

SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
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APRIL 7, 2024
FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION
VENERATION OF THE CROSS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Epistle Readings

Hebrews 2:11-18
Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel Readings

Luke 1:23-38
Mark 8:34-9:1

**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 (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.

Troparion (Annunciation)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with You!

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.

Kontakion (Annunciation)

O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Hail, O unwedded Bride!

Veneration After dismissal from Liturgy, Fr. John and Dn. Stefan will stand before the central icon and the choir will sing "Before Thy Cross ..." three times while Fr. John and all present come forward one by one for the appropriate veneration and bow-downs.

Welcome to all guests via livestream and in person today. We invite you to stay for the luncheon. If you are interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith and St. Luke parish life, feel free to talk with Fr. John or Deacon Stefan. Please come again!

Hymn for the Veneration of the Cross Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Hymn to the Theotokos for Annunciation O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory of God! Since she is a living Ark of God let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angel's song: "Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!"

Sacrament of Confession

Confession is an important part of our Lenten preparation. Fr. John will hear confessions from 6:00-6:30PM before Presanctified Liturgies, 4:00-4:30PM before Saturday Vespers, and by appointment. If you would like to come to confession before either Presanctified or Vespers, please let Fr. John know in advance: john.vitko@gmail.com, 925-667-6451.

First-Sunday-of-the-Month – Food for the Needy

Thank You to all who donated food for the C-CAP Food Pantry in Winchester.

St. Luke Sisterhood Lenten Soup Social – Today

After Liturgy, Sisterhood volunteers will serve a variety of Lenten soups as a charity fundraiser for New Hope Housing, a local social service agency that ends homelessness by providing housing, hope, and community. Donations of cash and checks (payable to the Sisterhood) will be matched by the Sisterhood up to \$500.

St. Luke Annual Assembly – Today

The annual meeting will be convened following the Liturgy and Luncheon. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Fr. John, the Board of Trustees, Audit Board, committees and ministry groups will present reports on the administrative and spiritual health of our parish. A progress report on the new Church construction will be a highlight. Glory to God!

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Wednesday, April 10 at 7PM

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

Cappella Romana Concert – Saturday, April 13 at 7PM

The well-known choral group, Cappella Romana, will sing "Queen of Heaven, Byzantine Chant for the Mother of God" next Saturday at SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD. [Tickets](#): \$40-front, \$25-middle & back.

God Grant You Many Years! Mnogaja Ljeta!

- Birthday blessings to our Rada Carmichael. We also send long distance greetings to Paul Bragulla, Jeff Castiglione and Dan Mamula as they celebrate their birthdays!
- Congratulations to Mark Mamula as the 2024 inductee in the Virginia Tech University Air Force ROTC Detachment 875 Aviation Wall of Fame.