

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
300 Stryker Avenue, Joliet, IL 60436
Rev. Ned Lunich, Temporary Administrator
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Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Church Services:

Monday, January 8, 2018 – *Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos*
Holy Liturgy at 9 A.M.

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – *St. Stephen archdeacon, First Martyr*
Holy Liturgy at 9 A.M.

Sunday, January 14, 2018 – *Circumcision of our Lord; St. Basil the Great*

Prayer Services were held for:

Genny Ostoich, being hospitalized at St. Joseph Provena Hospital.

Sheila Bojovic, underwent knee surgery in Morris Hospital.

Andrew Bojovic, will have surgery in January, in children's hospital

Richard Jovanovich, underwent surgery

May the good Lord restore their health.

2017 Ornaments are still available. Please support our church; contact Bonnie Dauer to purchase yours today.

Choir Christmas Party: Will be held on Monday, January 15th at 5:30 P.M. in the Church Hall. If you would like to join us for dinner RSVP to Kathy. This is a very nice gathering in the family atmosphere. Invitation is extended to our choir friends and St. George parishioners.

St. Sava Celebration: Will be held on January 28, 2018. Holy Liturgy at 10 A.M., followed by Slava Ritual in the Hall, dinner and program with children's participation. All our parishioners are urged to attend. Please come, even if your children are grown. We all should rejoice with the young ones being the stars that day. The students will be learning their St. Sava's deklamacija. If you have a problem pronouncing the Serbian words please ask teachers or father. Will be glad to help. Start learning on time. We need support of all St. George parishioners.

The Church Board Meeting: The first church board meeting in 2018 will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7 P.M. The Board members have taken oath of office today. We congratulate newly elected Church Board members and wish them a lot of success in the New Year.

The Committee for 90th Church Anniversary: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7 P.M. The 90th anniversary is a mile stone in the life of St. George parish in Joliet. We would like to start earlier in order to make adequate preparation for this important event. Please mark your calendar and be sure to make every effort to be a part of it. The parish priest and the President of the Church Board are members by their positions – ex officio.

Assisted living: Ceil Severns at Timber Place in Shorewood, Millie Stapinski and Mary Konjevich Book at Rock Run Place, Dennis Grachan in Homer Glen. We wish them God's speedy recovery. Remember them in your prayers.

The Annual Kolo Christmas Party: Will be January 14, 2018. The event will be held at the Serbian Restaurant Skadarliya, located at 9237 Ogden Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois. Cost is \$20.00 per person for the Sunday buffet. See Helen Malinovich or Danielle Serdar for payment or question. Carpooling will be arranged for anyone interested.

Calendars 2018: Wall calendars are free and small Diocesan \$3.00. Purchase one.

Attend Nativity Holy Days Services

Remember your Church at Christmas-Nativity: This is the time of the year when we turn from the worldly thing to our Heavenly Father, to our spiritual wellbeing. This is the time when we thank the Lord for all the blessing he has been bestowing on us throughout the year. We thank him for our health, for our family, for the abundance of the material goods. You, the parishioners of our St. George parish are the backbone of our existence. Your generosity will help us to continue with our mission. This year we will observe 90th Anniversary. Our pioneers worked hard to preserve the parish. It is now to us to continue in their footsteps, in order to prosper and pass on to the new generation. All your donations will be acknowledged. Also remember your Diocese. Thank you. You have received greeting from His Grace our Bishop Longin. In the greeting card is an envelope. Remember our Diocese. Send your Christmas donation, as much as you can afford. Thank you!

Restoring and rebuilding of the Camp and Theological School Building in St. Sava Monastery:

The St. Sava Monastery is calling on all Serbian people throughout this country to support financially the building project. This is not only remodeling but rather rebuilding with addition of the Camp and Theological School building. We embarked on the project couple years ago, and after securing all the permits, blue prints and other necessary requirements the first appeal was made to all our Midwest Diocesan members and parishioners. Over 8,000 appeals were sent, and by now they should had reached everyone who was on the list of the Diocesan mailing. We hope for the good results. If everyone would donate according their means we are almost certain we would reach the goal of the projected cost. Once finished the building will serve multi purposes. There will be monks living quarter and we could host overnight the guest coming to visit Monastery and the uncorrupted relics of St. Mardarije. The first results are promising. Since the project will take at least two years to be completed we will need continues financial help from our parishioners throughout America and Canada. You are asked to give what you can afford. Our St. George has already decided to make first donation. I remember when we renovated and extended Monastery Church in 1982 our St. George Church was one of two who donated the largest sum of money, though at that time we were building our own church in Joliet. We took pride in it. Now we are called again to help. I am sure that our parishioners will do their share. Few of our parishioners have already excelled in donating larger sum of money. We are thankful for their generosity. All donations will be acknowledged on the Monastery web site as well as in our Diocesan publication.

“GOOD NEW OF GREAT JOY” that Jesus not only showed us the way to live under a different reign than the kingdom of this world, but He promised to walk with us, to be in us, and to help us live that divine path. He showed us how to live in love and charity, in simplicity and humility, in mercy and forgiveness. While the others choose to live under the fear of death, He showed us how to live life to its fullest, never fearing death, because we knew that death is not the end!

“GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY” that Christmas brings is nothing less than a new way of living, a new way of becoming truly human in the deepest sense of the word. The Christian path means becoming human as Jesus was human – lifting humanity to a new level, the original level it was meant to be lived. St. Athanasios summed this up by saying, *“God became human that we may become divine”*. God became one of us, so that we could become united in Him and live in Him! No matter what happens in the world around us, don't be anxious or afraid. The feast of Christmas proclaims to us loudly that God has acted decisively in the world, and if we choose – it's up to us – if We choose to live under His reign and in His kingdom, then we can be assured that “God is with us” and He will help us remain victorious over any and every evil that the world offers.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! A blessed Christmas to you all!

CHRIST IS BORN! INDEED HE IS BORN! HAPPY NEW YEAR!