

# St. Mark Evangelizer

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

Volume 21 - Number 4

October - December 2021 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](http://www.saintmarkoca.org)

## The Whole Truth

Christ gave us two commandments: to love God and to love our fellow man. Everything else, even the commandments contained in the Beatitudes, is merely an elaboration of these two commandments, which contain within themselves the totality of Christ's "Good News." Furthermore, Christ's earthly life is nothing other than the revelation of the mystery of the love of God and the love of man. These are, in sum, not only the true but the only measure of all things... Their conjunction is not simply a conjunction of two great truths taken from two spiritual worlds. It is the conjunction of two parts of a single whole. These two commandments are two aspects of a single truth. Destroy either one of them and you destroy truth as a whole. (St Maria of Paris)

## For to Such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven

With all the recent preparations and efforts made to restart our parish in person church school program, children have been more in the forefront of my mind lately and it brings me great joy to hear their voices in church! The words of Christ in the title above come from Mt. 19:14 in which our Lord says: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven." In context, Jesus was addressing His own disciples who "rebuked" the people for bringing the children. The disciples likely thought they were doing the right thing by trying to manage a chaotic situation and give the Rabbi some space and peace. But Jesus was absolutely clear in commanding them not hinder them.

This should speak to us on many levels. To be sure, we should be doing everything we can in order to encourage children to come to know Christ. Beginning, as Proverbs 22:6 urges, by training them up "in the way they should go". And although church attendance and participation in Sunday School will help this, the vast majority of their spiritual formation happens in the home within the family. Although

they may not always seem "attentive" to outright instruction, they need to be surrounded by and immersed in the practice of Christian love, respect and virtue. Prayer, familiarity with the lives of the saints, the reading of scripture and the expectation of mutual respect among family members, will reveal Christ to them - not only in mind,

but more importantly, in heart.

We who are entrusted with the care of children must look after them physically, keep them healthy and protect them, but also be for them living

examples of child-like qualities such as openness, innocence, trust, humility and obedience. As our Lord said in Mt. 18:3: "unless ... you become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

So as we attempt to navigate the many responsibilities we have and life choices that must be made, let us always beseech God for guidance particularly in regard to how it will impact children. There are indeed many hindrances in our world today that seek to block their path to the Lord. But we must try to overcome them.

- Fr. Gregory





# SANCTIFY THOSE WHO LOVE THE BEAUTY OF THY HOUSE

*Submitted by Matuskha Alexandra Safchuk*

In this prayer before the Ambo, read at each liturgy by the most recently ordained serving priest (the “baby priest”), we wrap things up and get ready to return to the world, to the “liturgy after the liturgy” as Mother Maria Skobtsova referred to our lives. But we are reminded in this prayer, and in the psalms and Akathists also, about the “beauty of Thy house.” And God’s house, the one where we pray the Divine Liturgy, is very beautiful. Over my two decades at St. Mark I have seen the beauty of God’s house at 7124 River Road enhanced and beautified, decorated and adorned.

There are those who come in the quiet of the day and vacuum, or iron candlewax off of the carpet. Those who dust the icon lattice and polish the wooden pews. The trash removers, the candle organizers, the glass changers, and the light adjusters. They and many others love the beauty of God’s house. And if they don’t, they act as if they do, allowing a place for that love to grow in their hearts.

Why take such care for a place we spend so little time? Why bring fresh flowers when we won’t be back for a week or so? Fresh flowers wilt and decompose and, as we found, some can attract fruit flies. And yet there is nothing like that fragrance when we bend over the

cross that has been decorated with roses or lilies or hibiscus. For that moment, caught up in the sight and scent of the beauty that God provides we grow closer to God, the author of all beauty, in Whom beauty resides and by Whom it is shared with us.

We enhance that place because it is a sacred space and that sacredness is there whether we are present or not. And in that hour we spend there we are caught up with God. If we allow it, and invite it, we can become partakers of the Divine nature, eating and drinking Him. We bring all that we have: our brokenness, our problems, our weaknesses and strengths, our gifts and actions to the place of glory, to the foot of the cross, to the altar of God.

