



ST. LUKE NEWSLETTER

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

March 2007

Volume 6, Issue 1

March 2007

Volume 6, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Izvestaj Pretsednika!	1
Порука О. Алексе	2
President's Report	3
Easter Address	4
Sunday School Report	5
Financial Report	7
Schedule of Services	8
Распоред Богослуж.	9
Raspored bogoslužnja	7

**Pomozite svoju
srpsku crkvu—vaše
donacije će se
uduplati za Vaskrs**

**Help your church—
your donations will
be matched dollar for
dollar for Easter!**

**Self-addressed enve-
lope attached**

Dolaze nam najsvetiji dani nase hriscanske vere, Cvetna i Svetla Nedelja (raspored sluzbe Bozije nacicete na strani 9). Ove godine oni pocinju u prvim danima aprila meseca kada se naglo otvaraju pupoljci zelenila i cveca na do tada golim granama, simbolisuci nadu duhovnog spasa koju nam je pruzio Gospod Isus Hristos Svojim Zrtvovanjem i Vaskrsom, U ime crkvene uprave i moje licno, zalim vam sve najbolje za vreme ovih velikih i svetlih Praznika.

Nasa parohija je dobro pocela ove godine. Blizu 500 parohijana je prisustvovalo sluzbi na Badnje Vece u Antiohijskoj crkvi Svetih Petra i Pavla, A oko 400 je ucestvovalo na Svetosavskoj proslavi sa deklamacijama i narodnim igrama nase dece. U oba slucaja to je bio rekord za nasu Crkvu. Prilozi na dan Svetog Save bili su manji nego prosle godine, ali ukupan prihod u januaru i februaru su bili preko 30.000, dolara. Zelimo da se zahvalimo svima koji su doprineli ovom uspehu: pre svega Kolu srpskih sestara; zatim nasoj deci; uciteljicama nedeljne skole i folklorne grupe; parohijanima koji su sluzili na baru; svima koji su pripremali hranu i slatkise, i organizovali salu; nasem horu i organizatorima Sluzbe Bozije. Takodje, dugujemo specijalnu zahvalnost nasim parohijanima Mery i Predragu Pajicu za njihov izuztno veliki prilog od 20.000,00 dolara za Fond za izgradnju.

Ocekujemo veiki broj nasih parohijana na sluzbama Bozijim za Veliki Petak i Uskrs. Mozemo da vam najavimo jednu veliku vest. **SVAKI DOLAR PRILOGA ZA USKRS BICE DUDPLIRAN OD STRANE JEDNOG DARODAVCA.** Tako da svaki vas prilog od \$20, \$50, \$100 - pa cak i \$1,000 dolara i vise - iznosice dvostruku kontribuciju za nasu Crkvu. Bili bi vam dakle izuzetno zahvalni na vasoj darezljivosti na ovaj veliki hriscanski Praznik, jer bi to bio veliki doprinos za nas Fond za iazgradnju. Jednostavno, napisite na ceku "St. Luke

Church" i u levom donjem uglu naznacite "Easter contribution". U slucaju da zelite da prilozite gotov novac, uzmite kovertu (koje cete naci na ulazu u Antiohijsku Crkvu, gde su svece) i na njoj napisite svoje ime, adresu i sumu, i naznacite "Easter contribution".

Mi smo na kraju pregovora sa "Park and Planning Department" da nam smanje dazbinu koju bi trebali sa platimo da bi izbegli dodatno posumljavanje na 1/3 akera naseg imannja. Vec smo zatrazili ponude prduzimaca za sve troskove izgradnje i uredjenja zemljista, sto bi nam omogucilo da znamo koliku hipoteku treba da trazimo od banke. Mnogi preduzimaci nerado zakljucavaju poslove sa crkvama, jer ne zele da pregovaraju sa komitetima umesto sa jednim vlasnikom. Zato smo zatrazili ponude od nekih sedam – osam preduzimaca i vec smo sa jednim u pregovorima. (Imali smo pregovore vec sa jednim jos jesenas, ali to nije dovelo do nicega). Dali smo svima rok do polovine aprila.

