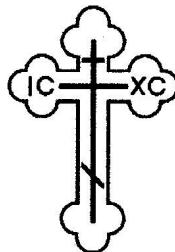


St. Mark Evangelizer

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Saint Mark Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Archdiocese of Washington DC, under the omophor 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

About Love

Whoever wants to become a Christian must... suffer. You must love and suffer—suffer for the one you love... And when we say ‘love’, we don’t mean the virtues that we will acquire, but the heart that is pervaded by love towards Christ and others. We need to turn everything in this direction.

Do we see a mother with her child in her arms and bending to give the child a kiss, her heart overflowing with emotion? Do we notice how her face lights up as she holds her little angel? These things do not escape a person with love of God. He sees them and is impressed by them and he says, ‘If only I had this love towards my God, towards my Holy Lady and our saints!’ Look, that’s how we must love Christ our God. You desire it, you want it, and with the grace of God you acquire it.

From - *Wounded by Love*, by the Elder Porphyrios

Saints of Advent

The Nativity Fast, or “Advent” begins on November 15th. During these days preceding Christmas, our liturgical calendar commemorates very many saints - some famous and well known and some not. With this in mind, I’d like to draw from this fascinating area of Holy Tradition called “hagiology” (literally, the study of holiness), and highlight some saintly lives.

From the Old Testament, on December 9th. we remember the Prophetess Hannah, wife of Elkanah and mother of the Prophet Samuel. Ridiculed for her inability to bear children, she prayed with her mind and her heart with love, pain and intensity. God answered in two ways. First, Hannah received from God the gift of unceasing prayer, because she loved prayer. For prayer is a gift from God and is given to those who pray. He also blessed her to conceive and bear a son, Samuel, (whom she dedicated to God) after which she also bore three more sons and two daughters. God gives in abundance!

Next, from the Christian era, we commemorate the Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia on December 21st. Called from her youth to virginity and martyrdom, she endured much suffering and finally death for the sake of her faith in Christ and so that many others, in witness to this, might also be inspired to believe in and embrace Christianity. She died in the year 304.

December 6th is dedicated to Saint Nicholas. The Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia's life spanned the era of Christian persecution to the establishment of the Imperial Church. He was a great ascetic who appeared to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. Yet he was also a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. In 325 he participated in the First

Ecumenical Council, where he boldly confronted the heretic, Arius. He is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortune. He is the very inspiration for the giving of gifts during the season and celebration of our Savior’s birth. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

December 7th features St. Ambrose of Milan. In 374, as governor, he went to Milan to resolve a dispute between the Orthodox Christians and the Arians. While he was speaking to the crowd, suddenly a child cried out, “Ambrose for bishop!” The people took up this chant. Ambrose, a catechumen, considered himself unworthy, and he tried to flee. The matter went ultimately before the emperor, Valentinian the Elder (364-375), whose orders Ambrose dared not disobey. He accepted holy Baptism from an Orthodox priest and, passing through all the ranks of the Church clergy in just seven days, on December 7, 374 he was consecrated Bishop. He dispersed all his possessions, money and property and he devoted himself to Christ and the Church.

And on December 13th, we remember St. Herman of Alaska. The young monk who traveled so far from home and grew old giving his life in service to and love of the native Aleutic people. In love, he shared with them all that he had - caring for, feeding and educating them in faith and prayer. He has become the “Northstar” of Christ’s Holy Church on our continent.

These are but a few remembrances that come to us from the great cloud of witnesses which St. Paul says we are surrounded by. I invite you to become inspired by reading more about these and many other holy people.

- Fr. Gregory

MAKE ATTENTION!

Submitted by: Matushka Alexandra Safchuk

Somewhere deep in the niches of my few remaining brain cells, I can hear the accented voice of Professor Serge Verkhovskoy telling us to “Make attention!” Prof taught Dogmatics, which (although it would have been Madison’s favorite subject had she pursued a career in theology) could be overwhelmingly detailed, causing one’s brain to explore the promises of lunch or the possibilities of a nap. At the time, it always seemed a rather eccentric translation error. Surely he meant to “pay attention”. I understand “pay attention”.

Or do I? In recent months (ok, years), I have been brain boxing with my inability to maintain alertness in thinking, reading, praying, or conversation. Midway through a discussion about impending travel, I find myself wondering what time a teleconference I need to call in for is scheduled. During the teleconference, and while taking the minutes, I am pondering the probability of the others hearing me crunch meringues. While praying, I suddenly realize that for the past several minutes I have been really thinking about those great sneakers I saw on the Face-book ad margin. I am neither making nor paying attention.

Some people can multi-task, writing scholarly dissertations while listening to *I Love Lucy* reruns. For me, it just seems that pandemonium ensues, my brain skipping from thought to thought and eventually my mind just going idle. While dialing the phone, I am wondering if we need grapes at Costco, and I can’t remember whom I am calling when they answer. It’s not efficient or effective. In fact, it’s downright exasperating and exhausting.

I have asked the Lord to help me to be faithful, fearless, and focused. That three “f” mnemonic is supposed to help my memory and when I pray it, I think of “faithful” as holding onto the boat by fingernails while a storm roils about. I imagine “fearless” might start with not going into orbit every time a stinkbug appears. By the time I get to “focused” my mind has already left the room.

I wonder if my attempts to focus are in vain. While closing random Word documents, I saw this: “God values deeds according to their intentions. For it is said, ‘The Lord grant unto you according to your heart’ (Psalms. 19:5) ... Therefore, whoever wants to do something but can’t {failing} is considered as having done it by God, who sees the intentions of our hearts. This applies to both good and evil deeds alike.” (St. Mark the Ascetic)

St. Mark the Ascetic bids me to take the hard way, to look into my hidden self to discover my motivations. I can wear the veneer of virtue, but God knows my heart’s true striving. The benchmark is not so much my ability to focus as my willingness to attempt it. I must make attention, cook it, manufacture it, assemble it, and not just offer it on the surface, as payment. I have to want to, want to (thank you, Fr. Hopko) show up and be present. First to God, because He knows my heart already and He is the one who can form it into a true, right intending heart. Then, to others, whose hearts and intentions may be unknown to me, but are precious to God. Yes, I really did need to “Make attention!” in Prof’s class.

