### **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, February 22-Memorial Saturday

- Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am
- Vespers at 5:00 pm

### Sunday, February 23

• Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

### WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

"Do not say, 'I have sinned too much, and therefore I am not confident that I shall be received back.' You are not more merciful than God. Nor does your wickedness overcome the greatness of His compassion. The physician is not more eager to heal than God is to save."

(St. John Chrysostom: Homily on Repentance and Almsgiving)

"Seeing him from afar, the father ran and fell upon his neck. This signifies the joy of the Father, who receives with love those who repent. He restores them to their former dignity and clothes them in the robe of salvation, Christ Himself."

(St. Cyril of Alexandria: Commentary on Luke, Sermon 107)

#### 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

## February 16, 2025 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle Reading: 1Cor. 6:12-20 Gospel Reading: Luke Lk. 15:11-32

### **Liturgical Message**

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) is a powerful message of God's boundless love, mercy, and forgiveness. In the story, the younger son wastes his inheritance on reckless living, only to find himself in misery and longing for his father's home. His return, marked by repentance and humility, is met not with rejection but with overwhelming compassion. This reflects God's readiness to embrace every sinner who turns back to Him with a repentant heart, demonstrating His mercy is more significant than any sin.

The father's reaction in the parable is a profound image of God's unconditional love. Instead of punishing or rejecting his wayward son, he runs to him, clothes him, and celebrates his return. This illustrates how God does not desire the sinner's destruction but rather their repentance and restoration. It also reminds us that salvation is not something earned but a gift of divine grace, freely given to those who seek God with sincerity and humility.

The elder son's response, however, warns against self-righteousness and resentment. While he remained outwardly faithful, his heart harbored pride and bitterness, failing to recognize the depth of his father's love. This teaches us that true righteousness is not merely about outward obedience but cultivating a heart that mirrors God's mercy. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to rejoice in the repentance of others, to be compassionate, and to seek God's grace in our lives, knowing that He is always ready to receive us with open arms.

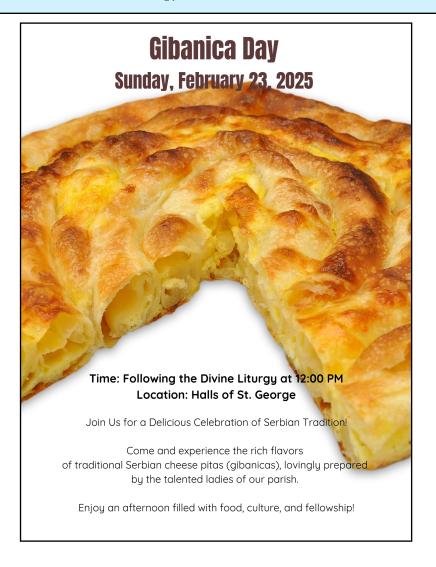
### TODAY:

### **HUNTERS LUNCHEON**

CHETNIK MEMORIAL HALL
12:30 PM

### **Memorial Saturday**

Saturday, February 22, 2025 Divine Liturgy and Parastos at 9:00 am



# Wine and Cheese Tasting Event with Live Music

Friday, February 28, 2025

Please RSVP by February 23 at 219-865-9411