S obzironm da su se troskovi konstrukcije povecali za posleldnjih nekoliko godina, Verovatno cemo morati da sami izvorsimo jedan deo radova. Zato bi bili zahvalni onim parohijanima i nasim prijateljima koji rade u raznim fazama izgradnje i zele da nam popmognu, da se jave Zoranu Mijicu (703-528-2514, e-mail: mijich@msn.com), ili Zoranu Hodjeri (301-229-0445, e-mail: zoranhodjera@verizon.net)

Sa zeljom da ova godina pretsavlja stvarni napredak u izgradnji nase crkve, i i da vi svi provedete ove velike Praznike u sreći i zdravlju pozdravljam vas sa

HRISTOS VOSKRESE !

Zoran Hodjera

ПОРУКА ОЦА АЛЕКСЕ

Драга браћо и сестре:

Пре неколико недеља, православни хришћани целог света су заједно започели једно значајно путовање. То путовање ми зовемо Велики (Часни) Пост. Велики Пост је период кроз који се непрестано преиспитујемо изнутра, гледајући и на најмањи степен грешности без обзира колико изгледао мали, а која би пак утицала на нашу заједницу са Господом и Спаситељем Исусом Христом. Створени по лику Божијем у нама се јавља жеља да тај лик и сачувамо, али не само то, већ и да постигнемо нешто више, а то је обличје, то јест да достигнемо праобраз Божији. Међутим мрља (прљавштина) грехова које се налази унутар наших индивидуалних личности, одваја нас не само од богосличности, него и унижава лик Божији у нама којим смо благословени.

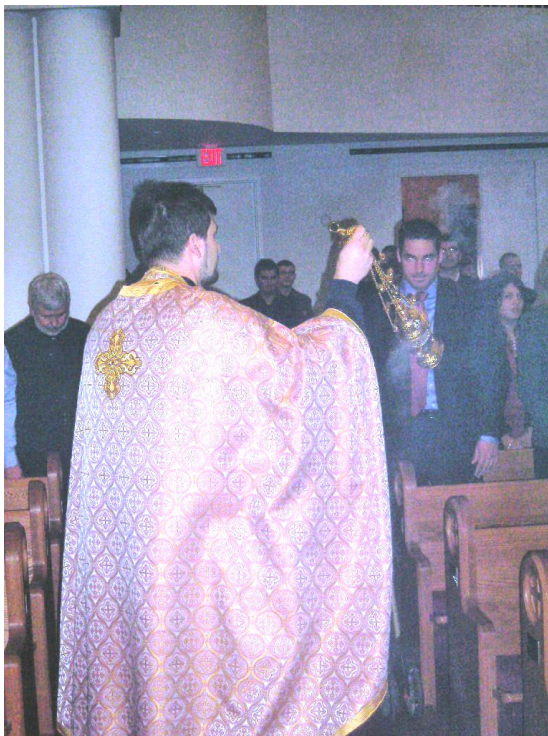
Ради тога драга браћо и сестре, ми пролазимо кроз период очишћења у време Великог Поста. Дакле желимо да се што више очистимо од греха како би достигли наш жељени циљ, а то је сједињење са нашим Богом. Запамтимо, да је једино Бог без греха. Стога да би и ми имали потпуну заједницу са Њим, морамо се трудити да се ослободимо свих грехова који нас чине робовима ђаволу.

Као начин очишћења света Православна Црква, нуди нам свету тајну Покаяња тј. Исповести. Али, и поред тога још много тога би могли чинити, као на пример дела милосрђа, молитва, пост, непрестано држећи наш ум уперен ка Богу, јер то је оно што Он од нас тражи. Осим тога морамо и нашу гордост умањити и победити је љубављу и милошћу једних према другима.

Чистота душе и ума која се не превазилази свакодневним и овосветским бригама, много више је осећајнија према радости коју доживљавамо

Христовим Васкрсењем. Та радост је утемељена на обећању да ћемо од смртних постати бесмртни као што је наш Бог бесмртан, само ако саучествујемо у трагедији Крста, кроз коју се одричемо света, и ако учествујемо у спасоносном Васкрсењу Христовом у коме се чува обећање бесмртности наше душе.

Одржавајући физичко здравље нашег тела, на исти начин треба да одржавамо и здравље душе живећи богоцентрични живот, созерцавајући истину о Богу, и начин на који можемо постати део Његовог спасоносног плана о човечанству. Није ли то прелепо обећање!? Наше душе ће живети вечно у божанству и величанству Божијем, само ако за време свога земног живота ово поставимо себи за циљ и потрудимо се да га достигнемо.