The flower people, led by Shirley Dean, cut, position, adjust and tweak; they set up and take away. They store, and clip and fluff flowers and arrangements. With just a few pieces, or decked out for a great feast, flowers enhance the beauty of God’s house. Thank you to all who arrange those flowers and who carry the heavy vases up and down from the walk-in.

And thank you also to Tom Jenkins, whose skill with hammer and saw enhances the beauty of God’s house. Tom’s woodwork

*(Continued on next page.)*



# SANCTIFY THOSE WHO LOVE THE BEAUTY OF THY HOUSE

*Continued from Previous*

in the Sacristy for Sound (where the amplifier is located) has made a place for many of the boxes of flower supplies and vases that have been shifted from cubby to shelf, stuffed in closets and under books, in search of a permanent home.

We are all busy with a great many things, but take a moment to rest in the Lord and enjoy the beauty of God's house. The windows, the icons, the flowers, the lingering incense, the warm candle glow, the space opened and offered and sanctified by God. And may the Lord who sees and hears and knows, "sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house". Amen.

In Christ's love,  
Mka. Alexandra Safchuk



# BAZAAR 2021

## PLEASE BAKE FOR THE BAZAAR!

Even though we do bake Russian Torte and walnut and poppyseed rolls for the baked goods room here at the church, we still need additional baked goods from all of our parishioners as well as for the dessert table. All kinds of sweet breads, yeast breads, cookies etc. go very well in the baked goods room. The dessert table needs cakes, pies, tortes, cheesecakes that can be cut into serving size pieces. There are suggested recipes on the table in front of the sign-in sheets in case you're not sure what to bake.

## NOVEMBER 6th & 7th

### BAZAAR FOOD/DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS:

**HOT FOOD:** Halupki: Chris Cacic; Piroshki: Matushka Sasha & Martha Vance; Blini: Sharon Carter; Chicken Kiev: Mat. Ann & Dcn. Matthew Prentice, Jane Cessna and Pat & John Ihnat; Spanakopita: Marsha Zellem; Beef Stroganoff: Mary Ann & Doug Fitzgerald; Piroghi: Daniella Mihailov & Helen Kerch;

**BAKED GOODS ROOM:** Ginny Albert & Paula Zabela

**DESSERT TABLE:** Nancy Stanton

**ADVERTISING:** Nina Bilyeu

**BEVERAGES:** Justin & Katie Barber

**LUCKY DRAW:** Vicky Jacobsen



The following parishioners are retiring their chairmanships after this bazaar:

Ginny Albert - Bakery

Chris Cacic - Halupki

Nina Bilyeu - Advertising

Please consider stepping forward to assume one of these positions; perhaps apprenticing with the current chairperson this year.

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

**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.)

**WE WILL NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO MAKE THE BAZAAR SUCCESSFUL. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ONE OR MULTIPLE SHIFTS! THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN THE PARISH HALL!**





# CHURCH SCHOOL 2021-2022

*Photos by Victor Lutes*



# BLUE RIBBON

*Submitted by Paula Zabela*

Rose Zabela (my amazing daughter-in-law) harvested all the entries, shown below, from her acreage that once belonged to her Dad Ed Dumm in Nicktown, PA. This was Rose's first attempt at entering the American Legion County Fair in Ebensburg, PA. She entered six categories; all her hard work resulted in her winning five ribbons: 1st place ribbon - group of 5 ears of corn, 2nd place ribbon - single ear corn, 2nd place ribbon - straw, 3rd place ribbon - corn stock, 3rd place ribbon - squash. CONGRATULATIONS ROSE!





