



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Tone 4 • 13th Sunday after Pentecost

*Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos • Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross
Martyr Sozón of Cilicia*

Today's Schedule

9:00am — Matins

10:00am — Divine Liturgy

Following the service:

Annual Parish Picnic & Ministry Fair

This Week At St. Mary's

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy | 7am–8am

Council of Ministries | 7pm–8pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Vespers | 7pm–7:40pm

Financial Peace University | 7:45pm–9pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Philokalia Book Study | 3pm–4pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Forefeast of the Exaltation

Adult Catechism | 3pm–4:30pm

Great Vespers w/ Group Confession |
5pm–6:30pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Exaltation of the Cross

Matins & Divine Liturgy | 9:00–11:30am

Church School Open House |
11:30am–12:30pm



Fellowship Hour Hosting Groups:

Week 1: A–D

Week 2: E–Kl ← **Next Week's Host**

Week 3: Kn–Paf

Week 4: Pag–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 Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

TODAY from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, * the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us. * Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices. * Heaven and earth rejoice together. * Praise her, you families of nations, * for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: // “The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!”

Tone 4. Troparion of St. Sozón

YOUR holy martyr Sozón, O Lord, * through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. * For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, * and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercession, save our souls!

Tone 2. Kontakion of St. Sozón

LET us gather today and together sing to Sozón, * the true and divinely wise martyr, * an expert fighter for the faith, * the mystical seer of divine grace, * a generous provider of healing, // who prays to Christ God for us all.

Glory. Tone 4. Kontakion of the Resurrection

MY Savior and Redeemer * as God rose

from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. * He has shattered the gates of hell, * and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

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

TODAY the Virgin Theotokos Mary, * the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom, * by the will of the God is born of a barren woman, * being prepared as the chariot of God the Word. // She was fore-ordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

PROKEIMENON

In the sixth tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

✠ *To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

EPISTLES

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11–18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule,

— *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

peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (16:13–24)

Brethren, watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia, Tone 1:

- ✠ *I have exalted one chosen out of My people.*
 ✠ *For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.*

GOSPELS

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel According to St. John (3:13–17)

The Lord said, “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish

but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew (21:33–42)

The Lord said this parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

COMMUNION HYMNS

- ✠ *Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!*
 ✠ *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*



A Little Church History

On the Nativity of the Theotokos: Sept. 8

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, but her story can be found in a second-century work known as the Book of James or Protevangelion. Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

— from goarch.org/nativity-theotokos

Today the barren gates are opened and the virgin Door of God comes forth. Today grace begins to bear its first fruits, making manifest to the world the Mother of God, through whom things on earth are joined with heaven for the salvation of our souls.

Today Anna, the barren, gives birth to the Child of God, foreordained from all generations to be the habitation of the King of all and Maker, Christ our God in fulfilment of the divine dispensation. Through her we children of earth have been formed anew and restored from corruption to life without end.

— *Stephen of the Holy City*

Register for Adult Catechism Fall 2025: The Faith

This Fall, we are offering an Adult Catechism course—by the end, catechumens of St. Mary's will be well-prepared for reception into the Orthodox Church. The course will help you understand the history, purpose, and meaning of Orthodox dogma as outlined in the Nicene Creed. The first class begins at 3:00pm on September 13th. To join the Fall Session (covering the Creed and basics of Orthodox doctrine) sign-up on Realm here: <https://tinyurl.com/n4c779wy>

Keep Our Parish Grounds Beautiful!



Please pick up all trash from the tables and playground after eating or playing. This keeps our space welcoming and prevents ants and insects. **Thank you!**



Lips that are always thankful receive blessings from God: and if the heart is in thanksgiving, grace descends into it.

— ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN





Fellowship Hour Groups & Leaders

- ▶ **Week 1: A-D** — Dsa. Cathy D., Jonathan C.
- ▶ **Week 2: E-KI** — Edward H., Allison J.
- ▶ **Week 3: Kn-Paf** — Melanie K., Tom P.
- ▶ **Week 4: Pag-Z** — Elaine P., 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 Ileana C. at the Connections Center during Fellowship Hour and we'll get you set up!



