

25 YEARS

Volume 27, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2013

THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS: INTERVIEW WITH A FOUNDER

Sarah Zimmerli

This year, St. Mary is very blessed to celebrate its 25th Anniversary as a community. Each month, The Veil will highlight some of the history and character of the parish. This month we are very honored to present to you an interview with Sarah Zimmerli, founder and council member who has been deeply involved in the parish from the very beginning.

Fr. David: Though we celebrate our anniversary on the parish feast day, many of our members may not be aware that the very first liturgy of the community was held on February 8 of 1987. Would you tell us about that first liturgy?

Sarah: Yes, that very first liturgy was held in a Condominium guest room in McLean, where 10 of us who had left the Holy Cross parish gathered.

Fr. David: What was the spirit like of those first days?

Sarah: We were very unhappy not having a church, and we wanted a church that had English. Just having done that liturgy, we thought, "Maybe we can accomplish this." Little by little we continued on. We rented a basement room in a Methodist church in Dunn Loring. There we spent a good year or more. Susan and Joe Kumbera joined us there – they started very early. When we left the church [Holy Cross] we didn't know what to do. Everywhere else felt so different and uncomfortable. Tina [Scala] and I recommend that Armand contact the Bishop to see if we could start our own mission. We wanted an

English Language Church, not necessarily Romanian. We knew about St. Mark's and St. Luke's but we decided to try it ourselves.

Fr. David: What was it like in those first years? What challenges did you face?

Sarah: Within the first year we grew 15-20 more members, and we needed more space. Someone contacted St. Philip's and they had room for us plus space for the Sunday School. We already had the nucleus of the Choir (Marie, Tina, me, and the men.) We didn't have much money; we didn't know when and if we would have to move. We started to lose people because they wanted to be in a church [proper]. We started hearing this and we lost some good people.

Fr. David: But then you did have to move and find a church of your own.

Sarah: When we heard we would have to relocate it was devastating. But the secretary at St. Philip's was very good to us and a good friend and she mentioned that there was a church for sale in her neighborhood. Within an hour we went over and met the pastor, who explained that the church was not really for sale, "We just sold the house next door," (the Roosevelt Ave. house), but that we could talk about it. They were considering selling the property to a child care center. Armand and I kept going over and talking with him. Their congregation was down to 10-11 people and they had to give it up. We agreed to a price of \$350,000, take it as is. We held a meeting with all the parishioners. It was unanimous that we should try to purchase it. One dear soul, I remember it vividly, was Judge Aiken. He and Marie

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

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and Marie's sister donated the money to put down for a loan. I negotiated the agreement. Originally they did not wish to sell the rectory [on Irvington] but Fairfax County required it. Burke and Herbert said it was a real steal! We allowed the pastor to stay there until he was able to relocate, and the previous community was allowed to use the church for funerals and occasional services.



2005-Just before the icon project began!

Fr. David: *What was it like for the parish finally having its own home?*

Sarah: We had so much work to do, redoing the interior, removing the Methodist trappings. The front was a stage [where the altar now is] where their choir had been. George Ciolaca [reposed in 2011] helped with the electrical work. It was quite a job. We didn't have an iconostasis for years and then Armand found out about the church in Florida selling theirs. We purchased it for \$5000 and arranged to have it shipped up. A Parishioner who was a military man and his father who came from the Midwest erected it for us. We were all looking for things we needed and didn't have much money. The large chandeliers in the middle and back of the church we bought at an auction. The doors from the Narthex I got at home depot and had them installed. We couldn't afford a cleaner. Susan Kumbera would come and clean, not just the church but the bathrooms too. She'd even melt the wax from the candle drippings. Joe came and was Sacristan for many years. We still miss them very much. We also had new carpet put in.

Fr. David: *It may be time to think about putting new carpet again! What about the choir loft?*

Sarah: The choir loft was part of the original narthex. We blocked it off to make a choir loft and had someone with acoustical knowledge help design it so we could get the most sound out of it. The ceiling is sloped for example.

Fr. David: *What would you say were the Life Lessons you learned?*

Sarah: In going through all of that!? (chuckle) I learned a lot of humility. We used to go to Holy Cross as a family – my husband, my children, and I. Right before we left, my children were just teenagers. There was a lot of trouble – meetings that were absolute wars. Unfortunately my children did not get the chance to grow up with the English language liturgy. But at least I got to be a part of starting St. Mary's. I want it to be strong and healthy. The community is wonderful. I love so many people. I've also lost so many good friends, like Marshall [Standifer], who leave an impression before they move away. I hope we continue to grow and do well.



Saying good-bye to the Kumbera's

Fr. David: *Looking back at the parish even 10-15 years ago, so many of those good people have moved away and there are so many newer members. Is there anything you'd like to say to those newer members?*

Sarah: We have so many good people that step in, new people who come and help. I encourage them to take part in the church. Help us grow and be a community all together. I'm very thankful for everything – for so many years with so many good people. I feel so comfortable in our church and I hope to have many more years!

