



THE Veil

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023
VOLUME 37, ISSUE 8

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and more inside!



The Unveiling Veil

— FR. DAVID

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."—2 Cor. 3:13

Our parish, as I discussed last month, is dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God, specifically connected to her *omophor*, or veil. There is great mystical significance to the concept of veils and coverings in the Scripture. We are about to enter the season in which that theology really begins to shine — or rather, be unveiled! I am talking about the season of the advent and nativity of Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, the image of the veil and covering are used throughout the tabernacle as a mediator between God and sinful humanity that cannot behold His glory and live. When Moses came down from the mountain after speaking face to face with God as a man speaks to his friend (Ex. 33:11), he was so filled with glory that they had to put a veil over his face as well. St. Paul

says that now that the Lord has come, the veil is taken away (2 Cor. 3:14-16) and the glory that now comes through the ministry (Gr. *diakonia*) of the Spirit will be much more glorious. And we will be able to both see it and live and be transformed by it. This is all because the pre-figuring veil has been taken away and fulfilled in the veil of Christ's incarnation.

Christ's very flesh is a veil which both conceals and reveals. We see the physical reality of His body, and it is depicted in the icons and is made manifest in the Eucharist, but it also hides the mystery of his Godhood, the mystery "hidden from all ages," but now revealed to His holy ones—the "saints," which in this sense includes the people of God—us! This veil of His flesh points us to that which is (*cont'd 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 and nameday, you'll see them here.

BIRTHDAYS

November

Bobby A.
Anastasia B.
Betsy B.
Jason C.
Ileana C.
Alexandra D.
Dn. Nicholas D.
Svetlana D.
Kurt E.
Allison J.
Peter L.
Will L.
Robert M.
Michael M.
Jason R.
Ellen R.
Tatiana R.
Kristen S.
Stephen S.
Christopher T.

Stephanie Tr.

December

Jeff B.
Amy B.
Henry C.
James C.
Phoebe D.
Will D.
Michaela D.
Tim E.
Libby H.
Lori J.
Sue K.
Nicholas M.
Samia P.
Elizabeth W.
Hans S.
Elizabeth S.
Eleni W.
George W.
Angie Z.

NAMEDAYS

November

Mihaela B.
Andrew B.
Jeff B.
Mihai B.
Alethea C.
Cathy D.
Michaela D.
Dn. Michael F.
Eva F.
Kristi F.
Sarah J.
Matthew K.
Phil K.
David M.
Katherine M.
Todd S.
Andrew T.
Mariel T.
Matthew Ta.
Matt Ti.

December

Anna C.
Lauren C.
Daniel C.
Daniel D.
Dn. Nicholas D.
Nick D.
Nicole F.
Sdn. Eugene H.
Jonathan J.
Joseph J.
Lucy J.
Sdn. Nick J.
Sarah J.
Melanie K.
Nicholas M.
Caleb P.
Cindy S.
Psa. Stephanie
Stephanie Th.

ANNIVERSARIES

November

Jonathan & Anna C.
Dn. Michael & Dsa. Kristi F.
Eugene & Stephanie H.
Warren & Libby H.
Ben & Marion L.
Craig & Reneé L.
Jeff & Megan M.

December

William & Allison J.



CURRENT CLASS



ADULT CATECHISM

The Creed: Basics of Orthodox Doctrine

SATURDAYS | 3pm-4:30pm

Learn more and enroll on Realm

CURRENT CLASS



ADULT EDUCATION

Lord of Spirits Study Guide: End Times!

WEDNESDAYS | 7:45PM-9PM

Learn more and enroll on Realm

>> WINTER FAMILY CAMP <<

JANUARY 12-15 | ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE
SPEAKERS: PAUL & CINDY KAROS

Take your family and get away from everyday life for a weekend at the Antiochian Village Camp. Not your typical vacation, Winter Family Camp offers a flexible mini-vacation without maps, lines for popcorn, or decisions over where to eat. The days are bookmarked with Matins and Vespers in the beautiful St. Ignatius Church, with services sung by everyone present.

Learn more and register at avcamp.org/programs/winter-family-camp

The Atrium is Seeking Icon Donations

(Church School Ages 3-5 Class)

If anyone is willing and able to donate icons to the Atrium for our young children to interact with during classes, we're seeking the following icons:

- **Theophany** (to go with our baptism work)
- **Christ the Good Shepherd**
- **The Mystical Supper**
- **The Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth**
- **any icons** of Christ welcoming young children

Please contact Jessica O. or Stephanie C. if you'd like to donate icons!

