



HOLY TRINITY

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.stlserbianchurch.org

September 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

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

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.

- SOCA Festival- Make your reservations today! (p. 2)
- Folklore teacher needed- Call 314.574.4827 if interested (p.3)
- Message from the Church Board President (p. 4)
- Join the Young Adults group! (p.4)
- Saint of the Month by Fr. Vladimir in Srpski & English - Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope & Love & St. Sophia (p. 5- 6)
- Spomenka Corner- The scoop from Sharon (p. 7)
- Nativity Mother of God Monastery Slava Invitation (p.8)
- FOCUS update (p.8)
- IOCC Banquet- October 4th (p. 9)
- Missions Dinner @ St. Thomas Orthodox Church (p.10)
- 3-month calendar: Schedule of Liturgy & Services (pp. 11-13)

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church

Raising Children in Faith, Tradition, and Love



**Join us on Sunday, September 13th
for our first day of Sunday School.
Meet your Sunday School teachers.
Please bring a salad or side dish for
lunch, meat & desserts provided.
Inflatable game for the kids!**

Serbian Orthodox Choral Assoc. 60th Anniversary Festival 2026

SUPPORT YOUR CHOIR!

**HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IS HOSTING
THE 60TH ANNUAL S.O.C.A. FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 9-11TH**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 9th, 2026

6:00 - 11:00 pm – Welcome Social with Lenten food* and cash bar – Music by Orkestar Becari

Saturday, October 10th, 2026

2:30 - 4:30 pm – Choral Concert (Choirs from Canada & the U.S.- free to public)

4:30 - 5:30 pm – Vespers Service (combined choirs)

6:00 - 6:30 pm – Happy Hour (Drinks and Bites)

6:30 – 11:00 pm – Banquet* (served 6:30-7:30), Dancing, and Musical entertainment
by Mladost & Friends (Dance only ticket is \$20)

Sunday, October 11th, 2026

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy (combined choirs)

Luncheon* & Fellowship following Liturgy

All events are to be held at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church
1910 Serbian Drive, St. Louis, MO 63104

***All meals must be ordered in advance through BentoBox by September 25, 2026.**

Use the link below to order meals (includes menu and pricing):

<https://serbianchurchstlouis.getbento.com/online-ordering/holy-trinity-serbian-orthodox-church/menu/order-settings>

If you would like to advertise your business or spotlight your family we are printing an Ad Book that will
be given to everyone who attends the weekend festival.

Cost is \$200 for a full page ad

\$100 for half page ad

Contact Festival Chair, Nik Chkautovich, with any questions or if you need any assistance.

314-406-4382

nchkautovich@gmail.com

Please come support your choir, meet new friends, and dance the night away!
We are looking forward to a fun weekend! Hope to see you there!

Nada Buha, Choir President

FOLKLORE TEACHER NEEDED



→ Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church ←

Teach children ages 5–14

→ INTERESTED? CONTACT US TODAY. ←



1910 Serbian Drive,
St. Louis, MO 63104



Kris @
314-574-4827



htseoc.stl@gmail.com



www.stlserbianchurch.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD PRESIDENT

Michael Vujnich

September 13th begins the first day of Sunday School. It's important to sign up your children as soon as possible. Also, please contact her for any help she may need in planning future events for Sunday School. Kris and her staff spend a great deal of time in planning the curriculum and events to ensure the children have fun together with learning about Holy Orthodoxy. Your participation by volunteering to help them in any way possible is very much appreciated.

Don't forget to mark your calendars regarding the 60th Anniversary of the SOCA Festival to be held on October 9th, 10th, and 11th.

Thank you once again for everyone's help in all the programs and events that support Holy Trinity.

In Christ,
Michael Vujnich

Young Adults Class



Our new Young Adults Catechism class is currently meeting on Thursday nights on Zoom, 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.

Свете мученице Вера, Нада, Љубав и мајка им Софија



Свете мученице Вера, Нада и Љубав и њихова мајка Софија живеће су у другом веку, у време римског цара Адријана. Биле су хришћанке које су свој живот посветиле Христу и нису се одрекле своје вере ни онда када су због ње биле изложене страшним страдањима.