La multi ani! To many years, Sarah!



Where Does Temptation Come From?

On February 6 we read the Letter of James 1: 1-18. The writer is traditionally identified as James, the "brother" or relative of the Lord, who was the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

James addresses his words to "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion." This phrase might appear to refer specifically to the people of Israel, the Jews who are "dispersed" and living in various areas of the world.

But James describes himself as a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." So the phrase he uses is really a description of the Church, which is the new Israel, dispersed in a pagan society. Christians are pilgrims and sojourners, whose true home is not in this world. The First Letter of Peter similarly addresses members of the Church as "the exiles of the Dispersion" (I:1.1)

In the next verse of his letter, James acknowledges that Christians will face trials. These should be counted as "all joy" because they test faith, and those

who are steadfast in the test will come to be "perfect and complete" as followers of Christ.

James then assures his readers that God will provide the wisdom needed to withstand those trials to anyone who asks. All that's required of us is that we ask with faith that He is able and willing to provide what we need. If we ask while doubting all the while that He can really help us (James calls this being "double-minded") we can't expect to receive any real help; we are like a wave of the sea "driven and tossed by the wind." We need to make a solid commitment to God, and then act with unwavering faith in Him.

Nobody living in the fallen world and trying to follow Jesus Christ will be free from temptation. James acknowledges this, but he cautions that nobody should ever, in the midst of temptation, say that the temptation comes from God. God does not tempt anyone.

The source of our temptations, James says, is our own desires, misdirected and allowed by us to lure us into places we should not go. God has given us desires and appetites, and they can either be used in a healthy way or a destructive way. The choice is ours and so is the responsibility.

If temptation doesn't come from God, what does come from Him? Verse 17a contains the answer in words that we say as part of the Divine Liturgy: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

The next part of that verse tells us that in God "there is no variation or shadow due to change." This God who calls us to be constant is constant Himself; we can rely forever on that. He has "brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures." That is a manifestation of His love for us – a love we can also rely on forever.

(This bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America.

This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.)

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Fr. John Parker, Chairman
OCA Department of Evangelism

Washington, DC

OCMC Benefit Banquet

presented by the Metropolitan DC Orthodox
Mission and Outreach Committee

Saturday, March 2, 2013

5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers

6:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm Dinner and Presentation

St. Luke Orthodox Church

6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA

Tickets:

\$55.00 adults; Under 18: \$30; Under 6: Free

Reservation deadline: February 25, 2013

***TOPIC: "Here I Am Lord, Send Me!
How Every Christian Can Accept the
Great Commission"***

For information, contact Gregory McKinney email: steward1310@gmail.com

Skip Mersereau at (301) 229-0878, email: jwmster@gmail.com or

Betty Slanta at 703-354-3242, email: slanta@verizon.net

Name(s) _____

E-mail _____ Parish: _____

Please reserve _____ adult seats at \$ _____ each. Youth: _____ at \$ _____ each.

**Enclose check payable to: "OCMC", and mail Attn: 2013 BANQUET,
c/o St. Luke Orthodox Church 6801 Georgetown Pike McLean, VA 22101**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir Practice • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 12pm - 2pm Parish Assembly • 5pm - 6pm HB: Vienna • 6pm - 8pm Young in Faith 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 5pm - 6pm HB: Lorton • 7pm - 8pm HB: DC • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11am - 7pm HB: FC, Culpeper, Manassas 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Hierarchs • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 6pm - 8pm HB: Oakton • 7pm - 7:40pm Vespers 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 6pm - 9pm HB: Springfield 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 5pm - 7pm HB: Falls Church • 7pm - 8pm Vespers with confessions 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Lord • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Candles • 1pm - 8pm HB: Loudon County
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir Practice • 9:40am - 10am Memorial: Sweet • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 9pm HB: Alexandria 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:40pm Vespers 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr. David on Mini-Vacation 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr. David on Mini-Vacation
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir Practice • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Conference (Office Closed) • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Conference (Office Closed) 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Conference (Office Closed) • 7pm - 7:40pm Vespers 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Conference (Office Closed) 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Conference (Office Closed) 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zacchaeus Sunday • 9am - 10am Choir Practice • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Day • 7pm - 8pm HB: Arlington • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:40pm Vespers 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11am - 12pm Baptism: Florea • 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publican and Pharisee • 9am - 10am Choir Practice • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fast-free week) • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fast-free week) • 7:30pm - 9pm Women's Bible Study 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fast-free week) • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:40pm Vespers 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fast-free week) • 10am - 2pm Office Hours 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fast-free week) • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm - 5:45pm Vespers with confessions

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Agazit Ashiel
- Alethea Tan
- Beau Garrett
- Elaine Devine
- Eugene Ephraim Huang
- Forest Thola
- George Codrea, Jr
- Gregory Lutai
- Hayden Birchfield
- Jacob Marshall
- Jonathan Jacobson
- Lauren Chadwick
- Marie Henson
- Maria Rosca
- Nick Jones
- Nishan Asghedom
- Paula Yuskavage
- Salem Ashiel
- Susan Matelski
- Thomas Robertson
- Ursula Ri

