

## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

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

Dear Fellow Parishioners

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to have an impact on all of us in many ways. Our parish has made a number of adjustments in our liturgical lives and how we interact with each other in response to guidance we have received from government and church authorities. As we pray that our lives will return to normal soon, we are writing on behalf of the Trusteeship to keep you informed of our actions and plans for the parish.

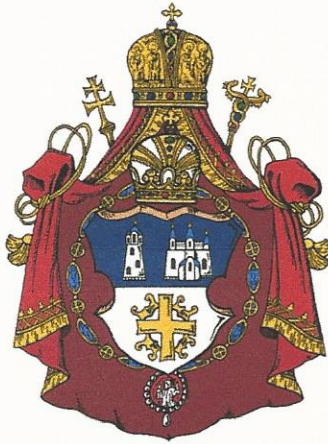
### What Has Been Done

- All communications and guidance received from governmental and diocesan authorities continue to be sent to all parishioners and friends via social media, email, and posted to our parish website.
- We continue to bring the church to you, in your homes, by live-streaming all liturgical and special services.
- Father Vasilije conducted a Zoom lecture series on our faith.
- Father Vasilije is available to minister to individual needs of parishioners.
- Our Parish Assistance Committee continues to stand ready to help our parishioners get groceries, prescriptions, etc.
- At our request, the bank approved the deferment of principal and payment of interest only on our mortgage from May through July 2020, which meant our monthly mortgage payment for May, June and July was approximately \$10,000 rather than \$13,041. Required documents were executed.
- We applied for all government assistance programs made available to Faith Based Organizations by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Their status is:

#### Paycheck Protection Program:

- Our application under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to cover Father Vasilije's compensation for two months (May and June 2020), was approved. This is a \$9,600 interest free loan for the first six months. During this time, the SBA will determine if this loan qualifies to be converted to a grant and not required to be repaid. If not, it will carry a 1 percent interest rate and be repayable within five years. We await further guidance from SBA through our bank.

#### Economic Disaster Injury Loan (EIDL)



## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

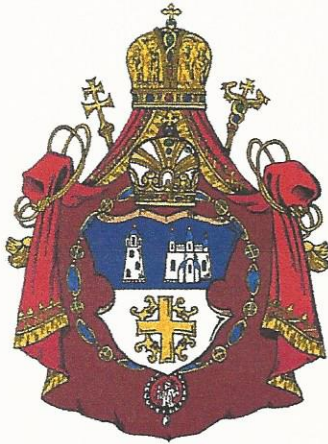
[www.svluka.org](http://www.svluka.org)

- On May 1, we received a \$1,000 grant from the SBA as part of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for mortgage payment assistance as they process our application. This \$1,000 will not have to be repaid.
- On June 11, 2020, our EIDL Loan Application was approved by the SBA in the amount of \$150,000 with the following terms:
  - No payments are required during the first year (until June 2021).
  - Interest is 2.75 percent for 30 years.
  - The loan can be repaid at any time without penalty.
- The Trusteeship Board believes that this EIDL Loan provides a good financial cushion for this parish in coping with the financial uncertainties brought on by the COVID-19 crisis and not knowing when it will end.
  - On July 13, 2020, the Trusteeship unanimously approved accepting the loan terms and conditions of the loan and authorized the president of the Trusteeship to execute the closing documents.
  - The documents were executed on July 15, 2020.
  - On July 17, 2020, \$149,000 (\$150,000 - \$1,000 SBA processing fee) was deposited into our checking account.
  - The Trusteeship Board also unanimously agreed that these funds could only be used to offset mortgage payments, the outstanding assessments to the Diocese, janitorial services and the private parish funding loans as may be needed. To segregate these funds, a separate account was opened for them at John Marshall Bank.
  - As an additional layer of protection, the Trusteeship had our legal counsel review the loan documents before they were executed.

### Our Current Financial Status

- We met our financial obligations through this summer. However, contributions are down significantly since COVID-19. The funding gaps to meet our monthly obligations were primarily made up by the three months of interest only payments on our mortgage, the PPP which covered Father's compensation for two months and the EIDL grant payment of \$1,000.
- Social events planned for after Easter have significantly augmented our finances in the past, but with the current COVID-19 situation, we had to cancel the Zurka for April 25, and our spring SerbFest scheduled for May 16 and 17, while other fundraising events could not even be planned.





## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

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

- Such social events and Easter donations provide additional critical funding to carry us through funding gaps and the lean summer periods when donations are usually down.
- The table below shows the income received for the months of April - August 2018, 2019 and 2020. Comparing 2018 and 2019, the negative financial impact of COVID-19 on our parish is easily seen.

	April – August 2018	April – August 2019	April – August 2020
General	\$174,610	\$141,447	\$108,720
Easter	\$11,428	\$15,633	\$14,699
Memorials	\$1,040	\$6,799	*\$9,610
Candle Sales	\$10,563	\$12,721	\$4,348
TOTAL	\$197,641	\$176,600	\$137,377

\* Memorials in April 2020 included a \$5,000 and a \$1,000 donation

**Note:** the big difference in the table above is that in May 2018, we had a two-day SerbFest vs. 2019 where SerbFest was only one-day.

### How Do We Proceed?

- We will continue maintaining close contact with our banks.
- We will rely on the generosity of parishioners and friends, realizing that some may not be in a position to be as generous at this time, but know that they will do so when they can. We pray and humbly ask those who are fortunate to be in a position to give to possibly contribute more.
- We do own a nominal amount of stock but prefer not to sell it now given the current stock market status.
- We will attempt to reschedule the social/fundraising events previously cancelled when feasible. Again, these fundraisers are essential and provide the critical and necessary funding to help with funding gaps caused by lean periods and meet fixed expenses.

We will continue to keep you updated on the financial status of our St. Luke Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Milan Visnick  
President

Mark Rasevic  
Vice President