

THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering the News at St. Mary's



FEBRUARY 2012



"...GO, DO ALL THAT IS IN YOUR HEART, FOR THE LORD IS WITH YOU." ~2 Samuel 7:3

By Rev. Fr. David Subu

On the last Sunday in January we held our annual Parish Assembly. We had excellent attendance and a mutually supportive atmosphere for all those who reported and inquired. The Annual Report book is available in copy form for those who did not receive one. One of the items on the agenda was a report on the current state of the Strategic Development Plan. I'd like to share a summary of our discussion with everyone and describe the plan of action for the next few months.

Background

In 2004, the Parish conducted a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) study in order to chart a course for Parish development in all its facets for the foreseeable future. It asked the parishes to describe the various strengths and weakness of the parish, and define its core values and its mission. One of the most visible results was the beginning of the Iconography Project which was completed in 2010.

In June of 2011, the parishioners were invited to attend a Saturday retreat to revisit the 2004 Strategic Development Plan, consider how the parish has fulfilled the recommendations of the Plan so far, and to begin discussing facilities development, which was the one item which had not yet been sufficiently resolved or addressed. About 35-40 parishioners participated in the event facilitated by Protodeacon Peter Danilchick.

At that retreat, parishioners were asked re-examine the values and mission of the parish, re-assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Parish, and to begin envisioning what might help us better accomplish our mission as a parish. (See sidebars throughout article.)

Values/Mission (June 2011)

Retreat participants were amazingly unified in their selection of values they consider core to this church. In order of priority these values are:

Living & growing in Christ

Fellowship; becoming a loving community in Christ

Charity, outreach & openness to all Orthodox, beyond ethnic boundaries

Continued growth in the faith through education & worship

St. Mary's mission, as gleaned from the groups' priorities, calls for the church to aspire toward becoming:

An engaged, loving and open community in Christ that nurtures parishioners as individuals and families; understands and taps everyone's talents; supports and is committed to its clergy

An open, hospitable & charitable community that is accessible to insiders and outsiders

A parish with a full liturgical life with services throughout the liturgical cycles beyond Sunday liturgies

An English speaking, American Orthodox church

A parish dedicated to helping parishioners learn & grow in the faith

**Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA
An English Speaking Parish Community of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate, OCA**

Out of this, three overall trajectories for facilities development were considered:

1. Cosmetic upgrades that would not trigger any Special Permit requirements from Fairfax county, such as upgraded parking or accessibility, because we would not change the building footprint.
2. Upgrades on the current site that would require a Special Permit, including expanded parking, fellowship hall and/or sanctuary development.
3. Moving to a new location.

SDP Teams

In order to begin assessing the feasibility of any of these options, in September 2011 the parishioners were once again invited to participate in an inquiry process. Based on reflection of the June Retreat, and reflection and input from Parish Council, four teams of 4-5 members each were assigned to gather information on the most prominent issues (a fifth committee dealing with finance will be formed once sufficient information had been gathered).

The four teams are as follows:

1. Bathrooms (seen as a necessary renovation regardless of trajectory taken)
2. Parking (required by county, the ability to accommodate parking is a decisive factor in determining the space available for development on any property)
3. Fellowship Hall (what type of space would be required for a variety of needs?)
4. Sanctuary/Accessibility: (How can we best accommodate our members in the worship space and allow for growth, accessibility, and an improved appearance?)

Each team was also given a timeline in which to complete their tasks, with the goal of being ready to present recommendations to the Parish Assembly for the next step, which they did on January 29. Now these teams will meet as a whole group one more time (Sunday, February 19 after the Volunteer Recognition Lunch) to share with each other all their findings and discuss the process so far.

Parish Survey

In order to assure the most membership input and discussion on development, we'd like to invite all the members and regular supporters to participate in a survey questionnaire to gauge your interest, opinion, and levels of commitment. The initial survey distribution was at the annual assembly and will now be available in Church. Look for an on-line version as well.

