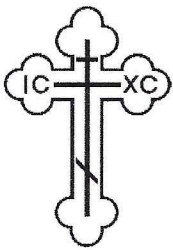


St. Mark Evangelizer

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

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July/August/September 2023 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

From the Hymns of the Church

Troparion of the Dormition

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity! In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos! You were translated to life, **O Mother of Life**, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion of the Dormition

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercession. For being the **Mother of Life**, she was translated to life, by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

Appreciating the Virgin Mary

In August, after a two week fast, we will celebrate the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on 15th. I'd like to offer some thoughts on this in connection with Mary's role in our salvation. Many of our liturgical hymns compare and contrast Mary with Eve. More specifically, I'd like to focus on

the appellation of Mary as the "New Eve". This concept is solidly present within Holy Tradition. By the second century, Church Fathers such as St.

Justin the Martyr, began to refer to the Virgin Mary as the "new Eve", based on the understanding that Christ was the "new Adam". The Apostle Paul writes of this. (See I Cor. 15:45-58, and Rom. 5:12-14). The teaching that the Virgin Mary is the new Eve was further developed and deepened by St. Irenaeus of Lyons (202 A.D.).

He taught that the Virgin Mary was an integral part of the process known as "recapitulation" - the reversal of the fall and the "re-heading" of humanity through the incarnation of the Son of God. There is a "new creation" in Christ who is Himself a "new beginning" that returns and reunites us to the Father. St. Irenaeus understood the role of the Virgin Mary as reversing the role of the first Eve. He wrote:

By disobeying, she [Eve] became the cause of death for herself and for the whole human race. In the same way,

Mary,... by obeying,... became the cause of salvation for herself and the whole human race... The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience. What Eve bound through her unbelief, Mary loosed by her faith. (Against Heresies 3, 22).

Mary is called the "New Eve" because by her obedience, she lifted that curse laid on mankind through the disobedience of

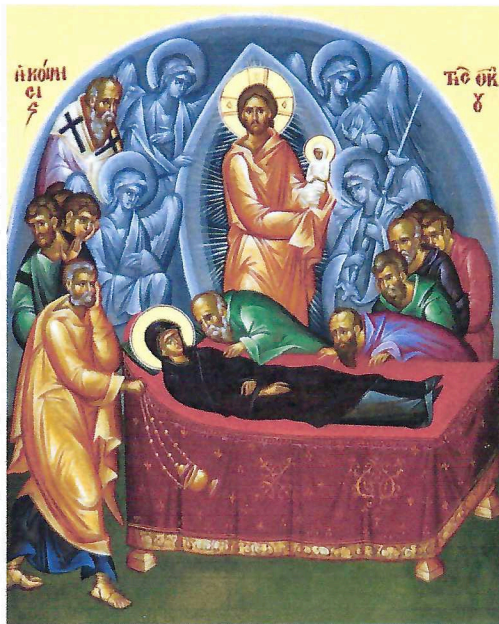
Eve. In the troparion and kontakion for the feast of her Dormition (falling asleep), she is also referred to as the "Mother of Life".

At the cross, Christ committed His mother into the care of the beloved disciple, John, with the words: "Behold your mother," by which it could also be said that she became the mother of the whole

human race - the "new Eve" indeed.

According to tradition, just prior to her death, Mary asked all the apostles to gather about her to bid farewell. All came except Thomas, who was late. He arrived after she had been entombed on the Mount of Olives and asked that her tomb be opened so that he could honor her departure as well. When the tomb was opened, Mary's body was gone. Thus all the Apostles were witnesses that she had been taken bodily into heaven, where she continues to pray for all her children.

- Fr. Gregory



AND THE WIND CAME UP, AND SASHA WAS AFRAID...

Submitted by Matuskha Alexandra Safchuk



The Apostle Peter had a rough road to sainthood. There are certainly times when things seem grim for him. Recently, someone said that every time they read the scriptures of the last days of Holy Week, they hope that this time Peter will not deny Christ, and yet he does. But he also has trouble in the Garden (Matt. 26), he is ambitious about his place in the apostolic lineup (Luke 22:23), he attempts to keep children from Christ (Mark 10:13), he struggles to understand the parables Christ is sharing (Matt. 15:16), he challenges Christ (John 13:8). There are times when Peter can't seem to get out of his own way.

