

## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

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December 15, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

I have been reflecting on the extraordinary roller coaster ride we have all been on during 2020 because of COVID-19. The word "challenging" seems inadequate for the drastic changes we have had to face in our personal lives and in our parish life. The Trusteeship Board has aggressively sought and received all financial assistance offered by the federal government to Faith Based Organizations. Father Vasilije has continued to serve Liturgies and Vespers to us, both in person and on live streaming. Instruction on our faith and culture has moved to a Zoom format. Our beloved Patriarch Irinej blessed us with his presence in our church on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we prayed for his repose on November 20<sup>th</sup>. We experienced the extremes of emotions. And yet, we are reminded that God is in charge.

And now we are in the season of Advent, preparing for the Birth of God's Son. We typically give and receive gifts at this time. As we plan our own personal budgets for gifts, I ask that you please place our church on your giving list. Join me in taking stock of your own blessings and consider sharing a portion of your material bounty with our church. May you continue to celebrate the joy of Christmas – the Birth of Christ with your family and loved ones.

Mir Božiji! Hristos se Rodi!

Yours in Christ,

President, Trusteeship

Milan Visnich

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