**Strengths & Weaknesses
(June 2011)**

Four areas of **strength** emerge from the various group reports: clergy, especially the leadership provided by Father David is seen as the most important strength, with 7 responses. Next is a category of worship in which I combined liturgical music (4) with services (3) for a total of 7 points. Education follows with 5 points and ties with the strengths of our congregation. All groups saw the diversity, faith, commitment, engagement and talents of the congregation as a decisive strength. Finally St.Mary's English services and the beauty of its sanctuary complete the list.

Father's leadership/clergy: 7

Worship (Music 4; liturgy 3=7)

Congregation (composition, commitment, talents, diversity etc.): 5

Education: 5

English language parish: 4

Beauty of the sanctuary: 3

Interestingly enough the major **weaknesses** had to do with some aspect of volunteering/ community engagement. These concerns ranged from the narrow volunteer base to lack of volunteer coordination and insufficient knowledge of the talent pool. The inadequacy of facilities was the next area of weakness, followed by outreach and, paradoxically, two mentions of the lack of socio-economic diversity in the parish.

Volunteering

Inadequate space/facilities

Outreach

Insufficient socio-economic diversity

The deadline for this Survey will be February 26. Please take a few minutes and thoughtfully complete the Survey as an act of service to your parish. Once the parish council has received and digested the survey data and had time to reflect, pray, and share their own concerns this Lent, they should be ready to present to the parish a comprehensive plan for the next few years based on the best path that has presented itself.

Financing

It should be pointed out that each of the three options represents significant capital improvements to the property. Your parish council is committed to the good stewardship of the parish property, and that includes regular upkeep and upgrades. For some of these larger projects such as hall and sanctuary renovation, bathrooms, handicap accessibility, the parish has already received important donations and pledges. This is very encouraging and we are very grateful.

Should the course ahead entail significant "encumbering" of the property, a Special Parish Assembly would need to be held, and any future development plan would need to also be approved not only by the county but by the Episcopate. So we are still definitely in the planning stages and will likely remain so throughout this year. However, the parish is making definitive and decisive steps towards fulfilling its mission. As things progress, there will be many opportunities to get involved to support this process, and I hope you will enjoy the journey as a community in Christ.

Let us remember that we need to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, seeking to do His will above our own, to the edification of the church and the equipping of the saints. To God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—belongs all glory, honor, and worship, always and forever, amen.



Timeline

Previously:

2004: Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Study conducted.

2005-2010: Iconography Project

June 2011: SDP Retreat

September 2011: SDP teams formed.

The Present:

January 29: Parish Assembly
Survey distribution begins

February 19: SDP Teams meeting to share reports, feedback.

February 26: Survey Deadline

March: Survey Data Analysis

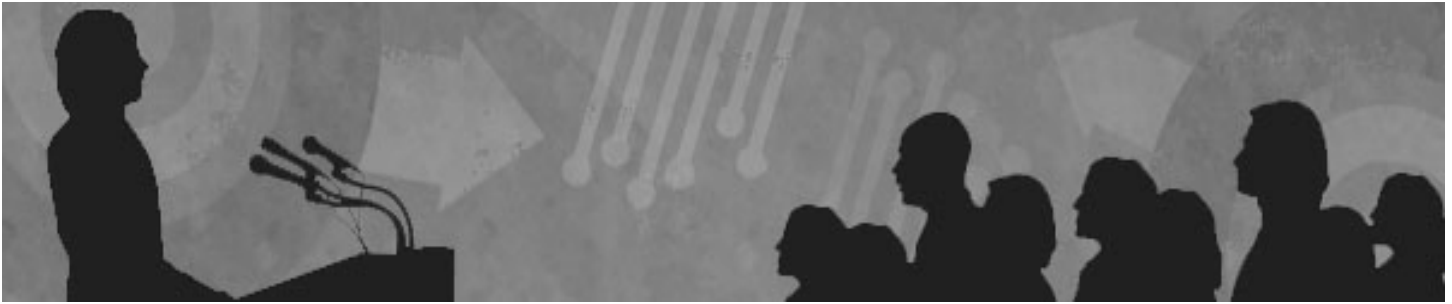
April 28: Parish Leadership Saturday Retreat for planning and decision making

May-June: Presentation to Parish of updated status and steps taken/recommended.

