

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 SERVICES

Tuesday, May 5th

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

Wednesday, May 6th/St. George the Great Martyr

Divine Liturgy at 8:00 am

Saturday, May 9th

Vespers at 5:00 pm

Sunday, May 10th

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

WISDOM OF THE HOLY FATHERS

“The Lord asks not to learn, but to awaken the will; for without desire, even grace is not received.” **St. John Chrysostom**

“The word of Christ is power; it commands and immediately brings healing.” **St. Cyril of Alexandria**

“The paralytic represents the soul unable to rise by its own strength, until it is lifted by Christ.” **St. Augustine of Hippo**

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

May 3rd, 2026

4th Week of Pascha

Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

Liturgical Message

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church presents the Gospel of the healing of the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda. This man had been ill for thirty-eight years, lying by the pool, waiting for healing that never seemed to come. When Christ approaches him, He asks a striking question: “*Do you want to be made well?*” At first, the man responds with excuses—he has no one to help him, and others always go before him. Yet Christ, in His mercy, speaks a word of power: “*Rise, take up your bed, and walk.*” And immediately, the man is healed.

This Gospel reveals both the depth of human weakness and the greatness of divine compassion. The paralytic had lost not only his physical strength, but also hope. He had become accustomed to his condition, defined by his limitations. Often, we too become spiritually paralyzed—stuck in habits, sins, discouragement, or fear. We may wait for the “right moment” or for someone else to help us change. But Christ’s question still stands before us: “*Do you want to be made well?*” Healing begins when we honestly desire change and open our hearts to God.

The healing takes place on the Sabbath, which leads to criticism from the religious leaders. They focus on the letter of the law rather than the mercy of God. This reminds us that faith is not merely about rules, but about transformation and life in Christ. True obedience to God is not cold formalism, but living communion with Him, marked by love, compassion, and renewal.

Later, Christ finds the man in the temple and says, “*See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.*” This shows that healing is not only physical, but spiritual. Christ calls the man—and each of us—not just to be restored, but to live a new life. The miracle is not complete unless it leads to repentance and transformation. As we continue in the joy of Pascha, this Sunday reminds us that the risen Christ is still at work, healing and restoring. He comes to each of us in our weakness and calls us to rise. The question remains: are we willing to respond?

Saint George the Great Martyr

Saint George the Great Martyr was born in Cappadocia and raised in a devout Christian family. After his father was martyred, his mother brought him to Palestine, where she raised him in faith and piety. As a young man, George entered the Roman army, where his courage and strength earned him a high rank and the favor of Emperor Diocletian.



When fierce persecutions against Christians began, George boldly confessed his faith before the emperor. He gave away his wealth, freed his servants, and proclaimed Christ as the Truth. Despite attempts to persuade him to renounce his faith, he remained steadfast. He was imprisoned and subjected to brutal tortures, yet by God's power, he was repeatedly healed, astonishing many who witnessed these miracles.

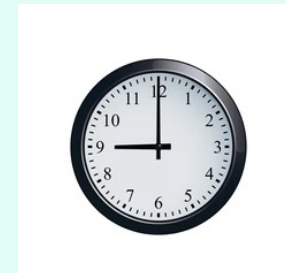
Through his suffering and miracles, many came to believe in Christ, including soldiers, officials, and even the emperor's wife, Alexandra. George continued to endure severe trials with courage, attributing his strength not to magic but to the power of Christ. Even raising a dead man by God's will, he revealed the truth of the Christian faith, though this only hardened the emperor's heart.

In the end, Saint George was sentenced to death and accepted martyrdom with peace and prayer, asking God to forgive his persecutors. He was beheaded in the year 303, receiving the crown of eternal life. He is remembered as the Victory-Bearer, not only for his earthly bravery, but for his triumph in faith, and his witness continues to inspire countless believers to this day.

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

With the blessing of our parish priest and in consultation with the members of the executive Church Board, we wish to inform you of a seasonal change to our Sunday Divine Liturgy schedule.

Starting with the **first Sunday after Memorial Day** and lasting until the **first Sunday after Labor Day**, the Divine Liturgy will begin at **9:00 AM** instead of the usual **10:00 AM**.



This change accounts for the summer months, when earlier morning hours are more comfortable and practical for worship. The cooler morning temperatures help our faithful gather in prayer more easily, especially for families with young children and our elderly parishioners. Additionally, starting earlier offers more flexibility for parishioners with travel plans, family gatherings, or other summer responsibilities.

We encourage everyone to use this revised schedule, arriving prepared and on time to fully participate in the Divine Liturgy—the heart of our life in Christ.

We appreciate your understanding and continued dedication to the life of our parish.

Chetnik Uranak
Chetnik Memorial Hall-Schererville
Saturday, May 9, 2026
10:00 am

