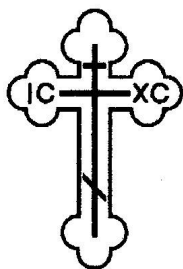


St. Mark Evangelizer

Newsletter for Saint Mark Orthodox Church - 7124 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

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Saint Mark Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Archdiocese of Washington DC, under the omaphor of His Beatitude, Metropolitan, Tikhon.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:30AM
Weekday Feasts: 10:00AM
Confession: Saturday 5:00PM
Vespers: Saturday 5:30PM
Church School: Following Sunday Divine Liturgy (September - May)
Rector: Archpriest, Gregory Safchuk
Telephone: (301)229-6300
www.saintmarkoca.org

Saint Nectarios on Hope

We have within us deeply rooted weaknesses, passions, and defects. This cannot all be cut out with one sharp motion, but patience, persistence, care and attention. The path leading to perfection is long...

Pray to God that He will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen. Do not despair if you keep falling into your old sins. Many of them are strong because they have received the force of habit. Only with the passage of time and with fervor will they be conquered. Don't let anything deprive you of hope.

- St. Nectarios of Aegina.

On the beach with Jesus

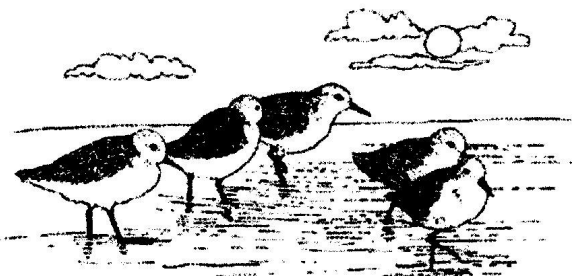
This is the summer issue of our newsletter, so I chose this title just in case your plans might include a trip to the beach. If not, don't worry. My goal is twofold, to write a little about Jesus' post resurrectional appearances and also to encourage all of you to take with you some inspiring and beneficial reading material where ever your travels make take you. But first, the obligatory reminder; if and when you're away from home this summer, plan ahead and locate an Orthodox Church where you'll be. Note what time the services begin and contact the priest ahead of time to introduce yourself and give him a heads-up. I guarantee you will make his day! The web makes all this easy. If you need some recommendations, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'll be glad to help.

In our minds, the church and the beach seem far away from each other - not only geographically, but in mode and mood as well. Attending services is by nature, "formal"; while the beach is anything but. So what have they to do with each other? Well apart from the fact that God is everywhere present and filling all things, we should recall that according to St. John's Gospel, the third encounter between the risen Lord and his disciples took place on a beach - specifically on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias in Galilee (John 21:1). There, our Lord chose to reveal His risen humanity to them. He invited them to breakfast after having once again blessed them with a bountiful catch of

fish. He fed them, ate with them, strengthened their faith, enlightened and inspired them there. He who is the Eternal Presence, connected the past with the future for them. It was there that He offered Peter the three-fold opportunity to declare his love for Him in counteraction to his earlier denial.

So Jesus was at that beach and the disciples were glad of it! The question is; will we take Him with us in our hearts and minds as we travel? My father and many others prayed fervently to Him on the beaches of

Normandy many years ago. But it's much more difficult to pray and stay focused on God when our lives are not threatened in battle - when things



are pleasant and beautiful. So plan ahead. Some reading suggestions while you're working on your tan: Why not read all four of the post-resurrectional accounts from the Gospels? Compare, contrast and learn from these brief passages. It won't take long. *For the Life of the World*, and *Liturgy and Life*, both by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, are also not long and very good books. Many of the lives of the saints are fascinating, engaging and profound reads. If your tastes run more toward novels and fiction, how about *The Great Divorce* by CS Lewis? Check them out from St. Mark Library or find them in our bookstore (thank you, Joan Mitchum). Don't forget the sunscreen, be safe, and make your vacation healthy for both body and soul.

- Fr. Gregory

BABIES, BABIES, BABIES...

Submitted by: Matushka Alexandra Safchuk



What else could I possibly write about this time? My head and my heart are filled with babies. Babies in Bethesda, babies in California. It's like a Dr. Seuss book. Babies here, babies there, babies everywhere. All those things that they said about grand parenting are true. It IS terrific.

When I had my own children (and dinosaurs roamed the earth) there simply was too much to do to contemplate the larger picture of life renewing itself through new birth. I was busy trying to brush my teeth before noon and counting the hours that I had slept, often making use of the fingers on one hand only.

But in my new role as Baba I am refreshed by not having given birth and not having to nurse. Instead I am much more aware of other things. I am distressed by the world of confusion and violence that grandson Christopher will grow up in. I look with apprehension at school systems, television programming and Internet. Will he know me? Will he know about his ancestry? Will he know God?

When Saint Paul writes to Saint Timothy he says: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lo'is and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you." (2 Timothy 1:5) Now, Lo'is and Eunice must have been some faithful women if Saint Paul is so impressed by them that he mentions them in his letter. I want to know what those women were like.

It is not a given that children and grandchildren of faithful people will have faith themselves. Everyone must find his or her own way at some point. Every soldier wears their own armor, carries their own weapons. We are responsible for our own faith, that it be a sincere faith, a visible faith, a faith that dwells in us in the hope that it can dwell in our children and grandchildren.

