

St. Mark Evangelizer

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

Volume 20 - Number 4

October - December 2020 Issue



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

The Imitation of God

Christianity is based on the willingness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to live with us and die for us. This is unique to the Christian faith—no other faith teaches that God would do this amazing thing for His creatures,

out of completely self-emptying love for them... The exaltation of Jesus as a man depended entirely on His self-emptying humility. True greatness, divine greatness, is the ability to be the least and to the least with the absolute certitude that it is externally and divinely important, that it is an imitation of God Himself.

Father Thomas Hopko

Who Makes a Saint?

During this season of Covid, we've experienced the loss of several long time members of our parish - John Petro, Sunny Holovak and Alice Krenitsky. All of whom had made great and good efforts to establish and maintain St. Mark. Most recently after the announcement of Alice's passing, a number of people shared their thoughts and condolences. One message however particularly caught my attention. It simply said: "She's a saint." Having known her

and been her Father Confessor for 20 years, I understood. It wasn't that there was an icon of her in church, or a day upon which hymns written to commemorate her were sung. It was more a

harkening back to the use of the term "saint" in the early church. St. Paul sometimes referred to the community of believers in a given city as "the saints".

We are all called to be saints, but how does that actually happen? Often people assume that a committee of church officials or bishops somewhere simply proclaims a person to be a saint. This is only partly correct. Another way of looking at it though could be that since God created all people, He makes saints. Some could say that mothers and fathers make saints in as much as they raise their children in the Church and train them in faith and piety. So in this

way, the community or context of a person's life encourages saintly belief and behavior. It could be argued that the foundation of sanctity in a person's life is a cooperative endeavor between that person's human will and God's grace. Setting aside theology though, what we are talking about here is Godly and virtuous behavior. When a person takes seriously the command of Christ to love God with all of one's heart, soul, mind and strength, and exhibits love



of neighbor as self, it shows. And in a way, all of the above is true. God creates us to be saints, we are introduced to faith in Christ by those around us and nurtured in it by the Holy Church.

Sooner or later, when personal efforts along these lines are consistently made, people notice. It could be said that a saint is a believer, a person, whom the Church holds up as an example for others to imitate and be inspired by. When that occurs formally, it does involve a declaration by bishops, the writing of icons, and the composition and singing of hymns, a date on the liturgical calendar, etc. But in many cases, the recognition of sanctity begins far more humbly and locally when people simply notice that someone is "good".

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints! - Fr. Gregory

OH, GLORIOUS SUNDAY...BLESSED FEAST DAY

Submitted by Matuskha Alexandra Safchuk

During these months that I have been staying with my mom I have been reintroduced to some of the practices of my youth. No, not the massive telephone habit or Hershey's kiss indulgence (ok, maybe some). And certainly not mall retail therapy, a hallmark experience of my teen years. It's this: my mother does not do manual (and pray tell, why is it called that?) labor on Sundays and feast days. No cleaning the basement or doing laundry. She is very disciplined about this practice and I am very grateful.

At one point when I had young children (during the Dark Ages) I did put a permanent moratorium on Sunday laundry. While I used the "it's Sunday" as my reasoning, truth be told it was self-defense. Really, there are six days to wash smelly hockey jerseys. Sunday should not be one of them.

During these past few months, so punctuated by grief for us and so defined by the Covid-19 virus restrictions, all the days run into one another and Tuesday can seem like Friday or Monday. Putting boundaries on Sunday has been a rest, a relief, a refreshment. It has, for me, helped put Sunday, and feast days, back into focus. If they are not like ordinary days they need to be treated differently.

We know that God, and we, still work on Sundays. We cook, we drive, we do email. Babies are born on Sundays. People get sick and are healed on Sundays. The Lord is not silent, not sleeping. But what we do on Sundays and the awareness of it needs to realign us for the week ahead. In the Church Sunday begins the new week. In modern jargon it front loads our week. How do we both live that and honor it?



Taking Sundays off from the tasks that have sometimes consumed my mom and me has helped me to stand outside of the constant to do list and remember the One to whom we will all answer.

In the Orthodox Church we see everything through the lens of the light of Christ. Sunday is not "the Christian Sabbath". It is the 8th day and the 1st day. The Lord's Day. Every Sunday is a Resurrection Sunday. Every feast day draws us back to the integral value of a life in Christ,

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OH, GLORIOUS SUNDAY...BLESSED FEAST DAY

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a life with Christ. Sunday is not the exclamation point of our week, punctuated by pork roast dinner and football. It is the beginning of the new week, where we once again meet the Lord at the chalice (or on-line) and strengthen ourselves in the walk to the kingdom.

