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The date: 21 August 1942. The place: the Battle of the Tenaru during the campaign for Guadalcanal in the south Pacific that would begin to turn the tide of war against the Japanese. G Company, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division had to hold the west bank of the Ilu River at all costs against swarming Japanese attacks that had begun, in the wee hours of that morning, to gain footholds. Here's how Michael Smith, in his recent book *Bloody Ridge: The Battle That Saved Guadalcanal* [pp. 82-83], described the role of then 2nd Lieutenant George Codrea, with not much training and experience beyond the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Akron, Ohio:

[A]t about 0145 Colonel Pollock ordered Company G's 1st Platoon, under Lieutenant Codrea, forward to stave off further breakthroughs and to retake those positions. Bivouacked some 300 yards in the rear, Codrea's platoon rapidly moved out along the coastal trail in a column of squads. About halfway to the [sand] spit, the platoon stopped and deployed after encountering the angry snapping of enemy bullets buzzing all around them. Codrea let one squad forward to Hell's Point, moving on hands and knees to avoid the enemy fire. . . .

As he approached the sand spit, Lieutenant Codrea was hit in the arm by red-hot fragments from either a hand grenade or mortar round. Two marines bandaged the six-foot, four-inch officer's wounded arm and applied a tourniquet. Later, a lone Japanese soldier lunged at Codrea with his bayonet, hoping to skewer the wounded lieutenant, but Codrea unlimbered his weapon in enough time to drill the enemy soldier through the nose at eight feet. . . .

Codrea deployed the squad he led forward to the sand spit. Since there were no foxholes or protective cover on the spit, the members of the squad burrowed themselves into the sand to avoid the enemy fire. Firing at anything on the sandbar that moved, the squad drew increasing retaliatory fire from enemy snipers and machine gunners.

What Smith neglects to include in his account is how long the wounded Lt. Codrea and his battered squad held their position until they were finally relieved by fresh Marines: more than seven hours. George once mentioned reluctantly that he himself was quite shot-up, his arm a bloody mess and rendered virtually useless. But still he held his ground and returned fire through the night.

For that singular act of courage, duty, and leadership, George was awarded the Navy Cross, second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor in our country's military awards. The citation was signed by the Secretary of the Navy, Henry Knox, on March 18,

1943. For any active-duty military officers here today, "Attention to Orders!":

The Navy Cross is presented to George Codrea, Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism and courage as Platoon Commander in the Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands, August 21, 1942. When it became necessary to reinforce the firing line during the heaviest fighting against a Japanese landing force of about 700 men, Second Lieutenant Codrea, coolly and with complete disregard for his own safety, placed each man, individually, in a position to deliver the most effective fire. Though wounded twice during the battle, he remained on duty with his platoon until ordered to retire to the aid stations. His outstanding leadership, determination and inspiring fortitude throughout the engagement were largely instrumental in stopping the most serious enemy threat.

George would continue to serve with distinction as a U.S. Marine officer throughout World War II, including General Douglas MacArthur's celebrated New Guinea campaign. George remained on active-duty with the Corps, leading men in combat once again during the Korean War in the early 1950s and rising to the rank of full colonel, until his retirement in 1969 after commanding the Marine Expeditionary Force in the Mediterranean Sea during the Vietnam War—the third major war during his illustrious military career.

Every moment of his nearly thirty years of service with the U.S. Marine Corps bore testimony to his unflinching loyalty to his Corps and his country. *Semper Fidelis*—"always faithful"—or *Semper Fi*, for short: that's the U.S. Marine Corps' motto, and *that* describes George's character: *Semper Fi*.

George was noble and good not only in the military, but also with his family and his church. George truly had a profound effect on everyone he met throughout his 88 years of life.

Who among the members of St. Mary Orthodox Church does not recall George's omnipresence in the life of the community? Since the purchase and refurbishing of the current temple in summer 1996 until his precarious health began to fade more rapidly a year or so ago, George and his beloved wife Martha were human fixtures in the building—cleaning, taking out the trash, replenishing the "paper" in the bathrooms, tidying the kitchen area. In the early years of the congregation, after George and Martha transferred from Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church on Route 7, joining the original nucleus formed by Armand, Tina, Marie, Sarah, Elaine, and a dozen or so others, George became a living

embodiment of the Episcopate By-Laws and Parish Regulations—the original “green Bible” (now light blue), which I’m still convinced he had memorized word-for-word in both English *and* Romanian! In addition, he took meticulous notes in that fine script of his as secretary of the parish council and was the official guarantor each year of Cherry Hill Park as the site of the annual parish picnic in September—in fact, he usually secured the place for the following year only a week or so after each picnic.