**"The Veil" Monthly Journal
Protection of the Mother of God
Orthodox Church
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate, OCA**

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LENTEN RETREAT WITH MOTHER ABBESS AEMILIANE

Saturday, March 10 10:00 AM-4:15 PM

The St. Juliana's Ladies Guild presents to you an opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth with the visit of Mother Aemiliane, Abbess of the new Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple monastery, located about an hour outside of Washington D.C. In our efforts to support a much needed spiritual well in a dry desert, we will be taking a collection to help them take root in the Washington/Baltimore communities. Please join us!

At Mother Aemiliane's request, she would like you to submit questions (can be anonymous) to the web address below regarding her monastery, the monastic life, our faith or any other topic you might wish for her to discuss. She will then make her presentations and discussions based on the inquiries asked by participants.

To submit questions and/or RSVP for the retreat please do so at retreat@stmaryorthodox.org by March 6.

Schedule

10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
11:15 AM-12:00 PM	Lenten Lunch
12:00 PM-2:00 PM	Abbess Aemiliane
2:00 PM- 2:15 PM	Break
2:15 PM- 4:14 PM	Abbess Aemiliane
5:00 PM	Vespers



PROTECTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School 9:30am - 10am Akathist 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 12pm - 2pm Annual Parish Assembly 3pm - 9pm HB: Vienna/McLean 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Hierarchs House Blessings 4pm - 8:30pm HB: Alexandria 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Blessings 7pm - 8pm HB: Burke 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Great Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of Our Lord House Blessings 10am - 11am Festal Liturgy 2pm - 6:30pm HB: Culpeper/Manassas 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study 6pm - 8pm HB: Springfield 8:30pm - 9:30pm HB: Falls Church 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Choir Practice 2pm - 3pm HB: Fairfax 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publican and Pharisee 9:30am - 10am Akathist 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm HB: Falls Church 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm - 6pm HB: Fairfax 6pm - 7pm HB: McLean 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Daily Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 10:30am HB: Annandale 9:30am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm - 6pm Wedding
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prodigal Son 9:30am - 10am Akathist 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 12pm - 1pm DOXACON informational meeting 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7:30pm - 9:30pm Parish Council 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Daily Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Choir Practice 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School Meatfare/Last Judgment 9:30am - 10am Akathist 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 12pm - 1pm Volunteer Recognition Day 6pm - 8pm Young in Faith 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidents Day (office closed) 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm - 9pm Women's Bible Study 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Daily Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Ladder of Divine Ascent Book Study 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers 6pm - 6:30pm Group Confession
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School Forgiveness Sunday Cheesfare Dairy-Palooza Potluck! 9:30am - 10am Akathist 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Lent Begins 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Great Canon 7:30pm - 8:30pm Peer Depression Ministry 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8pm Great Canon 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm - 6:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Great Canon 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 1:30pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Great Canon 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 12pm Office Hours 10:30am - 11:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7pm - 8pm Akathist 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Theodore Saturday 10am - 12pm Choir Practice 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



February Birthdays

- Elaine Devine
- Ursula Rij
- Forest Thola
- Jacob Marshall
- Susan Zimmerli Matelski
- Julie Jamieson
- Kenton Scheifele
- Telly Manos
- Eugene Ephraim Huang
- Salam Asihel
- George Codrea Jr.
- Agazit Asihel
- George Ivascu
- Lukas Halim
- Thomas Robertson
- Marie Henson
- Jonathan Jacobson
- Paula Yuskavage

February Anniversaries:

- 18 Christopher & Marilyn Marie
Thomas

FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS



February 5: Bahumian/Romanovskya

February 12: Available

February 19: MEATFARE!
(Last day for meat)
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

February 26: CHEESEFARE!
Dairy-Palooza Potluck
Please bring a dairy and/or egg dish to pass.

