

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest
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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. 40 days parastos for +Janice Enich Taylor. Luncheon and Annual assembly of the church-school congregation.

Monday, December 11

Vigil / confession at 6 pm

Tuesday, December 12 – St Mardarije of Libertyville

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Wednesday, December 13 – Holy apostle Andrew the First Called / Sv apostol Andrej Prvozvani

Saturday, December 16

Fr Aleksandar is traveling to East Moline to serve the Liturgy for the Serb community in Quad City.

Vigil/confession at 5 pm

Sunday, December 17 – 28th Sunday after Pentecost / Great Martyr Barbara/ Sv mučenica Varvara

Epistle Col. 1:12-18; Gal. 3:23-29 Gospel Luke 17:12-19; Mark 5:24-34 tone 3rd

3rd & 6th hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school, coffee hour. Kolo sisters meeting.

Upcoming Feast days and events:

December 19 – St Nicholas the Wonderworker

24 – Serbian Mother's Day / Materice

31 – Serbian Father's Day – Očevi

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, Milica Novakovic, Marion Oldham, 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; +Janice Taylor, given by Olga Schumann; +Jeffrey and +Judy Lockwood, given by Pat Mancke and family; +Bertha and +John O'Brian, +Mary and +George Shimek, +Janice Taylor, given by Gayle Shimek and family; +Ely Grubisich, given by Dr Howard Grundy; +George, + Violet and +Michael Enich, +Danica Grabavoy, +Iso Ciganovich and +Janice Taylor, given by Dr's Mike/Nadine Keer;

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.

After the Divine Liturgy and after receiving the prosphora is the time to solemnly leave the House of God. Any type of loud conversation and laughter in church is forbidden especially when people who are reading the prayers after communion are trying to concentrate and pray. We are all happy to see each other and like to visit, and the perfect place for that is after church during coffee hour or outside. Loud conversations in church before the liturgy starts and/or after the liturgy should never happen.

In preparation for a joyous Nativity, some Orthodox Serbs plant wheat in a pot on the Feast of St. Barbara, and eat the cooked and sweetened wheat together with other cooked grains like barley and corn. In some areas, this is the tradition on St, Nicholas. Two Sundays before Nativity is Serbian Mother's Day - Materice, when children tie their mothers' and grandmothers' legs together, and in return they get symbolic presents. The same is done with fathers and grandfathers on the next Sunday. Tying the legs represents the bonds and love in the family before the Feast of the Birth of our Savior.

We are entering 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 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!
Идите у миру, волите и служите Господа!