



# HOLY TRINITY

## SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.stlserbianchurch.org](http://www.stlserbianchurch.org)

March 2026

---

Пут Крста - Вести Цркве Свете Тројице  
**The Way of the Cross-News of the Church of the Holy Trinity**

---



**1910 Serbian Drive**  
**St. Louis, MO 63104**  
**314-776-3262**

**E-mail:** [htseoc.stl@gmail.com](mailto:htseoc.stl@gmail.com)

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Father  
Vladimir Terzic

**Father's Phone:** 515-809-6309

**Board President:** Michael  
Vujnich

**Kolo President:**  
Svetlana Samardzic

**Choir President:**  
Nada Buha

**Sunday School Director:**  
Kris Chkautovich

**Stewardship Committee Chair:**  
Nick Dopuch

**Cemetery Manager:**  
Dragan Acamovic

**Church Hall Manager:**  
Zoran Kurtuma

Your Welcome to our monthly newsletter, where you'll find reflections to nourish your spirit, important community updates, and highlights of upcoming events. Each section is designed to help you stay connected with the life of our parish and deepen your walk with Christ. Below, you'll see a brief overview of each section in this issue along with the page number where you can find it.

- Holy Trinity Summer Camp (p. 2)- Save the Date 6/2-6/4
- Focus Gateway City Update (p. 2)
- Stewardship Enrollment (p. 3)
- Message from the Church Board President (p. 3)
- Saint of the Month (pp. 4-5)- Saint Alexius
- Lenten Retreat (p. 6)- 3/21 @ Sts. Constantine & Helen's Greek Orthodox Church
- Choir News / Young Adult Group (p.7)
- Pan Orthodox Vespers Schedule (p. 8)
- Spomenka's Corner (p 9)- Catch up on church news
- SOCA Festival - Save the dates 10/9-10/11
- Two Month Calendar (pg.11-12): Schedule of Liturgy and Services



SAVE THE DATE!

**Holy Trinity Serbian  
Orthodox Church  
3 Day  
Mini Summer Camp**

**Tuesday, June 2-  
Thursday, June 4  
9 am - 2 pm**

- Ages 5 -13
- Free for Holy Trinity Parishioners
- Lunch & snacks provided

**Faith! Fun! Friends!**



## FOCUS Gateway City Update

Holy Trinity sponsored its first Focus Sunday supper of 2026 on the most befitting day of Judgement Sunday, February 15th. The Kolo ladies prepared a delicious meal that included pork tenderloin, baked potatoes, green beans, and cake for dessert. We were fortunate to have some assistance from other Orthodox Christians outside our parish to complete the dinner service and food pantry operation. Volunteers served 120 meals! Thank you to all who assisted. As a reminder, FOCUS Gateway City provides guests with breakfast and access to the food pantry on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

**FOCUS**  
NORTH + AMERICA



You may volunteer for breakfast service directly online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co945ABAC2FA7F9C70-56810254-breakfast#/>

In Christ, Nick Dopuch

## **FINAL CALL for Stewardship 2026!**



The 2026 Holy Trinity Stewardship open enrollment period is ending soon! Holy Trinity parishioners wishing to participate must complete and submit their 2026 stewardship commitment no later than the deadline of March 1st.

If you do not have a stewardship card or misplaced it, you can find stewardship cards in the narthex of the church or on the church bulletin board in the hall. In addition, you may also complete your stewardship commitment online at <https://forms.gle/vFc2jt8BUMHmiRGz5>.

I encourage all parishioners to participate in this important ministry of Holy Trinity.

In Christ,

**Nick Dopuch Stewardship Chairperson**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD PRESIDENT**

As we enter into March, we begin our time of fasting to prepare ourselves for Easter. This is a time of spiritual renewing, prayer and reflecting on the Sacrafice, Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior. The Council of Nicaea in 325 calculated and established the date to celebrate Easter. This was done mainly to unify Christians throughout the world to celebrate Easter on the same day along with practicing Lent at the same time. Although customs and traditions may vary among countries and villages, they all respectfully point in the same direction, that this season is first, a time for fasting and preparation for Easter.

We are grateful for everyone who is volunteering their time to help during Fish Fest. It's beginning to look like we are once again expecting a huge turnout. Thanks for all your hard work in continuing to make this event successful and a great experience for our guests.

