

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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Sunday, April 7 – Sunday of veneration of the holy cross / Annunciation / Blagovesti

Epistle Heb. 2:11-18; Heb. 4:14-5:6 Gospel Luke 1:24-38; Mark 8:34-9:1 tone 3rd

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 10 am. Church school and coffee hour
Deanery vespers at St Stephen of Decani church in Chicago at 6 pm. Homilist Fr Dobrivoje Milunovic

Wednesday, April 10 Lenten Hours at 5 pm; Confession at 5:40 pm; Presanctified Liturgy at 6 pm.

Saturday, April 13 Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, April 14 – Sunday of St John Climacus / Nedelja Sv Jovana Lestvicnika

Epistle Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19 Gospel Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25-5:12 tone 4th

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 10 am. Prastos for +Millie Skoryi and +Norbert and +Irene Cora. Church school and coffee hour

Deanery vespers at Old Holy Resurrection in Chicago at 6 pm. Homilist Fr Milos Zivkovic

Upcoming Feast days and events:

April 27 – Lazarus Saturday / Beginning of Holy Week

28 – Palm Sunday / Cveti / His Grace Bishop Longing will serve the Liturgy

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, Momcilo Lecic (Moline), Gayle Shimek, 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; +Paul Shimek given by Gayle Shimek; +Gabriel Carreno Sr, given by Joseph Orlovich Jr family; +Milorad Arsenovic, given by Rajko Arsenovic family; +Danica Belfield, given by Jean & Chuck Panella, Janet Belfield & Denis Belter, Andrea & Merwen Popovich-Maachaoui and Jamerson Popovich; +Peter and +Leona Petkovich, +Nicholas and +Beda Nikolich, +Joyce Bauman and +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Pete/Kathy Petkovich; +Anka Orlovich, +Judy and +Jeffrey Lockwood, +Kimball Mancke, V Rev Nedeljko Lunich, +Nicholas Rakich, and +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Bob Orlovich; +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Millie O'Leary; +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Annette O'Leary; +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Nadine O'Leary & Josh Potts; +John, +Michael, and +Bertha O'Brian, +Marion Oldham, +Mary Shimek and +Joseph Orlovich Jr, given by Gayl Shimek & Stephanie/Nenad Jakovljevic;

Please check the bulletin boards for all Northern Chicago Lenten vespers and services. Plan to attend at least one of them.

The St. George Culture Club is hosting an "Orthodox Baby Shower" during Great Lent and Holy Week to help mothers in need. We are working with Morning Star Mission Ministries located in Joliet. They are in need of the following items:

Diapers (All Sizes), Baby Wipes, Baby Formula, Baby Food, Baby Cereal, Toiletries (disposable razors, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste)

Items can be placed in the large box labeled "Orthodox Baby Shower" located in the bottom level of the narthex. Donations will be picked up on Bright Monday. Monetary donations are welcome. Please make checks payable to St. George Culture Club. Please contact Kristy Kourkoumelis (kristy.kourkoumelis@gmail.com) with any questions.

Weather and grass conditions permitting, Culture Club will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for church school students and guests on Sunday, 05.05.24. Children must come downstairs after Liturgy to get a bag and be grouped by age/size, then all will go outside together and go to the area of the lawn for their age group.

We are seeking donations of Pre-Stuffed Plastic Eggs for this event. Eggs can be stuffed with candy, coins, favors, stickers, etc. Items may be on sale now, through and after Western Easter which is March 31st.

By the time our Easter nears 5 weeks after Western Easter, all of the Easter eggs, candy, favors, etc. will be gone from the stores, so purchasing those items over the next 7-10 days and immediately after 03.31.24 would be a good idea.

Donations can be brought to any of the classrooms downstairs, left near the teacher/desk area.

All parishioners should observe Great Lent by attending services, fasting, increasing prayers and strengthening relationship with God. Great Lent is not meant to be a "burden" for the faithful but rather a voluntary change of everyday routine and to be more attentive to one's spiritual life. The reason for serving Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday is to enable everyone to receive spiritual food more often and become closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Confess your sins and receive Holy Communion often.

Suggested reading for Lent is the Old Testament, the first five books and the prophesy as well as appointed verses in the New Testament for every day. Spend more time with your prayer book instead of your cell phone and time on social media. Share your free time to help others. Make this Great Lent a special and beneficial time for your soul and body.

Please let Fr Aleksandar know to bring Holy Communion to your home if you are unable to attend worship services.

The Prayer of St. Ephrem of Syria:

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. Amen. *Prostration*