



THE Veil

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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...and more inside!

From Disciples to Apostles: The Pentecost Mandate

FR. DAVID S.

Christ is among us! He is and ever shall be!

As we begin the month of June, we are celebrating great and Biblical feast of Pentecost. We often view Pascha as the absolute summit of the Church year—and rightfully so, for Christ has trampled down death by death. However, at the local OCMC Mission Banquet on May 2nd, the new Executive Director, Dr. Nathan Hoppe, pointed out a subtle spiritual blind spot we often suffer from: we frequently overlook Pentecost as the necessary culmination of Jesus' saving work.

Christ did not break the bonds of Hades simply so we could sit back and comfortably wait for heaven. He ascended to the right hand of the Father precisely so that He could pour out the Holy Spirit upon His followers, transforming them from a frightened group behind locked doors into a force that would change the world. Pascha is our rescue; Pentecost is our activation.

This movement from internal renewal to outward mission perfectly transforms our journey over the last few months of Christmas, Lent, and Pascha. During the Paschaltide, our sermon series focused heavily on The Theology of Leadership, drawing wisdom from the book written by our own Protodeacon, Peter Danilchick. That series was not meant to be a mere academic exercise in administrative skills. Rather, it was designed to show us the structural anatomy of spiritual maturity.

In the economy of the Kingdom, there is a deliberate trajectory to our growth:

Disciple: We begin as disciples—literally, "those who follow." We sit at the feet of the Master, learning His commandments, clearing our spiritual debt, and soaking in the healing life of the Church.

Leader: As we mature, we are called to take up leadership. This doesn't mean vying for positions of power like James and John in the Gospel; it means taking responsibility for our spiritual lives, our families, and our parish. We learn to become "servant-leaders" who maintain spiritual peace so that we can be a non-anxious presence for others.

“ Christ did not break the bonds of Hades simply so we could sit back and comfortably wait for heaven. ”

Apostle: But even leadership is not the final destination. True leadership exists to prepare us to become apostles—literally, "those who are sent." For some brave few, we may be sent far away from home. For most others, like St. Photini, an Equal-to-the-Apostles, we begin as apostles to our own communities.

To prepare our hearts for this apostolic calling, our sermon series throughout June—which coincides with Pentecost and the Apostles' Fast—will focus squarely on Orthodox Evangelism and Missions.

(Cont'd on pg. 6)



God Grant You Many Years!

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

BIRTHDAYS

Nathalie A.
 Rafael A.
 Nina A.
 Elena B.
 Jonathan C.
 Selene C.
 Nora D.
 John D.
 Calla E.
 Laurel E.
 Mike G.
 Emmalyn H.
 Rachel J.
 Matthew K.
 Nina K.
 Ioana M.
 Alexis M.
 Maximus M.

Galina M.
 Nicholas M.
 Daniel M.
 Elena O.
 Caleb P.
 Paula R.
 Mihai R.
 Brian S.
 Julie S.
 Marcus S.
 Psa. Stephanie
 Grace S.
 Nina T.
 Matt V.
 Emma W.
 Michael W.
 Charity W.
 Alex W.

NAMESDAYS

June 11 — St. Nathaniel, St. Luke of Simferopol, St. John Maximovitch
 June 27 — St. Joanna
 June 29 — Ss. Peter & Paul

ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Nathalie A.
 Ben & Jessie C.
 David & Nicole F.
 Jason & Elaine R.
 Stephen & Victoria S.
 Chris & Sarah V.

3RD OCT 2026 AT 6PM @ ST. LUKE'S IN MCLEAN

save the date

ST. MARY'S 2026 ANNUAL DINNER DANCE!