MY JOURNEY TO ORTHODOXY

Submitted by: Nancy Stanton

My grandparents were immigrants from war-torn Europe after WWII. They spent many years in a refugee camp before they had a sponsor to immigrate to America. Their sponsor was a missionary with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. My grandmother was a Seventh Day Adventist when she met my grandfather (his second wife, first died in childbirth). My grandfather, who was Lutheran at the time, converted along with my mother. My father grew up Catholic and has remained such. I had two brothers, who were born in Europe, and I was the first Latvian American born in the United States; my younger brother was born 18 months later.

Growing up, I went to Sligo Seventh Day Adventist church. Service started for the children at 9:00am and lasted for an hour, after which we had Sabbath School class for an hour. The children in my class all went to the Sligo Elementary and Takoma Academy. I was the only one that went to public school and I was always left out of activities the other children did, birthday parties, sleep overs, and such. I guess they didn't think I was worthy, leaving me with a sense of abandonment. After Sabbath School, I had to go upstairs to the church and sit with my grandparents from 11:00am till noon for the final service. Of course, my grandparents always sat in the front row, so this meant I was not able to rest my eyes. After services, it was off to my grandparents' to sit with them and their friends from church to read the Bible.

Oh, I didn't mention, but the Seventh Day Adventists observe Saturday as the 7th Day to rest. Sabbath started sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. This was very hard for me, since a lot of my friends observed Sunday as the day of rest. When it came time for me to be baptized at 12 years of age, I wouldn't do it. I felt the church didn't practice what it preached, and so, I didn't want to be part of it.

For many years afterward, I felt alone and knew I had to find a church. I had dreams and visions of the church I would like to belong to, but I couldn't find it. A neighbor invited me to her Baptist church. I went and had anxiety attacks. I couldn't wait to leave, all the yelling, drums, and guitars were not my cup of tea. I thanked my neighbor for inviting me, but have not gone back since. I went to a Methodist church; nope not that. I went to my husband's Catholic church, but felt there was something missing; it seemed that as I was just getting into the worship, the service was already over.

When my husband died, I felt really alone until Daniela and Michael, my neighbors walked by and chatted. Daniela invited me to her church (St. Mark) to help with her coffee hour. I had a great time meeting people who were kind and friendly. Then the invite came from Daniela to help pinch piroghis during coffee hour. I had a great time pinching piroghis and enjoyed talking to many people.

I came many times to St. Mark to help Daniela in the kitchen and on one occasion she asked if I wanted to go upstairs to the service. When I got up there, I didn't want to leave. All my emotions came flooding back to me. I found the church that I had dreamt about. I loved the choir, the prayers. I received so much from them that I knew this was what I was looking for, although it took forty years to find! I felt like the Israelites who traveled the desert with Moses until the promised land was given to them; in my case, the Orthodox church. I guess God wanted me to search to accept His Holy Spirit and be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

BODBE IS BLOOMING

Submitted by: Mat. Janet Koczak

I was blessed to spend four days at the Bodbe (female) Monastery during my pilgrimage to Georgia this past summer. St. Nino (Nina) is reposed here, and her tomb lies in a side chapel in the Church of St. George. The Cathedral of St. Nino is still under construction, with the exterior basically finished. With His Holiness Ilia II's blessing, the worship services are held in the cathedral on the weekends and on feastdays.



Chapel of St. George

As I was there on weekdays, services were held in the Church of St. George. At 3pm, an Akathist to St. Nino is served at her tomb. A nun leads the reading (pilgrims join in prayer) and the procession around the church at the end of the service. Divine Liturgy is served on both Friday and Saturday mornings. The Archimandrite Lazare (Lazarus), the Abbot of a nearby (male) monastery, served the Saturday morning Liturgy, with a Panikhida following the service.

The monastery is always humming with activity! There were many tourists and pilgrims. It can be a challenge for the monastery to deal with all the tourists. Especially touchy (and not just at Bodbe,— I saw this in/around

churches in the capital of Tbilisi) are tourists wearing shorts and/or other skimpy clothing entering church. (Usually the churches have a basket of scarves and/or pieces of cloth that can be used as head coverings and skirts.) The churches at Bodbe also have signs indicating that photography is not allowed, although this rule was broken, too, if a nun was not watching. It's a matter of respect and reverence. How should we dress and behave when entering Our Father's house?

There is a wonder-working spring down the mountain, a spring found by St. Nino. Pilgrims come to bathe in the spring, as well as to collect and drink water from the spring. I was blessed to be able to bathe in the spring. Of course, there is a nun or other lay worker who monitors entrance to the spring. Just behind the spring building is a very small chapel dedicated to St. Nino's parents, Ss. Zabulon and Sosanna. (Fr. Mark concelebrated the Divine Liturgy in that chapel last year, together with Fr. Teimuraz.)



Chapel by Spring

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BODBE IS BLOOMING

(Continued from Previous)

Bodbe is also blooming in the literal sense of the world. There are many gardens, lovingly tended, with roses and other flowers, greenhouses for plants and vegetables, fruit trees. In addition to adorning the monastery grounds in beauty, they are also striving to be self-sufficient by growing vegetables and fruits for their needs. They also have a couple of dairy cows, providing them with dairy products. In the past couple of years, they have been terracing the mountainside, which is not only beautiful, but making the land more stable.



Garden and Flowers

Mother Theodora is a wonderful and energetic abbess. Her “second-in-charge” is Mother Tamar, always at the ready to direct work, deal with visitors and pilgrims. This time I stayed in what is called “Niko’s house,” with a wonderful exterior of stone and brick, done in traditional Georgian style. I ate meals in the trapeza.

Fr. Mark and I are always blessed by our time spent at the Bodbe Monastery, guided by St. Nino’s prayers. May God bless Mother Theodora and her flock!



