

THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



NOVEMBER 2014



Every Sunday is Thanksgiving

By Rev. Fr. David G. Subu

This month at St. Mary's we are celebrating (among other things) two special days: November 9 is New Member Sunday where we welcome newcomers to the parish. November 27 is American Thanksgiving. This article weaves the central ideas of both those events: a) what it means to be a member of the body of Christ and b) how it relates to what we do as a church every Sunday when we "Eucharist," or give thanks, together.

In the first century, the Church was still figuring out what it meant to come together on the Lord's Day as this new body of Christ known as "The Church." It wasn't always easy. After all, the Church calls us to a sort of community that is intimate, asking us to share not only a sacred meal but our most sacred and cherished hopes and beliefs about God, life, and eternity. This is actually a level of fellowship which transcends family. The first Church in Jerusalem was more than a simple "parish" and even more than a family, as we read in Acts 2:

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

It should not surprise us that this model was difficult to export universally, because of fallen human nature. One can justify the loss of the communal ethos as having been a special gift of the Spirit at that particular time, but I think we all probably know it is because of our own selfishness and lack of faith. And it is obvious that even in Jerusalem this life did not last forever. Still, we are called

to strive for the spirit of this apostolic community even today.

The core event which brought and held that and every Orthodox Church community since is "the breaking of bread." The late 1st century document known as *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* or simply *Didache* ("Teaching") recognized that Holy Communion was the heart of the community experience. Thus, anything that poisoned the fellowship also polluted the sign of that fellowship, that is, the Eucharist:

But on the Lord's Day, after you have assembled together, break bread and give thanks, having in addition confessed your sins, that your sacrifice may be pure. But do not let anyone who has a quarrel with his companion join with you, until they are reconciled, that your sacrifice may not be polluted, for it is that which is spoken of by the Lord: "In every place and time offer unto me a pure sacrifice, for I am a great King," says the Lord, "and my name is wonderful among the Gentiles." (Didache 14 -3. See also Matt. 5:23-24)

Thus we can see from the beginning that the community prepared itself through purification, confession, and reconciliation within itself. But if obvious, visible divisions such as quarrels, even if only between two people, could cause such problems, imagine how deeper, unspoken divisions might harm the fellowship. Likewise, what about the worldly temptation to cliquishness and factionalism? There is a damaging passive-aggressiveness even in the formation of seemingly natural social cliques and across boundaries of age, ethnicity, education, economic status, etc. It was a problem then even as it often is now. In one case, it had become so pronounced, even though there was not necessarily any outward conflict or quarrel, that St. Paul excoriated the Christians in Corinth (the unfortunate biblical model of the troubled parish ever since):

¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you. (1 Cor. 11:17-22)

Ouch! The stain on this community was that when they came together they lacked the focus on the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, and thus did not have the cohesion of the Church as meta-family. Rather, they were just a bunch of disparate groups of people with no intimate connection to or care for one another. They probably believed that, since they were coming to the assembly, "doing their church thing," having a nice meal with friends and then taking off, that was what it was all about. *But what they were really accomplishing was nothing more than sacrilege.*

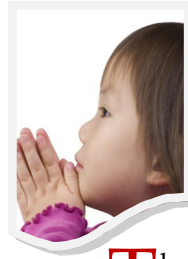
When we come together for the liturgy, the center of that experience must be our shared communion with Christ which is also our shared communion with each other—even if we are not "taking Communion" per se that day. If we are not participating in and giving ourselves fully to this mystery of the one Body of Christ, then we are missing the whole point. We may come to the church building, attend the service, "get something out of it," and even be edified in "our walk with Christ." But if we are not walking with our brothers and sister in Christ, and loving them as much as or even more dearly than our own families, then we are not really walking with Him at all but mocking everything He did and died for. How we conduct ourselves before, during, and after liturgy (which literally means "the work of the people,"—our work!) says everything about where we stand with the Lord.