Save the Date

Services, holidays, and other events

SEPTEMBER

Financial Peace University | Sept. 10 - Nov. 5 @ 7:45pm-9pm

Adult Catechism I: The Faith | Saturdays, Sept. 13 - Nov. 15 @ 3pm

Great Vespers with Group Confession | Saturday, Sept. 13 @ 5pm-6pm

Church School Open House | Sunday, Sept. 14 @ 11:30am-12:30pm

Parish Council | Sept. 15 @ 7pm-9pm

Divine Liturgy | Sept. 17 @ 7am-8am

Women's Bible Study | Friday, Sept. 19 @ 6:30pm-8pm

Active Shooter Response Training Session | Sunday, Sept. 21

Estate Planning Fireside Chat | Sunday, Sept. 28 during Fellowship Hour

Festal Vespers | Tuesday, Sept. 30 @ 7pm-8pm

OCTOBER

Parish Feast Day Divine Liturgy (Protection of the Mother of God) | Oct. 1 @ 7am-8am

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy | Sunday, Oct. 5 @ 9am-11:30am

Connect DC Young Adults Conference | Oct. 3-5

St. Mary's Dinner Dance | Saturday, Oct. 11 @ 6pm at St. Luke's in McLean

Divine Liturgy of St. James | Oct. 23 @ 10am-11:30am

Doxacon | Friday, Oct. 31 & Sunday, Nov. 1 @ Catholic University

Upcoming Events & Outings



The Annual Picnic is TODAY!

Our annual parish cookout will follow liturgy today! Visit the ministry tables to find groups you can get involved in, and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners!



Join us for My Big Fat Greek Dinner Dance 2025

Join us Saturday, Oct. 11 @ 6pm for an adults-only evening full of authentic Mediterranean cuisine, Greek dancing, a silent auction, dessert auction, and more—all to support fellowship hour improvements and accessibility upgrades at St. Mary's. Tickets are \$75 and ticket sales close October 3. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/35ernpuz.



YAM's September Game Night is Next Saturday!

Bring your favorite games! Game Night is next Saturday, Sept. 13th at St. Mary's after vespers. Food will be provided, so please be sure to RSVP at YAM@stmaryorthodox.org so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!



Visit Renaissance Festival with YAM

The Young Adult Ministry is also planning an outing to the Maryland Renaissance festival in Annapolis on Sunday, September 28th. Tickets are available for \$14. You can pay via Realm or check (Ren Fair in memo line). Join our distro at YAM@stmaryorthodox.org for more details.



Save the Date: Reel Women Movie Night!

Join us the evening of September 23 for our next Reel Women gathering! Movie options will be posted in the Realm group the week before—don't forget to log in and vote for your pick!

connect
orthodox young adult conference

Register for the Connect Conference 2025 before Sept 14

Registration will be ending 9/14. Register at connectorthodox.org/register to secure your spot!



Pray
the
News

Don't just read the news. Pray it.

We deliver the top news stories without partisan bias and offer up each one to God, all in less than 15 minutes a day. It's prayer, not politics—promised.

www.praythenewstoday.com



Parish News & Announcements



Attend an Active Assailant Training

Sunday, Sept. 21 @ 12:30pm — As a community, we must take a more proactive approach to safety and emergency preparedness. In that spirit, St. Mary's will be hosting a C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) presentation conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department. Please RSVP on Realm.

Find Financial Peace

St. Mary's is offering Financial Peace University this fall—a nine-week course by Dave Ramsey that has helped millions learn to budget, pay off debt, save wisely, and build lasting wealth. Each week includes a video lesson, group discussion, and practical steps you can use right away. As we grow in financial peace at home, we also strengthen our parish community. Don't miss this opportunity—register today: tinyurl.com/222m735y



Get Your Doxacon Tickets or T-Shirts Today!

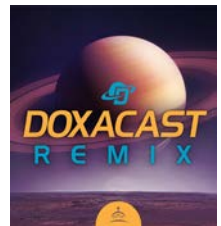
Regular tickets are \$65 | \$25 student | \$20 t-shirts



Doxacon's theme this year is catharsis. Scroll down our homepage at www.doxacon.org to see all the ways our speakers plan to address this theme. You may even see a couple of familiar faces. Doxacon takes place this year at the Catholic University of America, Oct. 31 - Nov. 1. [Click here to register](#). We hope to see you there!

Join us for the Doxacast Remix!

Catch our NEW episode on K-Pop Demon Hunters: "Get Up and Let the Jagged Edges Meet the Light Instead": K-Pop Demon Hunters and the Restoration of Our Souls, featuring two Pauline Sisters scheduled to speak at the 2025 Doxacon. To hear this and other conversations, visit our home on [Ancient Faith Radio](#) or check us out on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Pocketcasts.



Submit items for the weekly bulletin or *The Veil*

Contact Lacie F. at lacie@stmaryorthodox.org

Newsletter deadline | Monday, Sept 29 (for October/November issue)

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

God Grant You Many Years!



Birthdays Lauren C., Julia M., Steven S.
Namedays St. Cassiani, Theotokos (Nativity), St. Anna
Anniversaries Nick & Melanie K.

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!