

25 YEARS

THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



NOVEMBER 2013



THE VATRA-- OUR DIOCEAN HOME

By Steve Miroy

The Vatra is the geographic headquarters of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in America (ROEA). Back in the day (the 1930s) it was only a couple of hours' drive from the largest and most active parishes, which resembled the coverage of the old National Football League! Cleveland, Detroit, Canton, Akron, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Chicago, Minneapolis, along with several active parishes in Canada. Many Romanian immigrants came to the Midwest to work factory jobs in what is now (unfairly) called the Rust Belt, and the Romanian Diocese offered a home away from home while also providing a solid spiritual footing under Bishop Policarp. Since then, the diocese now covers the entire USA and Canada. Being situated in the shadow of the Nation's Capital, Grass Lake, Michigan can seem a world away from Falls Church, but, nevertheless it is literally the hearth (vatra) of the diocese, and most definitely worth a visit – a pilgrimage if you will. For those unfamiliar with the history of The Vatra, if you can look and hear past the poor quality of a preserved film, please click on the following link to view a 60 minute historical documentary about it:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hOtCxAWBo&feature=youtu.be

You can also view photos from the 75th Anniversary Photo Album at this link: <http://www.roea.org/vatraromaneasca75thanniversaryalbum.html>

Recently, St. Mary's received a letter requesting financial assistance so that maintenance can be done. There are numerous buildings on the property, an old Victorian house, and a barn which once served as dormitories for the summer camps, a pavilion, a kitchen, the Arfora House, new dormitories, a new bathroom, the chapel, and the Valerian Trifa Center. All of these buildings are suffering some degree of neglect. They

need painting, a few broken windows fixed, and generous dollops of caulk here and there. While this can provide income for the handymen of nearby Jackson, some sweat equity can connect our bodies – temples of the Holy Spirit -- to our church home. If we, as a rather distant parish could organize a work crew, closer parishes would more than double our effort. I don't believe in throwing money at a problem when we can meet fellow believers from sister parishes. My philosophy on work is not simply drudgery, for me it provides dignity, fellowship, and an opportunity for prayer. Furthermore, you all must see the little chapel in the basement whose iconostas is breathtakingly perfect.



During the Family Life Conference held this past July, a few of us walked around and said that this or that needs doing, there were many such chores, each of which would only take an hour but all told it was daunting. However, with a little bit of planning from the year-round staff we could tackle some of the more minor problems – I don't do roofs! His Eminence would welcome our efforts. I visit every Memorial Day weekend. If any of you can spare a day of vacation, we could leave on a Friday morning and be in Grass Lake that evening, which would give us 2 days free to spruce up our not-so-distant church home. Please let Father David know, and you too can have a summer camp experience.

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



Good Samaritan Advocates' Annual Prayer Breakfast

Good Samaritan Advocates' is pleased to announce our Keynote Speaker for our 2013 Prayer Breakfast Benefit, which will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Falls Church Presbyterian Fellowship Hall from 9:30-11:30AM.

Bruce Strom loves God and his neighbor. He doesn't just say it – he lives it. Bruce had a successful career as the senior partner of a multi-office law practice. As a litigator he argued cases all the way to the United States Supreme Court. But God called him to leave that practice, sell all he had and give to the poor. He did that by starting Administer Justice, one of the nation's leading Christian Legal Aid Organizations. The story of God's call and Bruce's response in encouraging others to get engaged in serving the poor and vulnerable are contained in Bruce's book Gospel Justice published by Moody.



After more than a decade of unprecedented growth, God called Bruce to leave Administer Justice so he could start a national effort to engage Christ followers to serve the legal and spiritual needs of the poor. He serves as President and CEO of Gospel Justice Initiative which has a vision to see 1,000 gospel justice centers transforming lives in the name of Christ.

Bruce is a passionate speaker, merging his legal expertise with his biblical knowledge of God's heart for justice. As an Attorney, pastor's son, commissioned minister of the Evangelical Free Church and devoted husband and father of twin sons, Bruce is able to engage audiences with his unique perspective on justice. A powerful advocate for the poor and vulnerable, Bruce encourages the church, attorneys and individuals to step out of their comfort zone and serve their wounded neighbor in need: To go and do likewise.