In conclusion, the Blessed Augustine has this to say about the meaning of the Eucharist and the connection between the Liturgy, the Lord, and you and me:

So if it's you that are the body of Christ and its members, then it's the mystery meaning you that has been placed on the Lord's Table; what you receive is the mystery that means you. It is to what you are that you reply, "Amen," and by so replying you express your assent. What you hear, you see, is the body of Christ, and you answer, "Amen." So be a member of the body of Christ, in order to make that "Amen" true. (Sermon 272)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

-R. Lerner Liu



Church School Corner- Apples, Hymns, and Pageantry

By Renee Lerner and Irene Liu

The Church School is beginning a small program focused on learning the **hymns of the Church**. The hymns have been written over the centuries, many by Saints, through the experience of the Church, teaching us how to glorify our Creator and those holy ones who have shown us how to live a transfigured life, here and now. Our lives can truly be altered when the words of the Church are on our lips, rather than anger, gossip or any other unsavory topic of life. Led by the youth choir teaching team of Subdeacon Nick Jones, Reader Ivan Plis, and Alexis Maxim, the first set of hymns we are teaching is the Dismissal Hymn and Kontakion for All-Saints of North America. Not only have these Saints shown forth in our own lands, but we too are called to join their ranks. With God's help, the students will soon be able to exit the Church with this hymn of victory.

Thank you to all of the families who braved a soggy day and a little bit of a drive to join us for the **Church School apple picking outing** to Market Miller Orchards on Saturday, October 11. What a blessing to have this time for fellowship! All of the children loved the fantastic playground and wagon and cow train rides and the hot apple cider donuts were such a treat. The highlight, of course, were the bushels of fresh apples each family got to return home with and are still enjoying! We would like to thank Fr. David for his prayers which we believe helped to keep the rain at bay! See the photos nearby.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wassail, wassail! We are excited to begin rehearsals for the **Christmas pageant**. Students can be involved in many ways: as actors, singers, dancers, set designers and builders, choreographers, and costumers. **Casting call is Sunday, November 16.** Rehearsals will follow over the next several Sundays, and at the **St. Nicholas Retreat on Saturday, December 6.** Parental assistance at the retreat will be needed. The performance will take place on **Sunday, December 16.** Glory to God in the highest!

In Christ,

Renee Lerner and Irene Liu
Co-Directors
The St. Mary Church School



Our Daily Bread Program Asks for Our Help!

By Jeff Beranek, Coordinator

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

- James 2:14-17

7 FAMILIES/GROUPS STILL 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 16.**



New Member Sunday November 9, 2014

Each year, Parish Council formally recognizes those who have made a commitment to officially join our parish and become a voting member of our community. A special coffee hour will be hosted in their honor!

A member of parish council will contact those who joined since last November to get information on you, your family, and anything else you would like us to know! This information will be included in a special booklet distributed to parishioners during the program so they can learn more about you!

If you would like to be a full member of St. Mary, please speak with Father David or click on the link below to access parish membership forms!

<http://www.stmaryorthodox.org/membership>

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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
Marian Bogdan Maxim, Parish Subdeacon
Christopher Thomas, Parish Council President
Eleni Woglom, Choir Director
Renee Lerner & Irene Liu, Church School Principals
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Community Service Opportunity for Middle School--College Orthodox Christians!

What is the YES Program?

YES (Youth Equipped to Serve) is a ministry of FOCUS North America which is designed to provide local parishes and youth workers with the resources necessary to involve junior and senior high students in local community service and short-term missions projects. The Purpose of the program is to encourage our youth to live out their faith through service to others. YES provides opportunities for youth to get involved with outreach at different levels and help them grow into positions of student leadership.

WHEN? Saturday, November 8, 2014

WHAT? A wonderful opportunity to serve and love our most needy neighbors in WASHINGTON D.C.!

WHO? Junior High, High School, and College Students

WHERE? We will meet at 10am on Saturday at St. George Orthodox Church, 4355 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011. Pick up will be at approx. 7pm at St. George. Lunch and Dinner will be served.

COST? A registration gift of \$75 a person will cover all trip expenses, make it possible for the YES Program to prepare and execute the trip, and enable our service team to meet the needs of those we serve.