At the baptism of my grandson Christopher, he wore a red ribbon over his baptismal whites, honoring the heritage of piety that he receives from his Coptic roots. This ribbon is a stark reminder of the blood of Christ, which nourishes and saves us and also of our own call to witness to Christ as martyrs. It is an incredibly big job for a little baby. Who but the rest of the Christian community, surrounding him with love and prayer, can help him live up to this? Who but the rest of the Christian community can help any of us live up to this?

Through the marvel of Facetime I am sometimes able to be present for Christopher's evening routine, when Nathan reads *Hello Ninja* (a board book masterwork from N.D. Wilson) or some other timeless epic of 15 pages or less. Then little Christopher, sometimes drowsy, wrapped in his swaddle, has prayers with his parents. And when I look upon this young couple and pray with Sherry and Nathan and their little baby I wonder how it could be that we are all united in this child? It is at once a mystery and a miracle, something only God could make.

A REFLECTION ON UNITY

Submitted by: Anonymous

In the past few months the story of Barnabas and Paul came to my attention no less than three times.

Each time, the main issue involved the difference in opinions of Barnabas and Paul regarding Mark, which eventually led to their parting of ways. By most accounts the two friends never did meet again. What to make of this?

If nothing else, the story of those two parting ways is not unlike the experiences that every one of us goes through when we have differences between ourselves and those we care about, such as our friends and those we are married to.

We know well the differences can run deep enough to create hard feelings that present seemingly insurmountable barriers to restoring the relationship. And yet it's likely that continuing on the path chosen leads to nothing more than deeper feelings of separation.

Given the complexity of human nature, there is no easy answer to finding a way to restore a relationship to its earlier state once the differences begin to lead to resentment and hurt feelings. That's particularly true when the concerned parties are absolutely certain that they are right, that they are justified.

However, the story of Paul and Barnabas is in the Scriptures. Surely, there must be something to be gained from reflection on the story of these two Christian models. We can never know their feelings, the spiritual impact on their lives. We can recognize this type of event as it happens in our lives, thereby putting ourselves in a position to take up the challenge of being a Christian and working at resolving these situations when they do happen to us. And they do happen to us, sometimes more frequently than we're willing to acknowledge.

"See those Christians, how they love one another," a characteristic comment made by observers of Christians' behavior. The experience of Christians today can be, must be no less genuine than that of the first Christians, than that of the Apostles. We are challenged to find how to do just that in our daily lives. There is no easy answer.

However, there is a first step. Jesus told us where to start when questioned as to the greatest of the commandments. The Psalms remind us ... "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the days of Massah in the desert." The only choice we have is to look to ourselves and ask what we can do to change that situation which causes us and the other such grief. We can remind ourselves of the great sacrament of unity that is the first part of the Divine Liturgy as Fr. Schmemmann reminded us. We come together in unity.

We come together with all our human passions and failings and shortcomings. However, we come together with a purpose, that of sharing our experience of renewing our personal covenant with God during the Divine Liturgy; a covenant that reminds us to love God and to love one another.

Once we begin to remember why we are at the Divine Liturgy, we can take heart in the words of the Cherubic Hymn. We remember that renewing of our covenant with God requires the sacrifice of self, requires making the Gospel meaningful in our lives, requires charity toward others. Then, as our hearts are softened, all the parables gain new meaning as we realize they are meant for us, each one of us.

A continuing column for parishioners to share their stories about their journey to God or their journey to Orthodoxy (if converts). Here is the second of such stories.

WHY WE DEFECTED TO ORTHODOXY

Submitted by: David Jefferson

A long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away. My parents went to a church pastored by a man named Aden Wilson Tozer. A.W. wrote a book entitled Knowledge Of The Holy. The first chapter is titled "Why We Must Think Rightly about God". In that chapter, Tozer states the following:

*"The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God." **Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.** (Emphasis added).*

Tozer died in 1963. I grew up in that denomination. We sang hymns that truly worshiped God. When we entered the sanctuary (nave), we spoke in hushed tones. We stood to hear the reading of God's word. We did not talk to our pew-mates during the service. Sunday-school was about the Bible (both testaments).

Then the 70's came along and things began to change. Out of the Charismatic movement, a bunch of hippie types found Jesus. These young people brought enthusiasm, folk and rock music into the church. Much of that music exalted the Lord. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gggPpVtEKQ>, or GOOGLE "Second Chapter of Acts Easter Song."

At some point, during the late 80's main-line denominations began to look at popular (Christian) music as the mechanism of rapid church growth. They wanted the form without the substance. They were more interested in church growth rather than the Holy Spirit. They saw that popular music drew people in. They went from Holy-Holy-Holy, to Holy Rock & Rolly. The music of this new "Church growth" movement became less about God and more about "me". Simply put, I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride, but something touched me deep inside, the day the worship died. From where we sat, it looked as if the three men that I admire most.....did take the last train for the coast.