Софија је своје три кћери назвала по највећим хришћанским врлинама: Вери, Нади и Љубави. Иако су биле веома младе — Вера је имала дванаест, Нада десет, а Љубав девет година — биле су чврсте у вери и храбро су исповедиле име Христово.

Када су их довели пред цара, захтевано је од њих да се одрекну Христа и принесу жртву паганским боговима. Оне су то одбиле, исповедајући да је њихов Господ Исус Христос једини истинити Бог. Због тога су биле подвргнуте страшним мучењима. Свака од њих је пострадала на различит начин, али ниједна није поклекла нити се одрекла своје вере.

Њихова мајка Софија није била поштеђена највећег бола који једна мајка може да доживи. Гледала је како њене мале кћери страдају и умиру за Христа. Међутим, она их је храбрила да остану верне Господу и да се не уплаше страдања, јер је знала да је привремени живот пролазан, а да је живот са Христом вечан.

После њиховог мучеништва, Софија је узела њихова тела и сахранила их са великом љубављу и молитвом. Три дана касније и сама је мирно предала душу Господу на њиховом гробу. Зато је Црква прославља заједно са њеним светим кћерима.

Њихово страдање нам показује да права вера није само реч, већ спремност да се човек остане веран Христу и онда када је најтеже. Вера, Нада и Љубав нису само имена ових светитељки, већ три темељне хришћанске врлине. Вером познајемо Бога, надом гледамо ка вечном животу, а љубављу се сједињујемо са Богом и ближњима.

Посебно је снажан пример њихове мајке Софије. Она нам показује шта значи хришћанска мајчинска љубав — не само да чува своју децу за овај земаљски живот, већ да их учи да воле Христа и да буду спремни да Му остану верни до краја.

Зато се Свете мученице Вера, Нада, Љубав и мајка им Софија вековима поштују у Цркви као пример верности, храбрости, трпљења и љубави према Христу. Њихов живот нас подсећа да ниједно страдање које је претрпљено са Христом није узалудно и да је изнад сваке земаљске муке — вечни живот у Царству Божијем.

Свештеник Владимир Терзић

The Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, and Love, and Their Mother Sophia



The Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, and Love and their mother Sophia lived in the second century, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. They were Christians who devoted their lives to Christ and refused to renounce their faith even when they were subjected to terrible suffering because of it.

Sophia named her three daughters after the greatest Christian virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love. Although they were very young—Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine—they were strong in their faith and courageously confessed the name of Christ.

When they were brought before the emperor, they were ordered to renounce Christ and offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. They refused, confessing that their Lord Jesus Christ is the one true God. Because of this, they were subjected to terrible tortures. Each of them suffered in a different way, but none of them gave in or renounced her faith.

Their mother Sophia was not spared the greatest pain a mother can experience. She watched as her young daughters suffered and gave their lives for Christ. Yet she encouraged them to remain faithful to the Lord and not to fear suffering, because she knew that earthly life is temporary, while life with Christ is eternal.

After their martyrdom, Sophia took their bodies and buried them with great love and prayer. Three days later, she peacefully gave her own soul to the Lord at their grave. For this reason, the Church commemorates her together with her holy daughters.

Their martyrdom teaches us that true faith is not merely a word, but the willingness to remain faithful to Christ even when it is most difficult. Faith, Hope, and Love are not only the names of these holy martyrs, but also three fundamental Christian virtues. Through faith we come to know God, through hope we look toward eternal life, and through love we unite ourselves with God and with our fellow human beings.

The example of their mother Sophia is especially powerful. She shows us what Christian motherhood truly means—not only to protect one's children in this earthly life, but also to teach them to love Christ and to remain faithful to Him to the very end.

For this reason, the Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, and Love and their mother Sophia have been honored in the Church for centuries as examples of faithfulness, courage, endurance, and love for Christ. Their lives remind us that no suffering endured with Christ is ever in vain, and that beyond every earthly suffering there is eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

SPOMENKA'S CORNER

COFFEE HOUR

We all thought summer was over....whoo...kids are back in school, but what's with this heat...100 for the first week of September? Hopefully this is summer's last blast! As always stated, we are in need of sponsors; the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the hall entrance by the bar. Please take a minute to pick a date and share some snacks with your friends. Coffee is provided by the church; but you must use the coffee that is alongside the machine. Set up and clean up by the sponsor.