To do this I have to pause from some of those other cares. It is necessary for me to take a break from chores and remember who I am and Who I work for. Thank you to my mother for reminding me of this. Come join my mom and me in not doing laundry on The Lord's Day. You will love it.

In Christ's love,

Mka. Alexandra Safchuk



WHAT? NO BAZAAR?

Submitted by Michael Lungociu

Yes. This year has been a very different year for all of us. The first year I sincerely missed all of you, not being able to see you. The inability to hug and greet one another. The communion lines. Singing in the choir. Looking down from the choir loft and seeing all the people I love, and now missing all of you. It's been strange missing funerals, weddings, baptisms and memorial services. It is nothing less than separation anxiety from our beloved St. Mark, a place of communion in Christ.

As a result, because of our absence, the church is in need of our support. In my effort to make it somewhat easier, I plan to make available to St. Mark all sales of Uncle Michael's Hot Sauce in November from my small hot sauce business. I will also advertise to my customers outside the St. Mark community so we can gain funds from people who may have bought it at the bazaar and from my regular customers. I will attempt to keep the church hall supplied as well so anyone attending church can pick some up anytime. Gene Jacobson has been diligent in making sure all proceeds go the Iconography fund. So, if you are looking for a different kind of stocking stuffer this coming Christmas and want to spice up your gift giving or just want some for your own fridge. I can help. Go to UM-HS.com to order online in November. I ship any quantity, anywhere in the U.S., but, if shipping is what you need, I will need you to pay the shipping costs. If you can't wait until November pick it up at church. Again, I make both 5 oz and 10 oz available in the church hall. While supplies last.



BAZAAR 2021

NO BAZAAR 2020

Due to COVID restrictions and to protect the health of our parishioners and bazaar patrons we are canceling this year's bazaar and food festival. Stay tuned for alternative fund raising opportunities!

Save the Date for 2021!

November 5th, 6th & 7th!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Luke Prentice who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in July 2nd, 2020. He was awarded neckerchief, slide, and other recognition items on September 13th. Congratulations on your achievement and may God grant you many years!



BAZAAR PAST

Photos by Victor Lutes

Unfortunately, this years bazaar was cancelled. We will most certainly miss the fellowship and delicious food! Enjoy and reminisce with some photos from past bazaars!



2018



2018



2018



2017



2017



2017



2013



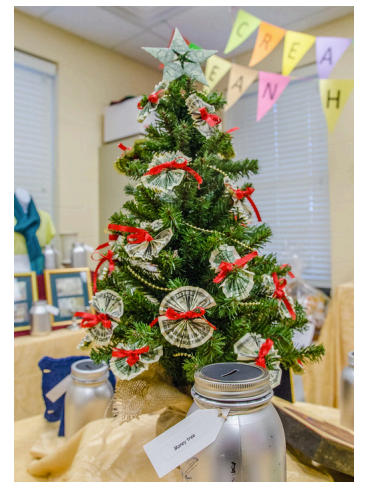
2014

BAZAAR PAST

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2018



2014



2016



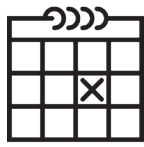
2016

EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Photo by Victor Lutes

Parishioners decorated crosses for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross celebrated on September 14th. Thanks to Victor for putting this collage together!





UPCOMING EVENTS

GROCERY CARDS

Please consider donating grocery cards for the needy, especially during this time of hardship for many. Please see Father Gregory or Kyra Smerkanich for questions or donations. Thank you!!

STEPPING STONES MEAL DELIVERY

(On Hold until further notice) 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.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, November 15th via Zoom, following Liturgy. Read-ahead materials will be available in print and online on Sunday, November 1st.

UPCOMING FEASTS: Services will also be live streamed on our YouTube Channel

Thursday, October 1st at 9:30 am - Protection of the Theotokos

Saturday, November 21st at 9:30 am - Entrance of the Theotokos

Sunday, December 6th at 9:30 am - St. Nicholas

Sunday, December 13th at 9:30 am - St. Herman

Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 pm - Vigil for Nativity

Friday, December 25th at 9:30 am - Christmas Day

Friday, January 1 at 9:30 am - Circumcision of Our Lord

ST. MARK YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/saintmarkorthodoxchurch>



BLESSED MAT. OLGA OF ALASKA WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Blessed Matushka Olga Prayer Group has been meeting every Tuesday at 10:30 am via Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/152870659>. All are welcome to join and pray. We are able to continue with intercessory prayers, Akathists, and fellowship. May God continue to show us his great Mercy and keep us safe until we can pray and worship together in church



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

Baptisms

08/08/20 - Adam Needham
09/12/20 - Michael Beddow
09/19/20 - Isabella Caroline Bussenger (St. Elizabeth)



Marriages

07/18/2020 - Matthew Karas & Andreea Sandu

May God Grant You Many Years!