Repentance and sanctification gave way to a Christian pop-culture, and the term "seeker-friendly" become part of the Evangelical lexicon. What exactly does that mean? In an Orthodox context, it ought to mean, helping the pilgrim towards finding the true faith, answering their questions. However, in the post-modern Protestant mind, it means something different. For one thing, it implies not offending anyone (1 Pet 2:8). If we call people to holy living, then we imply that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God, and by necessity we must call for repentance. Some folk take umbrage at being told they're sinners. We went to a church that stopped serving communion. They didn't want to tell the non-repentant, they could not partake. Or worse, another Church opened Eucharist up to anybody.

So there we were, a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again. I thought I was stuck in endless post-modern Evangelical circles of void, so we changed churches, several times. I thought they didn't listen, they did not know how, perhaps (at a new Church) they'll listen now. After six churches in 20 years of suffering for our sanity, we concluded that they didn't listen, they're not listening still, perhaps they never will. Many Protestant denominations went from "God is Holy and I'm a sinner" to "God's my buddy, and I'm a winner." My wife Cindy and I gave up. I was ready to sleep in on Sundays. Cindy, on a bit of a whim, decided to go with a friend to a Greek Church. She went, came home and quoted Shakespeare, "it was Greek to me", no kidding. She reported that, although she couldn't understand half of it, everything seemed to be with a purpose and have significance. She pointed out that if we went to an English Liturgy, we could, perhaps, understand the purpose and significance.

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WHY WE DEFECTED TO ORTHODOXY

(Continued from Previous)

I called a friend of mine that converted 15 years ago, and asked him to help me locate some English-speaking Orthodox Churches in the DC area, that we could visit. St. Mark was the first on the list. I'm going to skip the next couple of paragraphs, you've heard it before. We'll pick up the story here. We did not leave the Evangelical Church, the Evangelical Church left us!!! And left us with a profound sense of betrayal! If you have ever been betrayed by a spouse or a very close friend, you know what I mean. Betrayal is probably one of the hardest sins to forgive. You trusted that person, they betrayed you. I was furious. Fall of 2014, I went to the Bazaar at Sts. Peter and Paul. I got to talking to Fr. Isaac about Protestant converts. He mentioned "Protestant anger". We weren't the only ones who'd been cheated, been mistreated, when would we be loved? My/our anger has turned to grief and sadness over what has become of the Body of Christ. Do you have any idea how many new churches have formed as a result of a dispute or some new revelation? A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Our first Liturgy was a little confusing. No, it was a lot confusing. A couple of things stuck, however, "I believe in one God the Father Almighty...." and "Lord have mercy (500x)." Our first coffee-hour was quite pleasant. We observed that "the Orthodox know how to eat" and were pleasantly surprised to see Doug and Debbi, fellow expatriates of a congregation that we belonged to, 20 years ago. We weren't the first Protestants to come here. The conversation on the way home went something like this:

Cindy: Well, what did you think?

David: A lot of stuff to sort through.

Cindy: Yes I liked it.

David: We can't make a decision based on one Sunday. We need to go back.

We left with the sense that the Orthodox Church thinks rightly about God. That was enough to bring us back for a second week to find out more. Becoming Orthodox is/was a huge paradigm shift. I suppose I could write a book and call it Paradigms Lost. Our theology and doctrine was all from a western perspective. I thought the Church was pretty much Catholic until 1517. I didn't know where Orthodoxy fit in Church history, so I started reading. I made it up to the year 1054. I had no idea who I should take as a patron saint at Chrismation. I had no idea what Chrismation was, for that matter. Meanwhile, we came back for a second visit. My jaw nearly hit the floor when Marcella remembered our names. That was amazing, and crucial to our continued attendance, as there was still some stuff going on that my reformational biases had to cope with. For starters, veneration of the Cross and other icons. We weren't opposed to it, we just didn't understand it. It was a little weird, I didn't know what to make of it. Was it kind of like shaking the pastor's hand at the end of the service? I wasn't big into kissing hardware at the time. At the end of Liturgy, while we pondered this phenomenon, Mary would come over and chat with us in the pew during cross veneration. One could add this to the end of Matt. 25. The righteous will answer him "when did we see you apprehensive about Orthodox traditions and put you at ease?...."

Sometime back in those "early days" we started meeting with Fr. Gregory. We had a lot of questions.

At no time did he ever denigrate my tradition, faith or doctrine. He even endured my trying to play "stump the priest". We needed compassion and kindness while we sorted out this Orthodox stuff. It wasn't just Fr. Gregory, Marcella, and Mary. It was Mark, Karen and Karen, Sasha, Pat, Micheal, Dan and many others. The culture of compassion at St. Mark was the glue that kept things together while we worked through doctrine and theology. Thereby demonstrating the true meaning of seeker-friendly.

We had finally found a Church that thinks rightly about God.

A GLIMPSE OF ORTHODOXY IN BULGARIA

Submitted by: Olga Skenderska

Former St. Mark parishioner Olga Skenderska says “hello” from Bulgaria. She has sent us some pictures from the church she now attends, named after St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. It was built in the 4th century (one of the oldest in Sofia), was burnt during Turkish occupation, and rebuilt in 20th century. The icon of St. Nicholas (see picture below) miraculously didn't burn during the fire. Glory to God!



