

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, March 2 – Cheese-fare Sunday / Sunday of Forgiveness / Nedelja praštanja

Epistle Rom. 13:11-14:4 Gospel Matt. 6:14-21 Tone 3rd

3rd & 6th 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

From Fr Aleksandar: 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.

Monday, March 3 – Clean Week / Beginning of Great Lent / Početak Časnog Posta

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

Wednesday, March 5 Lenten hours at 8 am, confession at 8:30 am, Presanctified Liturgy at 9 am

Thursday, March 6 Vespers and Canon of St Andrew of Crete at 6 pm. Religious discussion

Saturday, March 8 Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, March 9 – Sunday of Orthodoxy / Nedelja Pravoslavlja

Epistle Heb. 11:24-26;32-12:2 Gospel John 1:43-51 Tone 4th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church School and coffee hour
Pan Orthodox vespers at Assumption Greek Orth church 601 S Central Ave, Chicago at 6:30 pm

Upcoming Feast days and events:

March 23 - Kolo sestara anniversary

We are praying especially for: Radovan Jovanovich, Richard Jovanovich, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Steva Iacsin, Sandy Grundy, Nicholas Malinovich, Natalie Radakovich, Genevieve Ostoich, Gayle Shimek, Olivera Gligorević, Ben Somerville, princess Catherine Karadjordjevich, V Rev Savo Cakardich, Edith Miller, V Rev Thomas Kazich, 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/Draginja Lukin;

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.

This Great Lent all three Orthodox churches in Joliet will serve combined presanctified liturgy on March 12 at St George, March 19 at All Saints, and on March 26 at St Nicholas. This is a great opportunity for Orthodox Christians in our city to worship and pray together on their spiritual journey toward Pascha. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the services.

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!