Mother Theodora and Mat. Jan

OCA YOUNG ADULTS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH FESTIVAL IN POLAND

Submitted by: Victor Lutes

Article and photos taken from OCA website, dated August 28, 2015.

Five young adults representing the Orthodox Church in America were among the forty-plus participants from around the world who attended the International Orthodox Youth Festival, “Attaining Conciliarity,” at the Monastery of the Annunciation’s Academy, Suprasl, Poland, during the last week of August 2015. They also attended services for the Great Feast of the Dormition at the Monastery of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Zweirki and celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the Orthodox Youth Fellowship of Poland, presided over by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and His Eminence, Archbishop Jacob of Bialystok.

Sponsored by Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, and hosted by the Orthodox Church of Poland, the gathering marked the first time since 1998 that youth from the OCA participated in such an event.

Representing the Archdiocese of Washington was Victor Lutes, while Janine Alpaugh, William Kopcha, and Joseph Green represented the Dioceses of New York and New Jersey, New England and the South, respectively. John Shimchick, also of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, led the group.



Photo of Victor Lutes (far right) with fellow Orthodox young adults

“This trip showed me how Orthodox Christians from vastly different backgrounds—personally, nationally, from majority churches, from minority churches, and with widely differing opinions—can come together as the one Body of Christ, united by love in the Holy Spirit, strengthening the life of the whole Church,” commented William Kopcha.

“Additionally, since the working language of Syndesmos is English, as native speakers we took on a very unique role in terms of being moderators and general resources, guiding the discussions and providing appropriate vocabulary and context.”

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OCA YOUNG ADULTS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH FESTIVAL IN POLAND

(Continued from Previous)

Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, delivered the keynote festival address, titled "The Conciliar Model of the OCA: The Dream of Saint Tikhon." Archpriest Vladimir Misijuk of Bi-alystok, Poland, spoke on "Attaining Conciliarity: The Task of our Daily Life." Father Vladimir is an alumnus of Saint Vladimir's Seminary and former Syndesmos General Secretary.

"On an average day, we would have morning prayers and then breakfast, followed by small-group discussions and then a speaker," William added. "The afternoon saw some free time, during which we might rehearse some music, and another discussion in the afternoon. In the evening we did evening prayers as a group or head to the monastery church for vespers or vigil."

Participants were also able to make personal pilgrimages to the famed monastery at Grabarka, Saint Mary Magdalene Cathedral in Warsaw, and the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Monastery in Zwierki, where the relics of the Holy Child-Martyr Gabriel of Zabludow are enshrined.

Other youth movements represented included the Orthodoxer Jungenbund Deutschland from Germany, the Transfiguration Brotherhood and the Kazan Youth Organization from Russia, the Brotherhood of Orthodox Youth from Slovakia, Nepsis from Romania, and the French Orthodox youth organization, ACER-MJO.

Syndesmos was established in Paris, France in 1953 as a way to connect Orthodox youth and young adults the world over. In the weeks ahead, a special feature article on Syndesmos, highlighting the Orthodox Church in America's participation in the organization since its inception, will be featured on the OCA website.



Photo of the OCA Delegation at the Festival

OCMC ALASKA MISSION TRIP

Submitted by: Steven Sekellick

After returning home from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Alaska mission trip this last July, I gave a presentation to our church describing my mission experience (with the aid of a few photos, of course). Since then, I've had a little more time to collect my thoughts, memories, souvenirs, notes, and a few more photos. This article is a more detailed account and is an ever sincere "Thank You" to those that helped me on this journey.

The OCMC description of the trip detailed the need to engage the youth of the Alaskan community not just on issues that affect all young Orthodox Christians, but also the unique situation of youth in rural villages in the modern world. The OCMC statement read: "The 2015 Alaska - II Mission Team is to work in partnership with the Diocese of Alaska to reach out to the youth and foster their growth and involvement in the Church. Consistent with Youth Ministry goals in many of our communities, the Orthodox Church in Alaska desires to see the spiritual needs of her youth met as they are empowered to grow personally and spiritually. The camp will incorporate lessons on the Faith, living as Orthodox in this world, a Christian understanding of social media, as well as arts and crafts, music and sports. Youth in these rural villages have a unique need for fellowship and community."

After spending the morning in the Anchorage airport, I boarded the 737 jet from the runway tarmac. Interestingly, the front of the airplane was set up for cargo containers, while the back half was for passengers. I helped the lady who would be seated next to me load some bulky overhead luggage and then relaxed at my window seat. Just then, the lady turned to me and asked if I was Steven. I looked over and saw a crowd of 4 others, eager to know if I was, in fact, Steven. This must be my team! Of course I said "Yes..." and then I met my team: Susan, Cecile, and Betty, who were missionaries like me, and Presbytera (Matushka) Renee, who was our OCMC team director. The five of us happened to be sitting in the same 2 rows. Another person 2 seats forward heard our introductions and said their child would be attending the same "wilderness camp." Much of what we were getting ourselves into was unknown, but we knew our questions would be answered when we met Fr. Stephen Heckman.



OCMC Mission Team (Steven Sekellick, far right)

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OCMC ALASKA MISSION TRIP

(Continued from Previous)

After a 4 hour layover in the small town of Bethel, we hopped on a very small bush plane to head further west, over lakes, plains, and the mighty Yukon River where our destination, the Yupik native village of Pilot Station is located.



Pilot Station and Yukon

Fr. Stephen's sons, Gabriel and Bobby, met us at the airstrip and loaded our luggage into 2 pickup trucks and we hopped in where there was room. The weather was in the low to mid 60's with the prospect of rain constantly on the horizon for most of the trip. We headed down the hill to meet the family.

Fr. Stephen, Mat. Anne, Fr. David, Mat. Gladys, and their families welcomed us warmly with a special, yet humble, meal of bologna and cheese sandwiches with potato chips. We later found out how expensive these and other items in a remote Alaskan village cost. Dried salmon was also served, as it is at most meals. We got acquainted and asked a few questions about what to expect. Fr. Stephen informed us that he had scheduled two afternoons (starting the next day) of Vacation Bible School (VBS) for anyone in Pilot Station that wanted to come...and we were conducting it! It seemed that most of our time spent at their house was used as preparation for lessons and what to expect at wilderness camp. Then we were off to attend a 2-year memorial for a woman in the village.