MORNING PRAYER OF THE OPTINA ELDERS

Submitted by: Dan Golembiewski



O Lord, grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquility.

Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Thy holy Will.

At every hour of this day, direct and support me in all things.

Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul and the firm conviction that all is subject to Thy holy Will.



Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from Thee.

Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with every member of my family, neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone.

O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all the events that take place during it.

Direct my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love. Amen.



RESTORING THE HOLY TRADITION OF DEACONESS

Submitted by: Marcella Hydock & Joan Mitchum

On May 28, a meeting took place at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA to discuss the rejuvenation of the order of deacons in the Orthodox Church. The male diaconate has seen an increase in study and interest in recent years and most of us know that there were women deacons in the early church. St. Phoebe, cited by St. Paul in Romans, is the first known deaconess, but there were many others. More than 20 women saints had been deacons. Why have we discontinued this practice from the early church? They visited the poor, assisted bishops, and helped run monasteries. Do we still need them? Aren't nuns or priest's wives doing that work? Several people spoke on that subject.

A conference was held in New York in December of last year on "Women and Diaconal Ministry in the Orthodox Church: Past, Present, and Future". A summary of that talk was written by Lena Zezulin, who was not able to attend this particular meeting. Matushka Alexandra Safchuk presented it for her. Marilyn Rouvelas from St. Katherine Orthodox Church, Falls Church also offered a summary on a conference recently held in Greece on the subject.



Attendees w/the panel up front; photo taken by Victor Lutes.

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RESTORING THE HOLY TRADITION OF DEACONESS

(Continued from Previous)

At the conclusion of the talk, two other young ladies, Dionne Manos, and Christina Jatras, from St. Mary Orthodox Church in Falls Church joined Matushka and Marilyn to answer questions. It was asked which term should be used, woman deacon or deaconess. It seems as though both terms are acceptable. As to why we need women deacons, there is concern to protect priests from situations where there might be the suggestion of impropriety. Are we trying to restore or revive or rejuvenate women deacons, and is there a difference between then and now? Yes, there is a difference, since the needs today are different than those of 2000 years ago.

The panelists explained that the ordination of women deacons is not a pathway to priesthood, but a restoration of a historic ministry. It was pointed out that the definitive Inter-orthodox Consultation on “The Place of Women in the Orthodox Church” at Rhodes, Greece, in 1988, concluded that women could not be ordained priests, but could be ordained deacons.

For the last 150 years this topic has been discussed. We hope soon, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can discern the needs of the Church and the proper course for the Body of Christ in this.

For more information visit: www.orthodoxdeaconess.org and www.orthodoxdeacons.org.

The next meeting of the regional chapter of St. Phoebe will be held on Thursday, July 16th @ 7:00 PM at the home of Marilyn Rouvelas, in Arlington, VA. (Rosslyn Metro). If interested, please RSVP to Marilyn at: mrouvelas@verizon.net.



From Left to Right: Dionne Manos, Christina Jatras of St. Mary Orth. Church, Marilyn Rouvelas of St. Katherine Orth. Church Falls Church, and Mka. Alexandra Safchuk.

Photo taken by Victor Lutes.

STEPPING IT UP WITH STEPPING STONES

Submitted by: Skip Mersereau

“Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings, and do good works... those who remember the poor, filling them with every good thing, and sending forth Thy mercies...”

St. Mark began feeding the residents of Stepping Stones one meal a month some years ago as a part of the love and outreach we offer to those beyond our doors. This work continues today and receives recognition, but needs something more if it is to fulfill the promise with which it began... that it might help change us by giving us an opportunity to give, to serve, and to really pray for others in need. As it's easy to dismiss dropping off food as unhelpful, unimportant or somehow incomplete, maybe filling out the picture a bit makes it easier to see the impact, and understand the value we offer... and why this is so vital not just to those who benefit, but also to those who serve.

As one of three emergency shelters in Montgomery County, Stepping Stones houses people with nowhere else to turn. Some have families and friends who are no longer able to help sustain them, or who, after a long series of battles, are simply “done” with them. Others may have been knocked down by an uncharacteristic concurrence of events, found themselves between jobs, paychecks or rent checks and temporarily in need. No matter how they've come, all are treading deep waters... and looking for a new way ahead.

Stepping Stones houses up to 6 families in their communal residence – an historic home in Rockville. In a typical year, somewhere between 20 to 30 different families will call Stepping Stones their home – spending thirty, sixty or ninety days on site. As “graduates” will remain vulnerable for some time afterwards, the quality, breadth and depth of services they absorb during residency can prove absolutely critical to their long-term success.

Thinking back on our own starts in life, most of us were blessed to absorb by exposure, education or training from family, friends, church and school the lessons that armed us for the battles of life. Still most of us struggled initially (even if only in our heads) until someone of goodwill gave us the key break that helped us off the ground floor. By contrast, with little or none of that going on, many of these folks have fallen through to the sub-basement. Can we give them a meal? Sure.

Can we give them more...? Can we show them a community that loves them; admires their “pluck”; their courage and ability to manage the unimaginable; that prays for them; that expects great things of them; that offers its goodwill and good wishes; and even a chance to see them as worthy of believing in themselves? Yes, of course.