Then there was Martha frequently calling out to George, whose hearing had begun to fail long ago—and George’s hearing aid going awry and whistling during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. I could hear it in the altar!

And who can forget how George and Martha so loved preparing the Romanian *pasti* together each year on Holy Saturday in time for the Paschal breakfast later that night? I have to confess to you, Martha—and to the entire church—that the Colonel’s *pasti* (that white wine and prosphora bread mixture) was always a bit rough going down my throat, especially on an empty stomach after fasting all day and night. But I dutifully accepted my cup from George each year with gratitude and admiration for his steadfast fidelity to the same Romanian Orthodox custom that his parents had instilled in him and for which he was the sole custodian for our community.

George Codrea’s unshakable identity as a Romanian-American, as well as a Romanian Orthodox Christian—particularly his decades of dedicated membership in the Union and League of Romanian Societies based in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Romanian American Heritage Center at the Vatra Romaneasca (the Episcopate’s headquarters in Grass Lake, Michigan)—eventually led to a special recognition by the post-Communist government of Romania, of which few parishioners here may be aware. In a decree by President Ion Iliescu on February 4, 2002, George was awarded the National Order of Merit in the grade of Officer.

There can be no doubt that George and Martha were together, like another, more famous George and Martha in our nation’s history, but no less venerable, the grandfather and grandmother of the spiritual family of St. Mary Orthodox Church.

To his own natural family, George was beloved by one and all—an all-too-rare phenomenon in today’s society.

I always enjoyed visiting your home at 1206 Offutt Drive, Martha, whether it was the annual blessing for Theophany in January or on some other occasion or for no particular reason at all. It’s a home full of personal history—and I do mean history, because George, like yours truly, seemed to save all manner of stuff—or, should I say, he couldn’t throw anything away! He was a

true collector—of books, magazines, newspaper clippings, that magnificent vintage 1956 Pontiac in the garage, and, of course, of fond memories of days gone by, of a long, mutually fulfilling marriage to you, Martha, of a son raised the old fashioned way and who—G.R.—is a credit to both his parents, of a daughter-in-law—Stephanie—who added a younger feminine touch to Martha’s sometimes brusque Marine-wife exterior.

But you haven’t fooled us, Martha! You may have earned your “eagles” on the homefront, while George gallivanted all over the world with his band of brothers in the Corps, and you may sometimes complain about this or that with the volume turned up. But we who love you and loved George know that you’re an old softie at heart. And so was George. In fact, I cannot quite picture the gentle George I knew later in his life issuing commands to anyone in the Corps, much less his Marine wife!

George’s death last Saturday, only a week before Memorial Day, is, at once, ironic and fitting. For many years, on the Sunday on the eve of this national holiday, George would present his brief narrative history of Eastern Orthodox warriors in America’s wars, beginning with the War Between the States—or, for the Yankees among us, the “Civil War.” Do you remember? And now, although he would surely eschew the honor, he takes his rightful place in that glorious cavalcade of heroes.

This is also, of course, the Paschal season, when we Orthodox Christians rejoice in our risen Savior’s conquest of death by His death and resurrection. There could not be a more poignant yet hopeful time to fall asleep in the Lord.

For Christ is risen! And His servant’s physical death is not the end of Colonel George Codrea’s exemplary existence.

Christ is risen! And we have a firm hope in the Lord’s vindication of George for a life of faith and love well-lived.

Christ is risen! And we, all of us, together with George, will rise on the Last Day and will, by the grace of Almighty God the Holy Trinity, meet again in the Kingdom without end.

Until then, brothers and sisters in Christ, we can cling to that fervent hope and hold dear in our hearts and minds the cherished memory of the Lord’s good and faithful servant, George.

May his memory be eternal! *Vesnica pomenire!*
Semper Fi, George!