For more information, you can speak to St. Mary parishioners, Justina Mubangu (GSA Executive Director) or Ken Liu (GSA President). You can also find out if you qualify for their services at the following link: <http://www.goodsamaritanadvocates.org/contact/what-we-do/> A GSA Intake Form for consultation review are also available through Father David's office.

Are You a Federal Employee? Give to OCMC through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)!

Federal employees have a special giving option for their gifts to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). OCMC is registered as a charity through the Combined Federal Campaign. Between September 1, 2013 – December 15, 2013, Federal employees can register for the campaign and pledge their gifts for OCMC directly through workplace payroll deduction! In 2012, donations offered through the CFC topped \$44,500!

The enrollment period is now, so if interested, visit www.opm.gov/cfc for more information. To designate OCMC as the beneficiary of your charitable gift, use OCMC's CFC number, 10304, when registering.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is pleased to make information available to you as a steward of all God has entrusted to your care. The current tax law might allow you to fulfill your current pledge or make an offering to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center that would make a significant difference. If you have been blessed to have reached 70 ½ years in age, you may be able to make a tax-free gift of up to \$100,000 to the OCMC from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).



Our Daily Bread Program Asks for Our Help!

By Jeff Beranek, Coordinator

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" – Matthew 25:37-40

5 MORE SPONSORS NEEDED!!!

Each Fall, St. Mary parishioners "adopt" 15 families by shopping for a week's worth of groceries and personal-care products, then delivering them to the families' homes on our church's assigned day. **This year, our delivery is scheduled for Sunday, November 17.**

Even in prosperous Fairfax County, there are many people struggling to keep themselves and their children fed, this year more than ever. Through Our Daily Bread, an inter-

faith ministry based in Fairfax City which provides supplemental groceries for up to three months to needy families, we have an opportunity to reach out and help.

Chris Garris, the ODB Food Coordinator, has been working towards moving the food program towards more food gift cards. She believes that the cards allow parents to practice newly acquired financial management skills in getting the most out of every dollar they spend for food.

See Jeff Beranek to sign up, or call at 703-875-3090 or email to jmberanek@msn.com.



BREW SOME CHARITY

St. Michael's Coffee is now available for purchases through our parish bookstore!



\$12 per pound. Discover this unique Arabica Coffee grown by small producers from the highlands of Guatemala, with utmost concern for quality especially for "Casa de la Misericordia". In addition to experiencing a cup of coffee rich in flavor, body and aroma, you are helping the children cared for by the Orthodox Nuns of Guatemala. To learn more about Hogar Rafael Ayau, visit:

<http://hogarrafaelayau.org/cms/pages/who-we-are.php>

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

Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit, Hierarch
Rev. David G. Subu, Pastor
Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Parish Deacon
Eugene Huang, Parish Subdeacon
Nicholas Dujmovic, Parish Subdeacon
Nicholas Jones, Parish Subdeacon
Christopher Thomas, Parish Council President
Eleni Woglom, Choir Director
Renee Lerner & Irene Liu, Sunday School

7223 Roosevelt Avenue,
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
www.stmaryorthodox.org
Contact: newsletter@stmaryorthodox.org
703-280-0770 (Office) 703-254-8914 (Cell)

Editor-in-Chief: Fr. David Subu, Pastor
Circulation: Lori Jacobson/Ellen Robinson
Layout & Graphics: Psa. Stephanie Subu

"On Earth As It Is In Heaven: A Pan-Orthodox Conference On Putting Orthodox Theology and Ecology into Practice"

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, will open a day-long conference of expert speakers and practitioners at the first Pan-Orthodox conference on Christianity, Creation, and environmental issues, Monday, Nov. 11, 2013, at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC. Dr. James Hansen, famed scientist and director emeritus of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), will open up the afternoon program with a second keynote address. The conference is entitled: "On Earth As It Is In Heaven: A Pan-Orthodox Conference On Putting Orthodox Theology and Ecology Into Practice."

Other speakers and panelists will include Orthodox Christian clergy, scholars, and students from across Orthodox jurisdictions in America, addressing the greening of parishes, communities, and nations from the standpoint of Orthodox theology and practice. This is the first Pan-Orthodox conference of its kind in North America. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end with Vespers at 5:30 p.m.

"This conference will bring together distinguished Orthodox speakers and other leaders from throughout the US in a long overdue effort to inspire and initiate the greening of our parishes," said Archdeacon Dr. John Chryssavgis, advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on

environmental issues. "Participate and become a part of a process to transform our churches."