But we start with dinner ... 'cause after all... it's a real, tangible and basic way to offer something out of our home to theirs. And those unused to having a home, might love nothing more after a hard day of looking for work, trying to brush up on their skills, helping their kids with their homework, working with their guidance counselors... and all the rest, after all of that... finding that someone else has cut them a break, shopped, prepped and cooked their dinner. And if our efforts help lift even a small measure of burden from their shoulders, then maybe the simple thing of dropping off food isn't so simple after all. Our dinners go out in many forms, and we try to vary the menu with the season, and keep it on a common theme so it doesn't become a hodgepodge. Meals are apportioned so that we can serve their 20 or more mouths with two main dishes, two sides, and two desserts – relying on six volunteers. Sign-up sheets for each month are posted on the wall in the hallway at the foot of the stairs before you turn left into Parish Hall for Coffee Hour. If you've looked, likely you've seen the same suspects helping every month. This is not meant to be an exclusive club! And you ARE invited to belong! The only rules are we try to stick to the calendar and the menu. Give it a try! Don't be intimidated, and don't be shy!

As to whether this could lead to more? Well... that's the idea. And if widening participation shows Stepping Stones to be a commitment we wish to broadly support... then by all means we'll try to take the next step. There is, in fact, much more we can do. Perhaps we'll talk about that next time! But for now... it's all about what's for dinner! Please feel free to help, to pray, and to lead by your example.

2015 MONUMENTAL MISSIONS WALK



The 2015 Annual Monumental Mission Walk, sponsored by the Metropolitan DC Orthodox Christian Mission & Outreach Committee, will take place in Washington, DC, on the Tidal Basin area on Saturday, September 19th, 2015, from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. The Walk is a 2-mile long spiritual stroll around the Tidal Basin where participants will learn about the landmarks' historical significance as well as the role Christianity has played in shaping America. In addition, the walk serves as a fund raiser in support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's (OCMC) global missionary work as well as for local D.C. area charities.

The success of this annual event depends on the kindness and fellowship of Orthodox Christians in the Washington, DC area. Get sponsors for your walk and have an even greater impact! All donations are tax deductible.

There are several options for raising funds for the OCMC through this charity walk:

- Participate in this walk by soliciting Sponsor Contributions.
- Participate in this walk by paying a flat donation of \$30.00 (for adult) or \$15.00 (for children 12 & under).
- Not participate in the walk, but donate at one of the following levels: Platinum (\$500 & above), Gold (\$250-\$499), Silver (\$100-\$249) or Patron (up to \$99).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO REGISTER AND OBTAIN SPONSOR FORMS, PLEASE VISIT:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-monumental-missions-walk-registration-17020607094> .

* Walker Registration and Sponsor forms will also be provided at our candle counter *

FOCA HAPPENINGS

ST. MARK FOCA DISTRICT STOCK AWARD DRAWING: 04/18/15



Congratulations Winners!

Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause for scholarships and charities.

- \$200 - Jenifer Calomiris - St. Mark
- \$100 - David Zaika - St. Nick
- \$50 - Tammy Jacobsen - St. Mark

FOCA "GIFTS OF LOVE" COLLECTION

This year's FOCA "Gifts of Love" collection taken throughout this past May raised \$800 towards the St. Vladimir Camp & Retreat Center in Ohio. St. Vladimir's Camp, formerly known as FROC Camp, hosts two weeks of Ohio District Camp and the week-long National Junior Summer Sports Tournament (Junior Olympics). 2014 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Ohio District Camping program, and the monies collected will be given to St. Vladimir's Camp in honor of that milestone.



FUTURE MEETING DATES

St. Mark FOCA meets in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month following Vespers. Meeting dates for the next three months are below.

- SATURDAY, JULY 18TH
- SATURDAY, AUG 15TH
- SATURDAY, SEPT 19TH

FOCA 2015 CHARI-TEA

Submitted by: Karen Phinney

St. Mark FOCA chapter will be sponsoring a “Downton Abbey” themed Ladies Afternoon Chari-Tea with a Jewelry Showcase on Saturday, Aug 22nd in our Fellowship Hall from 3-5PM. Wear your favorite hats and gloves and make this a fun afternoon of enjoying tea and scrumptious delights served by some of our charming parish men. Reserve some time also to peruse the treasures offered in our Jewelry Showcase. Invite your friends and neighbors! Who will be Mr. Carson, Mr. Bates, Mrs. Patmore, Mrs. Crowley, or Violet, Dowager Countess of Grantham? Tickets for this event are \$20.00 and must be purchased in advance. All proceeds will go towards our Iconography Project. Tickets will go on sale during coffee hour on Sunday, July 12th. See Karen Phinney and Barbara Freimann for tickets.

Here are some photos of the 2010 Chari-Tea, which sold over \$2000 in jewelry.



