



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | DECEMBER 14, 2025

Tone 2 • 27th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Today's Schedule

9:00am — Matins

10:00am — Divine Liturgy

Following the service:

Fellowship Hour, served by Group Do-Ke

No Church School

This Week At St. Mary's

Daily 3rd & 6th Hours — Mon–Fri @ 7:30am–8am online

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Parish Council (Virtual) | 7-9pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Vespers | 7-7:40pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Divine Liturgy | 7-8am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Women's Bible Study | 6:30-8pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Divine Liturgy | 10am-11am

Great Vespers with Group Confession
| 5-6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Matins & Divine Liturgy | 9-11:30am

Fellowship Hour | 12:00pm-1:00pm

No Church School - Holiday Break

Men's Fellowship | 6-8pm

Nativity Fast — November 15th-December 24th



Fellowship Hour Hosting Groups:

Week 1: A-Di

Week 2: Do-Ke

Week 3: Kh-P ← **Next Week's Host**

Week 4: Q-Z

Week 5: Entire Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. David Subu | Parish Council President: David Dill
7223 Roosevelt Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042 | 703.280.0770 | stmaryorthodox.org

HYMNS OF THE DAY*Tone 2. Troparion of the Resurrection*

WHEN Thou didst descend to death,
 O Life immortal, * Thou didst slay hell
 with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
 * And when from the depths Thou
 didst raise the dead, * all the powers
 of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life,
 Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 2. Troparion of the Forefathers

THROUGH faith You justified the Fore-
 fathers, * betrothing through them
 the Church of the gentiles. * These
saints exult in glory, * for from their
 seed came forth a glorious fruit: *
she who bore You without seed. // So
 by their prayers, O Christ God, have
mercy on us!

Glory. *Tone 6. Kontakion of the Forefathers*

YOU did not worship the graven
image, * O thrice-blessed ones, * but
 armed with the immaterial Essence of
 God, * you were glorified in a trial by
 fire. * From the midst of unbearable
 flames you called on God, crying: *
 “Hasten, O compassionate One! *
 Speedily come to our aid, // for You are
 merciful and able to do as You will!”

Both now. *Tone 3. Kontakion of
the Forefeast of the Nativity*

ON this day the Virgin cometh to the
 cave to give birth to * God the Word
 ineffably, * Who was before all the
 ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hear-
 ing * the gladsome tidings; * with the
 Angels and the shepherds now glorify

Him * Who is willing to be gazed on
 * as a young Child Who * before the
 ages is God.

PROKEIMENON

In the fourth tone: Blessed art Thou,
 O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised
 and glorified is Thy Name forever!

✠ *For Thou art just in all that Thou
 hast done for us!*

EPISTLE

*The Reading is from the Epistle of
 St. Paul to the Colossians (3:4-11)*

Brethren, when Christ who is our life
 appears, then you also will appear
 with Him in glory. Therefore put to
 death your members which are on
 the earth: fornication, uncleanness,
 passion, evil desire, and covetousness,
 which is idolatry. Because of these
 things the wrath of God is coming
 upon the sons of disobedience, in
 which you yourselves once walked
 when you lived in them. But now
 you yourselves are to put off all these:
 anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,
 filthy language out of your mouth. Do
 not lie to one another, since you have
 put off the old man with his deeds,
 and have put on the new man who is
 renewed in knowledge according to
 the image of Him who created him,
 where there is neither Greek nor Jew,
 circumcised nor uncircumcised, bar-
 barian, Scythian, slave nor free, but
 Christ is all and in all.

— ***The Trisagion in Other Languages (Transliterated)*** —

Romanian: Sfinte Dumnezeule, Sfinte Tare, Sfinte Fără de moarte, Miluiește-ne pe noi
 Church Slavonic: Svyati Bozhe, Svyati Kreпки, Svyati Bessmertni, pomiluy nas
 Arabic: Qudduson illah, Qudduson ilqawi, Qudduson illadhi, la yamoot urhamna
 Greek: Agios O Theos, Agios Eeskhios, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas
 Spanish: Santo Dios, Santo Fuerte, Santo Inmortal, ten piedad de nosotros

Alleluia, Tone 4:

- ✠ *Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.*
- ✠ *They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

GOSPEL

*The Reading is from the Holy Gospel
According to St. Luke (14:16-24)*

The Lord spoke this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

COMMUNION HYMN

- ✠ *Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise Him in the highest!*
- ✠ *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the just!*
- ✠ *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*



Sunday of the Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).