We would be sleeping at the village Catholic Church, one of the few contemporary buildings in the village. The Catholic and Orthodox relationship is strong; we were invited to use their bibles and whatever craft supplies they had for our lessons as well. After getting situated in our new accommodations, we rested and tried to plan more for our lessons at the city hall and community building. Before the night was over, we headed back to the rectory for dinner.

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OCMC ALASKA MISSION TRIP

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My teammates and I worked well together and tried to make the most of the time we had. Both of our VBS lessons started at 2:00 PM, directly after a state sponsored meal for the kids who were on summer break. We had plenty of students and started with ice-breakers. The Yupik kids were a little shy, but enjoyed working in smaller groups and loved arts and craft projects. Luckily, our team had brought plenty of materials for them to work with, such as paper icons, crosses, beads, rope, etc. Along with making pins with icons on them, stained glass (wax) crosses, we taught the story of Zacchaeus, the healing of the paralytic, and some Church history. We also taught them the song “When The Saints Go Marching In” and marched around inside the building while holding icons. I was also excited to teach them the story of what their parish was named to honor, the Transfiguration of Our Lord. We had the children color a 6 panel icon I drew of the Transfiguration scene and we hung it in the vestibule of the church in time for liturgy on Sunday. We also taught them how to find bible verses in a bible.



Stained glass wax cross made by the kids

One night, we attended a traditional Yupik dance. It was a rehearsal for a competition between villages to honor those that they are named after. The dances told stories sung by the drummers while the dancers actions helped my teammates decipher some of the themes (though I had some trouble).

After Divine Liturgy, we planned for a 3:00 PM boat departure for Saints Vladimir and Yakov Wilderness Camp (SVYWC). By 6:00 PM, everyone was ready and we began motoring on the Yukon and Chuihnak rivers towards our remote destination. To quote my teammate Betty, “After a scenic 45-minute boat ride, passing coastal marshland, charcoal ash-colored cliffs, and coastline of aging birch and fir trees, we arrived at the camp atop a grassy clearance dotted by more birch and fir trees and weathered cabins.”



Teaching children in the Alaskan wilderness

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OCMC ALASKA MISSION TRIP

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Camp started a little rough for me, in part because I was not feeling well after accepting an invitation with the guys to do “banya” the night before we left for camp. Banya is a type of sauna, although much hotter and more humid than I am familiar with (3 to 5 minutes and you get out, repeat). It was pleasant and excruciating at the same time. I think that's where my throat had re-developed an inflammation that lasted the next few weeks. Although my respiratory system did not enjoy the experience, I don't regret doing banya by any means. The cold windy boat ride did not help, either.

Arriving at camp, we were joined by a group from a neighboring Yupik village, called Russian Mission, bringing the population of kids to around 58. The kids, aged from elementary school to high school, had been looking forward to this camp all summer long and instantly unleashed their stowed energies with their friends. Most were no longer quiet and shy. We played basketball, football, tag, worm hunt, grass-ball-dodge-ball, human-knot, and more games. We also played guitar and made prayer ropes. The kids were able to go for a swim at a nearby lake and as much as I wanted to swim in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, I sadly felt the need to stay behind and try to recover more, as suggested by the elders. The next day we took a hike up to the tundra where we picked many different kinds of berries and trimmed bushes to make “tundra tea.” I was instructed to dig into the tundra soil with my fingers to find that it is frozen not even 2 inches below the surface.



Group photo at campsite

With 3 nights and 4 days at camp, the team helped with daily prayers and Liturgy. Our lessons to the kids included topics such as: Life in Christ (humility, faith, perseverance, love, forgiveness, and repentance), what is the Church? (ecclesiastical and the building), social issues (bullying and suicide), Bible stories (Jonah and the Whale, David in the Lions Den, etc.), and a final lesson on using their own personal “Yupik Maxims” and “Wisdoms of Living,” connecting them with the “55 maxims” by Fr. Thomas Hopko. The kids were very receptive and it was encouraging to see them create and share their own words of wisdom. We emphasized church attendance, because as Fr. Stephen mentioned, although almost all of the kids were baptized, not all attended church. Fr. Stephen and Fr. Max from Russia Mission, also taught them and practiced the call and responses said at our church services, such as “Glory to God!” and “Glory Forever!”

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OCMC ALASKA MISSION TRIP

(Continued from Previous)

In July, the sun sets around 11:30 PM in that part of Alaska, and it doesn't really get dark until around 1:30 AM. The kids, being kids (and not having to go to school in the morning), stayed awake until the later hours. However, the first night after returning to Pilot Station from the camp, there was not a single kid out after 10:00 PM; either we tired them out or they missed their families – probably both.

Fr. Stephen, Mat. Anne, their children, grandkids, the villagers, the missionaries, and I all bonded together over stories and our experiences of helping the youth grow as individuals and in their faith. The connection we have through the Church is deep and strong. I was glad to see that the Orthodox Faith was strong with so many of the children. While at the camp, we celebrated the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska a week early. When I returned to St. Mark, we celebrated it again together and sung the same hymns we had been singing all week in Alaska; I was instantly taken back. This was a powerful moment for me when I returned. I learned, grew, and was inspired by the people in Alaska, both young and old. I was challenged to be patient and loving towards people whom initially I thought were problematic, but in the end their heart was shown to be more zealous and observant than my own.

This trip would not have been possible for me if it wasn't for the donations (and prayers) of the people of Saint Mark. Thank You all for your thoughtful prayers and generous donations that contributed to such an awesome and successful OCMC mission trip to Pilot Station, Alaska! I felt your presence there with me. Glory to God!



