

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

Sunday, December 3 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos

Epistle Eph. 5:9-19 Gospel Luke 12:16-21 tone 1st 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour. Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Monday, December 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple / Vavedenije Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday, December 9 – Ven Alypius / Sv Alimpije Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, December 10 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Eph. 6:10-17 Gospel Luke 13:10-17 tone 2nd 3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Annual assembly of the church-school congregation.

Upcoming Feast days and events:

December 12 – St Mardarije of Libertyville

13 – Holy apostle Andrew the First-called / Sv Apostol Andreja Prvozvani

We are praying especially for: Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Christopher, Sandy Grundy, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Craig Vercelote, Steva Iacsin, Nicholas Malinovich, Jovanka Rastović, Natalie Radakovich, Alexandra Starcevic, Sophia Chuk, Milica Novakovic, 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 Sajić, given by Velibor Sajić & family; +Nicholas Ostoich, given by Genevieve Ostoich; +Janice Taylor, given by Olga Schumann; +Michael O'Leary, +Ann Malinovich and +Michael Kljaich, given by Millie O'Leary; +Michael O'Leary, +Ann Malinovich and +Michael Kljaich, given by Nadine O'Leary & Josh Potts; +Michael O'Leary, +Ann Malinovich and +Michael Kljaich, given by Annette O'Leary; +Donna Moses, given by Ron Moses and family;

Annual Assembly - Join us for our upcoming St George Annual Assembly on Sunday, December 10th, starting at 1:00 pm in the upper level of the Social Center. Prior to the commencement of the assembly, a light posno lunch will be provided. Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated for this annual meeting.

The best time for confession is on the eve of the Liturgy, after vespers, on Saturday evening or on the eve of a Holy Day since the celebration of the Christian Sabbath and the Holy Days start in the evening. All faithful, and especially if a person wants to commune, should attend the evening service and the Divine Liturgy. Confession on Sunday Morning is only if you have family needs, job, distance, health or other important reason. Confessions on a Sunday and/or Holy Day Morning will start at least 30 minutes prior to the Liturgy. Please do not come to confession 5 minutes before the Liturgy begins! If the eve before you prepare to commune does not work for you and you cannot make it early enough before the Liturgy, you can always make an appointment with your priest for your confession at another time.

Before communion, please make sure you spiritually and physically prepare, make peace in your heart and read all your pre-communion prayers from your prayer book. Prayers should be read by all who communed after the Liturgy. Remain in church after you receive blessed bread, the prayers after communion are at the end of the Divine Liturgy book, and wait until everyone in the church has received blessed bread, prosphora. Wait until the priest says, "Glory to Thee our God, Glory to Thee" 3 times. After this everyone who communed should read the prayers together and loudly. It would be best if one person leads the prayers.

The end of the 2023 calendar year is coming soon and let us examine our conscience: did we do everything we could to improve our spiritual life in this year, strive to become more Christ-like, and did we support our parish church, home of St George, truly and wholeheartedly. And how strong has our love, time, talents and treasure towards St George and all groups of the church been so far and should we improve it? Now is the time if you wish to complete all your church donations for the year of 2023.

We are entering a busy holiday season and also our Orthodox Nativity fast. Let us observe our fast and prepare to confess and at least once partake the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us find a way to combine our busy life and our faith and continue to be good Orthodox faithful during the months of December/January. We can do this but we need a strong will and obedience. I ask and recommend you to please get one of the Orthodox religious books and finish it during the Nativity Fast.

The presence of children in worship is a gift from our Lord and a reminder that our Church is growing. Any noise that children may make during the Divine Liturgy is pleasing to God's ears. In fact, one American Orthodox theologian, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, referred to the activity of children during Liturgy as "holy noise." Please greet our children and young families with smiles and encouragement. Remember that the way we welcome children in the Church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are welcome and at home in our parish. At the same time parents have a sacred duty to teach their children about the House of God, proper prayerful behavior and the way we Orthodox should act and not just in the House of God but outside as well. The attitude of one in church should be reflected in one's attitude outside of the church, in the social hall, the school, in the work place, and in the home.

Lord, we raise Israel and Gaza to You, and pray for those suffering. We ask that You provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted. We lift our prayer to You, Lord, hear us.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!
Иди́те у миру, воли́те и служи́те Господу!