**Michael Vujnich, Church Board President**

# Alexius of Rome

**Saint Alexius, the Man of God, is one of the most powerful examples of evangelical humility, renunciation, and complete trust in God's providence. His life was quiet and hidden from the eyes of the world, yet precisely because of that, it was magnificent before God.**

**He was born in Rome in the 5th century to a pious and wealthy family of the senator Euphemianus. His parents had long been childless and received him as an answer to their tearful prayers. Though raised in abundance, from an early age he showed love for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He did not attach his heart to earthly riches but sought first the Kingdom of God.**

**When he came of age, his parents arranged a marriage for him to a virtuous and devout young woman. However, moved by a deep desire for a life wholly dedicated to God, and with her consent to live in purity, he left his home on the very night of the wedding. He did not do this out of disdain for marriage, but because he felt called by the Lord to a path of complete renunciation.**

**He traveled to Edessa in Syria, where he lived for seventeen years as a beggar near the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos. Whatever he received, he shared with the poor. He ate only what was necessary to survive, wore rags, and spent his days and nights in prayer. There he acquired profound spiritual wisdom and endurance.**

**When his holiness became known and people began to honor him, he fled again to avoid human glory. By God's providence, he returned to Rome, but his parents did not recognize him. He asked to live as a poor man in a corner of their house. His father, not knowing he was his own son, allowed him to stay out of mercy. There he lived for another seventeen years. The servants mocked and mistreated him, yet he endured everything in silence, giving thanks to God. Each**

**day he saw his parents grieving for their lost son, yet he did not reveal his identity. His humility reached its fullness—he lived in his own home as a stranger.**

**Priest Vladimir Terzic**



## Алексеј Божији човек

Свети Алексеј, Божији човек, један је од најснажнијих примера јеванђелског смирења, одрицања и потпуног поверења у Божији промисао. Његов живот је тих, скривен од очију света, али управо зато величанствен пред Богом. Рођен је у Риму у побожној и богатој породици сенатора Евфимијана. Његови родитељи дуго нису имали деце и измолили су га сузама и молитвама. Одрастао је у изобиљу, али је од малена показивао љубав према молитви, посту и милостињи. Нијесе везао за пролазно богатство, већ је срцем тражио Царство Божије.



Када је стасао, родитељи су га оженили честитом и благочестивом девојком. Међутим, вођен дубоком жељом за савршенијим духовним животом, он је, уз договор са својом супругом да ће живети у чистоти, исте ноћи напустио дом. Није то учинио из непоштовања према браку, већ из осећаја да га Господ призива на подвиг потпуног одрицања.

Отишао је у Едесу у Сирији, где је седамнаест година живео као просјак поред храма Пресвете Богородице. Све што би добио делио је сиромашнима. Хранио се оним што му је било довољно за опстанак, носио дроњке и проводио дане и ноћи у молитви. Ту је стекао дар дубоке духовне мудрости и трпљења.

Када је његова светост постала позната и народ почео да га поштује, он је, бежећи од славе, поново напустио место. Промислом Божијим вратио се у Рим, али га родитељи нису препознали. Замолио је да живи као сиромаш у углу њихове куће. Отац, не знајући да му је то син, из милосрђа је дозволио.

Ту је проживео још седамнаест година. Слуге су га понижавале, ругале му се и често злостављале, али је он све трпео ћутке, благодарећи Богу. Свакога дана је гледао своје родитеље како тугују за изгубљеним сином, али није откривао свој идентитет. Његово смирење достигло је врхунац — живео је у сопственом дому као странац. Пред смрт је написао писмо у којем је описао свој живот. Када је предао душу Богу, по Божијем откривењу писмо је прочитано и тада се сазнало да је непознати сиромаш био син те куће. Рим је био потресен. Онај кога су презирали, показао се као велики угодник Божији.

У времену када се људи боре за видљивост, успех и признање, Свети Алексеј нас учи да је највећа победа — победа над сопственим егоизмом. Он нас позива да будемо „Божији људи“ тамо где јесмо: у породици, у парохији, у друштву — живећи тихо, смирено и верно Христу.

Свети Алексеј се празнује 30. марта (17. марта по старом календару).

Нека његов пример укрепи све нас да, иако живимо у свету, не живимо по духу света, већ по духу Јеванђеља.

