



## Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church ✠ Српска Православна Црква Светог Луке

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

☎ (301) 299-2704 📠 (301) 576-5664 📞 (202) 492-0492 ✉ info@svluka.org

At Easter 2020

Dear St. Luke Parishioners,  
Dear brothers and sisters,

In just a few days, we will celebrate the feast of feasts, the bright and holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is through His Resurrection that Christ has brought light into the darkness of uncertain future. Before Christ's Resurrection life after death was only a hypothesis, but after His Resurrection it became a certainty! It is this marvelous divine gift of absolute liberation, which the surety of life eternal entails, that we have been celebrating at Easter for the past 2000 years!

This specially echoes in our minds and hearts today, when we are facing many uncertainties brought about by the pandemic of the new coronavirus – Covid-19. Just like the whole worldview of the first Apostles had been shattered by Jesus' death on the cross, so our understanding of the world has been shaken from the core, both on the individual level and on the global level. There is, however, an important lesson that we Christians learned from Christ's Resurrection, which we can apply today: **after the great pain and suffering on the Cross, came the bright joy of Resurrection!**

Thus, we who are the disciples and followers of Christ Jesus today, although we are sequestered in our homes and are apprehensive of the prospects for our future, we are taking great courage from the bright experience of the first Apostles and disciples. The good news of Christ's Resurrection reached the Apostles who were hiding in a house, confused and fearful of the uncertain future after their Master died on the Cross.

This year, after the solitude of the Great Lent both in the spiritual and the physical sense, we will welcome the glad tidings of joy of Resurrection in our homes united in prayer, just like the Apostles did. We are encouraged by the bright message of hope that Easter brings and with great anticipation we are looking forward to the spiritual renewal that the remembrance of Christ's Resurrection will bring into our lives after this pandemic is over. And over it will be, that is certain!

Casting the mind in the future, I am inviting you to remember in your prayers our St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, all our parishioners and our community in the Nation's Capital, all those who are suffering from the new disease, all medical workers who care for them at their own peril, and their families. The restrictions on gathering have left our church empty, but not desolate – because I have received your prayers and thoughts, words, and letters of encouragement with much gratitude and have been praying for all of you at our church services which we have not only continued but also multiplied. I would also like to thank you for your continued financial support of our church in this time of crisis and uncertainty. I do appreciate and understand the difficult financial situation in which many of our parishioners have found themselves. Thus, I extend an appeal to all our parishioners who can afford, to please support our church this Easter as well, so that we can meet our financial obligations and continue to provide spiritual care and religious & cultural education and content to all of you and your children in the future.

May the joy of Christ's Resurrection bring to you and your loved ones comfort and may God continue to bless you!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Your intercessor before the risen Christ,  
Fr. Vasilije Vranic

[www.svluka.org](http://www.svluka.org)