St. Mary Orthodox Church
Falls Church, Virginia
26 May 2006

Letter from Christopher Thomas, Parish Council President

It was with an enormous sense of loss that our community learned of the passing of COL George Codrea on May 20.

For those of you who did not know COL Codrea, there is a shadow box in the church hall that tells the story of his sacrifice and heroism in World War II. His heroism at war is surely a great part of his legacy.

But I did not know COL Codrea when he was a young man defending his country. I did not know COL Codrea when he was helping as an early founding member of St. Mary's. I met him years later when he was quietly serving his Church. The gentle heroism I witnessed was shown when COL Codrea slowly but with determination climbed up the stairs at St. Mary's. Suffering from heart problems, he could have stopped coming years ago with a reason worthy of a blessing, but he was not deterred.

Not only did COL Codrea come to St. Mary's; he came and he took out the trash on Thursday nights; he came and made coffee each Sunday; he reserved the park for our annual picnic, going to the Falls Church park office each September to reserve the site for the upcoming year; he came and he and Martha cleaned the kitchen and the hall; he came and served on the Parish Council; he came and he sprayed for ants; he came having purchased the paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, cups, and coffee; he came and was a saintly example to all of us. An example through his work for the Church, through his humility, through his dedication. Seeing an American hero toil to serve the Church was an example to all of us.

When I remember COL Codrea, I will remember him for his heroism in getting up from his hospital bed and coming to Liturgy. When I remember COL Codrea, I will remember that he put serving St. Mary's and our needs first. I honor his war-time sacrifices, and I honor his quiet service to St. Mary's.

May Our Lord Bless and reward George with an eternity of peace and grace.

May Our Lady the Theotokos protect George and comfort Martha and his family.

In Christ,

Christopher Thomas, Parish Council President



Memory Eternal

When I was a boy of about 8, I read *Guadalcanal Diary*. I remembered the story of COL Codrea and the first time I went to church with Inna I could not believe that he was a parishioner. I got to meet one of my heroes. I never told him this story. I will tell his story to my son and let Vittorio know that he too met this great American Hero.

—*Steve Sabia*

The Wednesday night Adult Class topic for May 31st had been chosen in advance as "Orthodox History in America." While Fr. David was in the altar after Vespers concluded, the rest of us were in the Fellowship Hall setting up chairs and moving tables around and taking food out of the refrigerator. My job was the food and the food that week was the leftover cake from COL Codrea's funeral.

From where I was standing behind the counter, everything I saw reminded me of him. Yes, I thought to myself, Fr. David will lead us in a discussion of the events of Orthodox history—but COL Codrea *was* Orthodox history in America, and this Fellowship Hall and this

entire church and Sunday School and grounds are his legacy.

There was not only the lovingly prepared cake for the repast in his honor, but there was the counter that he and Martha kept so clean, the aging sink and faucet that he kept functioning, and the sugar and creamer and paper napkins that he made sure were always there.

It was clear that the Wednesday night Adult Class had a comfortable and well-appointed Fellowship Hall in which to learn more about the history of Orthodoxy in the United States, thanks to the Colonel's tireless dedication of his retirement years to the myriad tasks of maintenance that he performed so patiently and effectively that many of us didn't realize they were being done, or even that they needed to be done.

We talked about how parishes grow and bud off new parishes—and there on the wall was the plaque with the names of the founding members of St. Mary (and of course on the same wall is the shadowbox reminding us that the tall old man who could be found diligently at work in any corner of the church or the Fellowship Hall was a warrior and a hero).

As 9:00 p.m. approached and Fr. David started summing up his presentation, I began planning how to

clean up the paper plates and napkins from the table once the closing prayer ended. But then I looked up and noticed how, quietly and unobtrusively, the younger people at the class had already started gathering things up and putting them away.

And this was what reminded me most of the Colonel on that evening dedicated to the history of Orthodoxy in America.

—*Lisa Jones*

I met George Codrea the first day that Megan and I visited St. Mary's. We had walked in the back entrance of the church, near the fellowship hall, and I was looking around for a way to enter the Sanctuary. George had just walked up the stairs from the basement and introduced himself to us. He shook my hand, gave Megan a little pinch on the cheek, and escorted us back down the stairs, to the next flight of stairs up and into church! I was amazed at his energy, and touched by his warmth. Since the first day we met, he always greeted us with a smile and a wink.

