

## 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

#### **TUESDAY** - Jan. 6 ***CHRISTMAS EVE DAY***

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

**TUESDAY** - Jan. 6 Vespers Service with the Blessing of the Yule Log at 6:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** - MATINS at 10:30 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY** – Jan. 7 - ***CHRISTMAS***

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

#### **THURSDAY** – Jan. 8 - ***Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God***

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers at 5:00 pm (Blessing of the Slava Breads)

#### **FRIDAY** – Jan. 9 - ***St. Stephen, Holy Apostle and Archdeacon***

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

(Blessing of the Slava Breads)

#### **SATURDAY** - Jan. 10

Vespers at 5:00 pm

#### **SUNDAY**, Jan. 11

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

## 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

**January 4, 2026**

### ***Sunday before Nativity***

Epistle Reading: Heb. 11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40

Gospel Reading: Matt. 1:1-25

### **Liturgical Message**

On this day—the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ—the Holy Orthodox Church, guided by our holy and God-bearing Fathers, calls us to remember all those who were pleasing to God from the beginning of the world: from Adam to Joseph, the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos. According to the genealogy recorded by the Evangelist Luke, we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, with special remembrance of the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths.

This day is known as the **Sunday of the Holy Genealogy**. We recall those of the Old Testament who were bound to Christ by blood, as well as those who foretold His coming in the flesh. During the Divine Liturgy, we hear the genealogy of Jesus Christ from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Through this, the Church proclaims a profound truth: Christ truly became man and assumed our human nature. He was not an illusion, a spirit, a legend, or an abstract idea conceived by philosophers—such a god has no ancestry. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He entered history with real flesh and blood, with human forebears—many of whom fell into grave sin, yet, like King David, also repented deeply and loved God sincerely. It was this love that made them pleasing to Him in every age.

By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all things—body and blood, mind and soul, heart and will—except for one: He did not sin. His sinless humanity reveals His full divinity and shows us the path by which our own fallen nature may be healed, transformed, and renewed in Him.

## The Celebration of Father's Day

On the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, the Church reminds us of the celebration of Father's Day. Today, we pray for our fathers and honor their vital role in our families and communities. Fathers are called to be examples of love, sacrifice, and faith, just as our Heavenly Father is the perfect example of love and mercy. In the Holy Scriptures, we read: *"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him."* (Psalm 103:13)

This verse reminds us that a father reflects God's love and mercy in the home and the father's responsibility to raise their children in the spirit of faith and goodness.

The priestly role of the father in the family is immeasurably important. Saint Paul offers advice to fathers in his letter to the Ephesians: *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4)

This call reminds fathers to lead their families with love, patience, and wisdom, serving as spiritual guides.

Celebrating Fathers is an opportunity to remember the examples of righteous fathers in the Holy Scriptures, such as Saint Joseph the Betrothed. Saint Joseph demonstrated obedience and trust in God's plan throughout his life. As the guardian of the Lord and the Most Holy Theotokos, Saint Joseph teaches us about sacrifice and the strength of faith in challenging times.

This day also reminds us that the fathers in our lives deserve gratitude and respect. As Saint Nikolai Velimirovich said: *"The father is the pillar of the home upon which the family rests, and the family is a small church."*

We are called to pray for all fathers – that the Lord strengthens them and grants them health, wisdom, and the courage to be good examples to their children. Let this celebration be an opportunity to express love and gratitude to them and to remember that all fatherhood is a blessing and a reflection of God's grace.

Happy Father's Day! May the Lord fill our homes with love, peace, and blessings.

## St. Stephen the First Martyr A Life of Faith, Service, and Forgiveness

**St. Stephen the First Martyr** holds a special place in the Orthodox Church as a powerful witness to faith, service, and love. Celebrated on January 9, his feast reminds us that true strength is found in Christ and that truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood. Chosen by the Apostles as one of the first deacons, St. Stephen served the growing Church with humility and compassion, caring for practical needs while boldly proclaiming the Gospel.



As recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6–7), St. Stephen fearlessly testified before the Sanhedrin, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. His words led to his condemnation and death by stoning. Yet, even in his final moments, he prayed for his persecutors, mirroring Christ's own forgiveness and revealing the depth of his love and faith. Before his martyrdom, St. Stephen was granted a vision of heaven, where he saw the glory of God and Christ standing at the Father's right hand—a promise of eternal life for all who remain faithful. His life calls us to serve with humility, stand firm in faith, and forgive without limits, trusting God in all things.

## SAVE THE DATE

A poster for the St. Sava Celebration. At the top, it says "JOIN US AT" in yellow, followed by "St. Sava" in large red letters with a black outline, and "Celebration" in large red letters with a black outline. Below this is a statue of St. Sava, a bearded man in a blue and white robe, holding a cross in his right hand and a book in his left. The background is a dark blue sky with stars. Below the statue, it says "SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026" in white. At the bottom, it says "KUMОВИ:" in yellow, followed by "JOVAN KOLAR & KRISTINA DODIG" in yellow. At the very bottom, it says "St. George Serbian Orthodox Church Schererville, IN" in white.

JOIN US AT  
**St. Sava**  
**Celebration**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

KUMОВИ:  
JOVAN KOLAR & KRISTINA DODIG

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church  
Schererville, IN