A video slideshow of my mission trip experience can be seen at: youtube.com/friendlyguy1221

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Submitted by: Anelia Rotunda

As summer comes to an end and our days of laying in the hammock and eating popsicles while pretending to read are over, we find ourselves at the start of a new school year. It was a much anticipated day, and as we attended the new-student orientations, we tried to the best of our ability to prepare ourselves for the transition ahead of us. Our daughter, Ivana, a first grader, was so excited; I, on the other hand, a nervous wreck. How could I possibly part with my little girl who had become my CPC (Chief Partner in Crime), my helper, my great source of entertainment and yes, sometimes a pain in the neck? I knew I had to let go and release her into the world, yet was filled with anxiety to do so. My eyes welled up with tears for the majority of her first day of school, and I knew I had to give this over to God if I wanted to keep my sanity. I found a beautiful prayer written by Jennifer Gerhardt, an Austin, TX mother of two, and I thought I'd share it with all of you, especially those who have school-aged children. Let this also be our prayer for our own children here at St. Mark, as they begin the new Church School year. Let us remember that if our children know who GOD is, they will know who THEY are. The truth is, brothers and sisters in Christ, that if we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to. Lord, have mercy on us and help us!

Dear God, Father of Heavenly Light, Giver of perfect gifts, this morning, feeling nervous and a little unsure and altogether thankful, I pray for my child on her first day of school. God, I give her to You. And I ask that this school year you would use every person and every experience and every lesson to shape her in Your image, to grow in her the fruit of Your Spirit. God, grow in her heart...

Love. Teach her to sacrifice like You did, giving up what she values for the good of others. Empower her to sacrifice her own comfort to love an unlovable kid, to give a favorite pink pencil to a classmate without, to sacrifice the approval of peers to stand up for the bullied.

Joy. Let her be a light in darkness, filling her classroom with laughter and thick, contagious contentment. Show her the good in every circumstance and use her to point it out to others.

Peace. Make her a diffuser, the kind of kid who resolves conflict and relieves tension. Let her be a source of peace for her teacher and a calming voice in her class.

Patience. Lord, teach her to be patient with other kids, to be patient with her teacher, and to be patient with herself, to remember that no one is perfect. Fill her with life-giving deep breaths and empower her to quietly push past the frustrations that will inevitably and frequently well up in her heart.

Kindness. God, show her the way of love in action. Give her a heart that longs to serve others in Your name. Give her opportunities for kindness and give her the courage to step into those opportunities with open hands and ready feet.

Goodness. Teach her to live as Your child, according to Your expectations. Help her make right choices, protecting her from the evil one. Keep her pure and unpolluted.

Faithfulness. Father, fill her heart with faith until it overflows and spills onto everyone she meets. When she seeks You, open her eyes to see You so that her belief and trust in You grow. Help her to be loyal to You even when it's hard.

Gentleness. Empower her to handle others with care, to consider their feelings before speaking, to protect their breakable hearts.

Self Control. God, teach her to sit in her seat and raise her hand and walk in a line, all the while learning to control herself. Give her restraint. May she be able to say "No" even when she wants to say "Yes."

Father, use my child's days at school to form her into the woman you want her to be. Help her to be herself, her very best self. I love You. I love her. Thank you for my child. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

CHURCH LIBRARY & BOOKSTORE NEWS

Submitted by: Joan Mitchum

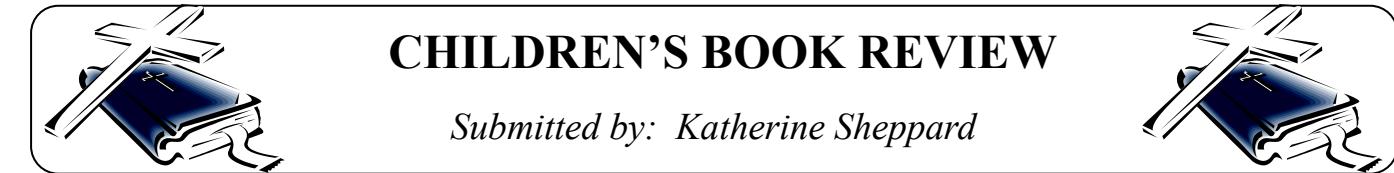
I realize that there are lots of new people at St. Mark who might not know too much about the church bookstore and library. Both are self-serve.

The library is sorted into categories and the books are shelved by these categories. Thanks to Karen Taylor, we now have some new bookshelves, so titles may have moved since the last time you were in there. Look for what you want by category, or check the “catalog” to see what we have. Sign the card from the back of the book and put in the check-out box. If the card is missing, please fill out a new 3x5 card. Try to return the book in a timely manner. Most books that are in the bookstore are also in the library. Many of the books in the library are donations. I am putting some of the duplicate donations near the bookstore for purchase. A small donation is appreciated.

The bookstore has books for both adults and children. If you find something that you want, put a check in the envelope hanging there. Please attach the post-it that has the title and price to your check. If you have cash, you can find me, give it to Pat Ihnat at the gift store, or give it to Fr. Gregory. If there is a title you think is really good and you think the bookstore should stock it, let me know and I will try to get it.

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by: Katherine Sheppard



After one of his Intro to Orthodoxy classes, Father Tim handed us a box set of 36 Paterikon for Kids books to try out on our daughter, Astrid, and review. I actually can't tell you which Paterikon for Kids series this is because the title isn't printed on the box in English, but if you google "Potamitis Publishing", you'll find many of these types of books and children's resources.

We are currently half-way through the set. I find them personally interesting because most, if not all, of the stories are not familiar to me as a new Orthodox Christian (stories like *Saint Gerasim and the Lion*, *Saint Nectarios' Shoes*, and *The Barber Saint*; familiar stories also come with an Orthodox twist). As a parent, reading something to my child that I find equally interesting and educational is a plus. Our daughter likes them because they have colorful pictures. Usually she reads them to us first, which consists of her pointing to and naming “fly” (aka angels), blue, red, circle, triangle, tree, flower, lion, etc. and then it's our turn to read them to her.

