

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

**Sunday, February 23 – Meat-fare Sunday / Mesopusna nedelja / St Charalambos**

*Epistle 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 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. Kolo meeting. Church sponsored luncheon in the upper bar area, all invited!

**Saturday, March 1**

Vigil/confession at 5 pm

**Sunday, March 2 – Cheese-fare Sunday / Sunday of Forgiveness / Nedelja prastanja**

*Epistle Rom. 13:11-14:4 Gospel Matt. 6:14-21 Tone 3<sup>rd</sup>*

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 at St Sava church in Merrillville, IN at 6 pm

**Upcoming Feast days and events:**

March 9 – Sunday of Orthodoxy Nedelja Pravoslavlja, vespers at Assumption Greek Orth church 601 S Central Ave, Chicago

23 - Kolo sestara anniversary

**We are praying especially for:** Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Steva Iacsin, Sandy Grundy, Nicholas Malinovich, Natalie Radakovich, Genevieve Ostoich, Gayle Shimek, Olivera Gligorević, Kelli Sekulovich, Ben Somerville, Cecilia Marcetich, Katarina Karadjordjevich, V Rev Savo Cakardich, 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 for deceased) +Dimitrije Sajic, given by Velibor Sajic; +Vlada Dmitrov, given by Steva/Drainja Lukin;

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,** On February 5, 2025, we entered a 5-year lease agreement with Niko's Catering to host various events on both the upper and lower levels. During the past 8 months, and even before that, options have been explored on the best way to financially secure our future. The agreement we signed was by far the best opportunity. I'm sure there are numerous questions that you may have and most likely too numerous to mention here. The best way to address your concerns is by simply asking a board member who can answer your questions and allay your concerns. Thanks to the Executive Board for their proactive approach, for Father Aleks for his spiritual advisement and sage advice, and to all of you for understanding that serious changes needed to be made to ensure the health and welfare of our parish. Dan Dorsey President

**The Sunday of Forgiveness is on March 2.** 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 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.

**The presanctified liturgy was created by St. Gregory the Dialogist** in the 7th century as a Lenten Vespers 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. For preparation for the evening communion, please consult Fr Aleksandar.

**Обавештење за све парохијане** да је наша црквена сала изнајмљена Нико Catering компанији. Црквена и слава Кола Сестара као и други ручкови ће и даље бити у сали. Ако некоме од парохијана треба сала, треба да се обрати Нико.

**Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem**

**O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not.** Prostration.

**But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant.** Prostration.

**Yea, O Lord King, grant me to see my own failings and not condemn my brother;**

**for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages.** Prostration.

*Then twelve bows from the waist, saying at each bow: O God, cleanse me a sinner. And again, without division, the same prayer entirely to the end, And one prostration.*

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