Ancient Faith Singles Retreat 30+

THURSDAY, 2/29/2024 –
SUNDAY, 3/3/2024
AT ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE

The Ancient Faith Singles Retreat 30+ is a gathering of Orthodox Christians who are at least 30 years of age, unmarried (single, divorced, widowed), and living in the world. The weekend will include daily matins and vespers, and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

LEARN MORE:
TINYURL.COM/2023-AFSR

Winter Soup Luncheon

Following Liturgy Dec. 3

The St. Juliana Fellowship needs your help to make soup for this year's Winter Soup Luncheon, which will follow liturgy on Sunday, December 3. All proceeds go to the support of OCMC missionaries in Romania and Guatemala. Please let **Tanya D.** know if you can help with this critical support effort!

Mid-November

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy 11:30pm-12pm New Member Sunday Church School	13 7pm-9pm Parish Council	14 ST. PHILIP, ST. GREGORY PALAMAS	15 7pm-7:45pm Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Education	16 ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE	17 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	18 11am-2pm Baptism: Oberlin 3pm-4:30pm Adult Catechism 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
Nativity Fast Nov. 15-Dec 24						
19 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy Church School 12pm-2pm Thanksgiving Bake Sale Pickup	20 7pm-8pm Great Vespers	21 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS 7am-8am Festal Liturgy	22 7pm-7:45pm Thanksgiving Prayers	23 10:30am-11:30am Thanksgiving Liturgy 12pm-2pm Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner	24 ST. CATHERINE	25 4:45pm-5pm Memorial: Marcia S. 5pm-6:30pm Great Vespers w/ Group Confession
Nativity Fast Nov. 15-Dec 24						
26 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy 11:30am-12:30pm Church School	27	28	29 7pm-7:45pm Vespers 7:45pm-9pm Adult Education	30 ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE	1 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	2 10am-2pm Young Adult Mini-Retreat 3pm-4:30pm Adult Catechism 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
Nativity Fast Nov. 15-Dec 24						

Serving God in All That You Do: Orthodox Thoughts on Career & Calling

YOUNG ADULT MINI-RETREAT

Saturday, Dec. 2 | St. Mary Orthodox Church
 10am Liturgy | 11am Brunch | 11:30am-2pm Retreat

Register: tinyurl.com/career-and-calling-2023

Sdn. Ken Liu from Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries will lead a mini-retreat for all young adults, as well as high school juniors and seniors, on the topic of career and calling. Whether you're considering your future career path, or you're in the working world and wondering how God relates to all those boring meetings in your job (and whether to switch careers), this retreat is for you!

Notice: Communications Manager Sophia P. Will Be Out on Maternity Leave Until February

Starting in early- to mid-December, please contact Fr. David for additions to the weekly bulletin, newsletter, Realm posts, and other communication needs.

Thank you!

Events are subject to change. Please check the calendar at stmaryorthodox.org/calendar for the most up-to-date event listings.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy Advent Soup Luncheon Church School	4	5 7pm-7:45pm Vespers	6 ST. NICHOLAS 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7:45pm-9pm Adult Education	7	8 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	9 CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS St. Nicholas Retreat 3pm-4:30pm Adult Catechism 5pm-6pm Great Vespers

Nativity Fast | Nov. 15-Dec 24

10 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy Church School	11 7pm-9pm Parish Council	12 7pm-7:45pm Vespers	13 ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	14	15 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	16 5pm-6pm Great Vespers
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Nativity Fast | Nov. 15-Dec 24

17 DANIEL AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy Nativity Pageant	18	19 7pm-7:45pm Vespers	20 7am-8am Divine Liturgy	21	22 10am-12pm Royal Hours 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	23 5pm-6:30pm Great Vespers
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Nativity Fast | Nov. 15-Dec 24

24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy 5pm-6:30pm Christmas Vespers 10pm-11:30pm Candlelight Christmas Matins	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10am-11:30am Christmas Liturgy	26	27 ST. STEPHEN	28	29 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	30
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Nativity Fast

31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 9am-11:30am Matins & Liturgy 5pm-6pm New Year's Molieben	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY / CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD / ST. BASIL THE GREAT 10:30am-12pm St. Basil Liturgy	2 ST. JULIANA THE MERCIFUL	3 7pm-7:45pm Vespers	4	5 EVE OF THEOPHANY (STRICT FAST) 1pm-2pm Philokalia Book Group	6 THEOPHANY 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of the Waters
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Summary of October Parish Council Meeting

CHRIS G. | PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

At the beginning of each parish council meeting, Father David leads the council in a devotional reflection. This year the focus of these reflections has been on the parish council covenant that we adopted at the beginning of the year. Each month Father reviews an item from the covenant, reads Scripture that underpins or reinforces that item, and then we discuss how we can each strive to adhere to the ideals of that item. The item from the covenant we discussed in October dealt with timely and transparent communications. The parish council wants to make sure that every member of the St. Mary's community knows what the council is doing. It is my intention to start sharing monthly summaries of our meetings with the whole parish via Realm, and this is my first attempt at that. If any of you ever have any questions or concerns about anything in the parish, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the council.

