



# THE Veil

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
MAY 2022  
VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

## In This Issue



### A Pascha and Lamb Roast to Remember

Christ is risen! Enjoy photos of Pascha and the Lamb Roast, including this year's new freestyle soccer clinic

CENTERFOLD

### Parish Library Continues Ongoing Improvements

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### Coffee Hour has More to Offer the Curious

A host of Orthodox pamphlets are now available in the fellowship hall, and the Connections Corner has a new upcoming events flyer for you

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...and more inside!

# Attending vs. *Belonging*

Christ is risen!

On April 11, your Parish Council included in its work a discussion on community building. We had voted on priorities in our March meeting, and "Membership/Community" was the winner by a long shot. So we began with a simple question: **"When did St. Mary's go from just being the church you attend to the community you belong to?"** Each of the council members shared their own stories of how they made that transition, and from it we then discussed common themes. Here are some of their answers and insights:

*When I was asked to serve and given responsibility on the Parish Council, it changed me and my sense of commitment.*

*I found St. Juliana Fellowship were people like me, doing the church "things" I was grew up with and was looking for.*

*Pastoral visits from the priest and personal contact by parishioners brought me in.*

*I jumped in on the deep end when I attended Forgiveness Sunday and Great Lent, found I was welcomed.*

*I found kindred spirits in Doxacon!*

*When I helped by participating in the home interviews of members for the strategic development campaign, I got to know them, got their numbers, and wasn't "new" anymore.*

*The choir welcomed me, and I got to know the young adults.*

*I participated in Young in Faith (now NPF) and found the open discussions very helpful.*

*Flexibility during pandemic, with on-line services and even coffee hour really helped me get involved.*

*I made relationships in Women's Bible Study.*

*Someone brought me antidoron every week in Liturgy.*

*Founder Armand Scala showed hospitality, welcomed me, and invited me to his home.*

*I really loved the Progressive Home Blessings with dinner all together at end.*

*More intentional after pandemic — "it takes work to be a part of things."*

*I became Orthodox at St. Mary's after church shopping, and preferred the intimate character to heavily programmed, corporate style churches.*

*It's friendly here, personal — members matter and are included, adopted.*

*The parishioners made meals for me during the 40 days after birth.*

*The church helped me when my husband passed away.*

*I felt able to come back after many years away.*

We would very much like to make your story a part of this list. Since the pandemic, perhaps because people's regular life was so disrupted and there was a chance to re-evaluate one's spiritual priorities, we have seen a surge of interest in the Orthodox faith, and more visitors than ever. Our hope is that we can continue to provide these kinds of positive experiences of community and belonging to as many as possible knowing that that is a finite number no matter how hard we try. As God gives us, may we do well by you.

Take another look at that list. If you are an established member, perhaps there is a ministry there that you have been a part of or from which you also benefited. We could use your help in making those personal connections and would love to get you involved in meaningful service to others. **(continued on back)**



**Saint Mary**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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# God grant you many years!

Don't see your name? Join us on Realm and fill out your profile. If you include your birthday, nameday, and/or wedding date, you'll see them here.

## BIRTHDAYS


Chris G.	Irene L.	Patrick O.	Robert Y.
Wesley C.	Warren H.	Jeff M.	Kevin R.
Anastasia D.	Alex J.	Megan M.	Lucian R.
Catherine D.	Ho K.	Nick M.	Melanie T.
Leah F.	Nathaniel K.	Fotina N.	Beilul Y.

## NAMEDAYS

Ileana C.  
Chris G.  
Emilia J.  
Eleni W.

## ANNIVERSARIES

James & Stephanie  
Kenneth & Lauren  
Patrick & Jessica  
Nicholas & April  
Glenn & Toni  
Mark & Julia  
Brian & Cindy  
Rafael & Barbara



**JOIN US FOR A ST. MARY'S  
OUTING TO THE  
NATS GAME**

★★★

**Sunday, July 17, following liturgy  
Nationals Park  
\$10/ticket**

Purchase tickets through Christina J. at  
[yam@stmaryorthodox.org](mailto:yam@stmaryorthodox.org) by **June 12**

Please write "Nats Game" in the memo line  
on your checks or in Realm

*If you'd like to come but are in financial need, please  
inquire about fully-sponsored tickets.*

# Family Care Drive

**JUNE 11  
2022  
11:00 AM**

FOCUS with Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry  
3601 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22305

In partnership with Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry (Alexandria, VA), the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve is inviting you to take action to help our neighbors in need. Collect any of items on our [wish list](#) and join us in delivering them to Grace Food Pantry on Saturday, June 11th.

