

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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DECEMBER 26, 2021
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS;
MARTYRS EUSTRATUS, AUXENTIUS, MARDARIUS, AND
ORESTE OF SEBASTE**
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle Reading
Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel Reading
Luke 14:16-24

**CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!
HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!**

Troparion (Resurrection)
When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Troparion (Holy Forefathers)
Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: She who bore You without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tropaion (Martyrs)
Your holy martyrs O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion (Holy Forefathers)
You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for You are merciful and able to do as You will.

Kontakion (St. Luke)
Let us praise the godly Luke: he is the true preacher of piety, the orator of ineffable mysteries and the star of the Church; for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of men, chose him, together with wise Paul, to be a teacher of the gentiles!

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers falls on the second Sunday before the Nativity when the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh are remembered: All the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, the Righteous Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah, Joachim and Anna, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18).

Adapted from [OrthodoxWiki](https://www.orthodoxwiki.org/Holy_Forefathers)



Welcome to all guests with us today in person and by livestream as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Join us for Coffee Hour following Liturgy. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith and St. Luke parish life, please talk with Fr. John or any of us.

St. Luke Capital Campaign for 2021

Parish members and friends who planned to offer a donation in this calendar year towards our general fund and our building program can still contribute before the end of the year. See Ron Kecman, President of the Board of Trustees, or Reader David Lumovich, Financial Secretary, today. Thank you for your continuing stewardship support.

The Nativity Fast and Sacrament of Confession - Now through Thursday, January 6

Fr. John invites everyone who has not yet come to the Sacrament of Confession to schedule a time to meet with him before the January 7th Nativity Feastday, by appointment only: john.vitko@gmail.com or 925-667-6451.

Vespers and Orthodoxy 201 – Schedule Change

Vespers and O-201 will not meet this Wednesday. It will resume on January 12 with the study of *The Gospel of St. Luke – Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley.

First-Sunday-of-the-Month - Faith in Action: Food for the Needy – January 2

Remember the hungry, homeless and working poor families in our local area next Sunday by donating canned and boxed nutritious foods. Grocery gift cards and monetary gifts are also welcomed. Contact Sue Mamula or Donna Karabin for more information.

Feast of the Nativity

- Thurs., January 6 7:30PM Burning of the Badnjak and Christmas Eve Vigil
- Friday, January 7 10:30AM Festal Divine Liturgy followed by a luncheon

God Grant You Many Years!

May God bless our choir director, Alexia Kolias, on her birthday today and Tracy Milosevich on her birthday this coming week. Mnogaja ljeta!