

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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ARCHPRIEST JOHN VITKO – 925-667-6451 (c), 703-893-1759 (Church office)

DECEMBER 20, 2020
SAIN
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle Readings
Colossians 1:12-18
Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel Readings
Luke 17:12-19
Luke 6:7-23

**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 for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; With the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

Kontakion for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

You revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest, for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ by giving up your soul for your people, and saving the innocent from death. Therefore you are blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.

Memory Eternal +

We pray for Nick Antich on the one-year anniversary of his falling asleep, and for Linda Marie Sepelak's mother, the newly-departed Shirley. Večnaja pamjat +

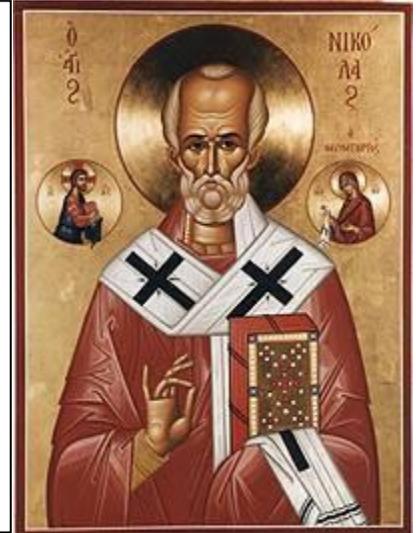
**The Nativity Fast and Sacrament of Confession
- through Wednesday, January 6**

Three weeks remain in the Nativity Fast. In addition to our prayer, fasting and generosity we are encouraged to prepare ourselves for the Sacrament of Confession. Fr. John can hear Confessions either in person or over the phone by appointment only:

john.vitko@gmail.com or 925-667-6451.

Message from Fr. John about December 25

“Our parishioners have my blessings for an exception to fasting on 'new calendar Christmas'. They may join others with a clear conscience and in the full joy of celebrating the Nativity of our Lord.”



Welcome to everyone praying with us today in person. Thank you for following our safety guidelines. May all who are in the Church and those livestreaming experience the great joy of the Divine Liturgy. Coffee Hour follows each gathering

Orthodoxy 201 – Wednesday, December 23 – Online at 7PM

Henri Nouwen's inspiring final chapter of "The Return of the Prodigal Son" will be discussed this week. Fr. John will email notes and a Zoom link.

A Special Opportunity to Help "Our Neighbor" during These Especially Trying COVID Times – "Adopt a Family"

Today, our Faith in Action Team concludes the collection of children's gifts and financial donations for a local struggling family. Call/text Donna at 703-508-0549 for contact information for online financial gifts. Thank you for donating.

Still Shopping for Holiday Gift Giving?

- Visit the Gift Shop in the Hall for gift ideas: icons, handcrafted items, books, etc. from St. Tikhon's and other monasteries. Call/text Louise at 703-409-1168.
- On line shoppers may sign up for "[Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/AmazonSmile)" and select St. Luke from the list of charities; 0.5% of the purchase goes to St. Luke's!

God Grant You Many Years!

- May God bless Cindy Volosin (12/20), Maggie Sledge (12/24), and Alexia Kalias (12/26) who are celebrating their birthdays this week. Mnogaja ljeta!
- "Srećna slava!" to everyone celebrating their St. Nicholas Slava/Patron Saint Day.