GENERAL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Feast-Day Liturgy at 9:00am

Sunday Liturgy at 10:00am

Vespers Service on Saturdays: 5:00pm

9¹² 9⁶3

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

Schedule of Upcoming Church Services

Friday, February 14

• Vespers at 5:00 pm

Saturday, February 15-Presentation of the Lord

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

Sunday, February 16

• Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Just as people do not enter a war to enjoy war but to be saved from war, so we do not enter this world to enjoy it but to be saved from it. People go to war for the sake of something greater than war. So we also enter this temporal life for something more significant: eternal life. And as soldiers think with joy about returning home, so also Christians constantly remember the end of their lives and their return to their heavenly fatherland.

+St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil

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 9, 2025 *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* Epistle Reading: 2 Tim. 3:10-15 Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14

Liturgical Message

In Luke 18:10-14, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, illustrating the importance of humility before God. The Pharisee, full of pride, boasts of his righteousness, thanking God that he is not like other sinners. He lists his good deeds, believing they make him superior. Meanwhile, the tax collector, aware of his sins, stands at a distance, unable to lift his eyes to heaven. He humbly prays, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Jesus declares that the tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified: "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

This parable reminds us that true righteousness is not found in outward displays of piety but in a heart that acknowledges its dependence on God. The Pharisee relied on his good works to justify himself, yet his pride blinded him to his need for God's mercy. In contrast, despite his sins, the tax collector was made righteous because he approached God with humility and repentance. This teaches us that God is not impressed by our accomplishments but by a contrite heart that seeks His grace.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to examine our hearts. Like the Pharisees, do we compare ourselves to others, thinking we are better because of our prayers, fasting, or charitable acts? Or do we, like the tax collector, recognize our unworthiness and ask God for mercy? True spiritual life is not about proving our goodness but humbling ourselves before the Lord, trusting in His mercy, and allowing His grace to transform us.



<text>

Monthly KOLO Meeting Monday, February 10, 2025 (6:00 pm at HOSTG)

Celebrating 50 Years of Monastic and Priestly Service

With gratitude to God, we joyfully **celebrate the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan Longin's monastic tonsure and priestly ordination**. This milestone reflects his unwavering dedication to Christ, His Church, and the faithful.



We invite you to join us for the Divine Hierarchical Liturgy, celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Longin and His Grace Bishop Serafim, at Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral on Tuesday, <u>February 12, 2025</u>, the Feast of the Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs.

> **Schedule: Divine Hierarchical Liturgy** – 9:00 AM

Luncheon – Following the Liturgy in the Cathedral Social Hall