Запамтимо, драга браћо и сестре, да ни Буда, ни Алах, нити било који други бог, није у стању да испуни то обећање. Сви они, укључујући и највеће светске мислиоце су на крају искусили смрт. Само је Исус Назарећанин био у могућности да својим Васкрсењем уништи смрт, и на тај начин буде достојан звања: Исус Христос, Спаситељ света.

Драга браћо и сестре, нека и вас Васкрсли Господ благослови у вашем путовању и трагању ка бесмртности.

О. Алекса Мичић

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The holiest weeks of our Christian Faith, Palm and Bright Sundays, are upon us (you will find the schedule of services on page 8). This year they are the first days of April, the beginning of Spring symbolizing, with the burst of new leaves and flowers from the winter-bare branches, the hope for salvation given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ through His Sacrifice and Resurrection. In the name of our Board and my own, I wish you all the best for these great and bright Holidays.

Our parish has had a good start this year. For Christmas Holidays and St. Sava we had record crowds. There were close to 500 worshippers at Christmas Eve services at St. Peter and Paul Church, and about 400 for St. Sava celebration, with very successful recitations and folk dances by our children. The contributions for St. Sava did not match those

of last year, but altogether the receipts for the months of January and February exceeded \$ 30,000. We express our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to this success: our Kolo members; our children, Sunday school and folklore teachers; bar attendants; all those who participated in food and dessert preparation, and setting up of the Hall; our choir and participant in the Church services. We would also like to express our special appreciation to our parishioners Mary and Predrag Pajic for their exceedingly generous contribution of \$20,000.00 for the Building Fund.

We are expecting a large number of parishioners at our Holy services for Good Friday and Pascha. We have a very exciting news. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EASTER WILL BE MATCHED, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR, BY A VERY GENEROUS BENEFACTOR..** So, if you contribute \$20.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00 – or even \$1,000.00 or more - this would yield a double contribution

for our Church. Therefore, we would be very grateful for your generosity on this Great Christian Feast, because it would mean a great deal to our Building Fund. Just write your check for St. Luke and in the lower left corner indicate: "Easter contribution". If you wish to contribute in cash, take an envelope (provided at the Church entrance near the candles) on which you write your name, address and amount, and indicate: "Easter contribution"



We are about to conclude our negotiations with the Park and Planning Department regarding a reduction of the fee for not increasing the forested area on our property. We have opened bidding by building contractors for the cost of the projected construction which would permit us to determine the amount we would need to borrow from the bank. Many contractors are reluctant to deal with

church committees so we contacted seven or eight of them and are already negotiating with some. We have given them a deadline of the middle of April and by then we will have a clear view of the costs involved. Since construction costs have risen over the last few years, we will need to do fair amount of work ourselves. We would appreciate if all our parishioners who are working in the field and are willing to help us to call Zoran Mijich (703-528-2514, e-mail: mijich@msn.com), or Zoran Hodjera (301-229-0445, e-mail: zoranhodjera@verizon.net)

In the hope that this year will bring real progress for our Church, and that you spend these Great Holidays in joy and health, I greet you with

HRISTOS VOSKRESE ! - CHRIST IS RISEN !