"Orthodox theology, the Scriptures, and the saints all tell us that care for God's earth is a responsibility for every Christian, yet practice of this aspect of theology has been elusive in many parishes," said Fred Krueger, executive director of the Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration (OFT), which is co-sponsoring the event, which is designed to help build such practice.

Around the world, Orthodox hierarchs are speaking with one voice as they call the Church to engage this issue. Together, they point us to the need for a deeper transfiguring response to the challenge of a world out of harmony with God and His creation.

OFT is an affiliate organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. Other sponsors include Holy Cross/Hellenic College, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, the Orthodox Peace Fellowship, and other Orthodox agencies. St. Sophia Cathedral is located at 2815 36th St NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Registration is a sliding scale of \$20 to \$200 which includes lunch

More information on attendance and advance registration is available from the OFT office, 887 Sebastopol Road, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95407, phone (707) 573-3161, or email us at: orthodoxtransfiguration@gmail.com



**"Christ in the Harmony of Creation," by Christina DeMichelle
St. Andrew's Orthodox Church, Riverside, California**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir / 9:30 Akathist • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship/ Church School | <p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class | <p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Anastasia | <p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education | <p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priestmartyr John Kochurov • 10am - 2pm Office Hours | <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Book Study | <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 12pm Choir Practice • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions |
| <p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir / 9:30 Akathist • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship/ Church School • 2:30pm - 3:30pm Wedding: Huang-Czura | <p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education | <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours | <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Archangels • 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Book Study | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Nectarios • 9:30am - 11:30am Good Samaritan Advocates • 12pm - 2pm House Blessing • 3pm - 4pm Baptism: Blindu • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions |
| <p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am - 10am Choir / 9:30 Akathist • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship/ Church School • 1pm - 2pm CROP Walk | <p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran's Day • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education | <p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 7:30pm - 9pm Parish Council | <p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nativity Fast Begins • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 12pm - 1pm Book Study | <p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Matthew • 10am - 12pm Choir Practice • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions |
| <p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Member Sunday • 9am - 10am Choir / 9:30 Akathist • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship/ Church School • 1pm - 2pm Our Daily Bread Deliveries • 6pm - 8pm Book Study | <p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class | <p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12pm - 2pm Clergy Council | <p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education | <p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance of Theotokos • 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 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"> • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions |
| <p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Catherine • 9am - 10am Choir / 9:30 Akathist • 10am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy • 11:30am - 12:30pm Fellowship/ Church School | <p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4pm - 7pm Office Hours • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am - 2pm Office Hours • 7pm - 7:40pm Thanksgiving Service (Molieben) | <p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Andrew • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions |

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



Birthdays

Subdeacon Nicholas Dujmovic
Tatiana Romanovskaya
Stephen Subu
Christopher Thomas

Anniversaries

7 Lerner
13 Maxim
24 Hall
27 Chaves/Caraveli

Names Days

8 Archangel Michael: Jeffrey Michael Beranek
11 St Minas: Mina Coleman
11 St Martin of Tours: Daniel Martin Jacobson
16 St Matthew the Apostle: Matthew Cleary; Matthew Tan
21 Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple: Eva Marie Beranek
23 St Alexander Nevsky: Alexander Joseph Beranek
24 Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria: Sarah Kathryn Jacobson; Katie Walter

HOLY BREAD BAKER



Tanya Danilchick

EPISTLE READER



Subdeacon Eugene Huang

NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR CALENDAR



| NOVEMBER 11 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| SPONSORED | MAXIM FAMILY: Memorial | |
| NOVEMBER 17 | | |
| SPONSORED | PARISH COUNCIL: New Member Sunday | |
| NOVEMBER 24 | | |
| Coffee/Set-Up | Beranek Family | |
| Church School Meal & Beverages | Lorentz Family | Dujmovic Family |
| Adult Meal & Beverages | Beranek Family | Beranek Family |
| | Beranek Family | Anna Caraveli |
| Clean-Up | Beranek Family | |
| DECEMBER 1 | | |
| Coffee/Set-Up | Wright Family | AVAILABLE |
| Church School Meal & Beverages | Josh Khoury | Wright Family |
| Adult Meal & Beverages | Fernandez Family | AVAILABLE |
| | The Dill Family | AVAILABLE |
| Clean-Up | Josh Khoury | AVAILABLE |
| DECEMBER 8 | | |
| SPONSORED | ST. JULIANA GUILD: Annual Soup Luncheon | |

Thank you to all of the families who graciously hosted coffee hour past, present and hopefully future! If a spot is "available", please consider co-sponsoring. Parish Council appreciates everyone's willingness to work together each Sunday to make Coffee Hour a more pleasant ministry for all.



