

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS
TWENTY-NINTH 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 for the Holy 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 of the Forefeast: Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, 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 for the Holy 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 for the 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!

Welcome to Our Guests

We offer a warm welcome to all guests who are with us today. Please join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about the Orthodox Faith and St. Luke parish life. You are always welcome in our worship, fellowship, study and charity outreach.

Children's Christmas Program – Today

We will be honored today with a special Nativity program performed by our Church School students immediately after Liturgy. God bless them as they grow in faith and understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Compliments go to the teachers and parents for their work on the costumes and all their efforts.

The Nativity Fast

Fr. John invites everyone who has not yet come to the Sacrament of Confession to schedule a time to meet with him before January 7.

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.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - Service Schedule

- Monday, January 6 7:30PM Burning of the Badnjak, Christmas Vigil; Refreshments will be served.
- Tuesday, January 7 10:30AM Festal Divine Liturgy followed by a Christmas feast prepared by our Sisterhood. Donations of desserts are requested.

Vespers and Orthodoxy 201 – Schedule Change

Vespers and O-201 will not meet this Wednesday but will resume on January 15.

Memory Eternal +

Nick Antich fell asleep in the Lord on December 19. His funeral will be at St. Mark's in Bethesda, MD on Thursday, January 9th with the viewing beginning at 10:30AM, funeral service at 1PM followed by a reception in the parish hall. Grant rest eternal with the Saints in blessed repose, O Lord, to the soul of Thy departed servant, Nicholas. Večnaja pamjat +

Special Events – Saturday, January 11

- Our men's monthly gathering for food, fellowship & Faith is 9AM on Saturday.
- Yale Russian Chorus performs at St. Nicholas Cathedral in DC at 7PM.