Earlier this year the council decided on a list of focus topics for each meeting. Past topics have included stewardship, parish infrastructure, continuity of operations, and fundraising. In October our focus was on the draft request for proposal (RFP) for the capital expansion project. As most of you probably already know, we have been working on plans to expand the parish hall, improve our kitchen facilities, install an elevator to make our church more accessible, and expand the parking lot. Maria A., a St. Mary's member, is our architect, and she wrote the first draft of the RFP with input from the council and working groups focused on the church hall and kitchen facilities. We reviewed the RFP document and

council members offered suggestions for revisions. Some of the specific items discussed were:

- The type of contract we want with the general contractor, e.g., fixed price, cost plus, etc.
- How to structure the RFP to make it easier for the parish to evaluate prices for different parts of the project such as finishing the basement and the pavilion.
- Because of relatively recent renovations that have been made to the existing church and hall, we do not think there is any asbestos in the portions of the building that are in scope for this renovation project.
- We also discussed what requirements would cover all our needs while at the same time not including too many requirements that would discourage bidders from responding.

Following the council meeting, Anna C. and Maria contacted Fairfax County about the tax status of the 7219 Roosevelt house since we are no longer renting to anyone. The house is slated to be demolished as part of the renovation project to make room for additional parking. The county said that we can apply to have that property declared tax exempt so long as we are only using it for church purposes. We are using it for storage, and much of our existing parking lot is located on that property, so we moved ahead with this application. Ellen R. delivered the application to the county offices the week of October 22. There is no fee for this application, we may revert to a taxable status in the future should the need arise, and we will save approximately \$8,000 annually if the application is approved. ✕

Rev. Fr. David and Psa. Stephanie Subu cordially invite you to our annual

Community Thanksgiving Potluck

10:30am Divine Liturgy | 12:00pm Dinner Served | 12:30pm Green Bay Packers vs. Detroit Lions

This event is an annual tradition as a way for those who may not be able to join their families, to come together in fellowship to pray, eat, and be merry! During these tight times, this is also an economical way to enjoy a delicious meal! Fr. David and Psa. Stephanie will provide the turkeys and green bean casserole. All you need to provide is a dish to pass and/or beverage.

Football watch party and board games will be available!

RSVP deadline is Sunday, November 19! Friends, co-workers, and extended family are welcome!

Register on Realm or visit tinyurl.com/stmary-thx23

The Psalter Prayer Group is Active Again

LIBBY H. | MINISTRY REPORT

As Orthodox Christians, we have a spiritual tool box to help us on our journeys. This tool box includes prayer, fasting, and giving. We often find the second two fairly easy to do. But prayer can be a struggle. The Psalter Prayer Group helps us to focus on prayer during one of the major fasting periods of the Church year. Prayer not only brings us closer to God, it also establishes bonds among those who pray together and for each other.

Our group does this by praying through the Psalter (the Church's original hymnal and prayer book) one

kathisma daily. Participants choose when they pray in a location best suit-

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

— Col 4:2

ed to their needs. There are 20 kathismas in the Psalter, which means that during the Nativity Fast and Great Lent, which are 40 days long, each of us pray through the entire Psalter twice. Because we each begin with a different

kathisma, and there are always more than 20 people participating, the group as a whole prays through the Psalter each day. As a group, that means that we pray through the Psalter forty times per fast. We also pray for each participant.

Last Nativity season, we had 36 people praying in the group. That means that we prayed through the Psalter 112 times total during the 40 days.

We begin the Psalter readings on 15 November and end on 24 December. If you would like to join us, please send me a message via Realm and I will have you added to the group. It's okay to join late.✠

Why is that Cross Green?

PROTODN. PETER D. | FEATURE

Have you ever wondered about the green cross above the icon of Christ and the Four Evangelists? It is made of copper—but not just any copper. The copper sheeting it is made from has a long provenance dating back over a hundred years and a thousand miles away in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is from the copper dome of St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, dedicated (as is our parish) to the Protection of the Mother of God. Our daughter Juliana is a parishioner there. When the roof was replaced some years ago, the copper sheeting was cut into crosses, of which she was fortunate to obtain one, and then we mounted it on wood here.

Its history is the history of saints of the Orthodox Church in America. St. Tikhon, at the time Archbishop of America, served under that copper

dome, when he consecrated the cathedral in 1906. The previous wooden church on the site was pastored by St. Alexis Toth who was received from Eastern Rite Catholicism to the Orthodox faith in 1891. St. Alexis Toth then led scores of churches and some 20,000 souls back to Orthodoxy.

