



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | DECEMBER 28, 2025

Tone 4 • 29th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Today's Schedule

9:00am — Matins

10:00am — Divine Liturgy of St. James

Following the service:

Fellowship Hour, served by Group Q-Z

No Church School

6-8pm — *New Date* Men's Fellowship

This Week At St. Mary's

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Great Vespers & Te Deum | 7-8pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

St. Basil Liturgy | 10:30am-12pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

Great Vespers | 5-6pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Matins & Divine Liturgy | 9-11:30am

Fellowship Hour | 12-1pm

Church School Resumes | 12-1pm



Fellowship Hour Hosting Groups:

Week 1: A-Di ← Next Week's Host

Week 2: Do-Ke

Week 3: Kh-P

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 4. Troparion of the Resurrection

WHEN the women disciples of the Lord * learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, * they cast away the ancestral curse * and elatedly told the apostles: * “Death is overthrown! * Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4. Troparion of the Feast

YOUR Nativity, O Christ our God, * has shone to the world the light of wisdom! * For by it, those who worshipped the stars, * were taught by a star to adore You, * the Sun of Righteousness, * and to know You, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2. Troparion of the Righteous Ones

PROCLAIM the wonder, O Joseph, * to David, the ancestor of God; * you have seen a Virgin great with child; * and you gave glory with the shepherds; * you worshipped with the Magi, * and received the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Glorify. *Tone 3. Kontakion of the Righteous Ones*

TODAY godly David is filled with joy; * Joseph and James offer praise. * The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. * They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

Both now. *Tone 3. Kontakion of Feast*

TODAY the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, * and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! * Angels with shepherds glorify Him! * The Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

PROKEIMENON

In the fourth tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

✠ *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!*

In the fourth tone: God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

OLD TESTAMENT

The Reading is from the Second Book of Kingdoms (2 Samuel) (5:1-10)

At that time, all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said to him, “Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. In time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in, and the Lord said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.’” Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and at Hebron King David made a covenant with them before the Lord. And they anointed David king over all Israel. David was thirty

— *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

years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. For seven years and six months, he reigned over Judah while in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. And David and his men marched toward Jerusalem to the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, to those who said to David, "You shall not be welcomed here, for the blind and the lame will resist you saying, 'David, do not enter here.'" Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, the City of David. Now David said on that day, "Everyone who attacks the Jebusites, let him strike with the dagger both the lame and the blind and those who hate the life of David." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house of the Lord." Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and it was called the City of David. And he built the city itself round about the citadel, and he built his own house. David continued forward in this manner and was held in high regard, for the Lord Almighty was with him.

EPISTLE

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for

the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia, Tone 4:

- ✠ *Go forth, proper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness, and truth!*
- ✠ *For Thou lovest righteousness and dost hate iniquity.*
- ✠ *Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!*

GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth

and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

COMMUNION HYMN

✠ O taste and see that the Lord is good.



"As I look at the icons in the church--Your Holy Icon, my Lord, that of Your Most-pure Mother, those of the holy angels and archangels, and the faces of the saints, adorned, resplendent with gold and silver--I think to myself how You have honored and adorned our nature, O Creator and Provider of all! Glory to You for having so honored, enlightened, and raised our nature!"

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



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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!



Save the Date

Services, holidays, and other events

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 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

FEBRUARY

Parish Assembly | Feb. 1 @ 12:30-2pm

Festal Vespers | Feb. 1st @ 2:30pm-3:30pm

Festal Liturgy with Blessing of Candles | Feb. 2nd @ 7-8am

Upcoming Events & Outings



Men's Fellowship

Join us tonight, Sunday, December 28th 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!

St. Mary Parish Assembly is on Feb. 1st

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend St. Mary's Annual Parish Assembly on Sunday, February 1st, after Divine Liturgy. This important gathering is an opportunity reflect on the life of our parish over the past year, hear updates from clergy and parish leadership, review financial and ministry reports, and look ahead to the year to come!

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!



Home Blessing Scheduling is Live!

Following the upcoming Feast of Theophany, it is our longstanding Orthodox tradition to invite the blessing of holy water into our homes as we begin the new year. During this annual home blessing season, Fr. David visits parishioners' homes to pray with families and ask God's blessing upon all who dwell there.

Please use this link to schedule your visit: [https://calendly.com/frdavid-p308/](https://calendly.com/frdavid-p308/home-blessings)

home-blessings. Consider coordinating with your local neighbors so that Fr. David can correlate his visits to an area on the same day.



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!



Last Week for EPA Survey!

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 To hear this an 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 | Monday, Jan. 12 (for Jan. Issue)

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

God Grant You Many Years!



Birthdays Will D., Tim E., Lori J., Christina J., Robin K.
Namedays St. Melanie, St. Genevieve, St. Juliana
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!