AROUND THE COFFEE URN

News and events percolating around our Orthodox community

"GRAZIE, BRIO!"

Many thanks to Brio Tuscan Grille (Tysons Galleria) for assuring that the "dinner" portion of this year's Dinner Dance was fantastico!

Brio prepared and delivered a spectacular meal, offered a price to meet our modest budget, and went out of their way to make St. Mary's Silver Anniversary a special event. May God bless their generosity. Special thanks to Brio employee, Alex Spita, (son of parishioner Claudia Spita) for personally overseeing the delivery and quality of the food!

Let's also thank them by visiting their restaurant throughout the year! See their full menu, directions to their Tysons location, and other details at <http://www.brioitalian.com>. Buon appetito!

MANY YEARS!

God's blessings to Subdeacon Eugene Huang and Stephanie Czura, who were united in marriage on Sunday, November 3. Sponsors were Subdeacon Nicholas and Cathy Dujmovic. Best Man was Ken Liu and Maid of Honor was Christina Jatras. Please keep them in continued prayers for a successful and fruitful union!

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17

Each November, Father David recognizes individuals and families who have made St. Mary their spiritual home. "Members" can formally join or just be considered supporters and retain membership in another parish. Either way, if you have started to regularly attending services, getting involved in our ministries, or served our parish in other ways, we would like to recognize you and formally introduce you to the parish. If Father David asks if you would be interested in being recognized, don't be shy! If you would like more clarification about membership at St. Mary, please speak with Father David.

**THE VEIL WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION! DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE:
NOVEMBER 25**

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS (Especially in our church!)

We are looking for some new volunteers to help in the cleaning of the sanctuary after liturgy.

Some of our volunteers clean as often as once a month, while others are on our mailing list and volunteer on an as-needed basis. The more volunteers we have the less often any one person has to clean. Each volunteer may sign up for either cleaning or vacuuming.

Cleaning involves dusting the pews, window sills, and other furniture in the narthex and nave of the church, as well as cleaning the glass on the icons and sweeping between the pews. It takes about 45 minutes for one person to complete. Vacuuming involves cleaning the carpet in the narthex and nave. No volunteer would be turned away, whether you'd like to clean the church once a month or once a year.

We could especially use a volunteer for Sunday, November 10. For more information or to sign up for cleaning email Amy Dill at kainos83@yahoo.com or call her at 301-848-9396.

NEW FLOORS INSTALLED IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Parish Council and the generosity of our parishioners to finally replace the old, stinky carpet in our Fellowship Hall with a lovely "toasted cinnamon" vinyl tile!

A very special "THANK YOU" to Mr. Steve Miroy, who graciously took the time to apply sealant and 4 layers of protective floor polish to have our new floor shine! His efforts saved lots of \$\$\$!

IMPORTANT: This flooring is a long term investment!!! In order for the floor to be properly maintained, please note the following:

- Never drag tables or chairs across the floors — please lift!
- Chairs without protective leg caps have been removed temporarily. Chairs without these protective caps will cause nicks and dings in the flooring. If anyone is able to find chair leg cap replacements, we can definitely use them!
- At the end of Coffee Hour, all chairs are to be folded and placed on top of the tables. We now use a wide dust mop for sweeping and it is easier to clean under the tables with chairs off the floor. Please make sure your area of the table is wiped down before placing the chair on top. Vacuuming is still required for the floor mats at the door.

Thanks for your cooperation! — *Preoteasa Stephanie*

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 8



The St. Juliana's Guild will be selling delicious Lenten soup to raise funds for OCMC missions in Romania and Albania. You may dine in or take out. The soup can be frozen, so it is ready to eat at any time during the fast!

Please join us to listen to OCMC missionary Christina Semon to hear of her experience being a missionary in Moldova/Bessarabia.



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St. Mary Orthodox Church
7223 Roosevelt Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042