SILENT AUCTION & DESSERT AUCTION

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE CAPITAL FUND



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 HOLY PENTECOST	1	2	3	4	5	6 11am-1pm: Baptism: Burk 5-6pm: Great Vespers
Office Closed - June 1st-4th						
7 9am-11:30am: Matins, Churching, & Divine Liturgy (Hosted by A-Di) 11:30am-1:30pm: Church School Recognition Day & Ice Cream Truck	8 ST. COLUMBA OF SCOTLAND 7-8am: Divine Liturgy	9 7-7:30pm: Daily Vespers	10	11	12	13 4:40-5pm: Memorial: Jacobson 5-6pm: Great Vespers 6pm: YAM Game Night
14 9-11:30am: Matins & Divine Liturgy (Hosted by Do-Ke)	15 7-8:30pm: Parish Council	16	17 7-7:30pm: Daily Vespers	18	19 6:30-8pm: Women's Bible Study	20 5-6pm: Great Vespers
21 9am-11:30am: Matins & Divine Liturgy (Hosted by Kh-P)	22	23 7-8pm: Great Vespers	24 NATIVITY OF THE FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST 7-8am: Divine Liturgy	25	26	27
Office Closed - June 25th - July 6th						
28 9am-11:30am: Matins & Divine Liturgy (Hosted by Q-Z)	29	30	1	2	3	4
Office Closed - June 25th - July 6th						

Visit stmaryorthodox.org/calendar for the most updated event listings.

Room to Welcome: A New Campaign for St. Mary's Future

DN. KEN L. | CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIR

Since its founding in 1988, St. Mary's Orthodox Church has been a place where people have encountered Christ, found a spiritual home, and built lasting bonds of faith and fellowship. We thank God for his blessing and for the generosity and vision of the parish's founders who stepped forward in faith to support the growth of this parish through acquiring our present facility, beautifying our worship space, and investing in its future.

Today, we're at another pivotal moment in life of the parish. In recent years, St. Mary's has experienced remarkable growth, with many new

individuals and families continuously joining our community. Like many other parishes around the country, this growth is a huge blessing, but it has exacerbated our ability to serve everyone. Space limitations now affect our ability to worship, gather, teach, and welcome the many new people who keep coming to our doors.

Over the past decade, we've examined the idea of renovating and expanding our current facility, but it has become abundantly clear that this isn't feasible. Our limited property size, the exorbitant cost of renovation relative to the limited increase in capacity, and restrictive new county parking require-

ments all make it futile to expand.

So we're now looking more seriously at the prospect of moving to a new church home—one that can accommodate our growing parish for decades ahead. But given the significant rise in property costs in northern Virginia, finding a new property that fits our needs as well as our financial capability won't be easy either. But we pray that God will guide us to a place where all who come to seek Him will find room. Please join us in this prayer as we intensify our search and begin a new capital campaign in earnest. Watch for more updates in the coming months. ✕

Help Care for Our Parish Home: Join the Building and Grounds Committee

ELLEN R. | BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

While we have aspirations to save and identify opportunities for a new parish home, we must also be realistic that it may be a multi-year project and we simultaneously need to steward well what we have already been given--and we all know that our wonderful facilities are no longer keeping pace with the growth of our parish.

As a result, simultaneously, we are working to make our current facilities as welcoming, useful, and well cared for as possible for our growing number of members. We have a terrific Building and Grounds Committee whose purpose is to keep our facilities in the best condition possible. This includes addressing minor issues, making necessary repairs, and offering ideas for how to make better use of the buildings and grounds we already have.

This year, we are planning to redo the driveways and parking lot, since it has been many years since this work was

last done and the asphalt is deteriorating in a number of places. We will share more details once the timing is finalized later this year.

We are also hoping to add outdoor seating to the property. We will be gathering bids, reviewing the available space, and considering how to best meet our parish's needs. We know there are many Sundays when Fellowship Hall is simply too crowded, especially when the weather outside is beautiful. We will also continue to use the St. Olga house in the ways that best serve the parish, and we hope to reconfigure the basement to allow for more classroom space and overflow seating, as needed.

If you are wondering why this article is here, the answer is simple: we need people, both men and women, to help with these ambitious plans. There are always minor repairs that need attention, and for larger projects we need

to gather at least three competitive bids from different companies.