Megan remembers when her 'eyes would wander' around church during Liturgy, that whenever she saw George, he would smile at her. She liked when he joked with her.

We will remember his kindness, gentleness and sense of humor. His love and dedication to Orthodoxy and St. Mary's was evident and unwavering. The respect and love that George and Martha had for each other will always be a role model and inspiration for me. George has touched our lives in many ways. We are blessed to have known and loved him. May his memory be eternal!

—*The Lowther Family (Ann, Joe, Megan, Joseph, and Gregory)*

"Yet it shall not be so among you. But whosoever wisheth to become great among you shall be your servant; and whosoever wisheth to become first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45.

At the time that I met George Codrea he was already approaching 80 years of age. He was a man that you could love immediately: a man of great character, honesty, commitment, and integrity. But what always amazed me about the Colonel was his profound humility, love, and respect for everyone, and his constant example of what it means to live the Orthodox life. George was always in church, never late. While most of us enjoyed coffee, snacks, and fellowship following the Divine Liturgy, George Codrea quietly collected trash from the bathrooms, classrooms, and common areas – *"But he passing through the midst of them went his way"* Luke 4:30. Thursday evening he would make a special trip to the church to bring the trash to the curb. Late Saturday afternoon he and Martha would come to the church to prepare the coffee maker. If it were cold outside, they would turn on the downstairs baseboard heat to ensure that the classrooms would be warm enough for the children come Sunday morning. Even at age 83, perhaps even older, on

more than one occasion I would enter the hall to find him balancing on a metal foldout chair, changing a light bulb. He changed toilet paper, filled soap dispensers, and performed many other duties on behalf of the church; more specifically, he did it for each one of us personally, and in a most fatherly, loving way. He was never boastful of his good deeds, nor did he seek the praise of anyone. Rarely did he talk about himself or the Marine Corps, but I recall him sharing with me these words, "You do things the Marine Corps way: you lead by example." George certainly is an example to us all, in faith and in works. While his acts of wartime heroism are of almost mythic proportions, they are easily believable to anyone who knew him. Yet the man who was awarded the Navy Cross, Purple Heart, and other commendations of distinction, is also the same one who, like Christ to his disciples, washed our feet through his humble service to our community. It appears that throughout his life as an Orthodox Christian, whether as a Marine, high school teacher, or layman, George Codrea recognized the image and likeness of God in everyone and imitated Christ's love and humility. An incredible man by anyone's standard; by our standards, a remarkable Orthodox Christian. May his memory be eternal.

John Ziu & Family

Donations in Memory of George Codrea

It is a custom among many Orthodox to offer prayers and supplications for those departed this life before us, as well as to give alms and make offerings to the church in behalf of loved ones. COL Codrea in particular was always concerned about the eventual replacement of the furnace, so the family thought it appropriate that such offerings be made with that in mind.

To contribute to this effort, please mail your memorial donation to the church or place it in the collection basket on Sunday. Please note "In Memory of COL Codrea" on your check. Thank you.

"Help [the departed], not by tears, but by prayers and supplications and alms and offerings. For not meaninglessly have these things been devised, nor do we in vain make mention of the departed in the course of the divine mysteries, and approach God in their behalf, beseeching the Lamb Who is before us, Who taketh away the sin of the world; not in vain, but that some refreshment may thereby ensue to them. Not in vain cloth he that standeth by the altar cry out when the tremendous mysteries are celebrated, 'For all that have fallen asleep in Christ, and for those who perform commemorations in their behalf.' For if there were no commemorations for them, these things would not have been spoken: since our service is not a mere stage show, God forbid! Yea, it is by the ordinance of the Spirit that these things are done."

"Let us then give them aid and perform commemoration for them... Let us not then be weary in giving aid to the departed, both by offering on their behalf and obtaining prayers for them: for the common Expiation of the

world is even before us. Therefore with boldness do we then entreat for the whole world, and name their names with those of martyrs, of confessors, of priests. For in truth one body are we all, though some members are more glorious than others; and it is possible from every source to gather pardon for them, from our prayers, from our gifts in their behalf, from those whose names are named with theirs. Why therefore dost thou grieve? Why mourn, when it is in thy power to gather so much pardon for the departed?"

