

**SAINT LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA - ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON  
6801 GEORGETOWN PIKE, MC LEAN, VIRGINIA 22101**

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**ARCHPRIEST JOHN VITKO – (925) 667-6451 (c), (703) 893-1759 (Church office)  
DEACON STEFAN GLOMAZIC - (617) 784-0939**

**DECEMBER 8, 2024**

***LEAVE TAKING OF THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS***  
**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Epistle Readings**

Ephesians 2:14-22  
Hebrews 9:1-7

**Gospel Readings**

Luke 13:10-17  
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

**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** (Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

**Kontakion** (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold people captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the resurrection!

**Kontakion** (Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her: "Truly this woman is the abode of heaven."

**Today's Hymn to the Theotokos** (excerpt)

Let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angel's song: "Truly, thou art more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!"

**Fasting Season for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

We now begin the second week of Fasting in preparation for the January 7 Feastday. Fr. John is available to discuss fasting disciplines and hear our Confessions by appointment.

**Welcome** to all guests via livestream and those in person today. We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour. 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.

**Memorial Prayers - Memory Eternal + Većnaja Pamjat +**

We pray for the soul of newly departed Derek Kenneth Thieme, friend of Michael Rushin, for Zeljko Bogetic's mother Danka and Ron Kecman's father Dusan on the anniversaries of their repose. Grant rest eternal with the Saints, O Lord, to the souls of the departed.

**Christmas Charity Collection – Final Day Today**

We are donating children's gifts to Women Giving Back in Sterling, VA so low-income mothers can shop for their families at "Santa's Workshop". Thank you to everyone who gave new gifts (worth at least \$25) and \$25 Gift Cards to Amazon, Walmart, Target, Sephora. See <https://womengivingback.org/youth-seasonal-programs/>.

**Sisterhood Meeting - Today**

All women are invited to attend the Sisterhood meeting after Coffee Hour today. The agenda includes final details on the Bake Sale and planning for January-February events.

**Holiday Bake Sale - Saturday, December 14, 9AM–2PM - Set-up Today**

- The Holiday Bake Sale is this coming Saturday. Help is needed after Liturgy today to arrange tables & chairs, tablecloths and Christmas decorations. Please lend a hand.
- The large outdoor signs require 2-3 strong volunteers. Please help if you can.
- See the bulletin board sign-up sheet to volunteer to help on Friday and on Saturday.
- Help will also be needed at 2PM on Saturday to rearrange the Hall for Sunday Liturgy.
- Parishioners are asked to donate their own home-baked goods. Please bring them on Friday or before the sale on Saturday. JoAnne de la Riva can answer any questions.
- The Bake Sale will feature the Sisterhood's famous nutrolls, poppyseed rolls, apple strudels, "Cookies by the Dozen" plus sarma and gibanica.
- Our Gift Shop Kiosk will be fully stocked with beautiful icons, religious items, books, CDs, jewelry, and St. Tikhon's "Burning Bush" Coffees. All make perfect gifts!
- Invite family and friends to come and enjoy our warm hospitality on this festive day.

**Orthodoxy 201 – Wednesdays, December 11 & 18 on Zoom at 7PM**

Fr. John will email the link to join the inspiring discussion on "For the Life of the World".

**Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker: Thurs., Dec. 19, 10:30AM**

**Winter Teen Retreat – Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2**

Our OCA Archdiocese is once again sponsoring our youth who wish to participate in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania's Winter Teen Retreat. It will be held from January 31 to February 2 at a location just north of Lancaster, at Refreshing Mountain, 455 Camp Rd., Stevens, PA <https://refreshingmountain.com/>. The feedback from the teens after the summer and fall retreats is that they love them. See Fr. John for more information.