Zoran Hodjera

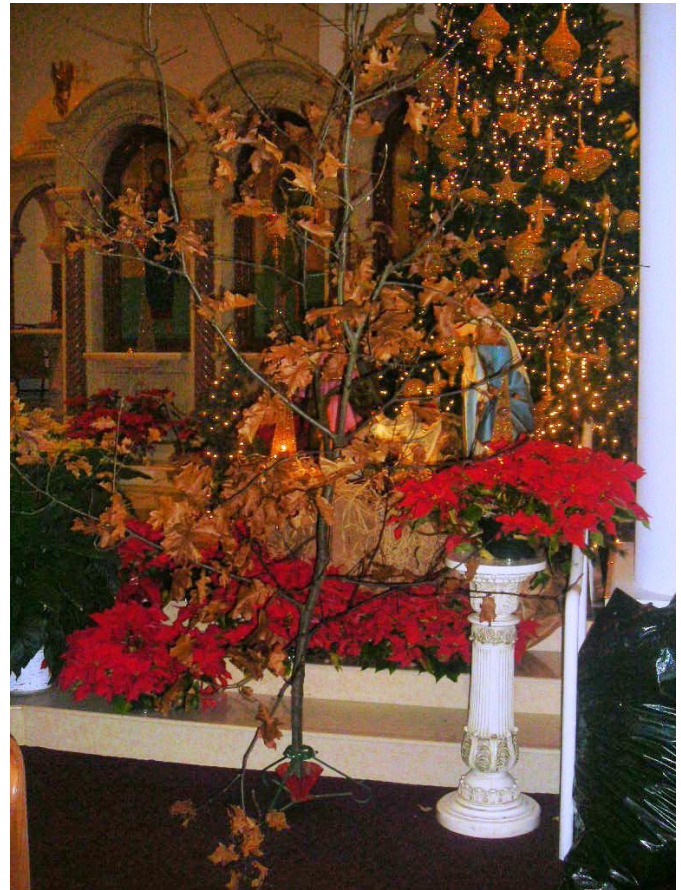
EASTER ADDRESS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Several weeks ago, Orthodox Christians throughout the world embarked together on a journey. The journey which we call Great and Holy Lent is a period in which we continually examine ourselves within, looking for any degree of sinfulness, however small, that would impede a direct relationship with our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Since we are made in God's image, it would make sense that we wish to retain that image, but also to achieve something more, namely the likeness of God, the state of being God-like. The stain that our sins leave in the fabric of our individual persons, keeps us not only from this likeness, but even degrades that image of God by which we are blessed. This is why, dear brothers and sisters, we go through this period of purification during the Lenten season. We wish as much as possible to purify ourselves, so that we may be able to reach the ultimate goal, union with our God. Since only God is without sin, if we wish to be in union with Him, we must also strive to rid ourselves of sin which binds us as slaves to service of the devil.

The Holy Orthodox Church provides a means for purifying ourselves through the sacrament of Penance or Confession. There is however, much more that we can do. Acts of mercy and charity, prayerfulness, and keeping God at the center of our thoughts is what God expects from us. Our egos must shrink and be overcome by love and charity for one another.

A pure mind and soul, one not overcome by the everyday cares of the world, is much more sensitive to the joy that we can experience in Christ's resurrection. This joy is centered in the promise that we as mere mortals will be made immortal, as God Himself is immortal, if we share in the tragedy of the Cross, in which we deny ourselves to the world, and the life-saving resurrection of Christ in which the promise of immortality of soul is guarded. As we exercise our physical bodies for good health, we also exercise our souls by living a God-centered life,



contemplating Who God is, and how we can fit into His plan of redemption for mankind. What a great promise! Our souls may live forever in the divinity and magnitude of God, if we, during our earthly lives have this as our goal and work to achieve it.

Remember dear brothers and sisters, that neither Buddha nor Mohammed nor any of the other man-made gods has been able to keep a promise such as this. All of them, including the great thinkers of the world, experienced death in the end, but only Jesus of Nazareth, was able to overcome death by His Resurrection, and thus be worthy of the definition: the Christ, or Savior of the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Risen Lord bless and keep all of you in your quest for immortality.

Father Aleksa Micich

REPORT FROM THE ST. LUKE SUNDAY SCHOOL

GREETINGS TO OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS!

We are in the time of Lent, and I would like to remind all our parents to share with their children the importance of this period. Through Christ's sacrifices, we are guaranteed eternal life. Encourage your children to make small sacrifices during this period – they can give up sweets, a favorite toy, or video games as we draw near to Easter. Remind them that their sacrifices are a symbol to what Christ gave up for us.

And remember, our children are the future of the church. Bring them to church so they may develop an understanding and appreciation of the beautiful Divine Liturgy and learn about their Orthodox faith in Sunday School. We look forward to seeing you!

I would like to share with you some activities that our Sunday School has participated in and are planning for the upcoming months.



St. Sava: Our St. Sava was a wonderful success, due in large part to the dedication of our children, and the devotion of their parents. We had 16 children recite poems and 45 children participate in the 3 dance groups.

During St. Sava we recognized our three graduating high school seniors – Stefan Dabic, Alek Mikasinovic and Dragana Stojisavljevic.