Memory Eternal!

Deaths

07/22/20 - Annastacia 'Elsie' Matey, sister of Susan Petro
07/30/20 - John Petro
08/05/20 - Janet Hartman, cousin of Paula Zabela
08/09/2020 - Alessandra "Sunny" Holovac
08/21/2020 - Ed Dumm, Father of Rose Zabela
09/22/2020 - Alice Krenitsky



John Petro



Alessandra "Sunny" Holovac



Alice Krenitsky

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

Happy Birthday!

October

1	Michael Joseph Ruzila	1
2	Michael Lungociu	2
4	Warren Miller	3
	Matthew Tucker	5
	Amelia Safchuk	
	Paula Zabela	
5	John McCamant	
	Alyssa Pedersen	7
6	Alexander Barge	
	Paul Dean	
	Philip Hydock	
7	Mark Needham	
	Greg Yakubik	9
8	Ionel Baleanu	
9	Julia Wickard	10
10	Edward Aseev	
	Marie Petro-Jenkins	11
11	Frank Dellermann	12
12	Aleksandra Cacic	13
13	Matthew Lobas	14
14	Betselot Bezuneh	15
15	Cristin Kumar	
	Tammy Jacobsen	
	Yeshimebet Samara	16
16	Oleg Jankovic	
17	Martha Baxtresser	17
18	Dean Balamaci	
	Nikolay Korokhov	18
	Barbara Mersereau	21
22	Liam Church	22
23	Lori Hottle	
	Aaron Steinberg	23
	Erika Steinberg	24
24	William Hardy	
	Francisco Salas	25
25	Jack Ryan Ruzila	
26	Andrew Yakubik	28
27	Pierce Berry	
	Steven Kreta	
29	Nina Bilyeu	30
31	Wayne Tatusko	

November

Diana Haverlack	1
Christina Sokich	
Jessica Fitzgerald	3
Jane (Ihnat) Cessna	
Mat. Ann Prentice	5
Alexander Jankovic	
Susanna Needham	6
Catherine Dillon	
Dn. David Phelps	7
Karen Phinney	
Patricia Rodak	8
Brian Zabela	
Zachary Firestone	9
Christian Shimer	10
Sonya LeFors	12
Alexander Safchuk	11
Andrea Phelps	13
Abigail Dean	
Michelle (Rodak) Weaver	14
Mark Lungociu	
Adrian Ahmadi	
Devon Burns	15
David Holovac	16
Bill Dove	
Kaitlin Brooke Meyers	17
John Jr. Bilyeu	
Connor Alexander Ruzila	
Claire German	18
Matthew Balamaci	
Gregory Mitchum	
Calla (Catherine) Steinberg	19
Deborah Firestone	
Sarah Borger	
Dn. Matthew Prentice	20
Andrew Dillon	21
John Thomas Sedor	
Virgeil Carstea	22
Jessica Humphries	
Samantha Pearson	
Alexis Christine Freimann	23
Helen Kerch	

December

Tatyana Gleason	26	Marina McKee
Nino Japaridze Henning	28	Cristian Ciubotaru
Daniel Nakshin	29	Alexander Sokich
Tina Parrish	31	Wayne Cessna
Lucy Moser		Charles Datch
Theresa Sekellick		
Rebekah Barber		
Victor Lutes		
David Burpee		
Lucas Lindsay		
Kyla Prentice		
Marie Wickard		
Linda Marie Jackson		
Ransom Berry		
Olga Uritskaya		
Simeon Tatusko		
Ivan Borissov		
Micah Needham		
Mat. Helen Kuchta		
David Markovich		
Timothy Petro		
Howard Guba		
Patricia Koopersmith		
Evelyn Leleck		
Christopher German		
Jesse Japaridze Henning		
Catherine Steger		
Jenifer Calomiris		
Herman Carter		
Darren Tucker		
Elizabeth Sedor		
Marsha Zelle		
Olan Sheppard		
Anne Tucker		
Nicholas Masick		
Steven Sekellick		
Caroline German		
Elaine (Petro) O'Halloran		
Mat. Christina Perry		
Eugene Borissov		
Audrey Henning		
Alexander Landsburg		
Matthew Tatusko		
Andrew Tucker		
Sophie Christine Balan		
Mat. Janet Koczak		
Margaret McCamant		