CHARI-TEA CALL FOR JEWELRY: The Chari-Tea Jewelry Showcase is in need of items. Is your jewelry box overflowing with wonderful treasures you no longer wear? Now is your opportunity to share the wealth and make a tax-deductible jewelry donation to St. Mark. Both Men’s and Ladies’ fine jewelry (high-quality costume jewelry also) will be accepted beginning Sunday, July 12th through Sunday, August 16th at the Jewelry Acceptance Table in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. The jewelry committee, headed by Pat Ihnat and Barbara Freimann will be on hand to help you get the best tax value for your donations. A tax donation form is available for listing your donations. Your jewelry donations will be offered for sale at reasonable prices during the Chari-Tea event on Saturday, August 22nd. Any donated treasures remaining after the Chari-Tea will be offered for sale on Sunday, August 23rd during coffee hour. All proceeds will go towards the St. Mark Iconography project.

INFORMATION ABOUT ST. MARK BAZAAR 2015

Submitted by: Tina Burpee

St. Mark Annual Food Festival and Bazaar is our biggest fund raiser and takes place this year on November 6, 7, & 8. It requires every parishioner's help both during the three-day festival and in the two months prior to the bazaar. We specialize in Russian and Eastern European food and baked goods.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PRIOR TO THE BAZAAR?

✝ **Food Workshops** – A workshop calendar will be published at the beginning of September. We ask that everyone plan to attend and assist at as many workshops during September and October as possible. After the foods are made in advance, they are frozen until the bazaar. This is also a great way to learn how to make many of the ethnic foods. Children are encouraged to help if they are supervised by their parents. **Remember that the workshops don't end when food preparation is finished. The kitchen and other areas must be cleaned, dishes/pans washed, and everything put back in its place.** FOOD PREP CHAIRPERSONS: *Halupki*: Chris Cacic; *Piroshki*: Matushka Sasha & Martha Vance; *Blini*: Susanna Needham & Sharon Sielinski; *Pirog*: Pat Ihnat & Tina Parish; *Chicken Kiev*: John Ihnat; *Spanakopita*: Marsha Zellem; *Beef Stroganoff*: Mary Ann & Doug Fitzgerald; *Piroghi*: Daniella Mihailov & Helen Kerch.

✝ **Baked Goods Room – Chairpersons, Martha Baxtresser & Ginny Albert** – Parishioners are asked to donate as many baked goods as they can to the baked goods room. Apricot, poppyseed and raspberry fillings will be provided free of charge and walnuts will be provided on an as-needed basis to parishioners to help defray some of the cost. Ethnic (any nationality) breads, pastry and gourmet baked goods are great sellers. Give your baked goods an ethnic name – it helps to sell the product. Baked goods workshops will also be held. Some suggested ethnic baking recipes will be located on the filling/nuts table. If absolutely needed, you may bring your baked goods wrapped well in plastic wrap and put them in the designated freezers in the small storage class room – all other freezers are for prepared kitchen foods only. All baked goods should be made from scratch. We are advised that Friday & Saturday have the most sales in the bakery. Please plan to bring your baked goods Thursday night or Friday morning.

✝ **Dessert Table – Chairperson, Nancy Stanton** – Parishioners are asked to donate as many dessert items as possible for each day of the bazaar (don't forget about Sunday). Desserts should be able to be easily cut into serving-size pieces. Walnuts, apricot, poppyseed and raspberry fillings will be provided free of charge to parishioners to help defray some of the cost. All baked goods should be made from scratch.

✝ **Candy Table – Chairperson, Tammy Jacobsen** – Please consider contributing your favorite homemade candy.

✝ **Beverages – Chairperson, Justin Barber**

✝ **Advertising – Chairperson, Nina Bilyeu**

✝ **Grand Raffle – Chairpersons – Shirley & Paul Dean**

✝ **Lucky Draw – Chairpersons: Paula Zabela & Vicky Jacobsen** – Gift certificates for dinners or services in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase/Rockville/McLean/Tysons area will be gladly accepted as gifts for this room. Gift baskets and all types of gift donations will be gladly accepted.

Remember that the cost of food ingredients and donations can be written off of your income taxes as a donation.

HOW CAN YOU HELP DURING THE BAZAAR?

✝ **Sign Up To Work!** – We need everyone's help each day during the bazaar. Sign-up sheets will be posted several weeks prior to the bazaar. **Everyone who will be working MUST sign up on the sheets prior to the bazaar to make sure all shifts are covered!** Please plan to be there each day to lend your support.

✝ **Teenagers** – Did you know that working at the bazaar can be counted as part of your community service requirement for graduation? (You must be **14 years of age** to work at the kitchen order window.)

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

SHOP AMAZON.COM AND HELP SUPPORT ST. MARK!

Did you know that when you shop at Amazon.com you can help support St. Mark? Through the Amazon Smile program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to St. Mark (no extra charges are applied to your purchase). Simply visit the website: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7254573> and select St. Mark as your charitable organization. Questions? Visit the Amazon Smile “Program Details” at: http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/pd.html/ref=smi_ge_uuas_pd_pd.

From January 1 to March 31, 2015, St. Mark has received a total of \$21.90 from the Amazon Smile program. Thanks for supporting St. Mark through this program!

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONARIES

Collections at the end of February and beginning of March for OCMC missionaries Kara Yakubik & Catherine Dillon totaled \$1085, which was split equally between the two.

SOUPER SUNDAY COLLECTION

On Sunday March 29th, the St. Mark church school hosted a soup dinner. \$781 was raised with proceeds being divided between mission trips, FOCUS North America, and the iconography project at St. Mark. Thanks to all who supported this event!

