

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 11-Memorial Saturday

Divine Liturgy at 9:00am

•Sunday- October 12

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

St. John Chrysostom:

“The woman was silent when insulted, she persevered when ignored, she believed when tried. Do you see her humility? Do you see her faith? For this, she was crowned with great praise.”

St. Augustine:

“The Lord seemed not to hear her, not because He refused to heal, but because He was drawing out her faith, as gold is refined by fire.”

St. Cyril of Alexandria:

“She received mercy because she asked with faith and humility, not presuming to take the bread of children, but even content with crumbs. This is why Christ exalted her faith.”

St. Gregory the Great:

“She who was a foreigner became a daughter by faith. She who was silent by law, spoke by grace. Her perseverance made her worthy of the promise.”

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

October 5, 2025

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Reading: 2 Cor. 6:16-7,1

Gospel Reading: Matt. 15:21-28

In today's Gospel, we hear of the Canaanite woman who came to Christ begging Him to heal her daughter. At first, the Lord seemed to ignore her, then even spoke words that tested her deeply: *“It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.”* Yet she did not give up. With humility and persistence, she answered: *“Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table.”* Moved by her faith, Christ granted her request and healed her daughter instantly.

This story shows us that true faith is not discouraged by silence, obstacles, or even trials. The woman was a Gentile, an outsider, yet her trust in Christ was stronger than the barriers before her. She teaches us that faith is not about demanding from God, but about persevering with humility and love. Even when the Lord seems silent, He is drawing out our faith, teaching us to trust Him more deeply, and preparing us for a greater blessing.

For our daily lives, the Canaanite woman becomes a model of prayer and perseverance. When our prayers are not answered right away, we are tempted to give up or doubt God's love. But she reminds us that persistence in prayer and humility in heart open the way for God's grace. Let us, like her, never grow weary of crying out: *“Lord, help me!”* And may our faith, tested and purified, be found worthy of Christ's response: *“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.”*

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

NEW GRACANICA MONASTERY CHURCH SLAVA
Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos



Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
at 10:00am

Bible Study

Monday, October 6, 2025
7:00 pm

Youth Group Gathering
Wednesday, October 22,
2025
7:00 pm at Halls of St.
George



The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

The miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in Constantinople in the mid-tenth century at the Blachernae church, where her robe, veil, and belt were preserved. During an All-Night Vigil on October 1, Saint Andrew the Fool-for-Christ and his disciple Epiphanius saw the Theotokos enter the church, surrounded by saints and shining with heavenly light. She prayed fervently for Christians, then spread her veil over the people, protecting them from every danger. Saint Andrew, trembling, asked Epiphanius if he too beheld the vision, and both marveled at her intercession.



The Mother of God prayed to Christ to accept the petitions of all who called on His name, promising her protection. Saints Andrew and Epiphanius saw the radiant veil resting over the faithful as long as the Theotokos remained, and though it disappeared with her departure, she left behind the grace of her presence. This vision became a source of comfort and assurance to the faithful, remembered in icons and tradition, especially in the Russian Church.

According to the Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor, the feast is also linked to the miraculous deliverance of Constantinople from a pagan Russian fleet in the ninth century. After an all-night vigil, the garment of the Mother of God was dipped into the sea at the Blachernae church, leading to the fleet's destruction. While the Chronicle does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius, later tradition united both accounts. The celebration of the feast grew especially beloved among the Slavs, more so than among the Greeks.

By the twelfth century, churches dedicated to the Protection of the Theotokos appeared in Russia, including the renowned Church of the Intercession on the Nerl, built by Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The feast was formally established in the Russian Church around this time and continued to inspire devotion. Today, on October 1, Orthodox Christians around the world ask the Queen of Heaven for her prayers and protection: "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God... Protect us from every evil, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."