"When I am in church, I am truly in an earthly heaven. Here I see the images of the Lord, the most-pure Mother of God, the holy angels. Here is God's throne, here is the Life-giving Cross, here is the eternal Gospel, the Word of God, by Whom all things were made. Here are the images of the saints. I feel myself in the visible presence of God, His Mother, the heavenly powers, and all the saints. This is truly heaven on earth: here I know that I am indeed a member of Christ and of His Church, especially during the celebration of the most heavenly Liturgy and the Communion of the Holy Mysteries of the Body and Blood of Christ. How must I live, think, feel, speak, in order to be worthy of this heaven on earth! How must I live! In what meekness, humility, purity, abstinence, in order to call the Theotokos my mother and the Lord of Glory my Master! Lord, make me worthy!"

--From St. John of Kronstadt's *My Life in Christ*

Pray for our Parish

Prayer for Divine Guidance and Discernment

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, send down Your Holy Spirit upon Your servants in this holy parish.

Illumine the hearts and minds of the clergy and the entire parish council that they may discern Your will with clarity and wisdom.

Grant us the grace to seek not our own desires, but Your divine and perfect will in all matters concerning the growth of Your Holy Church and the building of a new Temple.

Preserve us from hasty decisions and human error. Guide our steps to glorify Your all-holy Name, and to serve Your people with faithfulness.

For You are the Giver of all good things, and to You we ascribe glory, with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



Help Us Reach our Matching Campaign Goal

Our parish has outgrown its space, and we're preparing for the next stage of growth! Two generous donors are matching all gifts up to \$20,000 toward our Capital Fund now through the end of the year. Every dollar you give will be doubled to help us build a more spacious and accessible St. Mary's.





Fellowship Hour Groups & Leaders

Week 1: A-Di — Jon

C. & Matt C.

Week 2: Do-Ke — Edward H. & Alison J.

Week 3: Kh-P — Melanie K. & Tom P.

Week 4: Q-Z — Nathan & Charity W.

Week 5: Entire Parish — Dsa. Irene L., Alyssa M.

We Can Help You Join Realm Today!

Our parish uses [Realm](#) (available on browser or app) to share real-time updates on activities, ministries, and other church activities. We encourage parishioners to routinely check in on Realm and/or set up a daily digest of activity to be sent to your email to stay engaged with the community. If you're not yet on Realm, please reach out to Lacie Faber during Fellowship Hour (or email lacie@stmaryorthodox.org) and we'll get you set up!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th)

Royal Hours | 10am - 12pm

Vespertal Liturgy | 5pm-6:30pm

Candlelight Vigil | 10pm - 11:30pm

Christmas Day (Dec. 25th)

Christmas Liturgy | 10am-11:30am

Save the Date

Services, holidays, and other events

DECEMBER

Parish Council (Virtual) | Dec. 16th @ 7-9pm

Divine Liturgy | Dec. 17th @ 7-8am

Divine Liturgy | Dec. 20th @ 10-11am

Baptism: Asihel | Dec. 20th 11am-12pm

Great Vespers w/Group Confession | Dec. 20th @ 5-6:30pm

Baptism: Hall | Dec. 26th @ 10-11am

Great Vespers & Te Deum | Dec. 31 @ 7-8pm

JANUARY

St. Basil Liturgy | Jan. 1st @ 10:30am-12pm

Royal Hours of Theophany | Jan. 5th @ 10-11:30am

Vespertal Liturgy of Theophany with Blessing of Waters | Jan. 5th @ 6-8pm

Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of Waters | Jan. 6th @ 10:30am-11:30am

Home Blessings: Arlington | Jan. 9th @ 7pm-8pm

St. John Dinner | Jan. 11th



Upcoming Events & Outings

Women's Bible Study

Join us on Friday, December 19th from 6:30-8pm for Women's Bible Study to continue (and possible wrap-up) our study on 1 John. Bring a bible, a dish to share, and stay after the study for conversation and snacks! Visit the Realm event for more details and to RSVP!