RUMMAGE SALE

This year’s rummage sale, to date, brought in \$4428.58 gross. **Thank you** to coordinator Marsha Zellem, those who worked and donated their time and talents, as well as those who donated items to make this year’s rummage sale a success!



CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES!!!



Fr. Gregory dispenses gifts to graduates on behalf of St. Mark parish. Photo courtesy of Debbi Dillon.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Aleksandra Cacic graduated from Bishop Ireton High School Magna Cum Laude on June 2. She has been accepted into the Visual Arts program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she will study Animation.

Nichole Hottle is graduating high honors on June 16, 2015 from Langley High School. Nichole will be attending Virginia Tech University in the fall majoring in Biology.

Angelina Lyubimova graduated Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD where she was an APEX Scholar and an Honor Roll Student. She was on the Varsity Cross-Country, Indoor Track, and Track and Field teams her freshman and sophomore years, traveling to a variety of meets in the mid-Atlantic area, as well as NYC. She worked as a sales associate for Abercrombie in her junior year, and switched to lifeguarding at the Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center in her senior year. She will be attending the University of Maryland next year, where she will be in the Business and Economy Scholars program. She plans to major in Business.

Ravyn Malatesta graduated from Montgomery Blair High School as a National Merit Scholar and with Honors. She also received awards for working with Montgomery Blair's BLITZ program for tutoring students in remedial math programs. She has also done extensive volunteer work with The Farm at Our House. She will be attending Lewis and Clark College where she was awarded the Barbara Hirschi Neely merit scholarship given to first year students of exceptional academic achievement. Ravyn has also been accepted in the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke College Scholars program. At Lewis and Clark she hopes to study International Development.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES!!!

COLLEGE (AND BEYOND) GRADS

John Bilyeu, Jr. (Vanya) graduated this May 2015 from the University of Virginia School of Law with a JD. He is currently studying for the Bar Examination which he will take later this summer. He will start working at a small law firm in Fairfax in September.

Nicholas Bilyeu graduated this May 2015 from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He recently returned from a 12-day trip to Europe with the University Singers choir – having sung in London, Prague, Krakow, and Vienna. He is currently looking for a job in finance, business consulting, or as the salary cap specialist for the Washington Wizards!

Grace Dillon graduated from University of Delaware in December 2014 with a BS in Exercise Science and a concentration in Physiology and Human Behavior. During the summer of 2014, she spent a month in the wilds of New Hampshire getting certified as a Wilderness EMT. Grace was active at UDel's OCF chapter and was its president during her senior year. She is currently working as a clinical research associate at Parexel in Baltimore and is considering going back to school to further her education.

Peter Dillon graduated Summa Cum Laude from University of Maryland Baltimore County with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He was a Mechanical Engineering S-STEM Scholar and part of the Honor's program at UMBC. He was active in many groups at UMBC including singing baritone in UMBC's Camerata and OCF treasurer and president. Peter will begin working for Northrop Grumman in July and hopes to move to Baltimore before the end of the year.

Nicholas Fitzgerald received his Master of Business Administration from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, on May 8, 2015. Nicholas will be starting his post-graduate career as a member of the Finance Leadership Development Program at Target Corporation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 13.

Victoria Jacobsen graduated from Shepherd University in August 2014 with a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and a Minor in Mathematics. She is currently seeking employment in her field.

Emili Malatesta graduated with a degree in English Literature from St. John's University's Staten Island Campus Summa Cum Laude with Honors. She was also recognized for her work with the Tri Sigma sorority. Emili will continue her studies in a graduate program at the St. John's Queens campus.

Taylor Parrish (granddaughter of Tina Parrish) graduated from Shepherd University this May 2015, with a BA in Elementary Education. She was Phi Beta Kappa, received University Honors, and graduated Suma Cum Laude.

Katie Sheppard graduated from Virginia Tech with a Master's in Natural Resource Management and a Graduate Certificate in International Sustainability Consulting.

Catherine Ann Steger (Kitty) graduated from LaSalle University, in Pennsylvania, with a MSN (Masters of Science in Nursing) degree. She will continue working at University of Penn Hospital in the ICU, as a critical care nurse in their head trauma unit. When she passes her exam she will be a registered Nurse Practitioner, family.

Andrew Yakubik graduated from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, on May 9th 2015, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise Science with a Minor in Psychology. Andrew is pursuing a Doctorate of Chiropractic Degree.

HONORS & AWARDS

→ The University of MD ROTC has the contracting cadets (scholarship) take their oath to uphold the Constitution in front of the very US Constitution at the National Archives in Washington DC. St. Mark's own, Hanna LeFors was given the oath by her nephew Brandon. The Salas family was in attendance, see photo (right).



← Ciaran Salas, Helen Salas' grandson, joined the USMC and will be attending boot camp this summer. See photo (left) with Col. Bryan Salas (ret.) swearing in his son Ciaran.

→ Girl Scouts awarded Sonya LeFors the Silver Award, the 2nd highest award in girl scouts. Her project was "Thinking

Day," where she planned and organized learning and activities for the girl scouts based on saving the planet in 7 different countries. See photo (right).



