

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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MARCH 22, 2020
VENERATION OF THE CROSS
THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Epistle Reading
Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel Reading
Mark 8:34-9:1

*Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!*

Troparion: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries. And by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation!

Kontakion: Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: “Enter again into paradise.”

*Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master,
and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.*

Prayers for the Sick

Our dear Nelly Mudrezow spent many days in the hospital and is now in a rehabilitation facility trying to regain her strength. Visiting is not permitted at this time but sending cards or children’s artwork would be a great encouragement to her: Fairfax Nursing Center, 10701 Main St. Fairfax, VA 22030.

God Grant You Many Years!

May God bless Rebecca Karabin on her 16th birthday last week. This week, Nelly Mudrezow will celebrate her 94th birthday. Greetings also go to Esteban de la Riva and Hossana Aberra for their birthdays. Mnogaja Ljeta!

Reminder: Continue praying for your Lenten Prayer Partner.

Fr. John Informs the Parish of Metropolitan Tikhon’s Decision

“With the evolving Corona virus situation and out of Christian love and concern about not wanting our contact with one another to potentially spread this to those around us, he is asking (directing) that effective immediately all parishes and missions in the Archdiocese will be closed through April 1. He lovingly urges us to continue our prayer and worship life at home (and remotely) and calls our attention to the new corona virus tab on the OCA web page which provides many resources for us including worship materials and urls for streamed services: <https://www.oca.org/resources-coronavirus>

All this is being done out of Christian love and concern for those around us -- as a spiritual sacrifice for our brothers and sisters.”

Excerpts of Metropolitan Tikhon’s Archpastoral Message

My beloved children in the Lord, ... No one should feel any concern about the canonical implications of being absent from the divine services. We find ourselves in extraordinary circumstances that require extraordinary, but *temporary* responses. The holy body and precious blood of our Lord can never be a source of disease, it is after all for the healing of soul and body, but the COVID-19 virus can still be passed through the congregation. Out of love for our neighbor, we must do everything we can to protect the vulnerable by slowing the rate of infection not only in our parishes, but in the greater community, and thereby allowing the hospitals and medical community to more adequately care for those most at risk.

I call on the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to make good use of this time and renew their faith and hope in God through prayer and fasting, and by being of service to their brothers and sisters ... if we stay united, relieve one another of the burdens that this virus has placed on us, “if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday (Isaiah 58.10).” In the darkness of anxiety and sickness, in the gloom of the disruption of our lives, these words of the prophet point us to the True Light, Jesus Christ, the great Physician and Healer of our souls and bodies, who gave his life for us so that we might live with Him eternally.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed eternally with the Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit preserve us in these days and grant us health and his peace.