# A MILITARY FAMILY

*Submitted by Joan Mitchum*

There has been one family at St. Mark that has been unique with their military service, the Salas Family. Helen met Frank, her husband, a Marine officer, when she was a Navy nurse. They married and had four children, Frank stayed in the Marine Corps, and he got transferred to the Pentagon in the mid-1970's. At that time there was an Orthodox chaplain at Bolling Air Force Base, and the Salas family went to church there. After a few years, that chaplain retired, and another Air Force chaplain was assigned to Andrews Air Force Base. After a couple years, he also retired,



and Helen and her children joined St. Mark. After college Frank was commissioned an officer; he served in Afghanistan and retired as head of Public Relations with the USMC. Sara attended the USNA and



she married, Andrew, whom she met at the Academy, at St. Mark. Sara served in Desert Storm and retired from the Navy after having her first child, although Andrew stayed in and retired after 20 years. Spencer, the third child, was the only child that did not join the military. Rachel, the 4th child, joined the Army ROTC at George Mason as did Jacob LeFors, whom she married. Rachel served in Operation Continual Hope in Somalia; then she retired from the Army, but Jacob stayed in the reserves for 20 years, including two tours in Afghanistan. But that was just the beginning. Brian has a son serving in the Marines and another in USA National Guard. Sara's son, Aaron, followed Mom and Dad's example and went to the Naval Academy. After graduating, he was accepted to Harvard Medical School and is now serving as a doctor in the Navy. Their second child, Julia, joined the NROTC at University of Virginia, and is now serving in

the Navy. Their third child, Marie, is in the NROTC at Virginia Tech. Rachel's oldest daughter, Hannah, was in ROTC at University of Maryland, and is now serving in the Army. Frank went to West Point and is now serving in the Army. Sonia, is also in ROTC, studying nursing at University of Delaware. And we are waiting to see what Sara Rose chooses. When Helen died a few years ago, all the pall bearers were in uniform and all of them were her grandchildren. What a family!!

With the Blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH  
& His Grace Bishop THOMAS



**SAVE THE DATE**

**FALL RETREAT 2021  
NOVEMBER 12-14**

**St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Church  
2397 N. Sherman St, York, Pa**

**RETREAT WILL BE HELD IN PERSON & LIVESTREAMED**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER | DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS**



Dr. Philip Mamalakis, with his wife Georgia and seven children, lives in Boston, Massachusetts, where he is the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He has a private practice in Newton, Massachusetts, where he works with individuals, couples, and families. He is also the author of *Parenting Towards the Kingdom*.



# Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series

## RAISING BELIEVING CHILDREN

**Saturday, November 6, 2021**

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church  
10201 Democracy Boulevard  
Potomac, MD 20854**



### Schedule

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children/Youth</u>
<b>10:30 am (EST)</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration – Social (Light Snack)</b>	
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Prayer</b>	
<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>What’s Most Important? Parenting as a Vocation – Part II</b>	<b>Noah – A Story of God’s Love</b>
<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>Moderated Small Group Discussions: Parenting on Purpose</b>	
<b>1:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>What’s the Goal? What does a Believing Child Look Like?</b>	<b>Games/Activities (outside if weather permits)</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Moderated Small Group Discussions</b>	<b>Noah and the Ark of Salvation</b>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<b>Question and Answer Session</b>	
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Vespers/Departure</b>	

**For more information: Call or email Father Peter Zarynow (301-299-5120 or  
frzarynow@gmail.com)**

# FOCA CH. 229 - 25th ANNIVERSARY

*Submitted by John Ihnat & Nancy Stanton*

The year 2021 became 25th year since the establishment of Chapter 229. At the chapter 229 meeting in July, with the approval of Father Gregory, voted to hold a 25th anniversary celebration as an enhanced coffee hour after liturgy on September 12. Nancy Stanton and Pat Ihnat managed the event. Governor Walter Alesevich also came to attend and honor the early chapter. Those attending appreciated the event. The first chapter officers are listed below.

Chapter Officers of 1995-1996 are:

Spiritual Advisor - V. Rev. John Kuchta+

President - Diana Haverlack

Vice President - Patricia Hardesty

Recording Secretary - Coy Williamson

Treasurer - George Freimann

District Representative - Tina Parrish



Thanks to Diana Haverlack for this history



*Then & Now*



- » Our chapter awarded 4 high school graduate student a scholarship of 100 dollars each, Tim Dillon, Luke Prentice, Audrey Henny & John Sedor. Congratulations!
- » Our club honored our Mothers & Fathers with candles on the Altar and Sanctuary in their memory. Memory Eternal!
- » Dn John Black from St . Vlads was our district seminarian project. We also as members, contributed to a St. Nick's wish list for the children.
- » Diana Haverlack is our chapter sunshine girl.
- » Diana Haverlack is our Colonial District Corresponding Secretary, keeping us up on all that is taking place, at the National level.