## TOP PRIORITIES

- ♦ Baby wipes, including unscented/sensitive skin
- ♦ Individually wrapped rolls of paper towels
- ♦ Individually wrapped toilet paper rolls

Full wish list: [tinyurl.com/yrhwxfb2](https://tinyurl.com/yrhwxfb2)  
Donate: [tinyurl.com/4yz3uppy](https://tinyurl.com/4yz3uppy)

Learn more: [focusna.org/dc](https://focusna.org/dc)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 St. Thomas Sunday</b> 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 11:45am-1pm Church School/ Memorial Service 1pm-2pm Grave Blessings	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7pm-7:40pm Vespers	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	<b>7 St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre</b> 11am-1pm Crowning: Kerlin 5pm-6pm Great Vespers 6:30pm-8:30pm Washington DC Mormon Temple Tour (YAM)
<b>8 Myrrhbearing Women</b> 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7pm-7:40pm Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Ed	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	<b>14</b> 11am-12pm Baptism: Hardy 1:30pm-4pm St. Mary Tea 5pm-6pm Great Vespers 6pm-7:30pm Newly Planted Fellowship
<b>15 The Paralytic</b> 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 11:45am-1pm Church School Coffee Hour Town Hall: Capital Renovation Project Update	<b>16</b> 7pm-9pm Parish Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7pm-7:40pm Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Ed	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	<b>21 Ss. Constantine and Eleni</b> 10am-11am Divine Liturgy 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
<b>22 The Samaritan Woman</b> 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 11:30am-12pm Sunday School Recognition Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm-7:40pm Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Ed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	<b>28</b> 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
<b>29 The Blind Man</b> 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30pm-8:30pm Youth Worker Webinar	<b>1 Leavetaking of Pascha</b> 7am-8am Paschal Liturgy 7pm-7:40pm Great Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Ed	<b>2 Ascension</b> 7am-8am Festal Liturgy	<b>3</b> 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	<b>4</b> 5pm-6pm Great Vespers

Events are subject to change. Please check the online calendar at [stmaryorthodox.org/calendar](http://stmaryorthodox.org/calendar) for the most updated listings. Most services are streamed online on Zoom, YouTube, and StreamingChurch. Find the streaming links on the calendar, and the Zoom password on Realm.



Photography courtesy of  
Emilia J. and Betsy B.

# Christ is risen!

## Truly He is risen!



## Lamb Roast is Kicked Up a Notch by Freestyle Soccer Clinic

NEWS | FRANCISCO A.



I had the great privilege of hosting a freestyle soccer clinic for the kids during the Pascha Lamb Roast. The group of kids who participated were awesome - respectful, full of enthusiasm, with many of them

picking up the tricks fast. For those who don't know, freestyle soccer is the art of performing creative and technical tricks with a soccer ball. It's a very fun and unique way to get exercise and improve soccer ball control. The class began with an introductory performance followed by the kids getting balls for themselves, splitting into groups and going through a variety of moves that suit their current ability. Towards the end we did a little freestyle soccer battle (competition) where two of the kids took turns to see who could do a better performance. The rest of the kids would watch and clap to encourage the brave performers. After the competition we all, obviously myself included, had ice cream. Coaching freestyle soccer never fails to give me satisfaction, especially because of the kids, and if you are interested in learning more about the freestyle soccer services my team and I provide you can check us out at [www.undefinedfutbol.com](http://www.undefinedfutbol.com). I hope the kids had as much fun as I did conducting the class! ✖





# Explore the Next Chapters of Our Improving Parish Library

## St. Mary's Library Joins the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a New Online Library Catalogue System

LIBRARY MINISTRY REPORT | ILEANA C.

Those of you who have been in St. Mary's library in the last few weeks may have noticed that there are new instructions on how to check out items from St. Mary's library. St. Mary's has transitioned from a paper catalogue system to an online catalogue system that will allow you to check out books using your phone or computer. Below are instructions on how to check out (and check in) library items using the new online system. If anyone has any questions, please contact Ileana C. ✕

### How To Check Out Library Items

1. After selecting the library item you wish to check out, go to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/StMaryOrthodoxChurch> and search for the book that you would like to check out.
2. Click on the green **Check Out** button.
3. Click on the button with your name (organized by first name and first initial of last name).
4. Click on the blue **Check Out** button.
5. Click on the **OK** button.
6. You have now checked out your library item to enjoy for two weeks, and will receive a confirmation e-mail.

If you would like to keep your library item for another two weeks, you can renew it.

### How To Check In Library Items

Simply return the library item to the **Returns** box in the library. The item will be re-shelved and checked back in online within a week.

## April Clearance Book Sale Earns Library Over \$1000

LIBRARY MINISTRY REPORT | ILEANA C.

Thank you, St. Mary bibliophiles! From April 3-10, St. Mary's ran a massive library duplicate book sale as part of its normal gift shop sales. During that time period, the gift shop accrued more than \$1000. Many thanks to all the bibliophiles at St. Mary's for all the revenue that was generated from this sale! Please stay tuned for further updates on the library front from Ileana C. ✕

## Seeking Volunteer to Shop for St. Mary Supply Closet

NEWS | ELLEN R.