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Chris & Marilyn Thomas

HOLY BREAD BAKER



No Baker Listed

FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS



- February 3:** Luke & Lea Halim
- February 10:** AVAILABLE
- February 17:** Compton/Milinski Family
- February 24:** AVAILABLE
- March 3:** Divine/ Romanovskya
- March 10:** Doxacon Committee
- March 17:** Miroy Family
In memory of Winston James
- March 24:** Dujmovic Family
- March 31:** Available

NOTE: If you wish to take an available date, please notify Psa. Stephanie as soon as possible. Also, the next time you are at church, please double check that the date published here hasn't been signed up for in the hall, following the date of this publication.



EPISTLE READER

Subdeacon Eugene Huang



GREETERS

Greeters are needed all this month to welcome our faithful and visitors! Now that Pre-Lenten and Lenten services will soon be here, visitors will be on the increase! The first few seconds will give a visitor a lasting impression! Please see Father David about being part of this essential ministry to church growth and retention!



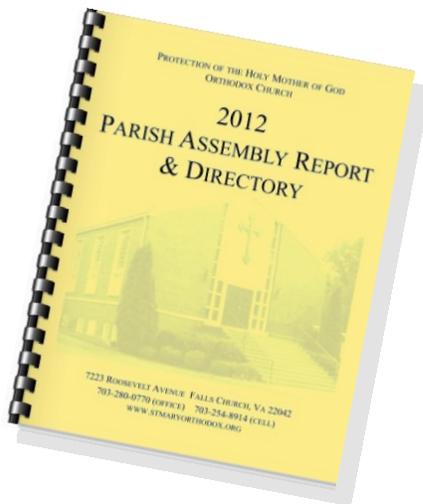
AROUND THE COFFEE URN

News and events percolating around our Orthodox community

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY... HAVE AN ORDINARY MEATFARE

Sunday, March 10 is Meatfare... the last day to eat meat before Great Lent. The Doxacon Committee is hosting once again, a very unique coffee hour to entertain the carnivores and herbivores alike, as well as raise funding for Doxacon. Proceeds will go to travel expenses for His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh and Dr. Thomas Bertonneau, our Keynote Speakers. If you would like to help come up with a creative dish with science-fiction or fantasy themes, please see Daniel Silver or Psa. Stephanie. Our NEXT PLANNING session is February 24 at the St. Nina House. All are welcome. Thank you all for support and enthusiasm!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! PARISH DIRECTORY BOOK NOW AVAILABLE!



Limited copies available for members who were unable to attend the annual parish assembly. One per family.

JOIN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY!

Almost every month on a Tuesday evening, 12-20 women invade the home of Eleni Woglom, for a wonderful evening of prayer, scripture study, and fellowship! This group has been led faithfully by Stacy Gulette for well over a decade, and uses excellent resources and her knowledge of scripture to guide us through the study.

The next Women's bible study is Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. The group is currently studying the Psalms. ALL are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Please allow at least an hour and half of time to get through the study. Please contact Eleni at elenibw@yahoo.com for directions.

VOLUNTEER ROUND-UP! UPCOMING EVENTS THAT CAN USE EXTRA HANDS!

Great Lent and what follows, bring plenty of opportunity to get involved with lots of activities that are good for the soul, for making friends, and make something that could be difficult...FUN!

Sunday, April 6: Lenten Soup Luncheon
Love making soup? This gig is for you!

Saturday, April 13: Lenten Retreat
Help needed for setting tables, decorate and serve lunch in the hall.

May 4-5: Agape Meal Coordinator
Help organize what people bring to share to eat immediately following the Paschal service!

Sunday, May 5: Annual Lamb Roast & Egg Hunt
Volunteers needed to set up tables, help prepare the lamb/roast, help with the egg hunt for children, and to prepare side dishes to serve!

June: Annual Rummage Sale
Tag items for sale, take money and table set up.

THE VEIL WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION! DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE:
FEBRUARY 24

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Juliana Guild Annual Lenten Retreat
Saturday, April 13
St. Mary Orthodox Church

Khouria Janet Shadid **Bullying: Love thyself as thy neighbor**

A major obstacle to acquiring a peaceful heart, especially during Lent, is dealing with a bully. What is it and how do we deal with it as a Christian?

Bullies come in all shapes, sizes and ages, using different tactics to attempt exerting control and power over other people. How do we encounter that specifically in the home, work-place, or even your parish? What can we do about it? And do we see how we sometimes actually bully ourselves?

This event is open to ALL who suffer from bullying. Free will donation. Proceeds to benefit Antiochian Village Camp Schol-arships. Registration details will be in the next issue.



KH. JANET SHADID

Kh. Janet is a licensed social worker and counselor in the Pittsburgh area.

During the summer, Kh. Janet devotes her time to working with the campers at Antiochian Village.



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