



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | DECEMBER 21, 2025

Tone 3 • 28th Sunday after Pentecost

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Today's Schedule

9:00am — Matins
10:00am — Divine Liturgy
Following the service:
Fellowship Hour, served by Group Kh-P
No Church School
6-8pm — Men's Fellowship

This Week At St. Mary's

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Royal Hours | 10am-12pm
Vesperal Liturgy | 5-6:30pm
Candlelight Vigil | 10-11:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Liturgy | 10-11:30am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Baptism: Hall | 10am-11am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Divine Liturgy | 10-11am
Great Vespers | 5-6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. James | 9-11:30am
Fellowship Hour | 12:00pm-1:00pm
No Church School - Holiday Break

Nativity Fast — November 15th-December 24th

Fellowship Hour Hosting Groups:

- Week 1: A-Di
- Week 2: Do-Ke
- Week 3: Kh-P
- Week 4: Q-Z ← Next Week's Host**
- Week 5: Entire Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. David Subu | Parish Council President: David Dill

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HYMNS OF THE DAY*Tone 3. Troparion of the Resurrection*

LET the heavens rejoice! * Let the earth be glad! * For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. * He has trampled down death by death. * He has become the first born of the dead. * He has delivered us from the depths of hell, * and has granted the world // great mercy.

Tone 2. Troparion of the Holy Fathers

GREAT are the accomplishments of faith, * for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; * and the Prophet Daniel appeared * a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4. Troparion of the Forefeast

PREPARE, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! * Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! * Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; * if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. // Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Tone 1. Kontakion of the Fathers

REJOICE, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha! * The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. * The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, // and with

the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Glory. Tone 2. Kontakion of the Forefeast

HE Who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand * now is beheld in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling bands. * We offer prefestal hymns to his Mother, who maternally rejoices // having held to her bosom the Son of God.

Both now. Tone 3. Kontakion of the norefeast 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 hearing * 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 Hebrews (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the

— The Trisagion in Other Languages (Transliterated) —

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

same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in

deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Alleluia, Tone 4:

- ℣ *We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.*
- ℣ *For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.*

GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok,

Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord

through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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!*



"The Divine Liturgy is truly a heavenly service on earth, during which God Himself, in a particular, immediate, and intimate manner, is present and dwells with men, being Himself the invisible celebrant of the service, the One offering and the One being offered. There is nothing holier, higher, grander, more solemn, more life-giving on this earth than the Liturgy. During this incredible event, the Church becomes heaven on earth. . . In the divine service, we experience an event no less awesome than God's descent to Mount Sinai. It is even a greater event: here before us is the very face of God the lawgiver. . . Wondrous is the Liturgy! In it we commemorate the life, not of just any great man, but of God Incarnate, Who suffered and died for us, Who rose again, ascended into heaven, and Who shall come again to judge the whole world."

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



Fellowship Hour Groups & Leaders

Week 1: A-Di – Jon

C. & Matt C.

Week 2: Do-Ke – Edward H. & Allison 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 laicie@stmaryorthodox.org) and we'll get you set up!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th)

Royal Hours | 10am - 12pm

Vesperal 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

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

Vesperal 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 Prep | 12-3pm

St. John Dinner | Jan. 11th @ 12-1pm

Divine Liturgy | Jan. 14th @ 7-8am

Women's Bible Study | Jan. 16th @ 6:30-8pm

Men's Bible Study | Jan. 17th @ 8-10am

Adult Catechism | Jan. 17th @ 3-4:30pm

Divine Liturgy | Jan. 21st @ 7-8am

Wedding: Cheshire | Jan. 24th @ 2-8pm



Upcoming Events & Outings

Safety Team to Begin Service this Sunday



St. Mary's will have a dedicated Safety Team in place to help ensure a safe and welcoming environment during services and fellowship hour. Trained volunteer Safety Officers will be present throughout the church and grounds and can be identified by yellow/green vests.

To enhance safety, **all side doors will be locked at 10:00 AM, with entry through the main door only**

after that time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement these measures for the care of our parish community. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Ioana M. (in person or on Realm).

Men's Fellowship



Join us tonight, 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!

Parish News & Announcements

Help Us Grow Into the New Year!

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our parish family. Thanks to our generous donors, we successfully met our both our matching goal and \$100k goal for our Capital Fund in 2025. As our parish continues to grow and thrive, we are joyfully carrying this momentum into the new year as we build our capital campaign reserve fund. Every gift, large or small, helps us prepare for the next chapter of St. Mary's—one that is more spacious, accessible, and welcoming for all. There's still time to give before the end the year!



Effective Parish Assessment Survey is LIVE!

St. Mary's Effective Parish Assessment (EPA) survey is now live and will remain open through December 31. 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. Scan the code to access the survey!

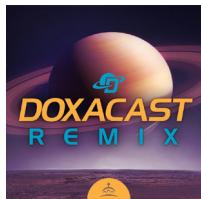


2026 ROEA Calendars (English & Romanian) Available

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!

Join us for the Doxacast Remix!

Enjoy TWO NEW episodes of the Doxacast Remix: "Beginning the End of Stranger Things" and "Body and Soul and the Cinema of Frankenstein" (with Amy D.). To hear these 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 laicie@stmaryorthodox.org
 Newsletter deadline | Monday, Jan. 12 (for Jan. Issue)
 Weekly bulletin deadline | by end-of-day Wednesday each week

God Grant You Many Years!



Birthdays Jehan C., Anthony F., Libby H., Nicholas M., Eleni W.,
George W.

Namedays The Holy Forefathers (St. Ruth, St. Esther, St. Joseph,
St. Eve), St. Stephen, St. Adele

Anniversaries William & Allison J.

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!