The stories are short enough to read one each night just before bed. However, these are not fairy tale stories. They are stories of saints, which means that at times the stories are miraculous and other times incredibly brutal or heart-rending! Last night we read one about a woman who was happily married to a wealthy man and the mother of six children; due to plague, everyone around her, including all her family died, following which she became a nun. Let me tell you, long after Astrid was asleep I was awake praying, “Lord have mercy,” thinking about who I'd become if I lost everyone in my life. Some nights I've wished that we didn't read the story that was chosen from the box. Again, these aren't fairy tales; they are stories of real people and the church.

While the books are short and meant for children, the vocabulary is a bit large and the author goes to a lot of effort to provide locations for events, despite the fact that I have no idea where that location is and that it's going to take a lot of effort to explain to a child (like where is the Gaggitis River, and how do I pronounce that?). Perhaps, though, the more difficult vocabulary would be acceptable for older children and may be used as a vocabulary lesson?

Each story ends with an Apolytikion (dismissal hymn) to the saint which you can say with your child, and depending on which book you read, lots of “Lord have mercy’s” are in line. With the box set you can keep your child entertained for over a month, or if you choose to use them at the church services for entertainment, there's over 6 months of storytelling ventures. Are these recommended? Yes, but selecting a time other than bedtime to read them to your child would be smart. Thankfully, our daughter is three, so there's been no trauma or nightmares yet.

OUT & ABOUT



2015 WASH. NATIONALS FAITH DAY

St. Mark was again invited to participate in this year's Washington Nationals Faith Day to represent our Orthodox faith at the game. The September 19th game was versus the Miami Marlins, which the Nats WON!! Following the game, local area church choirs sang and Nats players and coaches provided testimonials and insights on their Faith. Everyone had a great time! Looking forward to next year's outing!

Photo courtesy of Michael Chow.

2015 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Picnic photos courtesy of Victor Lutes.



OUTLINE OF VESPERS

Submitted by: Daniel Golembiewski



Attending Vespers at St. Mark allows us to mark the beginning of a new Church day and prepares us for fuller participation in the Divine Liturgy the following morning. For first-time visitors, the actual Vespers service can be difficult to follow as we switch between the standard prayers and designated hymns in the Vespers book and the printed Vespers supplement sheet; additionally, some of the terms used can be quite unfamiliar. We hope the following explanation can ease your understanding and enhance your participation in Vespers at St. Mark.

Overall the Vespers service is patterned on the concept of our personal salvation history - beginning with creation and reaching fulfillment in the Resurrection. With the beginning of the call of the faithful, the censing of the church, the litanies of supplication and the “Nunc Dimitis” or “Song of Saint Simeon” (Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace ...) we are walked through the path of salvation offered by the Orthodox Church in a very personal way.

Visitors will notice most every part of the service is sung, whether using the eight Tones or plainsong verse. Both of these modes of singing are deeply rooted in the city and desert traditions of Orthodox worship. Visitors may not initially recognize the Orthodox hymns which are an integral part of the service. These are not hymns of the type commonly found in Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, the rhyming types most folks are familiar with. Orthodox hymns are somewhat older and they are based on the Psalms. They were originally written in Aramaic, Syrian, Latin, and Greek and have been translated into English and generally follow a rhythmic pattern that can be discerned upon close listening.

All of the following terms refer to types of hymns of the Orthodox Church and you will see them mentioned in the propers supplement sheet:

- Aposticha refers to a set of hymns (individually referred to as Stichera) that will be sung at the end of Vespers.
- Kontakion is a hymn with a particular theme. It was originally a homily done in verse.
- Prokeimenon is a hymn sung before a specific scriptural reading.
- Stichera are the typical hymns used at Vespers.
- Troparia are short hymns of one stanza.

In addition to the types of hymns, you will encounter references to different Tones (melodies) used to sing the hymns. The Tones are properly referred to as Octoechos as there are eight of them. The tones are varied according to the liturgical calendar. The tone indicated on each section of the Vespers propers supplement sheet indicates what melody will be used for the following hymn.

There will be exceptions, but the basic format of Vespers at St. Mark is that of Great Vespers as a Vigil, and it begins with the opening call to prayer by the Deacon as “Arise! Master bless!” followed by the priest intoning “Blessed is our God...”.

This is followed by the call to participate in worship as “Come, let us worship ...”.

Next comes the prayer that begins “Bless the Lord, O my soul ...” found in the Vespers book.

(Continued on next page)



OUTLINE OF VESPERS

(Continued from Previous)



What follows next is the Great Litany led by the deacon which encourages us to participate in the Litany with our response “...” found in the Vespers book.

The Litany is followed by the Kathisma that begins “Blessed is the man ...” found in the Vespers book.

After the Kathisma, we participate in the Small (second) Litany found in the Vespers book.

Then comes the “Lord, I call upon thee ...” followed by the Stichera for that day. Typically ten are sung. These are indicated on the propers sheet. The first Stichera verses will be found in the back of the Vespers book in the section indicated by the Tone. So if you see “Stichera verses (6) in Tone 8, we'd sing the first six Stichera in the section of Tone 8 in the back of the book. The remaining Stichera to be sung will be found on the supplement sheet.

The same pattern follows throughout Vespers. When the sheet indicates singing verses in a specific Tone and no hymn follows, those verses will be found in the back of the Vespers book in the designated section. If a verse follows, then the hymn will be sung from the propers sheet.

After the ten Stichera comes the Dogmatic, set by the tone on the supplement sheet and found in the back of the Vespers book.

The Evening Hymn follows and it begins “O Gladsome Light...” found in the Vespers book.

This is followed by the Prokeimenon assigned for that day, found in the front of the Vespers book.

We respond to the Evening Litany, again led by the Deacon, followed by the Evening Prayer that begins “Vouchsafe, O Lord, ...”.

Then follows the Litany of Supplication and the Prayer at the Bowing of Heads found in the front of the Vespers book.

The Aposticha (found in the back of the Vespers book) come next, designated on the supplement sheet, and we follow this with the Song of Simeon that begins “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...” found in the front of the Vespers book.

Following this are the Trisagion Prayers that begin “Holy God, Holy Mighty, ...” and then the “Our Father”, found in the front of the Vespers book.