Свештеник Владимир Терзић

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
405 Huntwood Road, Swansea, IL 62226

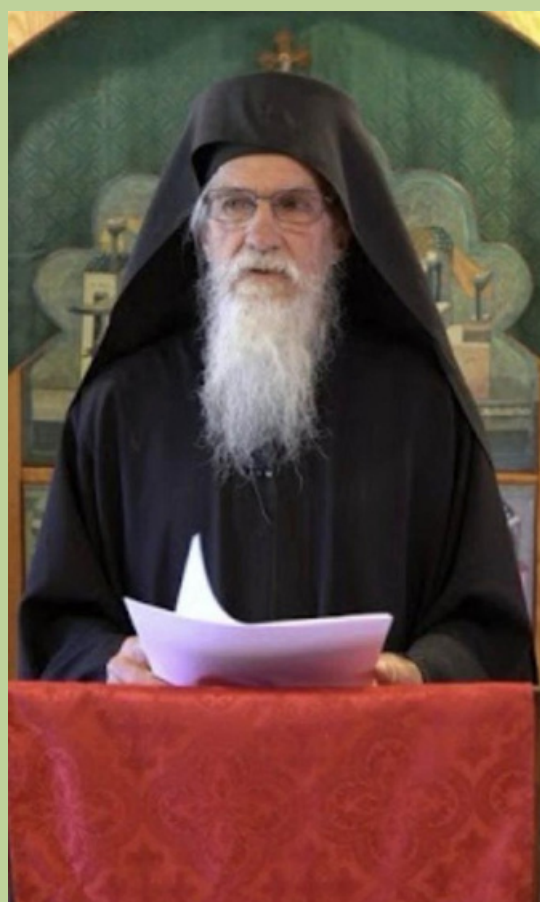
Join us for a Lenten Retreat

## DIVING DEEPER WITHIN!

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
10 am to 3 pm

Guest Presenter:

Hieromonk Alexii Altschul  
Abbot of Archangel Michael and All Angels Skete  
in Weatherby, MO



### Session I

St. Mary of Egypt, a Model of  
Repentance for Us  
10 am to 12 pm  
(including Q and A)  
Lenten Lunch and Fellowship  
12 pm to 1 pm

### Session II

Climbing the Ladder of St. John Climacus  
Insensitivity--The Passion of our Age, and  
How to Overcome It  
1 pm to 2:45 pm  
(including Q and A)

The retreat and lunch are  
complimentary

Free-will offerings are welcome

For lunch purposes, please RSVP

by March 13th to David Cassens

at [Schmaive@gmail.com](mailto:Schmaive@gmail.com)

with number attending

Great Vespers  
3 pm

# Choir Chit-Chat

We are excited to announce we are hosting the annual Serbian Orthodox Choral Association (SOCA) festival this year on October 9, 10, and 11th 2026. Several choirs from the US and Canada will be participating and are already hard at work to make this an enjoyable weekend.

This is a great opportunity to get to know folks from around the country and reconnect with old friends. We hosted the Festival 10 years ago and are happy to do it again!

You may not know this but your Holy Trinity Choir is 117 years old! We have been here for our church through every war and depression remaining steadfast in our commitment to glorify our Lord. If you are interested in getting to know us better and being more involved in parish life please contact me or any other member of the choir and come see what we are about! Who knows, you might just be our next star!

Please plan on attending this fun filled weekend and supporting your choir!

Be on the lookout for more details!

God Bless,  
Nada Buha, Choir President

## Young Adults Class

A new Young Adults Catechism class began meeting every other Sunday after Divine Liturgy, offering our Orthodox young adults and recent young inquirers an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Orthodox faith and their life in the Church. Nik Chkautovich, with the guidance and support of Father Vladimir, will help participants navigate the unique challenges of being Orthodox during the early stages of adulthood, while providing a setting to learn, ask questions, and grow in their knowledge and love of our Orthodox faith.

Contact Nik at 314.406.4382 if you would like to join the class.