But today it is the incident at the fourth watch of the night (Matt. 14:25) that concerns me. I am surely older than St. Peter was when he alighted from the boat that night at the fourth watch (roughly 3:00AM, certainly

dark). The boat was, “beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them” (Matt. 14:24). Rough seas and dark nights. Not very inviting.

Obviously, Peter was more accustomed to the water than I am. But today I had my own opportunity to experience fear in a vessel rocking on the water. Though the seas were not rough by the standards of many, for this inexperienced, aged woman, they were way too rough. And as I deliberately slid to the floor of the boat, in search of stability, pleasant thoughts left me. “No”, to conversation. “No”, to the fine breakfast prepared for me. “No”, to staying dry. This, friends, was an opportunity to practice the Jesus Prayer.

And after, when my feet settled once again on terra firma, Fr. Gregory reminded me of what it must have been like for Peter. It was night. The chop was choppy. No life vest. No rope. These are all things that terrify me. Only the Lord's outstretched hand came between Peter and certain demise.



(Continued on next page.)

AND THE WIND CAME UP, AND SASHA WAS AFRAID...

Continued from Previous

The wind came up and I was afraid. I burrowed into my jacket. I feared the water and the waves and yet I could do nothing about them. I wondered about my ability to trust the Lord.

It was an extreme moment. Or was it? Do we not step out in faith each day? Breathing. Showering. Driving. Walking. While it is quite clear that I have a low (read, very low) tolerance for risk, I can recognize that even in my desire to be as protected as possible, there are certain risks that are inherent in our lives. We really do not know if everything will be OK. We must pray for the gift of discernment. When to step up and when to stand down.



It could even be said that this IS reality. It's just at certain times our awareness of it is heightened. Being aware of this and of the concurrent reality that our guardian angels are watching over us, and that the Lord is close – as close as a whispered prayer, thereby we go on our journey by God's grace. The Lord holds out His hand to us each day, each hour, each moment. He is with us when the waves are rolling. He is with us in the dark, the scary, the difficult. The wind comes up and we are afraid. Yet, He does not stand at a distance, He is right there, right here, right now.

With love in the Lord,
Mka. Alexandra Safchuk

CONGRATS GRADS!

High School Graduates



Dylan Kehrer grandson of Tina Burpee, will graduate from Freedom South Riding High School in June and will be attending West Virginia University majoring in sports management and business.



William Jeffrey Koopersmith is graduating from Sidwell Friends School and will attend University of Chicago beginning in the Fall.



Lizzie Sedor is graduating from Centennial High School in Ellicott City, MD. Lizzie completed high school in 3 years, and is planning to take a "gap year" before attending college next year. During this coming year, Lizzie hopes to have an internship at a museum or historical organization, travel, and do volunteer work.



Irene Tarpy will graduate this June from Walter Johnson High School. She will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in fall.

CONGRATS GRADS!

College (and Beyond!) Graduates



Sonya LeFors graduates from Univ of Delaware in May magna cum laude with a BSN and will be commissioned as a 2LT in the US Army nursing corps.



Katherine Anne Hope Cannon daughter of Lisa Cannon and granddaughter of Larisa Looby, graduated from Georgetown University in May. She will be moving to Charlotte, NC, in September where she will be working for Deloitte Touché. Her older sister, Elizabeth, lives there and works for Accenture, so they'll be living together.



Christopher Barnewolt graduated from the Antonin Scalia School of Law George Mason University. He is currently studying to pass the bar!

CHURCH PICNIC

Photos by Vicki Jacobsen



CHURCH PICNIC

Photos by Vicki Jacobsen



BAZAAR 2023



Save the Date for the
2023 Bazaar!

November 4th & 5th



SHADY GROVE ANNUAL BANQUET



*impacting life...
impacting lives*

ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET

ft. Keynote speaker, Abby Johnson
October 26, 2023 | 6:30pm

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is pleased to invite you to attend our 40th Annual Benefit Banquet. Join us in celebrating 40 years of service with a gourmet dinner & dessert, games, and an inspiring message from keynote speaker, Abby Johnson.

The Benefit Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 26, at the Rockville Hilton Hotel. **Reservations are required to attend.** Please call 301-963-6223 to RSVP by October 13.

