

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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"Forgive me, a sinner." The response is, "God forgives."

Sunday, March 17 – Cheese-fare Sunday / Forgiveness Sunday / Bela nedelja / Nedelja Praštanja

Epistle Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel Matthew 6:14-21 tone 8th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Forgiveness vespers after the liturgy. Church school and coffee hour
Deanery vespers of Forgiveness in the Ascension church, Rockford, IL at 6 pm

Monday, March 18 – Dormition of St Nikolai of Zhicha / Beginning of Great Lent / Clean Week/Strict fast

Vespers and Canon of Repentance of St Andrew of Crete at 6 pm

Wednesday, March 20 Lenten Hours at 8 am; Confession at 8:40 am; Presanctified Liturgy at 9 am

Thursday, March 21 Vespers and Canon of Repentance of St Andrew of Crete at 6 pm

Friday, March 22 Fish Fry from 4 pm to 7 pm. Please sign up and offer your help

Saturday, March 23 – Theodore Saturday Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, March 24 – Sunday of Orthodoxy / Nedelja Pravoslavlja

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

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Children's procession with ikons inside the church. Fr Alex will have a class with students and parents. Coffee Hour

Upcoming Feast days and events:

March 23 – Saturday inter Orthodox vespers at St John Greek Orth church in Des Plaines at 6 pm

April 2 – Lenten Retreat in our parish in the evening, mark your calendar. Speaker protodeacon Jovan Anicic

We are praying especially for: Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Craig Vercelote, Steva Iacsin, Nicholas Malinovich, Natalie Radakovich, Alexandra Starcevic, Genevieve Ostoich, Donald Laketa, Draginja Lukin, Roger Trizna, Kathy Petkovich, 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 Sajic, given by Velibor Sajic family; +Vlada Dmitrov, given by Steva Lukin family; +V Rev Nedeljko Lunich and +Gabriel Carreno, given by Fr Aleksandar Bugarin family; V Rev Nedeljko Lunich, given by +Sophie Anderson daughters; +Paul Shimek given by Gayle Shimek; +Delores Malinovich and +Gabriel Carreno Sr, given by Nadine O'Leary and Josh Potts; +Delores Malinovich and +Gabriel Carreno Sr, given by Millie O'Leary; +Delores Malinovich and +Gabriel Carreno Sr, given by Annette O'Leary; +Gabriel Carreno Sr, given by Joseph Orlovich Jr family;

Fish Frys -- Our Church will hold 7 Fish Frys in our Social Center from Friday, February 16 through March 29. Dining hours are 4:00 – 7:00 pm. We need your help to make this a successful fundraiser for our Church. Assistance is needed during the day for food prep and during the hours of operation. We also need dessert donations each week to sell at the Pastry Table. To sign up to volunteer, please use the online system called SignUpGenius. The link to access this is provided here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA5AD2AA1F9C25-47497193-fish>
Questions? Call/text Danielle at 630-709-7437.

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 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. 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!