Palachinka Breakfast: For the second year, our teens have prepared a Palachinka breakfast on Cheese Fare Sunday (February 19) for our parishioners. Due to the weather, we had to improvise, but everyone pitched in and served a wonderful lunch. Special thanks go to our parents who helped out: Valerie Kolvalry, Tanja Budimirovic, Victor Isailovic (electrician extraordinaire), Dana Novicic. The children who participated in the preparations include: Milijana Budimirovic, Ana Petronijevic, Andrej Petronijevic, Nikola Lojanica, Aleks Kesic, Alexandra Pavicevic, Ana Isailovic, Marian Isailovic, Stefan Novacic, and Sofia Novacic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

Vrbica – March 31: Please join us for Vrbica at the River Road property. Vespers will start at 5:00. The children will receive the bells and pussy willow branches. Father Aleksa will be available for any children who wish to confess in preparation for Holy Week. Dinner will be served after Vespers.

Easter Egg Hunt – April 8: Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Sunday Liturgy on Pascha at our River Road property. If anyone is interested in assisting with

the egg hunt, please let Becky Kesic know.

Sunday School Celebration – June 3: On Sunday, June 3, we will be recognizing the children who have participated in our Sunday School program throughout the year. We will be having a picnic and will play some games with our kids that day. Please plan on attending Liturgy and the picnic afterwards as we celebrate our children!



PLAN AHEAD

As you make your plans for summer vacation, try to set aside time for your children to attend one or both of these special events:

Summer Church Camp: The Shadeland Church Camp schedule has been announced. Ask any of our children who have attended camp at Shadeland, and you will find out that everyone has a wonderful time while making friends with other Serb Orthodox children from the northeast and Canada. Camp Sessions are:

July 15 – 21 ages 7 – 17 \$200

July 22 – 28 ages 7 – 17 \$200

July 29 – August 5 (Tambura week) ages 9-18
\$225 (this week fills up fast, so be sure to submit your registration early.

The camp is always looking for volunteers, so if you have

a week to spare, please consider spending a week giving back to our kids at Shadeland Camp.

Required Forms and additional information is available at the Diocese website: <http://www.easterndiocese.org/shadeland.html>

Teen Conference: The Serbian Orthodox Church in America and Canada Youth Committee is coordinating the 2nd Annual Youth Conference to be held in Chicago, IL August 7 – 10. This conference is for our 9th – 12th grade teens. Last years conference in Detroit was a huge success, and we anticipate that this year's conference will be even better. Please encourage your high school student to attend this conference. More information will be distributed after Pascha, but if you have any questions, please contact Becky Kesic.

FINANCIAL REPORT THRU MARCH 11, 2007

	Income	Expense	Total
Operating Fund	48,982	39,220	9,762
Mortgage Fund	2,518		
Principal		1,765	
Interest		7,458	
Total	51,500	48,443	3,057
Building Fund	23,228		
Renovation		887	
Total	74,728	49,330	25,398

As you can see, your generous contributions for Christmas and Saint Sava have given us a healthy financial start for this critical year. However, we still need to increase our financial support for the Church. We are anticipating approval of our Building Permit by the County in the near future and the start of our long awaited renovation. The Bank is requiring a written financial plan showing that we can afford our new mortgage. Our monthly mortgage payments are anticipated to rise from \$4,611 per month to almost \$10,000 per month. For the past five years we have not even been able to support our current mortgage without borrowing money from the Building Fund (this has used up \$292,845 which could have been used for the renovation). This lack of support to pay the mortgage has been and continues to be a great problem in terms of financing the future development of our Parish.

I have been able to find that the average yearly donation to one of the Protestant Churches in Potomac is \$900 and to an Orthodox Church \$850. Our average yearly donation is \$140. Each one of you must accept the responsibility to increase your donation significantly before the Bank will loan us the money.

This newsletter is mailed to approximately 600 homes. Because you receive this newsletter, you all are, in some way or another, interested in the long term well being and growth of our Church. You count on the presence of the Church when you come to worship and the Priest to be

there to baptize your children, bless your home, marry you, counsel you in times of trouble and need. Yet out of this entire group we only have 132 members 26 annual pledges and 15 who donate on a regular basis to the Mortgage Fund. This is just not enough support.

