

## 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 Services

#### **Saturday, May 3**

Vespers at 5:00 pm

#### **Sunday, May 4-Church Slava**

Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

### WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

#### **The Precious Pearl**

“Enjoying this present life, though it seems to give delight and sweetness, is well thrust from us. At the very moment of its being, it ceases to be, and for our joy repays us with sorrow sevenfold. Its happiness and sorrow are more frail than a shadow, and, like the traces of a ship passing over the sea, or a bird flying through the air, quickly disappear. But the hope of the life to come which the Christians preach is certain and quite sure; in this world, it has tribulation, whereas our pleasures now are short-lived, and in the beyond, they only win us correction and everlasting punishment without release. The pleasures of life are temporary, but their pain is eternal; while the Christians’ labors are temporary, their pleasure and gain are immortal. Therefore, it is now to exchange the corruptible for the incorruptible.”

- St. John of Damascus

## 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

**April 27, 2025**

### **Thomas Sunday**

Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

#### **Liturgical Message**

On Thomas Sunday, also called the Sunday of St. Thomas or Antipascha, we remember the Apostle Thomas's encounter with the Risen Christ. At first, Thomas doubted the news of the Resurrection, saying, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails... I will not believe” (John 20:25). But when Christ appeared and invited Thomas to touch His wounds, Thomas responded with a powerful confession of faith: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). His doubt was transformed into deep belief, not just in the Resurrection, but in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

This moment reminds us that doubt is not the opposite of faith, but a part of the journey toward it. Christ did not rebuke Thomas harshly but met him with love and understanding. In doing so, Jesus showed us that He desires a real relationship with us—one where we can honestly bring our questions and struggles. Thomas was not excluded because of his doubt; instead, he was drawn deeper into the mystery of God's love.

This Sunday, we also hear Christ’s words, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29). That blessing is for us today. Though we did not walk with Jesus in the flesh, we have received the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the Church, and the witness of the saints. Let us rejoice in the Risen Lord and proclaim with Thomas: “My Lord and my God!”

## The Life of St. George the Great Martyr

St. George the Great Martyr, also known as St. George the Trophy-Bearer, is one of the most beloved saints in the Orthodox Church and throughout the Christian world. He was born around the year 280 in Cappadocia (present-day Turkey) to a noble and pious Christian family.



After the death of his father, his mother took him to her native city of Lydda (in present-day Israel), where he was raised in the Christian faith. George grew to be a strong and courageous young man, and he entered the Roman army, quickly rising to a high rank due to his bravery and leadership.

During the reign of Emperor Diocletian, a fierce persecution of Christians broke out. Despite his position in the army, St. George boldly declared himself a Christian when he learned of the emperor's cruel edicts. He refused to renounce his faith or offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. As a result, he was imprisoned and subjected to horrific tortures—being stretched on a wheel, pierced with iron hooks, and forced to drink poison. Through all of this, God preserved him unharmed, and many who witnessed his endurance and the miracles worked through him became believers, including some of the emperor's guards and even the empress herself.

At last, St. George was beheaded around the year 303, giving his life for Christ and becoming a great martyr. His courage and unwavering faith in the face of suffering became a powerful witness to countless Christians. His life story spread quickly, and he became known as a mighty defender of the faith and a heavenly protector. In Orthodox iconography, he is often shown riding a white horse and slaying a dragon—a symbol of evil—reminding us that through Christ, we too can overcome the powers of darkness. St. George's feast day is celebrated on April 23, and he continues to be honored and loved as a fearless warrior for Christ and a shining example of holy courage.

Join us for Church Slava  
Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 9:30 am

ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Schererville, Indiana  
Cordially invites you to attend our

# Church Slava

Sunday, May 4, 2025

*This year's celebration will commemorate the 45th anniversary of the consecration of our beautiful Church and the 25th anniversary of the consecration of Halls of St. George.*

*Honoring Our Senior Parishioners: A Tribute to Those 85 and Older*

*His Eminence Metropolitan Longin will be joining us for this joyous occasion. Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30am*

*Blessing of the Slavski Kolac at 1:00pm*

*Slava Banquet and Children's Program*

*Live musical entertainment by:*

*Marko Zivkovich, Nesa Kastelo, and Danko Trio*

*Halls of St. George*

**Kumovi: Ray and Marian Vukas**

For more information, please call the church office at 219/322-3355  
905 E Joliet St, Schererville, IN 46375