SANCTUARY ICONOGRAPHY: PHASE 3

Submitted by Paulina Masick



As reported at the semi-annual meeting the iconographers will be able to begin working for the completion of the third phase of our project after June 2023. They plan to complete some of the work ahead of time on canvas at their studio in Russia and then take approximately 10 days to complete the work here in the church. The approximate cost to complete the work in the nave including the angels and ornamentation around the stained-glass windows and columns, and the banner under the choir loft is \$32,000 with additional \$20,000 for transportation, scaffolding, housing, and car rental; t \$52,000 for the total project cost.

Currently with a balance of \$14,634 in the Iconography Fund, we need approximately \$37,366 to complete the project.

Please consider supporting the completion of the iconography in our nave by making a contribution of any size towards the project as a whole or with a targeted amount towards one of the one of the following:

Sponsorship of one or more of the 12 Angels at \$2000 each angel or \$24a,000 total

Sponsorship of the Banner under the choir loft = \$900 total

Sponsorship of the Ornamentation around the windows, columns, and marbling under the lattice icon screens: \$1,466 total

Sponsorship of any amount towards travel, lodging, car rental, food , gas, and scaffolding: any amount or \$20,000 total

Checks may be made out to St Mark Church with a note to target a specific area or sponsorship , or to the general iconography fund. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to further beautify our lovely church.

BEAT THE HEAT!

Watermelon Cucumber Salad

Try this refreshing salad on a hot summer day, by the beach or pool! It's delicious, hydrating and will not disappoint!

Ingredients

For The Honey-Lime Dressing

2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 to 2 tablespoons quality extra virgin olive oil
pinch of salt

For The Watermelon Salad

½ watermelon peeled, cut into cubes
1 English or Hot House cucumber, cubed (about 2 cupfuls of cubed cucumbers)
15 fresh mint leaves, chopped
15 fresh basil leaves, chopped
½ cup crumbled feta cheese, more to your liking

Instructions

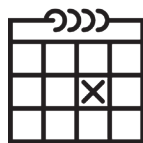
Make the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, lime juice, olive oil and pinch of salt. Set aside for a moment.

Make the Salad: In a large bowl or serving platter with sides, combine the watermelon, cucumbers, and fresh herbs.

Finish and Serve: Top the watermelon salad with the dressing and gently toss to combine. Top with the feta cheese and serve!

Source: <https://www.themediterraneandish.com/watermelon-salad-with-cucumber-feta/>





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP We will be reading and discussing the following books:

July 6th – *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave.

August 3rd – *The Hard Parts: A Memoir of Courage and Triumph* by Oksana Masters.

September 7th – *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

We meet virtually at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. The link is sent usually the day before. Please join us if you are able to.

Upcoming Feasts:

Transfiguration - Divine Liturgy - Sunday, August 6th - 9:30 am

Dormition of the Theotokos - Divine Liturgy - Tuesday, August 15th - 10:00 am

Church New Year - Friday, September 1st

Nativity of the Theotokos - Divine Liturgy - Friday, September 8th - 10:00 am

Exaltation of the Cross - Divine Liturgy - Thursday, September 14th, 10:00 am

BLESSED MAT. OLGA OF ALASKA WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Group Date Change – For the month of July the Blessed Matushka Olga Prayer Group will meet for **Intercessory prayer on Tuesday, July 11th, @ 10:30 a.m. in the church Nave.** We continue to meet 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 We thank you for prayers on our behalf. Holy Mother Olga, Pray to God for us!



Intercessory Prayer Dates & Times:

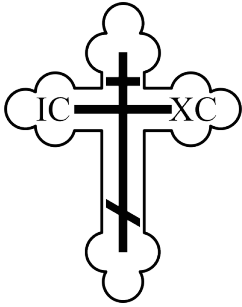
- TUESDAY, JULY 11th, 10:30 AM
- TUESDAY, AUG 1st, 10:30 AM
- TUESDAY, SEPT 5th, 10:30 AM

Akathist Dates & Times:

- THURSDAY, JULY 18th, 10:30 AM
- TUESDAY, AUG 15th, 10:30 AM
- TUESDAY, SEPT 19th, 10:30 AM

UPDATER

Baptisms



6/25/23 - Henry Worth Fitzgerald

May God Grant Him Many Years!

