more often during the Great Lent. Please let Fr Alex know if you would like to be a reader for the hours. If you would like to partake of confession and communion at the evening liturgy, please consult Fr Alex for the preparation.

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