

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

[www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) [www.wdcoca.org](http://www.wdcoca.org) [www.stlukemclean.org](http://www.stlukemclean.org)

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**JANUARY 5, 2025**

***SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY***

***SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS***

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Epistle Reading**

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

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 1:1-25

**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** (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** (Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, 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** (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** (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!

**Welcome** to all guests via livestream and those in person with us 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.

**Memory Eternal + Većnaja Pamjat +**

We pray for Mile Milosevich (Nevenka's husband and Milorad's father), for Edward Elijah Phillips (Donna Karabin's father and Jim Karabin's grandfather) and Fr. John and Pda. Kitty's friend Alex on the anniversaries of their falling asleep. Grant rest eternal with the Saints in blessed repose, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants.

**Church School Nativity Play – Today**

The 2025 Nativity Play will be performed in the Chapel after Liturgy today. God bless our children and teens in their portrayal of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds and wisemen.

**The Nativity Fast and Sacrament of Confession**

One day remains in the Nativity Fast. Contact Fr. John about availability of appointments for the Sacrament of Confession: [john.vitko@gmail.com](mailto:john.vitko@gmail.com) or 925-667-6451.

**First Sunday of the Month: Pot-Luck Coffee Hour & Food for the Needy**

- God bless everyone who donated food for charity and food for Coffee Hour today.
- Rada Carmichael invites Coffee Hour volunteers to sign up for Sundays in 2025.

**Let Us Rejoice in the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ!**

- Monday, January 6 7:30PM Burning of the Badnjak and Christmas Eve Vigil; Refreshments afterwards.
- Tuesday, January 7 10:30AM Festal Divine Liturgy followed by a Banquet; Donated desserts are welcomed.
- January 7-17 Fast-free days celebrating the Nativity

**Orthodoxy 201 - Wed., January 8 at 7PM on Zoom**

We will begin the study of "Christ in the Psalms" by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardan this week. <https://svspress.com/christ-in-the-psalms/> or <https://store.ancientfaith.com/christ-in-the-psalms/> Fr. John will email the zoom link. Join us even if you don't yet have the book.

**Ancient Faith Singles Retreat 30+ – Thursday–Sunday, February 20–23**

Single Orthodox Christians (single, divorced or widowed) age 30 and over are invited to the beautiful Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA for a weekend retreat. It will include daily Matins, Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy. The group will participate in interactive, leader-led discussion sessions, opportunities for community service, social activities, games and free time for relaxation and fellowship. Registration fills up quickly. For more information and to register go to <https://www.ancientfaith.com/events/>.

**God Grant You Many Years!**

God bless Nora Costello on her birthday this week. Mnogaja Ljeta!