HOW DO I REGISTER? [Click here to register!](#)

ANY QUESTIONS? Please contact Katrina Bitar, YES Program Director, Kbitar@focusna.org

ANNUAL NATIVITY SOUP LUNCHEON Sunday, November 23

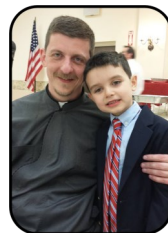


The St. Juliana's Fellowship will be selling delicious Lenten soup to raise funds for OCMC missions. You may dine in or take out. The soup can be frozen, so it is ready to eat at any time during the fast! Various recipes will be available for purchase!



Antiochian Village Winter Camp

**Winter Camp 2015 Registration
is Now Open!!!
February 13-16, 2015
For campers in grades 7-12**



**Guest Speaker:
Dn. Nick Belcher**

**Topic:
Becoming Soldiers
of Christ**



Tuition cost is \$150 which includes all meals, lodging, and entertainment for the weekend including Sunday afternoon SNOWTUBING!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am - 9am St. Demetrius 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 5pm - 7pm Young in Faith 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. John of Chicago 10am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am - 12:30pm Good Samaritan Advocates Prayer Breakfast 5pm - 6pm Vespers with Group Confession
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 7:30pm - 8:30pm NAMI: Family Support 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Day: Go Vote! 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy 10am - 12pm Office Hours 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Archangels 9:30am - 11:30am Feast-Day Liturgy @ Annapolis Mission 11am - 12pm Baptism: Stefero 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Nectarios 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 11:30am - 11:45am New Member Sunday 6pm - 8pm Discussion Group 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7:30pm - 9pm Parish Council 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans Day 10am - 12pm Office Hours 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. John Chrysostom 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Choir Practice 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Matthew 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 12pm - 6pm Our Daily Bread Deliveries 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 7:30pm - 9pm Women's Bible Study 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 12pm Office Hours 4pm - 7pm Office Hours 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm - 9pm Adult Education 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefeast Entrance 7pm - 8pm Great Vespers with Ilyta 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance of Theotokos 10:30am - 11:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm - 1pm Book Study 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm - 6pm Vespers with confessions
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Alexander Nevsky 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 11:40am - 12:40pm OCMC Soup Luncheon 1:30pm - 2:30pm Baptism: Ryder 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Katherine 10:30am - 11:30am Liturgy @ St. Katherine GOC 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8pm Thanksgiving Te Deum and Akathist: Glory to God 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving 10am - 11am Thanksgiving Liturgy 12pm - 2pm Thanksgiving Dinner 	28 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm - 6pm Great Vespers with Ilyta
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Andrew 9am - 10am Choir Practice 10am - 11:40am Divine Liturgy 5pm - 7pm Young in Faith 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class 7:30pm - 8:30pm NAMI: Family Support 	2 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy 	5 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Nicholas 10am - 11am Divine Liturgy 11am - 2pm Church School Retreat 5pm - 6pm Vespers with Group Confession

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!



November Birthdays

Christopher Thomas
Cora Compton
Stephen Subu
Subdeacon Nicholas Dujmovic
Tatiana Romanovskaya

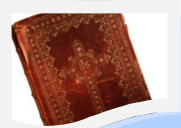
Marriage Anniversaries

3 Subdeacon Eugene Huang and Stephanie Czura
7 Craig and Renee Lerner
24 Warren and Libby Hall
27 Reader Jonathan Chaves and Anna Caraveli

Names Days

8 Archangel Michael: Jeffrey Michael Beranek; Mihai Boicu
11 St Minas: Mina Coleman
11 St Martin of Tours: Daniel Martin Jacobson
16 St Matthew the Evangelist and Prophet: Matthew Cleary; Matthew Tan; Matthew Stripling
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; Mallory Stripling;
30 St. Andrew the First Called: Andrea Boicu

EPISTLE READER



NO READER ASSIGNED

NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS



12/2 (Sun.)	Bring Food & Set Up (2)	All slots filled Libby Hall Adele Chadwick
	Sunday School food	Mina Coleman
	Clean Up (2)	AVAILABLE
11/9 (Sun.)	Bring Food & Set Up (2)	All slots filled Balan Family (Memorial Meal) Parish Council
	Sunday School food	Balan Family
	Clean Up (2)	Balan Family
11/16 (Sun.)	Bring Food & Set Up (2)	All slots filled M & R Johnson
	Sunday School food	Josh Khoury
	Clean Up (2)	AVAILABLE
11/23 (Sun.)	Bring Food & Set Up (2)	All slots filled SOUP LUNCHEON
	Sunday School food	SOUP LUNCHEON
	Clean Up (2)	St. Juliana Fellowship



Group Organizing Made Easy!