Births

4/11/2023 - Henry Worth Fitzgerald

5/6/23 - John Michael Kumar



Weddings

6/10/23 - Nicholas Nelson and Natalie Kim



May God Grant Them Many Years!

Memory Eternal!

Deaths

4/22/23 - Nicholas Skrovan, father of Nina Bilyeu.

May Their Memory Be Eternal!





Happy Birthday!

July

1	Jackson Tatusko	1
2	Gene Jacobsen	2
3	Andrew Datch	
	Emma Datch	
4	Patricia Antich	3
6	Scott Borger	
	Michael Chow	4
	Erin Hottle	
8	Alexander Braun	5
9	Larisa Looby	6
10	Spencer Salas	
	Joseph Sedor	
11	Lucas Needham	7
12	Ann-Marie Lacko	
13	Michael Thompson	8
14	Sara Wickard	10
17	EJ Pedersen	
	Mat. Alexandra Safchuk	11
18	Jacqui Hatch	12
	Aiden Moser	
	Charity Pearson	
20	Daniel Golembiewski	13
	Vicky Jacobsen	14
	Mat. Kelly Oleynik	15
21	Laura Jefferson	16
24	Douglas Fitzgerald	
	John M. Steger	
25	Virginia Albert	
28	Benjamin Safchuk	17
	Cliff Tarpy	
30	Zhenya Bainbridge	18
	Julia Flick	
31	Drew Bumbak	19
	David Holovac	
	Millie Mytryshyn	

August

1	Mark Phinney	22
2	Evgeniya Aseev	
	Justin Barber	
	Fr. Timothy Perry	23
	Nicholas Rotunda	24
	Wyatt Zabela	
	Nicholas Fitzgerald	
	Elena Henning	25
	Katrina Braun	26
	Martha Dellermann	27
	Constantine Ilario	
	Daniela Mihailov	28
	Robert Hottle	
	Igor Nakshin	
	Philip William Masick	29
	Christine Bryan	
	Michaela Pearce	30
	Kathy Petro	
	Nicole Johnson	
	Erik Pedersen	
	Sharon Sielinski Carter	
	Christina Nocera	
	Andrea Ticich	
	Vera Simonenko	
	Nick Ayers	
	Demetrios Datch	
	Ekaterine Gureshidze	
	Samuel Oleynik	
	Michele Humphries	
	John Ihnat	
	Radu Victor Balan	
	Juliana Marie Rudin	
	Nichole Hottle	
	Katherine Johnson	
	Matthew Karas	
	Neal Kumar	
20	Vera Wynne Allen	
	Marcella Hydock	
	Francisco LeFors	
	Hannah Oleynik	

August cont.

1	Andrea Burns	
2	Kimberly Lungociu	
	Andrew Sekellick	
	JoAnna Balamaci	
4	George Freimann	
5	Matthew Jones	
6	Fr. John Vitko	
	Aurora Thompson	
7	Ann Bumbak	
	Andrew Espejo	
8	Dorothy Guba	
9	Cathy Markovich	
10	Kelly Ann Malkin	
	Martin Sieff	
	Diane Kopcha	
11	David Lungociu	
13	Michael Kissell	
14	Matthew Joseph Sedor	

September

1	Maura Eileen Moser	
2	Madeleine Hardy	
	Margie Johnson	
	Michael Oleynik	
	Stephen Koopersmith	
	Jeffrey Pearce	
	Sara Rose LeFors	
	Luke Prentice	
	Theodora Dean	
	Jan Truitt	
	Nika Nakshin	
	Aiden Bryan	
	Dn. Mark Oleynik	
	Nathan Pearce	
	Natalie Ticich	
	Mat. Katherine Vitko	
	Dr. Gerald Marti	
	Claire McHugh	
	Anna Hardy	
	John Steger	
16	Adina Carstea	
	Bryce Pierce	
	Cameron Lewis	
19	Barbara Freimann	
20	Christina Kalavritinos	
	Clint Purdue	
22	Max William Kumar	
25	Ashley Hottle	
26	John Michael Niemi	
	Mary Niemi	
28	Kathy Rudin	
29	John Sokich	
30	Fr. Nicholas Dellermann	
	Peter O'Halloran	
	Douglas Pierce	
	Martha Vance	