← December 2014, Alexandra (Sasha) Zabela trained, tested and was accepted to a summer position as Staff Member at The Florida National High Adventure Sea Base (a Scouting Program). Sasha was given the opportunity to further her dive training at the Florida Sea Base Divemaster Training Academy where she became a certified PADI Divemaster. The adventures of Coral Reef Sailing, Sea Exploring Adventure, Eco-Adventure, Scuba Adventure, Scuba Certification, and Live aboard Scuba Adventure operate in the Florida Keys at Mile Marker 73.8 at Sea Base on Lower Matecumbe Key located 75 miles south of Miami. Sasha will assist the head instructor, and has now lead several groups of scouts to their first dive at sea. The diving will consist of coral reefs, wrecks, a night dive, a deep dive (to 60 feet) and marine life studies. Congratulations Sasha, we will keep you in our prayers. See photo (left).

UPCOMING EVENTS



BLESSED MAT. OLGA OF ALASKA WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Blessed Matushka Olga of Alaska Prayer Group meets regularly on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the church nave for intercessory prayer. In addition, the group meets regularly to pray varying Akathists on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the church nave.

Please join us as you can and please remember us in your prayers. All prayer requests may be given to Debbi Dillon, Mat. Alexandra or Marcella Hydock. Also, there is a prayer request email address on the St. Mark website. We hope you can join us on:

Intercessory Prayer Dates & Times:

- **TUESDAY, JULY 7TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, AUG 4TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, SEPT 1ST**, 10:30 AM

Akathist Dates & Times:

- **TUESDAY, JULY 21ST**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, AUG 18TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, SEPT 15TH**, 10:30 AM

STEPPING STONES MEAL DELIVERY

Monthly food preparation and delivery to Stepping Stones shelter in Rockville, MD is on hiatus for the summer and will resume in the fall. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall.

WOMENS BOOK GROUP

St. Mark Women's Book Group meets the last Sunday of each month following Liturgy in the parish library. Meeting dates are below. The group has not yet selected books for future meeting dates; please refer to the St. Mark Women's Book Club webpage at: <http://stmarkoca.org/book-clubs/> for future month's books.



- **SUNDAY, JULY 26TH**
- **SUNDAY, AUG 30TH**
- **SUNDAY, SEPT 27TH**

LEAN PLATE CLUB

The Lean Plate Club meets the 3rd Sunday of each month following Liturgy in the parish library. Future meeting dates are below.

- **SUNDAY, JULY 19TH**
- **SUNDAY, AUG 16TH**
- **SUNDAY, SEPT 20TH**

CHURCH SCHOOL

- **Vacation Church School:** TUESDAY, JULY 21ST – FRIDAY, JULY 24TH from 11 AM – 2 PM.

This year's theme is "Living in an Orthodox World" and is for ages 4 through rising 6th grade. Participants will learn about the liturgical services of the Orthodox Church through activities, classroom time, and songs. Teachers and helpers are needed to make the program work; please contact Ann Prentice at prentice@comcor.net if you have any questions or would like to volunteer during the week. Sign-up sheets are available online at: <http://stmarkoca.org/vacation-church-school/> and also at the candle counter.

- **2015-2016 Church School Year:** Tentative start date is SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.

UPDATER

NEW ADDRESSES

Theo and Katie Sheppard
102 E Argyle St. #14
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 239-848-6436 (Theo)
239-848-6437(Katie)

Linda Weir
1366 Wesleyan Dr. Cottage 134
Macon, GA 31210

Kim Lungociu's new e-mail:
thsourceis@gmail.com

Births

- 04/15/15 — Christopher Nathaniel Safchuk (7lbs. 2oz., see photo below, left)
04/16/15 — Sophia Marie Nimmer (8lbs. 4oz., see photo below, right)
04/21/15 — Melania Elizabeth Schwartz



*May God Grant Them
& Their Families
Many Years!*

Baptisms/Chrismations

- 04/04/15 — Katie, Theo, and Astrid Sheppard
04/11/15 — David & Cindy Jefferson
05/02/15 — Isaiah Gabriel Rodak (see photo right)
06/06/15 — Melania Elizabeth Schwartz
06/07/15 — Christopher Nathaniel Safchuk

May God Grant Them & Their Families Many Years!



Weddings & Wedding Anniversaries

- 05/30/15 — Elaine Petro & Peter O'Halloran
06/20/15 — 50th Anniversary of George & Barbara Freimann
(see photo right from 6/21/15 Thanksgiving Service)

May God Grant Them & Their Families Many Years!



CAN YOU NAME THESE PEOPLE?

Photo of Baptism during St. Mark Renovation, 1996 — Courtesy of Paula Zabela



ANSWERS TO LAST EVANGELIZER'S CAN YOU NAME THESE PEOPLE?

Photo From Church Archive: 1986 Bright Monday Procession



Please help St. Mark Admin identify the unknown (listed as ??).

Back row (from left to right):

Evelyn Leleck, ?? , Nichole Johnson, Nick Antich, Tammy Jacobsen.

Middle row (from left to right):

Michael Albert, Pat Antich.

Front row (from left to right):

Peter Hudak, Phillip Hydock, Anthony Sekellick, Steven Chabra.