

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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DECEMBER 12, 2021
MARTYR PARAMON AND 370 MARTYRS
WITH HIM IN BITHYNIA
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Epistle Reading
Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel Reading
Luke 13:10-17

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

Troparion (Resurrection)
You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Troparion (Martyr Paramon and Martyrs)
Your holy martyrs Paramon and Philoumenus and those with them, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion (Martyr Paramon and Martyrs)
Urged on by the commandments of God, with patience, you cleansed your souls from all defilement. You reached perfection as spiritual athletes; you renounced sacrifice to idols. Imitating Christ, you were slain with a spear, most blessed Paramon and Philoumenus. Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world.

Kontakion (St. Luke)
Let us praise the godly Luke: he is the true preacher of piety, the orator of ineffable mysteries and the star of the Church; for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of men, chose him, together with wise Paul, to be a teacher of the gentiles!

The Nativity Fast - Through Saturday, January 6
We are beginning the third week of the Nativity Fast. Fr. John can answer any questions on fasting. He invites us to schedule a time to meet with him for the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for the January 7 Nativity Feastday.

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, talk with Fr. John or any of us.

Thank You from the Sisterhood
Congratulations to our Sisterhood for yesterday's beautiful Holiday Bake Sale. Alexia Kolias served well as the coordinator of the many details over recent months. Many thanks to the Sisterhood members and men volunteers for giving their time and to all who donated baked goods. Our customers and guests enjoyed our hospitality and the great holiday specialties while contributing to our successful fund raiser. Well done!

Prison Ministry Thank You
We received a message from OAR in response to our recent coat drive. It says in part, "Thank you for your first time in-kind donation of clothing & winter outerwear. Your donation is very timely for our clientele. We greatly appreciate your support." Learn how OAR rebuilds lives w/ Opportunities, Alternatives, Resources at <https://www.oarnova.org/>.

Orthodoxy 201 – Wednesday, December 15 at 7PM on Zoom
Join us this week when our class discusses *The Gospel of St. Luke – Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley. Fr. John will email the link and his study notes.

St. Luke Gift Shop for Holiday Gifting
Find beautiful icons, ornaments, jewelry, handcrafts, and classic books from monasteries.

Online Charitable Christmas Gifts
Orthodox humanitarian agencies welcome donations to help people in need locally or internationally. Meaningful gifts may be made in honor of a friend or loved one. Visit: <https://iocc.org/gifts-of-love/gifts-of-love-angel-tree> and <https://focusnorthamerica.org/>

God Grant You Many Years!
• We extend warm greetings to Magdalene Bragulla and to Mark Damjan on their birthdays this coming week. We also send greetings across the miles to Val Maksimovic. Mnogaja ljeta!
• God bless everyone who commemorates St. Nicholas as their personal or family Patron Saint (Slava) on December 19. Fr. John can bless a Kolach next Sunday after Divine Liturgy.

Church School Welcomes a Special Guest Next Sunday, December 19

Christ our God has revealed you to your flock, O Bishop Nicholas, as an example of faith and an image of meekness. For you brought a sweet fragrance into Myra, shining brightly by your divine acts of virtue, as the advocate of orphans and widows. Therefore never cease to intercede that our souls may be saved! *Litya Hymn from Vespers of the Feastday of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker*