-St. John Chrysostom, Homily XLI on First Corinthians, 15

Arlington National Cemetery—July 19th

Burial services with full military honors for COL George Codrea will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, July 19, at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to attend the services, meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Administration Building on the grounds of the cemetery. Please call Stephanie Codrea at 301-279-0482 if you will attend the mercy meal at a designated restaurant.

From the President—Mid-Year Review

We are now halfway through 2006. This is a good time to pause and see where things stand. During the month of July we will send out the treasurer's report provided at each Parish Council meeting to the community as a whole. Joe Cox will also be working on sending each household a status of giving and, if you are pledging, where you stand year-to-date.

In the treasurer's report for June, Joe Cox reported that we are running \$10,000 behind on normal contributions. And at the Parish Council meeting we discussed what this might mean for the balance of the year and into next year.

Our annual parish budget for operating expenses is a little less than \$200,000. Of that amount, 8 main areas consume 85% of the funds:

- 39%—Priest's Compensation (salary, retirement, medical, insurance)
- 21%—Mortgage Payments
- 10%—Building and Grounds Maintenance
- 4.8%—Episcopate Dues
- 3.3%—Insurance
- 3.0%—Utilities (gas, electricity, water)
- 2.5%—Humanitarian Aid
- 2.0%—Property Taxes

Of the 8 items in this 85%, only humanitarian aid is not a fixed expense. The remaining 15% of our budget covers advertising, newsletter copying and postage, church school, office supplies, church supplies, visiting priests, choir, telecommunications, etc.

The current \$10,000 shortfall, if extrapolated to the end of the year, would mean we would run at an operating deficit of about \$20,000—a 10% shortfall. As there is no real reserve or "fat" in our budget, the implications would mean that next year we would

have to trim budgets for humanitarian aid and the items that make up the remaining 15% of our budget, namely advertising, church school, youth group, church supplies, and office supplies.

Over the past several years, our parish has taken on several important projects targeted at improving the facilities and the spiritual experience. We replaced the steps leading to the front of the church, replaced the windows in the church, put a new floor in the basement, resealed the parking lot, purchased the property that provides our parking lot, and initiated an icon project.

If you look back, I think you will agree that each of these was worthwhile and important. Purchasing the property was perhaps a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Basic repairs like the steps, the parking lot, and the floor were necessary and unavoidable. Replacing the windows in the sanctuary and adding icons are a dramatic enrichment of our spiritual setting.

As a parish we must determine if we will continue to improve and grow, or step back. It costs money to run our church. It takes your generous donations. If you are thinking it is the person next to you in the pew who will make the difference and donate, you are not understanding that we need your donation as well their donation.

There are 42 households that have pledged \$102,124. This is an average of \$2,000 per pledging household. Those pledges leave us about \$70,000 short of our needs for the year. Essentially we need to raise \$1,000 from every adult member of our parish to meet our current budget.

When you remove students and those who are not financially able, we need to raise about \$1,500 from each of you. And more from many of you. No doubt that it is a lot of money, and I am sure that you tire of my frequent nagging. However, I believe you will agree with me that as Orthodox Christians we have a responsibility to provide for our church, and to sacrifice for the good of the house of Our Lord.

So please review your personal budgets and look where you can find some additional resources for St. Mary's. Thank you.

Special Opportunity

Father David is looking for someone who can help him manage the Church office. As he has come up to speed on his many responsibilities at St. Mary's, he is recognizing that there are only 24 hours in each day!

The support would include keeping up the membership list, assisting with notifications and communications, scheduling, organizing, and other duties as you and Father identify.

We always have a lot going on and Father David is supporting a geographically dispersed community. If you can donate your time and energy on a part-time but regular basis, please contact Father. Your efforts will benefit every member of the community, help keep things running smoothly, keep us all informed, and ensure that important items do not fall through the cracks.

We all have different gifts and energy we can provide the Church. If this is something you can do, please consider seriously and do contact Father.

