



Saint Mark Orthodox Church

Archdiocese of Washington DC – Orthodox Church in America

Semi-Annual Parish Meeting – May 19, 2019

Pastoral Address

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

I greet you in this joyous season of the celebration of our Lord's victory over evil and death. Once again, I am very pleased with how so many of you cooperated and worked diligently to make our Lenten Journey, Holy Week Services and Paschal celebration so beautiful and spiritually uplifting. Council and committee members, teachers, choir directors, singers, readers, handmaidens, servers, decorators, bakers, cooks and cleaners; outstanding effort! Thank you all.

As I write this, I look forward to this, our Spring parish meeting. On the agenda are a couple of items that will impact the appearance and functionality of our church interior. First, an update on the continuation of our iconography project will be offered. Second, we will discuss a proposal to carpet and acquire new seating (pews) for the nave of our church. Since these issues affect us all and will undoubtedly influence the first impressions of many visitors to our parish, I hope that as many of you as possible will plan to attend and participate.

We will also welcome an update from our 50th Anniversary Committee about how we as a parish will go about planning for and celebrating this milestone in the life of our beloved parish.

Finally, in addition to thanking you all for what you do in support of our parish, I also want to offer gratitude on a more personal level. Ever since we began sharing Matushka Sasha's diagnosis and medical circumstances with you, we have felt the warm and loving embrace of this community of faith and love. You have truly been our spiritual family. The fervent prayers, support and love you've offered us are an indescribable comfort at a time when it is so needed and welcomed.

Thank you, all!
With love in Christ,
Fr. Gregory