

## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

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

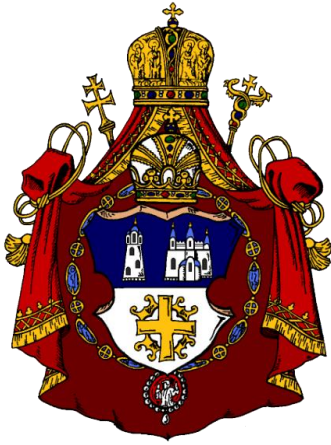
April 10, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

When Lent began on Monday, March 2, I was filled with a spiritual energy like nothing before. Our St. Luke parish was honored and blessed to be visited by our own Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, His Holiness Irinej, accompanied by our revered Diocesan Bishop Irinej and Bishop Jovan of Sumadija and member of the Holy Synod. Those of you who were present for the Compline Service that evening and followed by a Monastic Lenten supper know the joy we shared by being in his presence, hearing his message and receiving his blessing personally. I was certain that Lent 2020 would be special and uplifting in new ways, encouraging us all to grow closer to God by shedding our sins and renewing our prayer lives. And indeed, Lent 2020 has been all of that, and so much more.

Our whole planet has been hit by a terrible and frightening pandemic which has affected us all and has halted our usual activities. For our St. Luke family, the Holy Synod through our Diocesan Bishop and the Governor of the State of Maryland have halted public gatherings of more than 10 people in order to stop the spread of Covid-19. Thank God our parish has been streaming all special Lenten services and Divine Liturgies so that the faithful can focus their worship from home. Father Vasilije distributes Holy Communion on a staggered basis after Liturgies or as may otherwise be arranged with him. In addition, an outreach committee has been established to keep our church family as healthy as possible. Regular notices have been sent to you all concerning Diocesan and governmental guidance as soon as we have received them. We will continue to do so.

Our inability to be physically present together in our church is taking a negative toll on our fellowship and finances. Some of you make regular contributions online and others of you bring contributions to church with you. We ask in all humility to please continue or begin making on-line contributions or mailing them to the above address. Receiving these contributions on a regular basis is vital to our financial survival. We



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have applied for all the Federal government's financial assistance programs that have been offered to faith-based organizations. However, there may be a long wait until we receive any funds.

While we will not be singing all together on Pascha or cracking red eggs blessed by our priest in church, we will be united spiritually in prayer as the Body of Christ. May we celebrate this most unusual Easter Sunday with new love and appreciation for one another as we look forward to worshipping together soon!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Yours in Christ,

*Milan Visnick*

President, Trusteeship

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