Thanks to the following who did sponsor coffee hour for the month of August:

August 2nd- 2nd day of SerbFest

August 16th – Larry & Meg Zelenovich

August 23rd – Goran Mitrovic.

Thanks to all!

MISCELLANEOUS:

Happy Birthday to Ljubica (Lucy) Krosnjar who reached 99 years old this month. Mnogaja Ljeta....will all get ready for that big 100th birthday party!

We also have 1 silver orthodox cross available with a continuous chain for \$125...see Sharon if interested.

STEWARDSHIP:

We are truly appreciative of everyone's support of our Church and its ministries through their annual stewardship commitment of time, talent and treasure. May God reward you for the good things you do!

That's it for now!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

As the old saying goes, *"You don't truly know someone until you've shared a pound of salt with them."* That's why, after Divine Liturgy, coffee hour is one of the most meaningful parts of our week at Holy Trinity.

It's a time to share food, strengthen friendships, and grow together as a church family. Hosting is simple; bring a dish to share, and everything else is provided. Whether it's something small or more elaborate, your contribution helps nourish both body and spirit.

Sign up by the kitchen or let Sharon know, and join us in building community, one cup of coffee at a time!



THE SISTERHOOD OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
MONASTERY

*joyfully invites you to join us in the
celebration of our Slava on*

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026.**

The festivity will begin with
the Great Vigil service on
Sunday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, September 21, 2026, at 10:00
a.m., the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be
served, followed by the blessing of the slavski
kolač and žito, and a festive luncheon.

*We warmly welcome all faithful and friends to
join us in prayer and thanksgiving on this joyous
Feast.*

*With love and prayers,
Abbess Makrina and the Sisterhood*



Сестринство манастира
Рођења Пресвете
Богородице

*са радошћу вас позива на
празновање наше славе у*

**понедељак,
21. септембра 2026. године.**

Прослава почиње
Великим Бденијем у
недељу, 20. септембра у 19:00 часова.

У понедељак, 21. септембра у 10:00 часова
служиће се Света Архијерејска Литургија,
након које ће уследити освећење Славских
знамења и свечани ручак.

*С радошћу позивамо све верне да нам се
придружи у служби Богу и захвалности
Пресветој на овој радосној слави.*

*С љубављу и молитвама,
Мати Макрина са сестринством*

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Рођење и рани живот Пресвете Богородице нису забележени у Јеванђељима нити у другим књигама Новог завета, али о томе сведочи дело из другог века познато као Јаковљево протојеванђеље.

Према причи из ове књиге, родитељи Марије, Јоаким и Ана, дуго нису имали деце. Остали су верни Богу, али њихове молитве за дете дуго нису биле услышене. Једног дана, када је Јоаким дошао у храм да принесе жртву, првосвештеник га је одбио и укорио због тога што нема потомства. Да би сакрио свој стид, Јоаким се повукао у брдовити крај да живи међу пастирима и њиховим стадима.

Док се Јоаким молио, његова жена Ана се у истом тренутку молила код куће у Јерусалиму. Анђео се јавио обома и објавио им да ће Ана родити дете чије ће име бити познато по свему свету. Ана је обећала да ће своје дете принети Господу као дар. Јоаким се вратио дому, и у одређено време Ана роди кћер, Марију.



Focus Gateway City has recently experienced a marked increase in the use of its food pantry. The pantry was frequently running out of food, so the pantry is now sadly closed on Sundays during Sunday Supper. It still operates during the Wednesday breakfast service. If you feel a Godly calling to assist this important ministry, you may purchase pre-selected online food items that get shipped directly to Focus Gateway City from the following address: <https://tinyurl.com/FocusFoodPantry>.

As a reminder, Focus Gateway City provides guests with breakfast and access to the food pantry on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. You may volunteer for breakfast service directly online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABAC2FA7F9C70-56810254-breakfast#/>

Holy Trinity will sponsor its final Focus Sunday supper of 2026 on December 20th. It is not too early to volunteer online to assist in this food service: <https://tinyurl.com/FocusSuppers2026>.

In Christ,
Nick Dopuch

24th Annual IOCC Banquet



Sunday, October 4, 2026
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church
1910 Serbian Dr., St. Louis, MO 63104

The St. Louis IOCC Metropolitan Committee is inviting you to celebrate the work of IOCC, hear updates about its programs in places like Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and the US, and enjoy fellowship.

