

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON  
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MARCH 19, 2023

**VENERATION OF THE CROSS**  
**ST. NIKOLAI OF ZHICHA & SOUTH CANAAN**  
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** (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open paradise! For the myrrh bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Troparion** (Veneration of the Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians, over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

**Kontakion** (Veneration of the Cross)

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

**Veneration**

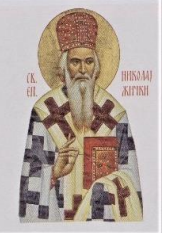
After dismissal from the Liturgy, Fr. John and Deacon Stefan will stand before the icon of the Cross. The choir will sing “Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify” while everyone present comes forward one by one, as we are able, for the appropriate three bow-downs.

**Sacrament of Confession**

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions at 6PM before each Wednesday service and at other times by appointment. Plan to come before Holy Week that starts on April 10.

**St. Nikolai of Zhicha and South Canaan**

St. Nikolai was a great 20th century missionary Bishop who served both in Europe and in North America as a devoted witness to Jesus Christ. He is referred to as the “Serbian Chrysostom” and the “Fifth Evangelist of Serbs.” He reposed at St. Tikhon’s Monastery on March 18, 1956. We are blessed to have a relic. St. Nikolai, pray for us and for the whole world.



**Welcome** to all guests with us by livestream and in person. We invite you to join us at Coffee Hour and get acquainted with us. If you are interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith and St. Luke parish life, feel free to talk with Fr. John and Deacon Stefan.

**Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts – Wednesday, March 22 at 7PM**

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be served this Wednesday at 7PM. Fasting in preparation to receive the Eucharist begins after the midday meal. A Lenten Potluck follows.

**Memorial Saturday: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom – March 25 at 10:30AM**

At the conclusion of this Saturday’s Divine Liturgy, there will be a general Memorial Service for all departed. Names may be added to the Memorial Prayer List at the Candle Table.

**Sisterhood Lenten Soup Social – Sunday, March 26**

Our Sisterhood will host a Lenten Soup Social following Liturgy on March 26 as a charity fundraiser. All cash and check contributions will be matched by the Sisterhood up to \$500 to benefit the OCA Diocese of Alaska’s Clergy Stipend Endowment. The median stipend for native priests is \$7,200/ year, a salary that is \$26,000 below the poverty line for a family of four in Alaska. Our help is needed. Make checks payable to St. Luke Sisterhood.

**St. Luke Annual Assembly - Sunday, March 26**

Next Sunday, the annual meeting will be convened following the Liturgy and Luncheon. The agenda includes reports from clergy, the Board of Trustees, Audit Board, committees and ministry groups, plus a progress report on the Church Building Campaign. There will also be elections for the boards. Contact President [Ron](#) Kecman with any questions.

**"Brokenness and Healing on the Road to Pascha" Retreat - Saturday, April 1 at 3PM**

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD, is hosting a Lenten retreat on April 1 for anyone interested in learning about setting up a parish prison ministry. It is sponsored by Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) with Very Rev. John Kowalczyk and other speakers. It will be followed by Vespers at 6PM and a light Lenten dinner. There is no fee but we are asked to register at [tinyurl.com/ocpmevent](http://tinyurl.com/ocpmevent).

**God Grant You Many Years!**

God bless Deacon Patrick Gariano on the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination! God bless those celebrating their birthdays: Jillian Rogers (10), Becca Karabin and Hossana Aberra.