

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON  
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JANUARY 2, 2022  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS**  
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Epistle Reading**

Hebrews 11:9-10; 17-23, 32-40

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 1:1-25

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

**Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

**Troparion** (Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

**Troparion** (Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

**Kontakion** (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

**Kontakion** (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

**Sunday before the Nativity**

Today as we commemorate the human ancestors of Jesus, from Adam to Joseph, we have a feeling of expectation for Christ's birth and the beginning of a new generation – the age of the Messiah – a new age of fullness and completion of which we as Orthodox Christians are a part. May we prepare ourselves for the Feast of the coming Nativity of Our Lord and the salvation of mankind. ~Excerpt from St. Herman of Alaska Church



**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 and any of us.

**Memory Eternal**

We offer memorial prayers today for Mile Milosevich on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his repose, for Nevenka's sister Olga on her 40<sup>th</sup> day, for Fr. John's aunt Mary Szul, Donna Karabin's father Edward (Elijah) Phillips, her aunt Zora Milasnovich, and for Mark Mamula's mother Millicent on the anniversaries of their repose. Večnaja pamjat +

**First-Sunday-of-the-Month ~ Pot-Luck Coffee Hour & Food for the Needy**

- God bless everyone who donated food for charity and food for Coffee Hour today.
- Rada Carmichael invites Coffee Hour volunteers to sign up for January & February.

**Vespers and Orthodoxy 201 – Schedule Change**

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

**Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**

Fr. John is available to hear Confessions through Thursday.

- Thurs., January 6 7:30PM Burning of the Badnjak and Christmas Eve Vigil (Strict Fast)
- Friday, January 7 10:30AM Festal Divine Liturgy followed by a Christmas Luncheon
- January 7-17 Fast-free days celebrating the Nativity

**Orthodox Outreach Opportunities**

- [St. Katherine's](#) Philoptochos in Falls Church invites volunteers to join them on Sunday, January 9 at noon to pack 44,000 meals for the "Rise Against Hunger" project. (See Flyer)
- [Culmore Clinic](#), an award-winning adult medical facility serving the poor in Bailey's Crossroads, is in need of part-time Physicians (volunteer) and Nurse Practitioners (paid). Contact Lisa Hornstein – 571-380-4923 or [lisah@culmoreclinic.org](mailto:lisah@culmoreclinic.org). (See our bulletin board)

**God Grant You Many Years!**

God bless Christine Glomazic as she celebrates her birthday this week. Mnogaja ljeta!