## **2026 Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vespers**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy March 1, 2026 @ 5:00 pm**

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Family Life Center

*(potluck dinner after Vespers)*

12550 S Forty Dr. St. Louis, MO 63141

**Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas March 8, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

Nativity of the Virgin Orthodox Church

*(light refreshments after Vespers)*

416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060

**Sunday of the Cross March 15, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

Ss. Cyril and Methody Orthodox Church

*(light refreshments after Vespers)*

4770 Maryville Rd, Granite City, IL 62040

**Sunday of Saint John Climacus March 22, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

Saint Thomas Orthodox Church

*(light refreshments after Vespers)*

6501 Nottingham Ave, St. Louis, MO 63109

**Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt March 29, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

Ss. Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church

*(light refreshments after)*

405 Huntwood Rd, Swansea, IL 62226

# SPOMENKA'S CORNER

## COFFEE HOUR

As always, thank you to all of you who support "Coffee Hour". The signup sheet has been moved to the bulletin board by the bar. Coffee is provided by the church but we ask that you set up and clean up after coffee hour.

**Jan 4** – Goran Abutovic and Snezana;

**Jan 11** – Pedja Arnaut – snacks and Louie had pizzas;

**Jan 18** – none;

**Feb 1** - no sponsor but last minute pizzas by Louie L.;

**Feb 8** - Superbowl Sunday ...Sharon Shormas Wade;

**Feb 15** - Melanie Relich and Georgia Posey, In memory of their dear mother Nada;

**Feb 22** - Sunday school children recited their deklamacijas after Holy Liturgy in church. Friends of Sunday School provided a pizza party and thanks to the Sunday School for sharing with the parish. What a great job they did...Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our former priest Very Rev Fr. Ljubomir Krstic who was elevated to Proto!

## BISHOP NIKOLAJ FUND

Thanks so very much to Rajka Ries from the Cleveland, Ohio area for her very generous donation to our fund. This fund was established to help those in need and depends on donations from friends and parishioners. Thanks to all who continue to support!

## THANK YOU

**Badnje Vece** - Many thanks to Nedeljko Tomic for continuing to supply us with the Badnjak. We had a lot of help decorating the badnjak too! A large crowd gathered for the celebration.

Thank you to the following:

Elaine Stager for arranging the dried fruit and fresh fruit, Olivera Jandrusevic for supplying cesnica, and Goran Kurtuma and Ivan Nigacevic for preparing and donating the vruce rakije (hot whiskey).

Congrats to the winner of the coin, Vuk Mocevic. A beautiful coin collection was his gift which was donated by someone who choses to remain anonymous.

And we can't forget the pig raffle...the winner was Aleks Mitrovic...and thank you Aleks for donating it the church. Great job by our barbq crew led by Zoran Kurtuma! Those that were here enjoyed it on Sunday. Thank you so much!

## DONATIONS

Happy to say that Holy Trinity delivered sandwiches and 3 pans of mostaccioli along with paper products, cleaning supplies, etc. to Larry's Corner in North St. Louis on December 31st. This man cooks every day to help those who lost everything in the devastating tornado on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We also donated 20 sleeping bags to this cause. Thank you Dave and Casey for preparing and delivering to Larry.

## FOCUS

We are preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> meal of the year to Focus on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>; this is the 1<sup>st</sup> of three meals that we donate. When you see Nick, please give him a cash donation as we continue to stock their food bank.

Serbian Orthodox Choral Association Presents

SAVE THE DATE!

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

60<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

*Hosted by Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Choir*

# HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 2026 Calendar/Календар

### March/Марта

**March 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, Sunday of Orthodoxy /Недеља Православља**

10 am- Divine Liturgy/Света Литургија

**March 4<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday**

6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy/Пређеосвећена Литургиј

7 pm- Catechism for Adults/Веронаука за одрасле

**March 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Fish Fest 5 – 8 pm**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**

10 am Divine Liturgy/Света Литургија

**March 11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday**

6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy/Пређеосвећена Литургиј

7 pm- Catechism for Adults/Веронаука за одрасле

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Fish Fest 5 – 8 pm**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**

10 am Divine Liturgy/Света Литургија

**March 18<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday**

6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy/Пређеосвећена Литургиј

7 pm- Catechism for Adults/Веронаука за одрасле

**March 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Fish Fest 5 – 8 pm**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday**