The Dismissal Troparion (on the supplement sheet) is sung and then we sing the responses to prayers offered by the priest found in the front of the Vespers book.

Vespers is traditionally followed by the Veneration of the Cross by all present.



FOCA HAPPENINGS

ANNUAL NATIONAL FOCA STOCK AWARD DRAWING

Congratulations Winners!

Thank you to all who purchased tickets. As a result of your contributions, the National FOCA was able to give its commitment check of \$300,000 to St. Tikhon's Married Student housing Project.

- \$50 - John & Pat Ihnat
- \$50 - Michael Thompson



ANNUAL FOCA SCHOLARSHIPS

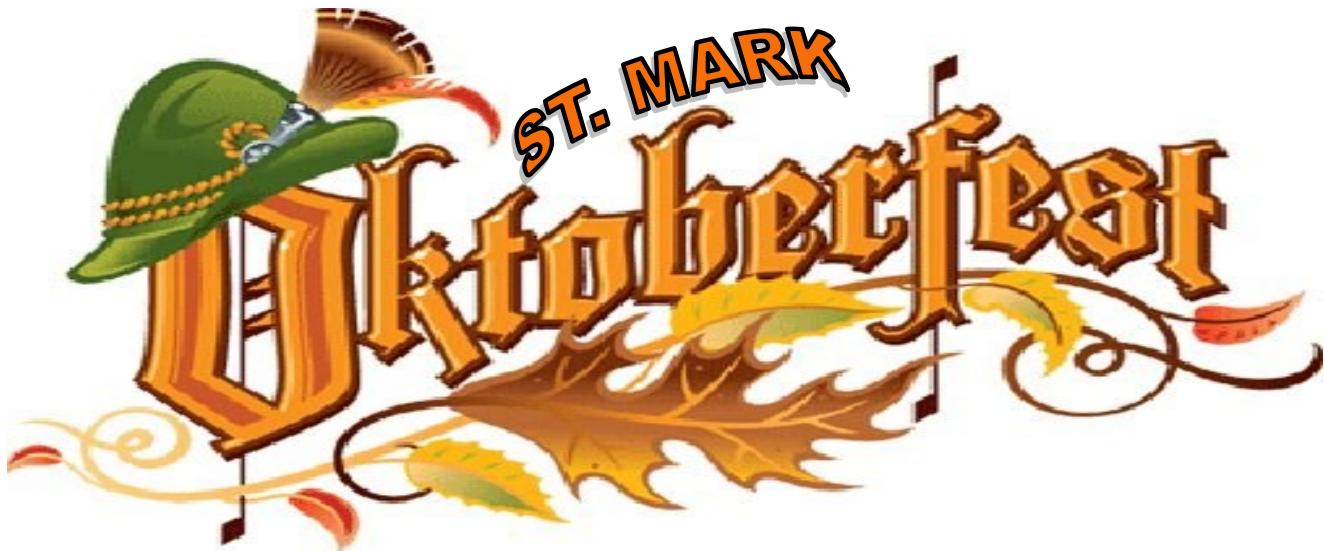
Congratulations!!!

This year's FOCA "scholarships were awarded to Victor and Sasha Lutes, Hannah LeFors, Peter Truitt, and Abigail Dean. Hannah was also awarded the FOCA Colonial District scholarship!

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.

- NO OCT MEETING
DUE TO OKTOBERFEST
- SATURDAY, NOV 21ST
- SATURDAY, DEC 19TH



Saturday, October 17th, 6:30 PM

Enjoy excellent German cuisine, Family Fun, Door Prizes, Entertainment!

Raffle for a **Kindle Fire** and other great items. Get tickets early from Barbara or George Freimann.

Advance Tickets: Adults - \$10 ; Kids 10 & under - \$5

Or \$15 at the Door

FOCA 2015 CHARI-TEA

Submitted by: Karen Phinney



St. Mark FOCA chapter sponsored a “Downton Abbey” themed Ladies Afternoon Chari-Tea with a Jewelry Showcase on Saturday, Aug 22nd in our Fellowship Hall. All had a wonderful time and over \$2,000 was raised towards our Iconography Project. Thank you to all who made generous donations as well as to the gentlemen of St. Mark who acted as servers. Here are some photos of this year’s Chari-Tea.

Photos courtesy of Fr. Gregory.



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_uaas_pd_pd. To date, St. Mark has received a total of **\$33.64** from the Amazon Smile program. Thanks for supporting St. Mark through this program!



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR STEPPING STONES BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACKS

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Stepping Stones backpack drive this year. St. Mark collected a total of over **\$1000** towards the campaign to purchase 40 backpacks! On October 1st, St. Mark will be officially honored at the Stepping Stones "Annual Open House and Awards Ceremony" and thanked for our efforts! Way to go!

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR ORTHODOX ORPHANAGE OF HOPE

On Sunday September 6th and 13th, St. Mark took special collections for the "Orthodox Orphanage of Hope" which is located between the Monastery of St. Vlash and the Orthodox Seminary in Tirana. To date, **\$615** was raised for the 30 boys and girls to provide them with love, peace and stability, clothing, shelter, three square meals a day, services, and study tutors. Thank you for your generosity!



RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

More income from the rummage sale! This year's rummage sale, to date, brought in **\$6,250.58** gross. Thanks to Pat Ihnat for her connection with the Treasure Trove in Annandale, VA. As such, more income has been recognized from the sale. Pat takes some unsold items from the sale and gives them to the Trove to be sold at the shop. As a result, St. Mark has been getting additional income on a monthly basis. Thanks to Pat for her ongoing efforts to make our sale such a success. Also, this year's sale featured two new changes. Thanks to Martha Baxtresser, Michael Chow, Tina Burpee, and Barbara Freimann, for setting up the ability for customers to use credit cards. It appears that this implementation went very smoothly. In addition, for the first time, Habitat for Humanity came to pick up our unsold treasures. They were fast, efficient, and very professional. We probably will call on them again next year.