Around the Coffee Urn

News and events percolating at St. Mary and greater community

2nd Annual Missions Walk to benefit OCMC and local DC charities

On Saturday, November 15, 2014, Orthodox Christians from around the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area will converge on the National Mall for the second annual Monumental Missions Walk. Sponsored by the Metropolitan DC Orthodox Christian Mission and Outreach Committee, the Monumental Missions Walk is a 3-mile long, spiritual journey, past some of the Nation's most important landmarks. At each designated monument along the route all participants will learn about the historical significance of the landmarks as well the role that Christian faith has played in the shaping and making of this great country. The Monumental Missions Walk will afford participants the unique opportunity to pause and admire these important places of reflection through the unique lens of our Christian faith. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register!

Monumental Missions Walk



St. Juliana Guild is Now the St. Juliana Fellowship

The St. Juliana Guild has changed its name to St. Juliana Fellowship, to better reflect the mission and purpose of the group. They are an active group of women and men, ages 18 and up, who provide volunteers for parish activities and coordinate fundraising to support many charitable organizations.

These women and men donate countless hours in assisting in the maintenance of the facilities, serving at retreats and clergy meetings, decorating the Sanctuary, assisting with the Church School and anything else they are asked. Every Fellowship member has skills and abilities that enhance the success of St. Mary.

Please speak with president, Ellen Robinson, to learn more!

Thank You For Directory Participation!

Thank you to the 75 individuals and families who took the time and opportunity to sit for our Lifetouch Parish Photo Directory! By my calculations, that is about 200 men, women, and children who will appear that should experience an easier time to get to know one another!

There is still opportunity to get a photo in the directory if you did not sit for Lifetouch. Please send to Preoteasa a "head and shoulder" candid photo of you to her email. Please include how you want your name to appear under the photo.

Also, for those who own a business or know someone who does, they can purchase space to appear in our directory! Families of our parish can also place a memorial for a departed loved one. All monies go directly to St. Mary – not Lifetouch. Please see Preoteasa Stephanie to learn more and get a contract. **All submissions due November 7.**

Donation Drive for St. Nina House Ministry

The St. Juliana Fellowship sponsors a monthly drive to support the on-site ministry of our St. Nina House. The St. Nina House provides temporary housing for Christian women age 50 and over experiencing an unexpected life transition and need time to figure out where to go next, with God's help. St. Nina is pleased to announce their first official graduate who has successfully moved on to greater independence! St. Nina currently houses 2 women, plus directory, Patricia Balzer. For the month of November, St. Nina is in need of the following items:

- Extra-Soft Toilette Paper
- Paper Towels.

Donations can be placed in the basket provided in the parish fellowship hall. Thank you!

Stork Alert!

La Multi Ani and many blessings to **Lucian and Paula Rosca**, who welcomed their 3rd child, **Stefan**, on October 22. Proud brother and sister are Mihai and Maria.

Many years to **Richard and Christiana Hardy**, who gave birth to their first child, **Richard Eoghan Hardy**, 22 inches and 9lb 12 oz on Tuesday, October 28. Proud grandma is Stephanie Kozemchack!

A Good Ole' Traditional Turkey Dinner

Twenty-Seventh of November in the year 2014

12:00 Noon following Divine Liturgy

St. Mary Orthodox Church



Rev. Father David G. Subu and family invite anyone looking for a delicious meal and warm fellowship on Thanksgiving Day to attend a bountiful dinner here at St. Mary! The Subu's will provide the sacrificial turkey, mashed potatoes, and green-bean casserole. Everyone who plans to attend can bring another yummy side dish, dessert or refreshment!

Please RSVP with Preoteasa Stephanie by Wednesday, November 26

Schedule:

10:00 a.m. -- Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. --Annual Subu tradition of reading the Thanksgiving Proclamation by President George Washington followed by the prayer. Dig in!



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St. Mary Orthodox Church

7223 Roosevelt Avenue

Falls Church, Virginia 22042