If you would like to join this group, please sign up on Realm (scan QR code) or speak with Ellen R., David D., or Fr. David. You may have skills we need, or you may simply want to help move a pavilion or another project forward. We need people with ideas, skills, and interest in helping make our parish facilities the best they can be. ✕





ST MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH | May 2026 Parish Council Summary

The St. Mary Parish Council met in person and online on May 18, 2026. We were joined by several other members of the parish, who gave feedback and asked questions as the meeting progressed.

SWOT Analysis

We appreciate the parish-wide participation in the recent Effective Parish Assessment (EPA) and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) retreat on May 9. Dea M. compiled the results from those who joined us at the retreat, which were shared with council members prior to our Parish Council (PC) meeting. We will share the full results, and then begin analysis and further strategy work with Alex C. in a new Strategy Committee. We encourage your participation in this new Committee, as well as all other Committees currently active in our parish.

Capital Campaign

Deacon Ken L. gave a presentation to the PC on past efforts to expand, remodel, or relocate from our current property. He also delivered an inspiring reminder of the church's role as a "hospital for sinners," which must be foremost in our mind as we evaluate options. There is a consensus that we cannot accommodate the needs of our growing parish in the current site, as we have found construction costs too expensive and zoning rules too onerous to allow for the expansion we need.

The PC discussed the immediate future and plans to work on a checklist of actions that need to take place prior to any new property purchase, an updated assessment of our finances,

and reinvigorated fundraising. Father is discussing with hierarchs and other local priests our needs and the plans of other parishes across all DC-area Orthodox jurisdictions. The search for a new property is also well underway, with visits happening every week or two. Unfortunately, competition is fierce, so when we do find a good option, we will have to be prepared to move quickly.

Choir Director

Our beloved choir director, Subdeacon Nick J., will attend seminary in the near future, likely in the 2027-2028 academic year. Due to logistical issues, he and Emilia J. considered moving this year. The PC discussed ways we can meet their needs, including by converting the St. Olga house back into a residence for their family. We are working through the details now, but, in the meantime, the PC approved minor renovations to that property that would allow their family to move in if needed. We also continue to press the county to exempt the St. Olga house from property taxes as it is being used for non-profit purposes. Use of this house by their family will not change our eligibility for property tax exemptions.

Pew Survey

The PC and other parishioners discussed recent interest in removing additional pews from the nave. We had delayed consideration of that over the past few years, due to concerns that increased capacity

would trigger parking requirements if we applied for a construction permit. Since we no longer plan to enlarge our current facilities, that is no longer a risk. Matt T. and Doug M. will look at floor plans and the experience of other parishes to determine whether pew removal will increase capacity enough to justify the effort. As we enter the more relaxed summer season, please continue to pray for our parish, its PC, and our priest, as we attempt to remain good stewards of our resources and bring sinners into the life of the Church, and into union with God.

Yours in Christ,

David D.

St. Mary Parish Council President



Photo: SWOT Retreat Introductory Remarks (not pictured: Colby's messy plate of pizza)

(Cont'd from front page)

When we hear the word "missionary," we naturally think of heroic figures traveling across the globe to Albania, Kenya, or Guatemala with OCMC. And indeed, some from our midst may be called to do exactly that. But the apostolic mandate belongs to every single baptized Orthodox Christian. St. Seraphim of Sarov famously reminded us that if we acquire the spirit of peace, thousands around us will be saved.

Evangelism, in the Orthodox tradition, is not about winning theological arguments on internet forums or shouting on street corners. It is about becoming a living icon of Christ's peace in a world that is drowning in anxiety and fractured by malice. When we are well-maintained in our faith, our very presence becomes an invitation for others to "come and see."

“ **St. Mary's is not a fortress where we hide from the culture; it is a launchpad.** ”

This June, as we enter the three-week Apostles' Fast, let us reframe our discipline. Fasting is the traditional way the Church tones its spiritual muscles for outward labor. We fast so that we recognize and surrender our selfish impulses, free up our resources for almsgiving, and clear our eyes to see the needs of our neighbors.

