

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
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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

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

As we are about to begin Great Lent, I would like to ask all for forgiveness and wish you a blessed and spiritually beneficial journey to Pascha. The best way to experience Great Lent is to attend the services and try to change your everyday routine and modify it according to the Lenten practices. *Fr Aleksandar*

Monday, February 23 – Beginning of Great Lent / Početak Časnog Posta / Clean week / Čista sedmica

Vespers and Canon of St Andrew of Crete at 6 pm. Religious discussion after.

Wednesday, February 25

Lenten Hours at 8 am; Confession at 8:30 am; Presanctified liturgy at 9 am

Saturday, February 28

Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, March 1 – Sunday of Orthodoxy / Nedelja Pravoslavlja

Epistle Hebrews 11:24-26;32-12:2 Gospel John 1:43-51 tone 5th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy of St Basil at 10 am Procession with icons . Coffee hour.

Inter Orthodox vespers at 6 pm. Sts. Peter and Paul Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral, 9660 Broadway, Crown Point, IN

Upcoming Feast days and events:

March 4 – Presanctified liturgy at St Nicholas church in Joliet at 6 pm for all Orthodox in Joliet

15 – Kolo Anniversary, luncheon in the church basement

22 – Deanery Lenten vespers and dinner in our church

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 (litany for departed) +Dimitrije Sajić, given by Velibor Sajić and family; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Cynthia Bosnich; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Kirk/Jackie Stapinski; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Sandy Burcenski; +Sreto Suvira, given by Novica Suvira; +Stojka Markovic, given by Fr Aleksandar Bugarin & family; +Radovan Jovanovich, given by Anka Laketa and family;

+Mike Pyevich, 97 from Moline, IL passed away on Feb 18. May his memory be eternal! Vjecnaja Pamjat!

Culture Club will sponsor a food drive during Great Lent to give to a local food bank We ask for non-perishable food items and toiletries. Thanks.

The Sunday of Forgiveness is on Feb 22. 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 forehead 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 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 the 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 Vespertine 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!