

Membership Form for St. Mary Orthodox Church

“By virtue of his or her baptism and chrismation, an individual is a member of the Holy Orthodox Church which is the Body of Christ, and as such is called to live in accordance with her teachings, traditions, and religious services, and to regularly support the Church through the local parish.” (Episcopate By-Laws, Art. IX, sec. 13)

I understand that participation in the Church includes taking personal responsibility for the health and growth of the local Church through membership in parish life. To this end, I and the following members of my family now state my intention towards membership in the parish of the Protection of the Holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia (Please indicate all family members to be included, noting children younger than 18 in the space provided—The parish pays an Episcopate assessment for each member 18 and older):

Children (17 and younger):

I wish my/our membership to be understood as follows:

 Lifetime: *Please consider me a member henceforth without need for renewal notices or requests, even if I should move or become unable to attend regularly.*

 Dedicated: *Please consider me a member for as long as I am living in the area or until I give further notice, without need for renewal notices or requests.*

 Annual: *Please consider me a member for this year, and allow me to renew my membership yearly with a new statement of intent form to be sent to me.*

 New Member: *Please consider me a member for this year, recognizing that this is my first year at the parish, and remind me of my options for renewal at the end of the year.*

 Supporter: *Please do not consider me as a “member” (due to my membership in another parish) but consider me an active supporter and keep me informed of all parish activities.*

Membership definitions and Voting rights: *Any and each member of 18 years or older who partakes of the sacraments of confession and communion (at St. Mary unless dispensation is received from the Parish Priest); who has submitted a completed pledge form and this statement of intent form; and has been a verified member of at least six months is privileged to be considered an official member, to vote in the Annual Assembly in according with the Episcopate Constitution and By-Laws, which includes the privilege of being nominated for and serving on Parish Council. (Episcopate By-Laws Art. IX, Sec. 14) **I realize that there are no set “dues” for membership and that I am only obliged to freely determine my level of financial commitment by submitting a completed pledge form on a yearly basis.***