Successful Rummage Sale!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed items for this year's sale. We had good quality items – many new – that raised the caliber of the sale. The rummage sale raised over \$1140. Hard-working volunteers also made this sale possible, among them Father David, Sarah Zimmerli, Lisa Robertson, Lori Jacobson, Elaine Devine, Galina Cragg, Susan Matelski, Carolyn Pritchuk, Eva Baranek, Marilyn Thomas, Lisa Jones, and Lisanne Migyanko. Martha Codrea helped oversee the operation. Daniel Jacobson and John Migyanko helped run a lemonade & doughnut stand to raise money for Project Mexico. We always manage to have fun too. See you again next June!

Looking for Help – Eleni Woglom has graciously taken on the copy editor role for the Monthly Bulletin. We are still looking for help with circulation – folding, labeling, and mailing out the newsletter each month. Interested in helping out? Please contact Lori Jacobson at lori@stmaryorthodox.org or 703-237-9409. Thanks!

Remember FACETS

Please remember to bring canned foods, pastas, and other donations to church with you on Sundays. When the large basket in the narthex is full, we take the donations to the food bank at FACETS (Fairfax Area Christian Emergency Transition Services, Inc.).

FACETS is a tireless and effective ministry in our area that helps thousands of low-income, homeless, and/or otherwise struggling men, women, and children every year. They do wonderful work in support of our brothers and sisters who are simply trying to make ends meet and take care of their little ones. Thank you for your help!

Reflections on the Women's Bible Study

It has been nearly six years since Stacy Gullette graciously agreed to lead a new St. Mary's Women's Bible Study, with the blessing of Father Alexander. I remember our first meeting well—how Stacy prepared a lesson for Melissa Koltos and me, and how she opened my eyes to a more beautiful understanding of the Book of James.

Since that first evening, our little group has grown to include as many as 18 women coming together each month. We are lifelong Orthodox, and we are converts to the faith. We are single professionals, and we are mothers at home. We are readers of the Philokalia, and we are unfamiliar with the ancient writings.

Most important, we are Orthodox women who are struggling to understand, to grow, and to live in Christ. Stacy's thorough research and insightful lessons are amazing, and the group has been a great blessing to each of us. The group also has given us the opportunity to form lasting friendships, to stand by each other in times of illness and sadness, and to celebrate together in times of joy.

I write this because I would like to express the group's thanks to Stacy for her hard work, and for her willingness to share her gift for understanding and explaining God's Word to us. I thank God for the opportunity to meet with such an extraordinary group of women and to openly share our faith, our questions, and our love. Ladies, may God grant you all many years!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. at my house in Fairfax. Stacy will continue our study of Romans, picking up with Chapter 7. We always begin and end the evening with prayer, and we linger for tea and fellowship. For more information or for directions, I invite you to call me at (703) 425-0834. —*Eleni Woglom*

Coming Up. . .

Men's Retreat to St. Tikhon's Monastery August 18-20

Our theme will be "Spiritual Warfare, Spiritual Reality: Living a Life of Prayer and Struggle." Guest Speaker will be Dr. Christopher Veniamin, PhD. (Oxon). Cost is a free-will donation to St. Tikhon's Seminary for hosting us.

Altar Boy Retreat on St. Elias Day

We will have liturgy on St. Elias Day, **July 20**, followed by a short workshop on serving the Lord in the altar, then a day out to King's Dominion! Bring play clothes for after Liturgy! Parents welcome to attend and chaperone/help with driving.

Looking Ahead to August

Several special services occur in the first two weeks of August in the Orthodox tradition, with the beginning of the Dormition of the Mother of God Fast.

On **August 1st** we have the Procession of the Holy Cross, similar to the third Sunday of Lent, followed by a blessing of Holy Water. Families with children are especially invited to come to this service, and it is scheduled for 10 a.m., Tuesday August 1. Starting that night, the church offers the special prayers of Paraclesis, or service of comfort, asking the intercessions of our protector the Holy Mother of God. This is served each night (except Saturday) during the fast at 7:00 p.m.

On **Sunday, August 6**, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with a festal liturgy followed by the blessing of fruits and nuts, particularly the fresh and new fruits of the season. Please bring a basket to bless that Sunday!

Questions, comments ,updates or submissions? E-mail us: newsletter@stmaryorthodox.org



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