

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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JANUARY 3, 2021
FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF CHRIST
THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle Reading

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

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-25

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!

Memory Eternal +

We offer prayers today for Mile Milosevich, Edward Phillips, Zora Milasnovich and Mary Szul on the anniversaries of their falling asleep in the Lord. May our Lord grant rest eternal in blessed repose to His servants. Večnaja pamjat +

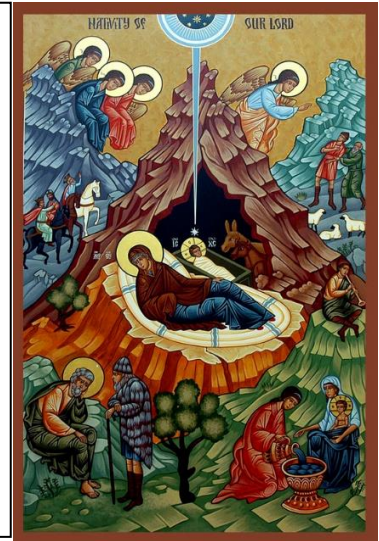
Metropolitan Tikhon's Nativity Message

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord, on this the glorious and light-filled Feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, I greet you with the words that resound throughout our Churches and homes during this season:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Let your hope be renewed at the Nativity of Christ! Be assured that God is with us! Perceiving the mystery of this feast, difficulties and trials in this life will become bearable, as your faith is strengthened, and your hope remains firm.

(Full text in 7 languages [here.](#))



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

Sacrament of Confession - through Wednesday, 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 January 7th, either in person or over the phone - by appointment only: john.vitko@gmail.com or 925-667-6451.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - Service Schedule

- Wednesday, January 6 7:30PM Burning of the Badnjak, Christmas Vigil
- Thursday, January 7 10:30AM Festal Divine Liturgy

• Services will be held in our hall to accommodate more people while still social distancing. **Please [email](mailto:john.vitko@gmail.com) Fr. John if you would like to attend in person.**

• If you cannot attend in person, please join us virtually on our [YouTube](#) channel.

Prayer for the New Year

O Lord, accept our prayer and direct our lives according to your commandments. Sanctify our souls and bodies. Set straight our reasoning, purify and sober our understanding, and deliver us from every affliction, from every evil and illness. Surround us with your holy angels as with a rampart, that, guided and protected by their defense, we may reach unity in faith and the knowledge of your inexpressible glory. For blessed are you unto ages of ages. Amen.