The original wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1904 and the present cathedral structure built in 1906. The first rector of the cathedral, serving under the copper dome, was Fr. Leonid Turkevich, later the thrice-blessed Metropolitan Leonty, whom Fr. Alexander Schmemmann called "the father of Orthodox pastoral education in America."

This cross and its history reminds us that we are part of a lineage of people whose lives were filled with struggle for the Church, to fulfill Christ's mission of



The historic St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral is located in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

evangelism in this land. When we pray before this cross, let us remember the legacy which was left to us by St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, who suffered under the Bolsheviks, and the courageous St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America.

Holy Saints Tikhon and Alexis, pray to God for us! ✠

Upcoming Events

Join us in worship, service, learning, spiritual enrichment, and fellowship!

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES



Baptism: Oberlin

Sat, Nov. 18 @ 11am-2pm

Entrance of the Theotokos

Great Vespers: Mon, Nov. 20 @ 7pm-8pm

Festal Liturgy: Tue, Nov. 21 @ 7am-8am

Thanksgiving Prayers

Wed, Nov. 22 @ 7pm-7:45pm

Thanksgiving Liturgy

Thur, Nov. 23 @ 10:30am-11:30am

Memorial: Marcia S.

Sat, Nov. 25 @ 4:45pm-5pm

Saturday Liturgy

Sat, Dec. 2 @ 10am-11am

St. Nicholas

Great Vespers: Tue, Dec. 5 @ 7pm-7:45pm

Divine Liturgy: Wed, Dec. 6 @ 7am-8am

St. Herman of Alaska

Great Vespers: Tue, Dec. 12 @ 7pm-7:45pm

Divine Liturgy: Wed, Dec. 13 @ 7am-8am

St. Ignatius

Great Vespers: Tue, Dec. 19 @ 7pm-7:45pm

Divine Liturgy: Wed, Dec. 20 @ 7am-8am

New Year's Molioben

Sun, Dec. 31 @ 5pm-6pm

↓ See Christmas schedule below ↓



Community Thanksgiving Potluck

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT ST. MARY'S

10:30AM LITURGY

12:00PM DINNER

12:30PM FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

This event is an annual tradition as a way for those who may not be able to join their families, to come together in fellowship to pray, eat, and be merry! During these tight times, this is also an economical way to enjoy a delicious meal! Fr. David and Psa. Stephanie will provide the turkeys and green bean casserole. All you need to provide is a dish to pass and/or beverage. Football watch party and board games will be available!

Register on Realm:
tinyurl.com/stmary-thx23



YOUNG ADULT MINI-RETREAT

Serving God in All That You Do: Orthodox Thoughts on Career & Calling

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ 10AM-2PM AT ST. MARY'S

Ken Liu from Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries will lead a mini-retreat for high school juniors and seniors, and all young adults, on the topic of vocation. Whether you're considering your future career path, or you're in the working world and wondering how God relates to all those boring meetings in your job (and whether to switch careers), this retreat is for you!

Register on Realm:
tinyurl.com/career-and-calling-2023



St. Nicholas Retreat

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Mark your calendars, parents! More info coming soon.

Christmas Services

FRIDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 22

10:00am-12:00pm — Royal Hours

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

5:00pm-6:30pm — Christmas Vespers

10:00pm-11:30pm — Candlelight Christmas Matins

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Monday, December 25

10:00am-11:30am — Christmas Liturgy



(Unveiled, cont'd) beyond our senses, to the uncreated divine person who has now come to save us.

This is why in the Divine Liturgy we retain the use of the curtain/veil (and later, the *iconostasis*) so that we will look beyond the physical elements of the service to the spiritual reality behind it. It's why the Gifts, the altar, and even the celebrants are covered with beautiful fabrics, so that we will lift our mind's eye to the heavenly, angelic liturgy above. Even the word "apocalypse" means "unveiling," from which we get the term "revelation" as the title for the Apocalypse of John.

Thus Hebrews 10:19-22 can say "Therefore, brethren, having boldness

to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He

It's why the Gifts, the altar, and even the celebrants are covered with beautiful fabrics, so that we will lift our mind's eye to the heavenly, angelic liturgy above.

consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance

of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." This pure water which cleanses soul and body is baptism and also the tears of repentance in confession, by which we renew our baptism after we have sinned.

This Nativity, may we draw near to God with true hearts and clear consciences, approaching the holy presence of God who has humbled Himself to be wrapped not just in swaddling clothes but in our very human nature (c.f. Heb. 6:19-20) that we may know Him who was unknowable and come before Him with faces unveiled and unashamed. May God grant you all a truly glorious and "apocalyptic" Christmas! ✠

Join a Group or Ministry

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 on the website or 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** at sophia@stmaryorthodox.org



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)

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