



Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church ✠ Српска Православна Црква Светог Луке

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*For a Child was born unto us, a Son,
and was given to us,
For God is with us.*

From the Great Compline

Dear Saint Luke Parishioners,
Dear Friends,

At the Nativity of Christ, we celebrate the coming of God in the flesh. In Jesus Christ, the divine and human natures are united as to form one person. It is this reality, of Jesus as God-man, that we are depicting in icons – we have seen God in the flesh and that is why we can describe him in pictures. The Church has been doing precisely that through its iconography and frescoes, using these sacred images as an instrument of inspiration.

As we have completed a significant part of the beautification of our church with frescoes this past year and are preparing for the Great Consecration on November 1st when we will welcome His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Porfirije, we offer gratitude to God for the many gifts with which he blessed us and our parish. We continue to build and beautify our church, to nurture and strengthen our parish community, thus building ourselves into the eternal fabric of God's Church. We are keenly aware of the honor of being the generation that is building the parish church in Washington, DC.

At the occasion of this magnificent feast of Christ's Nativity, which is the feast of gratitude to God for his grace and loving kindness, I also offer thanks to God for you, most dedicated, generous and supportive parishioners who are making possible the rapid transformation of our parish.

May the light of Christ's Nativity shine in the hearts and lives of all of us, so that through its guidance we may continue to serve God by building our church and with it ourselves, in order to worthily consecrate it and leave a laudable legacy to our children.

Your intercessor before God-child,

V. Rev. Protopresbyter Vasilije Vranic, PhD,
Episcopal Dean of Washington, DC

Our Savior, the Orient from the East, has visited us from on high, and we, who were in darkness and shadow, have found the truth, for the Lord is born of the Virgin!

The Exapostilarion of the Nativity

Today, dear brothers and sisters, we rejoice together because the darkness of fear and shadow of spiritual ignorance have been dispelled through the Nativity of our Savior! The perfect knowledge of God and the good news of salvation have been revealed to us through the birth of God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of love and mercy, the Creator of the Universe, decided to take on the human nature and become equal to us in everything but the sin, and thus raise us back once again to the full fellowship with God, which has been foreordained for us by virtue of being created in God's "image and likeness."

This perpetual message of hope and encouragement is especially meaningful to us as we have emerged from a long pandemic and are struggling in various ways, especially trying to regain our spiritual footing and equilibrium. The examples of selfless love and self-sacrifice which our Lord Jesus set for us in the manner of his birth and his subsequent ministry serve as an important lesson to us. His meekness and humility exemplified in the Cave of Bethlehem, serve also as the guiding light in our lives.

Dear Saint Luke parishioners, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us be illumined by the feast of Christ's Nativity! Let us learn and put into action the lessons of Christmas so that our Savior may be born in the manger of our hearts and thus revive and reinvigorate them spiritually. May He ever reign there, dispelling all sorrows, fears, discord, and divisions shining forth the incorruptible light of His Evangelic Truth.

Christ is Born! Indeed He is Born!

Your intercessor before the newly-born Savior,

A handwritten signature in Cyrillic script, reading "Vasilije Vranic", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

V. Rev. Protopresbyter Vasilije Vranic, PhD,
Episcopal Dean of Washington Deanery