St. Mary's is not a fortress where we hide from the culture; it is a launchpad. Christ has filled us with Resurrectional joy and renewed us with His Holy Spirit so that we can be sent out into our workplaces, our schools, and our neighborhoods as participant-builders of His Kingdom.

Even if we are travelling this summer, our work as the Church continues unabated. Let us spend this Pentecost season stepping off the baseline of passive hearers of the Gospel and into the active joy of our missionary calling as doers and sharers of the Good News. ✠

250th Anniversary of the United States of America: Commemoration of Military Veterans and Auxiliary Units

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, is planning a Memorial Service during the 2026 Episcopate Congress in Hollywood/Miramar, Florida, to remember members of our parishes who served in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. This commemoration will include those who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Grenada, and other conflicts.

As part of this effort, St. Mary is gathering information about parish members who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Parishioners are invited to submit photos, photos of plaques, and lists of names of those who served. We also welcome photos of memorabilia connected to service members, active-duty service, or the many ways Romanian communities supported the war effort.

Please send all entries to Lacie F. (lacie@stmaryorthodox.org) by July 15 so that we can compile the materials and forward them for the commemorative display being arranged for the Congress.

This is a meaningful opportunity to help honor and remember the faithful service of those from our parish community. ✠



SAINT MARY
ORTHODOX CHURCH

PEACE

mercy

AGES 4-12

2026 Vacation Church School
BECOMING BLESSED:
LIVING THE BEATITUDES

July 27-31, 2026 @ 8:30am-12:30pm +
Divine Liturgy with Cross Procession Aug. 1 @ 9:00am

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER YOUR
CHILD HERE:

Grateful

Twenty-Five Parishioners Enjoy a Ballgame Together

CHRISTINA J. | PARISHIONER

On Sunday, May 17th, twenty-five parishioners from St. Mary's headed to Nats Park to see the Washington Nationals play the Baltimore Orioles. Many of those who attended even rode the Metro in together from local stations to capitalize on the fellowship time. Locally this game series is called the "Battle of the Beltway." It was a hot day, but luckily our seats were in the shade along the third base line.

The O's started off strong at the bottom of the first inning with a home run. The O's also got two runs in with another home run at the top of the second. The Nats didn't want to be counted out quite yet with their own home run at the bottom of the second. With more runs by the O's at the top of the third and fourth innings, it started to look like a runaway win for Baltimore. The Nats put up a good fight by getting the bases loaded at the bottom of the fourth inning, and got one run in. They couldn't fully take advantage of the loaded bases and tried to rally in the bottom of the seventh inning. The final score was Orioles 7 to the Nationals 3. Even though it wasn't a win for the home team it was still a great, fun outing for the St. Mary's community. ✂



Pictured: St. Mary Parishioners at Nats Park - Photo: Christina Jatras

Please Slow Down on Church Grounds This Summer

ELLEN R. | PARISHIONER

As summertime begins, our children will be joyfully playing outside in the yard areas, the playground, and all around the church grounds.

Please slow down when driving on church property so that we can help ensure everyone's safety.

Thank you for helping keep our parish children safe. ✝

A graphic titled "From the Pastor's Desk" in a blue cursive font. Below the title, it says: "Need to chat? Whether you're seeking a home blessing, pastoral guidance and care, exploring Orthodoxy, or simply need a place to share what's on your heart, let's talk." Below that, it says: "Scan, visit <https://calendly.com/frdavid-p308/> or email frdavid@stmaryorthodox.org to get on Fr. David's calendar!" To the left of the QR code is a blue and white calendar icon. The background of the graphic is a blurred image of pink and white flowers.

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)

Hierarch: Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit | Parish Priest: V. Rev. Dr. Fr. David G. Subu
Deacons: Protodn. Peter Danilchick, Dn. Kenneth Liu | Choir Director & Head Chanter: Sdn. Nicholas Jones
Subdeacons: Eugene Huang, Nicholas Jones, Bogdan Maxim | Parish Council President: David Dill

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