

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 Upcoming Church Services

SATURDAY-February 21st

Vespers at 5:00 pm

SUNDAY- February 22nd

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

“If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the Chalice.”

St. John Chrysostom

“The bread which you keep belongs to the hungry; the coat in your closet belongs to the naked; the shoes rotting in your house belong to the barefoot.”

St. Basil the Great

“As a handful of sand thrown into the sea, so are the sins of all flesh compared with the mercy of God.”

St. Isaac the Syrian

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 15th, 2026

Meatfare Sunday

The Meeting of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor. 8:8-9,2; Heb. 7:7-17

Gospel Reading: Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 2:22-40

Liturgical Message

As we approach Great Lent, the Church places before us the Gospel of the Last Judgment. Christ reveals that when He comes in glory, He will judge not according to status, success, or outward appearance, but according to love. “I was hungry, and you gave me food... I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” The measure of our faith is shown in the mercy we extend to others.

This Sunday reminds us that our daily choices shape our eternal destiny. The judgment does not create something new within us; it reveals what we have become. A heart trained in compassion will recognize Christ with joy. A heart hardened by indifference will struggle to do so. Great Lent is given to us as a season to soften our hearts through prayer, fasting, and repentance.

The Church wisely places this Gospel just before the beginning of the Lenten fast from meat. Fasting is not merely about food—it is about freedom. By learning self-restraint, we gain the strength to overcome selfishness and become more attentive to others' needs. True fasting is always joined to generosity, forgiveness, and acts of mercy.

Meatfare Sunday calls us to prepare seriously, but also hopefully. The Judge we will face is the same Lord who loves us and gave Himself for us. As we begin this holy season, let us fast with purpose, serve with compassion, and love without hesitation, so that we may hear the joyful words: “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.”

The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is described in Luke 2:22–40. Forty days after His birth, the Divine Child was brought by the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12:2–8). Although the Virgin Mary had no need of purification, having given birth to the Source of holiness, she fulfilled the Law in humility.

At that time, the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah. Led by the Holy Spirit, he came to the Temple and received the Child Jesus into his arms. Giving thanks to God, he proclaimed the words the Church repeats each evening at Vespers:

“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace... for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation... a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29–32).



Simeon also foretold that Christ would be “for the fall and rising again of many in Israel,” and that a sword would pierce the soul of the Mother of God (Luke 2:34–35).

Also present in the Temple was the Prophetess Anna, an 84-year-old widow who served God through fasting and prayer. She gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all who awaited the redemption of Jerusalem. Simeon and Anna, the last righteous figures of the Old Testament, were granted the joy of meeting the Messiah.

The Feast of the Meeting is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church. It was preached by early Fathers such as Methodios of Patara, Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory the Theologian, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom. In the sixth century, during an earthquake and plague under Emperor Justinian, a solemn prayer service was held on this Feast, and the plague ceased. Thereafter, the celebration became even more solemn.

On this day, we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “The Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy,” depicting the Mother of God pierced by seven swords, symbolizing Simeon’s prophecy that sorrow would pierce her soul.

Gibanica Day

Sunday, February 22nd
Halls of St. George at 12:00 pm

LENTEN LUNCHEON

On the first Sunday of Great Lent, March 1, 2026, starting at 12:00 PM at the Halls of St. George, and under the patronage of our choir members of “Bishop Stefan Lastavica,” a **Donor Lenten Luncheon** will be held to raise funds for renovating the St. Mardarije Cultural Center in Libertyville.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

March 1st, 2026



Divine Liturgy at
10:00am

Procession with Icons
after the Divine Liturgy

All children participating in the procession
should bring their own icons from home.