Do you love to shop at Costco, BJ's, and other fun big-box stores? If so, St. Mary could use your frequent shopping habits to assist with the keeping the supply closet stocked and inventoried.

Do you ever wonder how all those plates, rolls of toilet paper and utensils

get to St. Mary? This is how it works — a couple of volunteers keep track of the inventory and shop for refills when we run out. It is probably best to have two or three people work together on this to make it easier to manage.

The basic tasks are to regularly check the supply closet, and then order

and restock the items used for coffee hour. There's already a list to follow, so if you like to shop, in person or online, this easy job can be yours!

Please let Father David know if you are interested, and we will get all the information to you. It's a simple job, but someone has to do it! ✕



# Orthodox Pamphlets Galore Now in the Fellowship Hall

CONNECTIONS CENTER MINISTRY REPORT  
| ILEANA C.

If you have been down to the Fellowship Hall in the last few weeks, you may have noticed that St. Mary's literature rack is now replete with Orthodox pamphlets from the Ancient Faith Store. They are free literature for our parishioners and visitors. A full list of brochure topics is reproduced below. If you think there are pamphlets that St. Mary's should be carrying but are not in the list below, please reach out to Ileana C. ✕

*What On Earth Is the Orthodox Church?  
Welcome!*

*Timeline Of Church History*

*What Orthodox Christians Believe*

*When You Fast*

*Confession: The Healing Sacrament*

*Building A Habit Of Prayer*

*Building An Orthodox Christian Home*

*Finding The New Testament Church*

*Prayer And The Departed Saints*

*Scripture And Tradition*

*Facing Up To Mary*

*Which Came First: The Church Or The New Testament?*

*Forgiveness & Reconciliation*

*Dealing With Grief*

*Heaven And Hell: The Divine Fire Of God's Love*

*Practical Prayer*



# Upcoming Events Calendar Debuts at the Connections Corner

CONNECTIONS CENTER MINISTRY  
REPORT | ANNA C. & ILEANA C.

The Connections Corner is a resource for everyone in our parish, not just our visitors. Accordingly, the Connections Corner has decided to begin highlighting upcoming events, and everyone is welcome to pick up a St. Mary's Events Calendar from the Connections Corner. The flyer lists upcoming key dates in our parish life, which you can post on your refrigerator, keep in a notebook, or just look over to see the new events and services that we'd love to have you at! And, of course, the Connections Corner remains a focal point to address any questions visitors or members may have about anything from our parish life to Orthodoxy as a whole. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Ileana C. or Anna C. ✕



# Lenten Soup Luncheon Raised \$3k and Parish Spirits

ST. JULIANA MINISTRY REPORT | ELLEN R.

We have the results of our Lenten Soup Luncheon! Our total is over \$3,000 and we have asked OCMC to split the funds between the two missionaries that we are currently supporting. We received a Christmas card from Jessie B. in Guatemala and a nice thank you letter from Floyd F. in Romania.

The best part of this soup luncheon was the number of people who stepped up to make soup, bring bread, help serve, and clean up to make this event one of the best ever! I wish I could personally thank or list everyone who helped, but the list is long and has shown how supportive the St Mary's parish can be to help those who are truly doing God's work. We were even able to serve soup at the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, where even more donations were received.

Thank you all for your continued support of our missionaries! ✕



*(Attending vs. Belonging, cont'd)* Maybe it's as simple as making someone a meal or giving them a call. Or maybe it's helping coordinate a Bible Study or Fellowship. How can you show unto others the kindness that was shown to you?

If you are a new member or even just contemplating joining the Orthodox Church, perhaps there is a ministry there for you that will also help you bridge the way from attending to belonging. A wise man once called the work of the church's community life the Liturgy after the Liturgy. We love that you have been coming to the Liturgy. We would love even more for you to get involved in the after Liturgy of our humble friendship.

This May, your parish council is continuing it's work on the topic of membership and community and will be focused on how we engage and energize current members as well as how we welcome new members and visitors here at the parish. If you haven't visited the Connections Center table at coffee hour yet, please do so, even if it's just to say hello to the volunteer friends there. May God the Father bless you and strengthen you in the light of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, both now and always! ✠

— FRD

## Active Ministries & Groups

Come join us in our ministry efforts, develop relationships, and enrich your life and the lives of others!

Learn more about this year's groups, ministries, and activities in the **2022 Parish Groups** brochure!



Send your writeups about parish events, offer your reflections and encouragement, or educate us on your special interest area in the faith. Keep journalism alive in our community! To get involved, email the editor Sophia P. at [UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com](mailto:UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com)



# THE Veil

**The Official Newsletter of the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church**  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

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**Deacons:** Protodn. Peter Danilchick, Dn. Nicholas Dujmovic | **Choir Director & Head Chanter:** Sdn. Nicholas Jones

**Subdeacons:** Sdn. Eugene Huang, Sdn. Nicholas Jones, Sdn. Bogdan Maxim | **Parish Council President:** Todd Sweet

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