Every thing that we receive is a gift from GOD; waking up in the morning, waking up warm and dry, drinking fresh water, seeing a flower bloom, seeing a baby smile, our health and friends and everything that is good. We are trying to build our Church in which we can worship this GOD and enjoy our fellowship and service in his name. Certainly we owe GOD more in terms of financial donations than we are giving.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- March 25** **Divine Liturgy at Beverly Farms School at 10AM.**
Great Lenten Vespers in the chapel at 6PM, with local and visiting clergy serving.
Homilist: Fr. Zoran Radovic, Elizabeth, NJ
- March 31** **RAISING OF LAZARUS;** Div. Liturgy in the chapel at 9am. **VRBICE:** vespers with blessing of branches at 5PM in chapel.
- April 1** **ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY);**
 Div. Liturgy at 10AM at Beverly Farms School.
- April 5** **GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY**
 ·Divine Liturgy at 10AM in the chapel.
 ·Matins with reading of 12 Passion Gospels at 7PM in the chapel.
- April 6** **GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY**
 ·Royal Hours with laying of Burial Sheet in the lower chapel of St. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church at 4PM.
 ·Matins in the lower chapel of St. Peter and Paul at 7PM.
 ·Confession following matins.
- April 7** **GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY; ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD**
 ·Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 9AM.
 ·Confession from 6-6:45PM in the lower chapel of St. Peter and Paul .
 ·Resurrection Matins in the lower chapel of St. Peter and Paul at 7PM.
- April 8** **PASCHA; RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST;**
 ·**Divine Liturgy at St. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, 10620 River Road, Potomac, at 10AM (confesion 9-9:30 AM).**
- April 9** **BRIGHT MONDAY;** Div. Liturgy in chapel at 10AM.
- April 10** **BRIGHT TUESDAY;** Divine Liturgy in the chapel at 10AM.
- April 15** **ST. THOMAS SUNDAY;** Divine Liturgy at Beverly Farms School at 10AM.
- April 22** Divine Liturgy at Beverly Farms School at 10AM.
- April 29** Divine Liturgy at Beverly Farms School at 10AM
- May 6** **ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR;** Divine Liturgy at Beverly Farms School at 10AM.

РАСПОРЕД БОГОСЛУЖЕЊА

25 Mart	Света Литургија у Beverly Farms School у 1000 час. Велико Посно Вечерње у 1800 час у капели. Проповедник О. Зоран Радовић, Elizabeth, NJ	
31 Март	Лазарева Субота, Света Литургија у капели у 0900 час. ВРБИЦА Вечерње у капели са благосиљањем врба у 1700час.	
1 Април	Улазак Господњи у Јерусалим (ЦВЕТИ). Света Литургија у Beverly Farms School у 1000 час.	
5 Април	ВЕЛИКИ ЧЕТВРТАК 1000час Света Литургија у капели. 1700 час Јутрење са читањем 12 Јеванђеља у капели	
6 Април	ВЕЛИКИ ПЕТАК 1600 час Царске часове у доњој капели цркве Св Петра и Павла. 1900 час Јутрење у доњој капели цркве Св Петра и Павла Исповест након службе	
7 Април	ВЕЛИКА СУБОТА---- БЛАГОВЕСТИ 0900 час Света Литургија у капели. 1800 до 1845 Исповест у доњој капели цркве Св Петра и Павла 1900 Васкрно Јутрење у доњој капели цркве Св Петра и Павла	
8 Април	ПАСХА (ВАСКРСЕЊЕ ХРИСТОВО) у ХРАМА СВ. ПЕТРА И ПАВЛА, 10620 River Road, Potomac, MD 0900 до 0930 Исповест 1000 час Света Литургија (Исповест 0900—0930)	
9 Април	СВЕТЛИ ПОНЕДЕЉАК. Света Литургија у капели у 1000час.	
10 Април	СВЕТЛИ УТОРАК. Света Литургија у капели у 1000 час.	
15 Април	ТОМИНА НЕДЕЉА. Св.Лит. у Beverly Farms School у 1000 час.	
22 Април	Св. Литургија у Beverly Farms School у 1000 час.	
29 Април	Св. Литургија у Beverly Farms School у 1000 час.	
6 Мај	СВ. ВЕЛИКОМУЧЕНИК ГЕОРГИЈЕ. Св. Литургија у 1000час у Beverly Farms School.	

**Не пропустите ову прилику да помогнете нашу цркву!
За вријеме Васкрса свака ваша донација ће бити удуплана од
стране једног великог донора!**

MATCHING DONATIONS DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR BEFORE AND DURING EASTER!!!

**Do not miss this opportunity to help our church!
During Easter, every donation will be matched dollar for dollar by
one generous donor!**



**ST. LUKE SERBIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

10660 River Road

Phone: 301-299-2704

Fax: 301-299-2706

www.svluka.org

