

**ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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December 10, 2017

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**Greatmartyr James the Persia**-The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the

Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor.

Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness.

His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, Saint James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death.

They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture Saint James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-17 GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

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**CHURCH SERVICE THIS WEEK-** Tuesday, Dec 12 - **Saint Mardaije of Libertyville** Divine Liturgy at 9:30am

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**VISITS-**Villa St Joseph-**Ted Belich/ Slavka Nikolic** Beaver Meadow-**Smilja Milosh/Bob Sparcie/Mary Loverich** Providence Rehab-**Eli Rebich** Cambrige Village-**Zora Vuich/Mary Ulinski** Franciscna Manor-**Daniel Dojcinovich Nell Semick**

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**FROM FR. BRANISLAV... ADVENT** - began on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> . Confessions will be heard preferably by appointment on Saturday night. If you want confessions on Sunday morning be in church **before 9 a.m.**

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**Our Annual Assembly will be held Sunday, December 31, 2017 PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS VERY INFORMATIONAL MEETING.**

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**KCC** Our delicious pogaca will be available again today donation \$ 5.00 we also have posno vegetable strudel \$3.00 per slice!

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**ST. ELIJAH CHOIR NEWS -PSENICA KITS** and **ANDERSON CANDY ORDERS** may be picked up next Sunday. Thank you everyone for your participation.



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**POSNO SOUP** - will be available today following Divine Liturgy. Today we will have Beans/Barley/ Carrots and Potato Soup!

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**Saint Elijah Cornerstone Men's Club Annual "Barbecued Christmas Pigs"** Whole Pigs (average weight~ 35# @ \$8.00 per pound or you may purchase a minimum of 3 lbs or above @ \$12.00 per pound. Deadline to order is January 1, 2017. Pick-up at the Picnic Grounds on January 6<sup>th</sup> no later than 12:00 NOON. Please call Dorothy Baron @ 724-378-7731. **PICK UP FLYER BY BULLETIN**

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**CHILDREN'S DAY**-Among many national customs, the Serbs have a special one in which we REMEMBER and TIE as well as give gifts on Children's, Mother's, and Father's Day. The Church Books dedicate the two Sundays preceding Christmas to the Forefathers and Fathers, the Righteous Ones and the Prophets of the Old Testament, who awaited the coming of the Saviour, symbolically depicted Him and prophesied His Advent, but did not live to see Him. With this thought in mind **NEXT WEEK** is **CHILDREN'S DAY** and there will be activities for our children following Divine Liturgy. Please bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews and let them partake of this fun day!