

## 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

### Upcoming Church Services

#### •Saturday, October 4

Vespers at 5:00 pm

#### •Sunday- October 5

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

### WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

#### • **St. John Chrysostom:**

*“God requires not success, but labor. For when we have done what we can, though we bring but little, we shall not lose our reward.”*

#### • **St. Basil the Great:**

*“The talents we have are not our own, but gifts of God. If you keep them for yourself, they will perish; but if you share them with others, they will remain and increase.”*

#### • **St. Gregory the Great:**

*“He who is silent and hides his talent, who through fear does not trade what he has received, is condemned by the just judge. For a talent is given that it might be profitably employed, not hidden.”*

#### • **St. Cyril of Alexandria:**

*“The grace of God is multiplied in those who labor faithfully. But in the slothful, it withers away, for grace is not forced on those who will not cooperate with it.”*

## 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

**September 28, 2025**

### *16th Sunday after Pentecost*

Epistle Reading: Gal. 2:16-20; 2 Cor. 6:1-10

Gospel Reading: Mk. 8:34-9:1; Mat. 25:14-30

In today's Gospel, Christ tells the parable of the master who entrusted his servants with talents before going on a journey. Two of the servants worked with what they had received and multiplied it, but the third buried his gift out of fear and laziness. When the master returned, he rewarded the faithful servants and condemned the one who wasted his gift. This parable reminds us that God has entrusted each of us with spiritual and earthly gifts—faith, love, time, abilities, and resources—not to hide them, but to use them for His glory and for the good of others.

The Lord does not ask from us what we cannot give, but He does expect us to be faithful with what we have received. The one who received five talents and the one who received two talents were both equally praised, because each was faithful according to his measure. But the one who buried his single gift showed no love, no effort, and no trust in God. In the same way, our Christian life is not about comparing ourselves with others, but about being faithful in what God has placed in our hands. Even the smallest gift, when offered with love, can bear fruit in eternity.

This parable also teaches us that the greatest danger is not failure, but doing nothing. Fear, laziness, and selfishness can paralyze us and keep us from offering our gifts back to God. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: *“Even the smallest good, if done with faith, is not without reward.”* St. Basil the Great adds: *“The talents we have are not our own, but gifts of God. If you keep them for yourself, they will perish; but if you share them with others, they will remain and increase.”* Let us, then, take courage and use our time, our love, our words, and our abilities to build up God's Kingdom. On the day when the Lord returns, may we hear those joyful words: *“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord.”*

## Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth, His Forerunner would appear and indicate His coming. Therefore, in awaiting the Messiah, the Jews also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner.

In the hills of Judea, in the land of Palestine, lived the righteous priest Saint Zachariah and his wife, Saint Elizabeth. They zealously observed the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child.

Once, when Saint Zachariah took his turn as a priest at the Temple in Jerusalem, he entered the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense. Saint Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass because you did not believe my words...."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah, and they were astonished that he had not emerged from the sanctuary for so long. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people, but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained his inability to speak through gestures, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The Archangel's prophecy was fulfilled, Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

**KETTLE  
COOK-OFF**

Sunday, October 5, 2025

**ST. GEORGE OLD HALL**  
905 E Joliet Street

Sign up your team by **September 28**

219-322-3355

[www.stgeorgesoc.org](http://www.stgeorgesoc.org)

Join us for a delightful day of fun, food, and festivities!

### TODAY

**St. George Circle of Serbian Sisters  
cordially invites you to attend their  
KRSNA SLAVA**

Slava Luncheon at 12:30 pm  
Kuma: Ljiljana Lalic

### Memorial Saturday-Zadusnice

Saturday, October 11, 2025  
Divine Liturgy and Parastos at 9:00 am