

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Feast-Day Liturgy at 9:00am

Sunday Liturgy at 10:00am

Vespers Service on Saturdays: 5:00pm

Vespers Service on the eve of a Feast-Day: 5:00pm



Schedule of Upcoming Church Services

Saturday, August 10

Vespers at 5:00pm

Sunday, August 11

Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

The purpose of life

Every Christian should find for himself the imperative and incentive to become holy. If you live without struggle and without hope of becoming holy, then you are Christians only in name and not in essence.

But without holiness, no one shall see the Lord, that is to say they will not attain eternal blessedness. It is a trustworthy saying that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (**I Tim. 1:15**).

But we deceive ourselves if we think that we are saved while remaining sinners. Christ saves those sinners by giving them the means to become saints.

+St. Philaret of Moscow

ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*905 E. Joliet Street*Schererville, IN 46375*

Parish Priest: V. Rev. Radovan Jakovljevic

Office: 219/322-3355; Fr Radovan's Cell: 847/219-2969; Home: 219-515-2589

August 4, 2024

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Reading: Rom. **12:6-14**

Gospel Reading: Matt. **9:1-8**

Liturgical Message

And He entered into a boat, and passed over, and came into His own city. And, behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed. *His own city* means Capernaum, for it was there that He was living. He was born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and lived for an extended length of time in Capernaum. This paralytic is not the same as the one mentioned in John [5:2-9], for that one was beside the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem, while this one was in Capernaum. And that one had no one to help him, while this one was carried by four men, as Mark says [Mk. 2:3-12], who lowered him through the roof, a fact which Matthew omits.

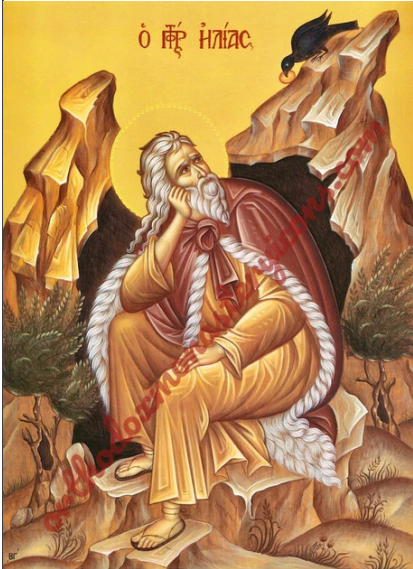
And Jesus seeing their faith. Either the faith of the men who brought the paralytic, for Jesus often worked a miracle on account of the faith of those who brought the one sick; or, of the paralytic himself. **Said to the paralytic, Take courage, child; thy sins be forgiven thee.** Jesus calls him *child*, either as one of God's creatures, or because he believed. To show that the man's paralysis is a result of his sins, Jesus first forgives him his sins.

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? By knowing their thoughts, Jesus shows that He is God. He rebukes them by saying, "You think that I am blaspheming by promising to forgive sins, which is a great thing, and that I resort to this because it is something which can not be verified. But by healing the body, I shall guarantee that the soul has been healed as well. By doing the lesser deed, though it appears to be more difficult, I shall also confirm the remission of sins, which is indeed something great even though it appears easier to you since it is not visible to the eye."

But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, then saith He to the paralytic: "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God Who had given such power unto men. Jesus commanded him to carry his bed so that the event would not appear to have been imaginary, and also, so that the multitudes would see the miracle. For they thought that Jesus "Who is greater than all" was only a man.

+**Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid**

St. Prophet Elijah



The Holy Prophet Elijah, one of the greatest prophets, was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God. According to Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus, Elijah's father saw a vision of angels swaddling him with fire and feeding him flames at his birth, foreshadowing his fiery zeal for God. Elijah dedicated his life to the One God, living in the wilderness with strict fasting, meditation, and prayer. His prophetic service brought him into conflict with King Ahab of Israel, who, under the influence of his wife Jezebel, led the Israelites into idolatry. Elijah denounced their impiety, declaring a drought as divine punishment, which lasted three and a half years. During this time, God miraculously sustained Elijah through ravens and a Sidonian widow whose household was blessed with unending flour and oil. Elijah also raised the widow's son from the dead.

After three years, Elijah confronted King Ahab and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, proposing a test to reveal the true God. Despite the prophets of Baal's fervent cries, their sacrifice remained untouched. Elijah's prayer brought fire from heaven, consuming his water-soaked sacrifice and leading the people to acknowledge the Lord as the true God. Following this, Elijah prayed for rain, ending the drought. Despite King Ahab's repentance, Jezebel threatened Elijah's life, prompting his flight to Judea, where he despaired and asked for death. An angel strengthened him for a forty-day journey to Mount Horeb, where God spoke to him in a gentle breeze, revealing the preservation of seven thousand faithful Israelites. Elijah anointed Elisha as his prophetic successor and was later taken alive into heaven in a fiery chariot. Tradition holds that Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ, urging repentance and proclaiming the truth before being slain by the Antichrist. His life is documented in various Old Testament books, and he appeared with Moses during the Transfiguration of Christ.

Upcoming Events

**MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CIRCLE OF THE SERBIAN SISTERS**
Monday, August 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm

ANNUAL FISH FEST
Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 12:00 pm
For more information, please call the church office

SCHERWOOD GOLF
\$100
PER PERSON

Please join us after
for food + refreshments
at the Old Hall Bar &
Pavilion

ST. GEORGE SERBIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

GOLF OUTING

REGISTRATION 12 PM SHOTGUN START 1 PM
SATURDAY SEPT. 7, 2024

TO SPONSOR A HOLE
CONTACT:
JOVICA TICA
219-316-9900

TO REGISTER
CONTACT:
VASO MICHELS
219-789-6720

Hole Sponsorship \$100