# FOCA NEWS & NOTES

*Submitted by Nancy Stanton*

This year our FOCA chapter celebrated our 25th anniversary. If you missed it, on Sunday September 12th, FOCA hosted coffee hour to celebrate the anniversary event. It was nice to see people enjoying themselves and engaging in fellowship.

Last year was a hardship for all during the pandemic, but we hope the coming year will be uplifting with the grace of God so we may hold some of our events.

This year we did award four students with \$100.00 scholarships, Timothy Dillon, Audrey Henning, Luke Prentice and John Sedor..

This year, our membership did decline some due to the pandemic. In November, we will be accepting membership to our FOCA chapter 229 and hope that we can get the membership increased. The dues are \$40.00 per person.

On October 9th @ 10:00 EST that will be a FOCA Caucus Zoom Meeting hosted by Allison Stefano, president of National FOCA.

Here is the link to this zoom event:

Topic: FOCA Caucus Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72098109827?pwd=bWdzYTNuVXJtS08wTDBkZUZGS2JaZz09>

Meeting ID: 720 9810 9827

Passcode: 9umrQ4

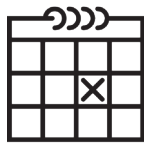
Please join the meeting to get an update about FOCA and the Gifts of Love campaign.

In Christ,

Nancy Stanton

FOCA 229 Secretary





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **GROCERY CARDS**

Please consider donating grocery cards for the needy all, and especially, through-out Lent! Please see Father Gregory or Kyra Smerkanich for questions or donations. Thank you!!

**AMAZON SMILE:** Do you use the Amazon App? Do you have us as your charity for Amazon Smile? Well now you can! See the instructions below for adding St. Mark as your charity for Amazon Smile! AmazonSmile customers can now support St Mark Orthodox Church in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

Make sure you have the latest version of the Amazon App!

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

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## Upcoming Bazaar Workshops

**Wednesday, Oct 6** - Russian Black Bread 9:00 am

**Thursday, Oct 14** - Poppy Seed Rolls 9:00 am

**Friday, Oct 15** - Spanakopita prep 10:00 am

**Saturday, Oct 16** - Spanakopita Assembly 10:00 am

**Wednesday, Oct 20** - Vatrushki 9:00 am

**Sunday, Oct 24** - Piroghi Workshop after Liturgy

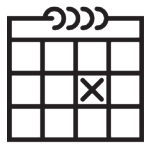
**Wednesday, Oct 27** - Piroshki 9:00 am

**Thursday, Oct 28** - Halupki 9:00 am

**Sunday, Oct 31** - BAZAAR set-up after Liturgy







# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, November 21st, following Liturgy. Read-ahead materials will be available in print and online on Sunday, October 31st. For security reasons, the treasurer report will not be available online.

## UPCOMING FEASTS

Protection of the Theotokos - Friday, October 1st - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.

Entrance of the Theotokos - Sunday, November 21st - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

St. Nicholas - Monday, December 6th - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

St. Herman - Monday, December 13th - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - Friday, December 24th - Vigil at 7:00 pm

Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25th - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.



For more information: <https://sgpcdefendinglife.wordpress.com/>

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## UPDATED BLESSED MAT. OLGA OF ALASKA WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

° We have resumed meeting in person for intercessory prayer. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month @ 10:30 a.m. in the church nave. We no longer do a hybrid version for intercessory prayer.

° We continue to do a hybrid version on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @10:30 a.m. to pray an Akathist. A link for the Akathist is usually sent the day before.



Please join us if you can. To update the intercessory prayer list please contact Debbi Dillon at [debbi.dillon@gmail.com](mailto:debbi.dillon@gmail.com) We thank you for prayers on our behalf. Holy Mother Olga, Pray to God for us!