10 am Divine Liturgy/Света Литургија

**March 25<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday**

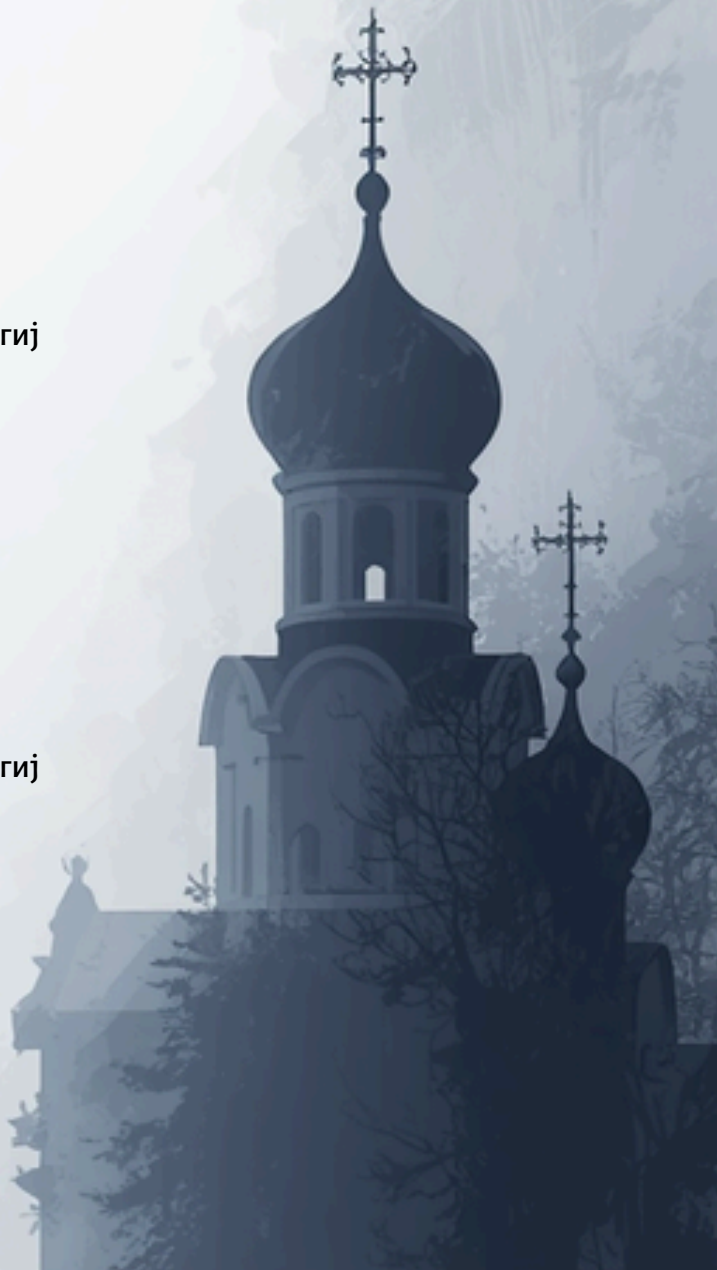
6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy/Пређеосвећена Литургиј

7 pm- Catechism for Adults/Веронаука за одрасле

**March 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Fish Fest 5 – 8 pm**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**

10 am Divine Liturgy/Света Литургија



# HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 2026 Calendar/Календар

### April/Април

#### April 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday

6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy/Пређеосвећена Литургиј

7 pm- Catechism for Adults/Веронаука за одрасле

#### April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, Fish Fest 5 – 8 pm

#### April 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, Lazarus Saturday / Лазарева Субота

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

3 pm- Children's Vrbica Retreat

5 pm- Vespers –Blessing of Willows / Вечерње –Освећење Врбице

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Palm Sunday / Цвети

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 7<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Annunciation / Благовести

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday / Велики Четвртак

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

6 pm- Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels / Читање 12 Јеванђеља

#### April 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday, Great and Holy Friday / Велики Петак

10 am- Reading of the Royal Hours / Читање Царских Часова

6 pm- Vespers- Presentation of the Holy Shroud / Изношење Плаштанице

7:30 pm Lamentations – Funeral of our Lord Jesus Christ / Сахрана Господа Исуса Христа

#### April 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy- Holy Saturday/Света Литургија

#### April 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Resurrection of Our Lord and Jesus Christ

#### Васкрсење Господа Нашег Исуса Христа

8 am- Paschal Matins / Васкрсна Јутрења

9 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday, Bright Monday / Светли понедељак

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 14<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Bright Tuesday / Светли утора

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

#### April 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Liturgy at Mount Hope Cemetery / Литургија на Гробљу

9 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

10 am Blessing of the graves / благослов гробова