ST. MARK BAZAAR 2015

Submitted by: Tina Burpee

St. Mark Annual Food Festival and Bazaar is our biggest fund raiser and takes place on Friday Nov 6th from 11am-6pm, Saturday Nov 7th from 11am-6pm, & Sunday Nov 8th from 12-4pm. 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 & Eastern European food and baked goods.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PRIOR TO THE BAZAAR?

† **Food Workshops** – A workshop calendar may be viewed online at: <http://stmarkoca.org/calendar/>. 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 are posted at the rear of the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen door. **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.)

UPCOMING GROUP/CLUB 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, OCT 6TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, NOV 3RD**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, DEC 1ST**, 10:30 AM

Akathist Dates & Times:

- **TUESDAY, OCT 20TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, NOV 17TH**, 10:30 AM
- **TUESDAY, DEC 15TH**, 10:30 AM

WOMEN'S 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 months' books.



- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH**

LEAN PLATE CLUB

Lean Plate Club meetings are on hold until January 2016, at which time meetings will resume the 3rd Sunday of each month following Liturgy in the parish library.

CHOIR—PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The choir will have rehearsals on the dates below. Choir members, please mark your calendars!



- **MONDAY, SEPT 28TH**, 7:45 PM
- **MONDAY, OCT 5TH**, 7:45 PM
- **SUNDAY, OCT 18TH**, 11:30 AM (following Liturgy)
- **MONDAY, OCT 26TH**, 7:45 PM

ADULT STUDY GROUP

A new adult study group has been formed to discuss scripture readings from the daily lectionary. The classes will meet every week following Sunday Liturgy as part of our church school education program. Classes are conducted by Doug Dillon under the guidance of Fr. Gregory. And will meet in Fr. Gregory's office.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

2015 CHURCH SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH** — First day back.
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH** — No class; Bazaar.
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND** — No class; Annual parish meeting.
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH** — No class; Thanksgiving break.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH** — St. Nicholas Workshop (Grades 4 & under).
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH** — No class; Nativity Play.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH** — No class; Christmas break.



STEPPING STONES MEAL DELIVERIES

Please sign up for monthly food preparation and delivery to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, MD. The sign-up sheets are on the Outreach bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. Deliveries are the 1st Sunday of each month after Liturgy.

- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH**
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST**
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**

ANNUAL FALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY



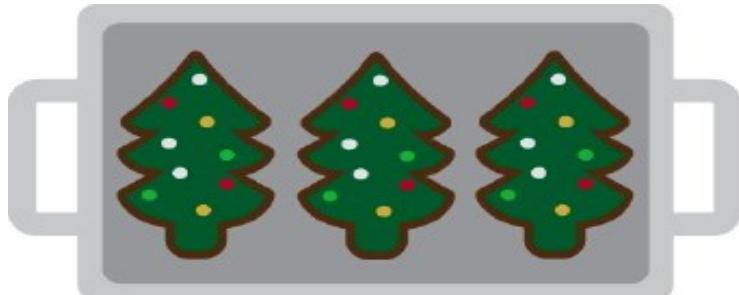
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 8:30 AM — Mark your calendars and save the date to help clean up the church interior and church grounds. Lunch will be provided. Your help is greatly appreciated!

2015 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND** — Read-ahead materials to be posted at: <http://stmarkoca.org/parish-council/>

2015 CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**, 11:00 AM — Bring in homemade cookies and exchange with others for a nice holiday cookie sampler to take home for Christmas. Details will be forthcoming in future bulletins.



UPDATER

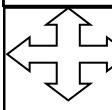
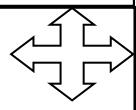
NEW ADDRESSES

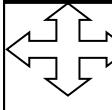
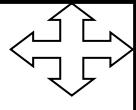
REMEMBER TO PICKUP YOUR COPY OF THE NEW 2015 PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Demetrios & Rachael Datch 8000 Herb Farm Dr. Bethesda, MD 20817	Nicholas & Anelia Rotunda 6424 Bellevue Dr. Columbia, MD 21046	Lee & Jennifer Malatesta 5411 McGrath Blvd., Apt. 1011 Rockville, MD 20852	Alexander Masick 5017 North 27th St. Arlington, VA 22207
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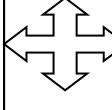
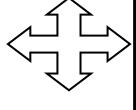
FAREWELL

St. Mark says goodbye to the Husak family and Marina McKee. God bless you and keep you in His loving care! The forwarding addresses for both the Husak family and Marina McKee are in the new 2015 parish photo directory.

 **Births / Weddings** 
None.

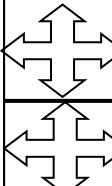
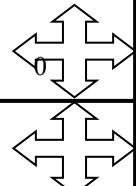
 **Deaths** 
09/09/15 — James, father of Mark Phinney

May His Memory Be Eternal !

 **Baptisms/Chrismations** 
07/04/15 — Sophia Marie Nimmer



God Grant Sophia & the Nimmer Family Many Years!

 **Milestone Anniversaries** 
09/30 — Dn. Matthew & Mat. Ann Prentice (20 yrs.)
10/09 — Nicholas & Maura Moser (5 yrs.)
10/12 — Debbi & Doug Dillon (30 yrs.)
12/02 — Dr. Dan & Eleanor Carstean (60 yrs.)
12/09 — Peter & Marjorie Sielinski (50 yrs.)

God Grant Them Many Years!!!



CAN YOU NAME THESE PEOPLE?

Photo of 1973 Bazaar Christmas Craft Workshop — St. Mark Photo Archives



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

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



How many of us can remember the renovation of Saint Mark? It was 1996, and in October, although very chilly and drafty (windows covered in plastic), the baptism of Matthew Perry Jones took place with Fr. John Kuchta presiding. Uncle Brian and Aunt Rose Zabela are Godparents.

From left to right:

- * Mat. Helen Kuchta
- * Brian Zabela
- * Rose Zabela & baby Matthew Jones
- * Fr. John Kuchta

MAY FR. JOHN'S MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

ICONS OF SAINTS OF ADVENT