### Intercessory Prayer Dates & Times:    Akathist Dates & Times:

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • TUESDAY, OCT 5th, 10:30 AM | • TUESDAY, OCT 19th, 10:30 AM |
| • TUESDAY, NOV 2nd, 10:30 AM | • TUESDAY, NOV 16th, 10:30 AM |
| • TUESDAY, DEC 7th, 10:30 AM | • TUESDAY, DEC 21st, 10:30 AM |

# UPDATER

## **Births**

7/30/21 - Gaven Alexander Barge



## **Baptisms**

6/26/21 - Laurel Church

07/17/21 - Bennett Michael Barber

08/28/21 - James Franklin Ficht



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## *Memory Eternal!*

## **Deaths**

7/20/21 - Vera Alesevich

8/18/21 - Fr. Michael Koblosh

8/25/21 - Matthew German, Son of Marge German

9/19/21 - Deacon Michael Bishop



*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	6
5	John McCamant	
6	Alexander Barge	7
	Paul Dean	
	Philip Hydock	
7	Mark Needham	
	Greg Yakubik	
8	Ionel Baleanu	9
	Julia Wickard	
10	Marie Petro-Jenkins	10
11	Frank Dellermann	
12	Aleksandra Cacic	11
14	Betselot Bezuneh	12
15	Cristin Kumar	13
	Tammy Jacobsen	14
	Yeshimebet Samara	15
16	Oleg Jankovic	
17	Martha Baxtresser	
18	Dean Balamaci	16
	Nikolay Korokhov	17
	Barbara Mersereau	
22	Liam Church	18
23	Lori Hottle	21
	Aaron Steinberg	22
	Erika Steinberg	
24	William Hardy	23
	Francisco Salas	24
25	Jack Ryan Ruzila	
26	Andrew Yakubik	25
27	Steven Kreta	
29	Nina Bilyeu	28
31	Wayne Tatusko	
		30

## November

Diana Haverlack	1
Christina Sokich	
Jessica Fitzgerald	3
Jane (Ihnat) Cessna	
Mat. Ann Prentice	5
Alexander Jankovic	
Susie Needham	6
Catherine Dillon	
Dn. David Phelps	7
Karen Phinney	8
Patricia Rodak	
Brian Zabela	9
Zachary Firestone	12
Christian Shimer	11
Sonya LeFors	13
Alexander Safchuk	
Andrea Phelps	14
Abigail Dean	
Michelle (Rodak) Weaver	15
Mark Lungociu	16
Adrian Ahmadi	
Devon Burns	
David Holovac	17
Kaitlin Brooke Meyers	
John Jr. Bilyeu	18
Connor Alexander Ruzila	
Claire German	19
Matthew Balamaci	
Gregory Mitchum	20
Calla (Catherine) Steinberg	21
Deborah Firestone	
Sarah Borger	22
Dn. Matthew Prentice	23
Andrew Dillon	
John Thomas Sedor	24
Virgeil Carstea	25
Jessica Humphries	
Samantha Pearson	26
Alexis Christine Freimann	
Helen Kerch	

## December

Tatyana Gleason	28	Cristian Ciubotaru
Nino Japaridze Henning	29	Alexander Sokich
Daniel Nakshin	31	Wayne Cessna
Tina Parrish		Charles Datch
Lucy Moser		
Theresa Sekellick		
Rebekah Barber		
Victor Lutes		
David Burpee		
Kyla Prentice		
Marie Wickard		
Linda Marie Jackson		
Olga Uritskaya		
Simeon Tatusko		
Ivan Borissow		
Micah Needham		
Mat. Helen Kuchta		
David Markovich		
Timothy Petro		
Howard Guba		
Patricia Koopersmith		
Evelyn Leleck		
Christopher German		
Jesse Henning		
Catherine Miller		
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 Borissow		
Audrey Henning		
Alexander Landsburg		
Matthew Tatusko		
Andrew Tucker		
Sophie Christine Balan		
Philip Navarro		
Mat. Janet Koczak		
Margaret McCamant		
Marina McKee		

