

**St. George Serbian Orthodox Church**  
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436  
Protojerej-stavrofor Aleksandar Bugarin, parish priest  
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**Sunday, December 15– 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** *Epistle Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel Luke 10:25-37 tone 8<sup>th</sup>*  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:40 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Coffee hour. Fr Alex will have class with students/parents after the liturgy.

**Wednesday, December 18** Vigil-confession at 6 pm

**Thursday, December 19 – St Nicholas the Wonderworker / Sv Nikola Čudotvorac** Divine Liturgy at 9 am

**Saturday, December 21** Fr Alex is traveling to Quad City to serve the liturgy for a small Quad City Serb community. No vigil/confession in Joliet. Confession on Sunday at 9:15 am.

**Sunday, December 22– 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** *Epistle Ephesians 5:9-19 Gospel Luke 12:16-21 tone 1<sup>st</sup>*  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours at 9:15 am; Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Church school. Coffee hour. Kolo annual meeting.

**Upcoming Feast days and events:**

January 2 – St Ignatius/St John of Kronstadt  
5 – One-year parastos for +Fr Nedeljko Lunich

**We are praying especially for:** Radovan Jovanovich, Richard and Nancy Jovanovich, Michelle Honiotes, Stevan Lunich, Steva Iacsin, Craig Vercelote, Sandy Grundy, Nicholas Malinovich, Natalie Radakovich, Alexandra Starcevic, Genevieve Ostoich, Gayle Shimek, Olivera Gligorević, Kelli Sekulovich, Ben Somerville, Cheryl Ferguson, Zorica Blagojevic, Kirk Stapinski, Cecilia Marcetich, 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)** +Vlada Dmitrov, given by Steva Lukin family; +Gospava Kisich, given by Branko/Nada Boricich; +Dimitrije Sajić, given by Velibor Sajić family; +Peter and +Velma Budimlija, given by Mike/Nancy Cora; +Životije and +Zorka Pavlović, given by Milinka Pavlović; +Petar Blagojević, given by Biljana Lučić; +William Allen Jr, given by Olga Schumann; +Zorka Miller, given by Vivian Tadin; +Donna Moses, given by Matthew Moses and family;

**The 2025 wall calendars are available in the narthex.** Every calendar has a nice Orthodox ikon on it and if you like it, you can frame it at the end of year, if not you can burn it in your fireplace together with your last year's badnjak branch, old bulletins, Pentecost wreath or any other sacred item which you have in your home, rather than just throw it in the trash. You can bring old slava candles to church and burn them. Theophany water should be prayerfully used during the year and not just saved. By the time new Theophany water comes, you can mix it with the last year's.

**In preparation for a joyous Nativity**, some Orthodox Serbs plant wheat in a pot on the Feast of St. Barbara (Dec 17), 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.

**Culture Club is seeking PRE-STRUNG OR PRE-HOOKED donations** of candies/candy canes/small favors/ and fruit to hang on the badnjak (Oak Tree) for after Christmas Eve Service. We will be decorating the badnjak Sunday 01.05.25 after Liturgy, anyone who would like to join us is welcome. Sales and Clearance have started already and will increase after Wednesday 12.25.

*All donations are appreciated, but we usually get plenty of candy canes, so if you see other sweets or trinkets that can have a loop or hook added, that would be great.*

*Ideas for stringing or wrapping treats will be posted on the church Facebook page.*

**BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO ANY CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER'S ROOM** any time between now and morning of January 5th. Thanks in advance for your help, we always have many guest children on Christmas Eve, and our own kids young and old look forward to this tradition.

**It is time to renew your annual subscription for the Serb which is \$20** if you would like to continue to receive it in the mail. If anyone would prefer a hard copy of the Serb to receive instead of an electronic version, please pay \$20 and make a note that it was for the Serb subscription.

**Wishing you a blessed and spiritually beneficial Nativity Fast** which started on November 28, and will last until Christmas, January 7. During this time of preparation for the joyous Holy Day of the Christian Church, let us all fast, repent, cleanse our hearts from all spiritual impurity and sin and anticipate the joyous Nativity. This season of anticipation for us Orthodox Christians is the time to confess our sins and partake of Holy Communion at least once. If Saturday evening after the vigil does not work for you, please let Fr Aleksandar know which day you can come to church to make your confession. **Holy**

**Communion is offered at every Divine Liturgy.** Please check the bulletins regularly for the schedule of services in our church.

**Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!**