

## 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, December 13th**

Vespers at 5:00 pm

#### **Sunday- December 14th**

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

### WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

#### **St. Gregory of Nyssa:**

“He who is wealthy and does not share is stealing from the poor. What we keep for ourselves, while others need it, is not truly ours.”

#### **St. Ambrose of Milan:**

“We bring nothing with us when we enter this world, nor will we take anything with us when we leave it — except our deeds, whether good or evil.”

#### **St. Isaac the Syrian:**

“Poor is the one who has many desires, but rich is the one who has none.”

#### **St. Ephraim the Syrian:**

“Earthly riches fill the hands but empty the heart. Heavenly riches fill the heart, while leaving the hands free to give.”

### 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

**December 7th, 2025**

### *26th Sunday after Pentecost*

Epistle Reading: Eph. 5:9-19

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21

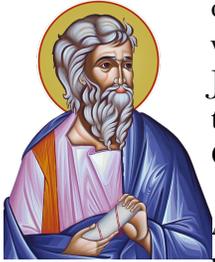
In today's Gospel, Christ confronts us with one of the most dangerous illusions of the human heart — the belief that our life consists of material abundance. The rich man's fields produced plentifully, yet instead of gratitude toward God or generosity toward others, he thought only of himself: “I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones...” His entire world was limited to his possessions, his comfort, his plans. But God calls him a “fool” because he prepared everything except his soul. This parable is not a condemnation of work or success, but of a life turned inward, where self becomes the center, and God becomes forgotten.

The tragedy of the rich fool is not in his wealth, but in his blindness. He speaks twelve times and says “I, me, mine” — yet never once does he say “God,” “thank you,” or “help me.” His heart is full of possessions but empty of love. Christ's message is clear: when we place our security in earthly things, we build barns for grain but leave our souls starving. The Gospel challenges us to examine what we treasure most. A full pantry and an empty heart is the greatest poverty of all.

The Lord ends the parable with a warning that is also an invitation: “So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” To be “rich toward God” means to fill our lives with mercy, repentance, prayer, and generosity. Earthly wealth can disappear in a heartbeat, but the virtues we acquire remain forever. The only possessions we carry into eternity are the good we have done. Christ is calling us not simply to avoid greed, but to invest in our soul — to give, forgive, and live with gratitude. In becoming rich toward God, we discover the only treasure that death cannot take away.

## Saint Andrew the Apostle

Saint Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ and later brought his brother Peter to Him. A native of Bethsaida, he lived a life devoted to God from his youth, choosing not to marry and working as a fisherman with Peter. He became a devoted disciple of Saint John the Baptist, who ultimately directed Andrew and the Apostle John to Christ, calling Jesus the Lamb of God.



After Pentecost, Saint Andrew traveled widely to preach the Gospel. He journeyed through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, and the lands around the Black Sea, eventually reaching the area of present-day Kiev. There, he prophesied that a great Christian city would arise. Continuing north to the region of Novgorod and then traveling toward Rome and back to Byzantium, he founded the Church in what would become Constantinople, linking it spiritually to the later Russian Church.

Throughout his missionary travels, Saint Andrew endured hardships, beatings, and rejection from pagans, yet he continued preaching with courage. In many places, God worked miracles through him, healing the sick and bringing people to faith. His final mission brought him to Patra, where numerous healings led most of the city to convert to Christianity. Only the prefect Aegeatos remained hardened, and in anger, he ordered Andrew to be crucified.

Saint Andrew accepted martyrdom joyfully, being bound—rather than nailed—to the cross to prolong his suffering. Even from the cross, he preached for two days, moving the crowds to compassion. When Aegeatos tried to halt the execution, Andrew prayed instead to complete his witness. A radiant light surrounded him as he surrendered his spirit to Christ. Later, under Emperor Constantine the Great, his holy relics were transferred with honor to Constantinople and placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles.

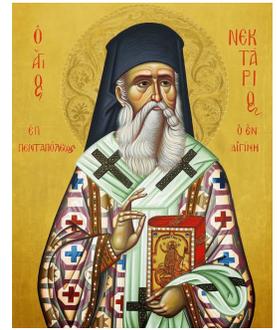
**TODAY: PADJANE COMMEMORATION**  
Chetnik Memorial Hall at 12:30 pm

## Akathist Service to St. Nectarios of Aegina

Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

6:00 pm

Please bring the list of sick and suffering family members, relatives, and friends for special prayers and intercession by St. Nectarios.



## DETINCI AND ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

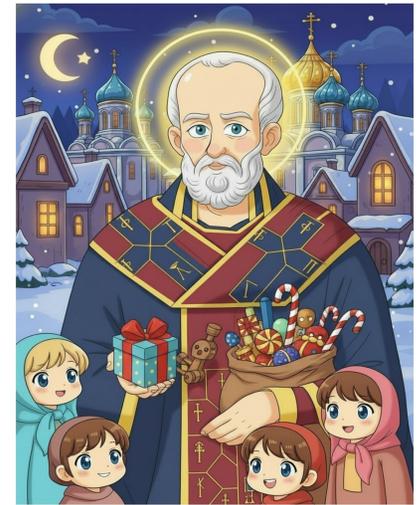
**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Program

Advent Retreat  
(Sunday School Classrooms)  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Vespers  
4:00 PM

Dinner and Visit by St. Nicholas  
5:00 PM  
(Halls of St. George)



## Annual Church Assembly

Sunday, December 21st, 2025, at 1:00 pm  
(OLD HALL)

We kindly remind all parishioners to pay their membership dues before the annual assembly.