Annual Banquet Schedule

5:00 pm Vespers | 5:30 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar | 6:15 pm Dinner

RSVP by September 19: <https://give.iocc.org/event/st-louis-24th-annual-iocc-banquet/e796669>

Adult Ticket \$40.00 / Student Ticket \$25.00

Friend Sponsorship- No tickets included.

\$100.00

Supporter Sponsorship- No tickets included.

\$200.00

Patron Sponsorship- No tickets included.

\$300.00

Sponsor Sponsorship- Two tickets included.

\$500.00

Benefactor Sponsorship - Two tickets included.

\$1,000.00

Grand Benefactor Sponsorship- - Two tickets included.

\$5,000.00



MISSION TEAM ST. LOUIS INVITES YOU

Orthodoxy⁸ in Argentina



Saturday, November 14th, 2026

Vespers: 5:00 p.m.

Check-in: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner & Presentation: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Orthodox Church**

6501 Nottingham Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109

Presenter: Dr. Kristina Mantasavili

Proceeds to benefit the Metropolis of Buenos Aires in Argentina by purchasing basic office equipment and electronic devices for pastoral and educational needs, along with much needed ecclesiastical holy vessels to ensure the proper celebration of Divine Services.

**\$42 Adults
\$22 Students**

Register online or by mailing this form with checks made payable to **OCMC** and '**STL Dinner**' in the memo.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Reserve ____ adult seats x \$42 and ____ student x \$22.

☐ I cannot attend but enclosed is my donation to OCMC

☐ I'd like to be an event sponsor

☐ Defender (\$1,000) ☐ Missionary (\$100)
☐ Guardian (\$500) ☐ Disciple (\$50)
☐ Mentor (\$250)

Special Diets

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Gluten Free

Remit to: OCMC Benefit Dinner, c/o Registration, 5243 Creighton Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 by Oct 31st!

www.ocmc.org/missionteamstlouis

Call 571-276-6541 or email missionteamstl@gmail.com for more info



HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар

September / Септембар

September 6st - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

**September 11th – Friday, Beheading of St. John the Baptist / Усековање главе
Свето Јована Крститеља**

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 13th - Sunday / FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 19th - Saturday

5 pm- Vespers / Вечерње

September 20th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 21st – Monday, Nativity of the Mother of God / Мала Госпојина

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

September 27th - Sunday, Exaltation of the Precious Cross / Крстовдан

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

Our Role in Action!



Risto Kekich Realtor
(314) 498-8449

Residential / Commercial
Licensed in Missouri & Illinois



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY • GUNDAKER
Town and Country
(636) 394-9300

Experience. Dedication. Integrity.

HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар

October-Октобар

October 4th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

Annual IOCC Banquet

5:00 pm Vespers | 5:30 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar | 6:15 pm Dinner *Reservations required (see page 8)

October 9th - Friday, Serbian Orthodox Choral Association Festival (S.O.C.A.)

6 - 11 pm: Welcome Social posno dinner and music by Orkestar Becari

October 10th - Saturday - S.O.C.A. Festival

10 am Divine Liturgy- Memorial Saturday / Света Литургија - Задужнице

2:30 pm- Choral Concert

4:30 pm- Vespers / Вечерње

6:30 pm - Banquet, Dinner, Dancing with Musical entertainment by Mladost

October 11th – Sunday - S.O.C.A. Festival

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

12 am- S.O.C.A. Closing of Festival Luncheon

October 18th – Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

October 25th - Sunday

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

October 27th - Tuesday, Venerable Mother Paraskeva / Преподобна Мати Параскева

10 am Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Calendar/Календар November / Новембар

November 7th - Memorial Saturday / Задушнице

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 8th - Sunday, Great Martyr Demetrius / Свети Великомученик Димитрије

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 15th - Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 21st - Saturday, Archangel Michael / Аранђеловдан

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 22nd – Sunday

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 24th - Tuesday, St. Stefan of Decani / Свети Стефан Дечански

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

November 28th - Saturday (Nativity Fast Begins / ПОЧЕТАК ПОСТА)

5 pm- Vespers / Вечерње

November 29th - Sunday, Evangelist Matthew / Јеванђelist Matej

10 am- Divine Liturgy / Света Литургија