LENTEN MEALS BEGIN

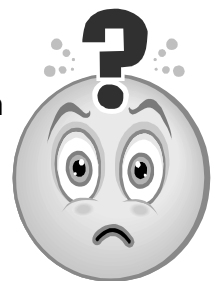
March 4: Dujmovic Family

March 11: Available

March 18: Miroy Family
In memory of son, Winston James Miroy.

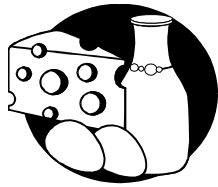
March 25: Available

Great Lent is soon upon us, which means Lenten meals for Coffee Hour. If you are new to "fasting", the Orthodox church observes refraining from eating meat, meat by-products, all dairy, eggs, oil and wine. (Wine and oil permitted on weekends). Fasting is a spiritual tool to take our focus off the passions of gluttony and preoccupation with cooking to allow time and energy to be spent in prayer and reflection. If you are expecting, have medical concerns or on a special diet for health reasons, please speak with Father David for his guidance.



AROUND THE COFFEE URN:

News and events percolating in in our community.



Cheesefare Dairy-Palooza Potluck!

Sunday, February 26

Cheesefare is the last day to eat dairy and egg products. Please bring a dish to pass to splurge on for coffee hour, as we all take in our last day to behold the power of cheese! To ensure that we will have items to eat, please notify Psa. Stephanie at 703-254-8915 or psatephaniae@stmaryorthodox.org to let her know what you will be bringing.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY
Sunday, February 19

In honor and in gratitude to our many dedicated servants in Christ, Parish Council will be recognizing those who have given their time and talents to our parish. A special coffee hour will be hosted in their honor. Please join us!



NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR PASCHA!

Pascha is always the most beautiful, yet busiest, time of year for services and parish activities!

We are looking for volunteers to help us plan and participate for the following events:

- Lazarus Saturday Family Retreat/Parish Clean-Up
- Agape Meal Coordinator (coordinate the food to be brought to eat immediately following Pascha Service.)
- Annual Lamb Roast and Egg Hunt

Please speak with Psa. Stephanie to learn more!

SUMMER 2018
DOXAACON

As Orthodox Christians, we believe in absolute truth. That search for truth and the revealing of the true nature of the universe, be it here or in a galaxy far, far, away, is at the center of our faith! Do the genres of science fiction and fantasy allow us to examine examples of ideas that stand true in any setting, be it Middle Earth, Narnia, Dune, or the inside the TARDIS? "Doxacon" is planned to be a venue to explore if and where we find truth in the genres of science fiction and fantasy.

We are now forming a pan-Orthodox committee to begin plans for the first "Doxacon" on Sunday, February 12 at 12 Noon. Join Fr. David and Daniel Silver to brainstorm topics, speakers and venues, as well as form teams to help bring this "fantasy" to "reality"!

THIS IS YOUR LAST PAPER COPY OF "THE VEIL"

Dear Subscriber:

In efforts to reduce costs, "The Veil" will only be published in a digital format beginning with the March 2012 issue. We understand that some of the readership will still prefer a paper copy to be delivered to their home. If you wish to continue receiving "The Veil" in hard copy format or would like to switch to the electronic format, please call the church at 703-280-0770 or e-mail psastephanie@stmaryorthodox.org to notify us of your preference. Please confirm your mailing address or new e-mail address. **No response from you means delivery will stop.** If you already receive "The Veil" electronically, you will not be affected.



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