Men's Fellowship

Join us Sunday, December 21st from 6-8pm at Fr. David's house for the second annual Men's White Elephant party. This year's theme is "Truth is Stranger than Fiction." Bring a gift that is light-hearted and funny, a dish to pass, prayers to ask and praise to report. Join the Realm Men's Fellowship event for more information and to RSVP!



Adult Catechism Winter 2026: Worship & Sacraments

This winter, we are offering an Adult Catechism course covering worship & the sacraments starting on January 17th (3-4:30pm). This course will help you articulate the history, purpose, value, and meaning of the Eastern Orthodox Church's approach and the Holy Mysteries. Scan to register:



Wafaa's Sweet Souk - Today Only!

Come visit Wafaa's Sweet Souk after Liturgy today in the Fellowship Hall for a beautiful selection of homemade pastries — perfect for last-minute Christmas gifts and holiday sharing.

Everything will be available on-site, first come, first served!

Payments: Cash or check preferred
Venmo and Zelle also available

A portion of proceeds supports our Capital Campaign Fund

Parish News & Announcements

Effective Parish Assessment Survey is LIVE!

St. Mary's Effective Parish Assessment (EPA) survey is now live and will remain open through December 31. This tool will help us understand our parish's strengths and needs as we address overcrowding and plan for future ministry and space needs. The survey is anonymous, takes 20–25 minutes, and can be completed on any computer or smartphone. Volunteers are available to help anyone who needs assistance. Please take the time to participate. Your input is essential and will help guide the future of St. Mary's. Scan the code to access the survey:



2026 ROEA Calendars (English & Romanian) Available

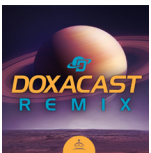
We have a number of ROEA hand calendars and a few liturgical wall calendars available free to parishioners with interest. Please find them located in the narthex. Thank you!

Donate Non-Perishable Goods to Falls Church Food Pantry this Advent Season

Our Community Outreach Ministry highlights that donations will be received in the the donation box downstairs outside the restrooms

Join us for the Doxacast Remix!

Our Babylon 5 panel, composed of St. Mary's parishioners, is back with a NEW episode titled The Coming of Shadows (and Light). To hear this and other conversations, visit our home on Ancient Faith Radio <https://tinyurl.com/89s9kdj6> or check us out on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Pocketcasts.



Submit items for the weekly bulletin or *The Veil*

Contact Lacie Faber at lacie@stmaryorthodox.org

Newsletter deadline | *extended* Monday, Dec. 15 (for Dec. issue)

Weekly bulletin deadline | by end-of-day Wednesday each week

God Grant You Many Years!



Birthdays Petra A., Jeff B., Kai J., Vincenzo K., Christina M.

Namedays St. Daniel, St. Eugene, St. John of Kronstadt, St. Joseph, St. Sarah, St. Nathan

Anniversaries None.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Sunday Liturgy | 9am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Great Vespers | Saturday, 5pm-6pm

3rd & 6th Hours | Monday–Friday, 7:30am–8am

Women's Bible Study | 3rd Friday of the month, 6:30pm–8pm

Men's Fellowship | Monthly, on a Sunday TBD, 6pm-8pm

Fellowship of Moms | Monthly, after a morning Divine Liturgy TBD

Philokalia Book Group | Fridays, 3pm–4pm

Reel Women | Monthly, on a Tuesday TBD



Giving to St. Mary's

There are three easy ways to give:

- in the collection bowl in the narthex
- in the collection plate in the nave as you exit for the Fellowship Hall
- [click here](#) to give online

Thank you for your generosity!

Are you visiting? Welcome to St. Mary's!

We're delighted that you've joined us! Please feel free to watch, participate, or ask the person next to you if you have any questions. Check out the Connections Corner in the fellowship hall to learn more about us or Orthodoxy, to pick up a copy of our newsletter and ministry brochure, or to just meet a few friendly faces!

We try to avoid entering or exiting the nave during readings, processions, or the sermon. Please note that to receive Holy Communion in our church, one must be baptized Orthodox, recently-confessed, and at peace with one's fellows. At the end of the service, everyone is welcome to come up to kiss the Cross, greet the priest, and receive blessed bread.

Please join us for fellowship hour downstairs in the fellowship hall after liturgy. We'd love to meet you!