



THE Veil

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2020

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Open the Door, Christians!

BY FR. DAVID

Open the Door, Christian!
Open the Door, Christian!
We are coming again to you to wish
Many years, Many years with blessings!

I traveled long and tired,
I traveled long and tired
I came for afar to wish
Many years, Many years with blessings!

At Bethlehem we were
At Bethlehem we were
Where Christ was born, singing
Many years, Many years with blessings!

This traditional carol (Romanian: *Colinde*) is how our group of growing Carolers (*Colindatori*) greeted the homes of those we visited last Christmas. Caroling is a popular tradition in Romania, and Romanians have developed more Christmas carols than perhaps any other culture, infused with the faith and piety of the village. At St. Mary's we have taught our children a couple of the most well known *colinde* in English translation: "A

Miracle, A Wonder" (*O, Ce Veste Minunată*) and "Three Shepherds" (*Trei Pastori*), but there are many more to learn!

Some *colinde* are very fun and spirited. "Good Morning, Christmas Eve!" (*Bună dimineața la Moș Ajun!*) asks "Did you give us something? Did you not? Did you? Did you?... Good Lord help us to have lots of colaci and nuts!" Reflecting the joy of feasting after the long fast. Moș Crăciun, "Grandpa Christmas" is the Romanian Santa Claus and is also a popular figure in the folk culture.

Others, like "Down in Bethlehem" (*La Viflaim Colo-n Jos*), reflect on the poverty of Christ's birth in a manger, offering a hymn of comfort to the Mother of God in her time of duress:

Down in Bethlehem,
The sky is burning brightly
O Pure One, today Christ is born!
Born in the sheepfold
He is the King of all
O Pure One, calm and softly crying.
(cont'd on p.6)



Saint Mary
ORTHODOX CHURCH

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA | THE VEIL | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 1

Commemorations

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!

God grant you many years!

NATIVITY FLOWERS

for Christmas 2019 were kindly donated by:

- **Ana B.**, for all her departed family members
- **Adrian B.**, for Fr. George Calciu
- **The Herold-Jacobson family**, for Barbara, Martin, Martha, George, Florence, Frieda, Luise, Douglas, Otto, Edith, Richard, Clinton, Eleanor, Dmitri, Mary, Raymond, Anna, and Bogdan
- **Phil K.**, for Julie, Ray, and Mary
- **The Lerner family**, for Sue and Joseph
- **Dorina M.**, for Ovidiu, Dimitrie, and Ionut
- **The Robinson family**, for Janko and Dorothy
- **Fr. David and Psa. Stephanie S.**
- **Stephanie K.**
- **Christopher T.**
- **Sarah Z.**

NAME DAYS

- **Jan 2, for St. Juliana the Merciful** – Juliana S.
- **Jan 12, for St. Tatiana the Martyr in Rome** – Dsa. Tanya D., Tatiana R.
- **Jan 14, for St. Nina the Enlightener of Georgia** – Nina A.
- **Jan 17, for St. Anthony the Great** – Antonia J.
- **Jan 21, for St. Maximus the Confessor** – Maximos M.
- **Jan 22, for the Apostle Timothy** – Tim Y.
- **Jan 25, for St. Gregory the Theologian** – Gregory L.

BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Sophie A. | Merryn G. | Sophia P. |
| Adrian A. | Christina H. | Elaine R. |
| Demitri A. | Christina J. | Antoinette R. |
| Mina C. | Robin K. | Armand S. |
| Lauren C. | Maria L. | David Z. |
| Lucy F. | Benton L. | |
| Annalise G. | Victoria O. | |

ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah & Arthur Z.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FY 2020 Parish Assembly Agenda (Proposed) • Sunday, January 26, 2020 • 12pm until the completion of business

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Opening Prayer | 7. Parish Council President's Report | Report and Recommendations of the Parish Council |
| 2. Roll Call | 8. St. Juliana Fellowship President's Report | 13. Recommended 2020 Budget Proposal from the Parish Council |
| 3. Approval of Parliamentarian and Tellers | 9. Church School Principal's Report | 14. Recommended 2020 Parish Council Slate |
| 4. Review and approval of January 2020 Parish Council minutes | 10. Auditor's Report | 15. Adjournment and Closing Prayer |
| 5. Parish Priest's Report | 11. Treasurer's Report | |
| 6. Parish Deacons' Reports | 12. Strategic Development Plan | |

In order to vote at the assembly, a parishioner must be officially enrolled as a member for over 6 months and be in good standing.



Events and times are subject to change. Please check the website's calendar for the most up-to-date event listings.

JANUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| 29 9am - 10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-1pm Coffee Hour | 30 | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 5pm-6pm Vespers | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY / CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD / ST. BASIL THE GREAT 10am-10:30am Te Deum 10:30am-12pm St. Basil Liturgy | 2 ST. JULIANA THE MERCIFUL 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7pm-8pm Byzantine Notation | 3 7am-8:30am Royal Hours 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Study | 4 5pm-7pm Vespers with Group Confession |
| 5 9am - 10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-1pm Coffee Hour | 6 + THEOPHANY + 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy with Blessing Waters 7pm-8pm NAMI Family Support | 7 | 8 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7pm-7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm-8:30pm Adult Education | 9 7:30pm-9pm Women's Bible Study | 10 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Study | 11 5pm-6pm Vespers |
| 12 9am - 10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-1pm Coffee Hour | 13 7pm-8pm Parish Council | 14 | 15 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7pm-7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm-8:30pm Adult Education | 16 | 17 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Study | 18 5pm-6pm Vespers |
| 19 9am - 10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-1pm Coffee Hour 6pm-8pm Men's Group | 20 | 21 | 22 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7pm-7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm-8:30pm Adult Education | 23 | 24 10am-2:30pm March for Life | 25 5pm-6pm Vespers |
| 26 9am - 10am Matins 10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am-1pm Coffee Hour 12pm-2pm Parish Assembly | 27 | 28 | 29 7am-8am Divine Liturgy 7pm-7:30pm Vespers 7:30pm-8:30pm Adult Education | 30 THE THREE HIERARCHS | 31 Consecration of Auxiliary Bishop | 1 |

UPCOMING:
February 3-14: Fr. David will be out of the office
Saturday, March 14, 2-4:30pm: The Significance of Motherhood Afternoon Retreat — Explore the Church's view of motherhood with Carrie Frost, PhD.



Telos HQ Grateful for St. Mary's Work in Telos Project

BY JENNY MOSHER, DIRECTOR
OF THE TELOS PROJECT

For the past two years, St. Mary's has been participating in the Telos Project, which is a nationwide effort to study the challenging relationship between young adults (ages 23–29) and their parishes. It's no secret that young adults are increasingly looking elsewhere for meaning and community, and the Telos Project is an attempt to understand the disconnect between young adults and the church, minister to their needs, and help them integrate into the day-to-day life of their parishes.

In early 2017, St. Mary was selected as one of fourteen Orthodox "pilot parishes" tasked to form a team and build relationships

with its young adults, take time to deeply explore their struggles, and design a young adult ministry in response to their learnings. St. Mary's has been a critical piece in especially understanding OCA-affiliated young adults living in a densely-populated, heavily-professional, and expensive area. St. Mary's has also stood out as a parish unafraid to try the new and unusual. This age presents new cultural realities—like the internet, cell phones, and heavy traffic—that must be considered when attempting to gather young adults and communicate the eternal truth of the Gospel. As so many of our famous missionary saints discovered, new and differing cultural realities require some experimentation and risk-taking. We have intentionally structured the project to lessen some of that risk by providing funding, but there is still real sacrifice involved. Accordingly, we at Telos HQ are so grateful for our Telos teams! Each team has been

working hard to host events, organize activities, collaborate with us regularly on their observations and learning, and attend educational webinars and the annual consultation in Boston. The St.



Nick discusses ministry strategy with other teams at the annual Telos Project conference in Boston, MA.

Mary's team deserves particular congratulations; they have diligently compiled over 50% of the documented observations of the entire project! And each pilot parish is doing the hard work of making room — room on the calendar, room in the building, room on the parish council agenda, and room in their hearts for new young adults (*cont'd on p. 6*)

Help Families In Need

BY ELLEN ROBINSON

In December, over 40 pounds of donated food was delivered to the Food Pantry that is run by the Falls Church Community Service Council. While it is technically called a food pantry, many of the clients receive food stamps and are able to buy food at local grocery stores.

One problem that they face is that these food stamps do not allow them to purchase other items that are sorely needed like laundry soap, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper,

diapers, shampoo, deodorant and other general household items. The food items that are always in short supply include canned tuna, canned fruits, full meals in cans (like beef stew), and cooking oil.

If you are shopping and happen to see special coupons or items on sale, you can get a few extras and bring them to our collection area. Your donations are always welcome and appreciated by those who are less fortunate.

We are still looking for a few volunteers to deliver the donations each month to the Knox Presbyterian Church at the corner of Route 50 and Allen Street. Please see Fr. David if you would like to help. ✠



Saint Mary
ORTHODOX CHURCH

My Reflections on Project Mexico

BY KATHERINE GRANT

Over this past summer, I had a life changing experience building a house for a low-income family with a group called Project Mexico. I flew to my hometown of Elk Grove, California, where I met up with my sister Grace, my sister Margaret, and family friends. We all drove to San Diego to rendezvous with other church groups who would be staying and working in Mexico while we were there. There were teenagers, lay adults, and priests from around the country who were packed and prepared for our week of service and prayer. Eventually, we got into vans and trucks and started to caravan across the Mexican border. A few of the vehicles, including mine, were stopped by the Mexican border police, but eventually we all made it into Mexico. We drove to Tijuana to stay at the St. Innocent Boy's Orphanage, which also acts as Project Mexico's base camp for summer volunteers and interns.



In Mexico, I saw the stark difference between the lives we live here in Northern Virginia (and in the United States generally) and lives on the southern side of the border. In some neighborhoods, a cardboard box seemed like a lavish palace. Litter covered the streets, and no followed the traffic rules. This was normal for the residents, but for those coming to serve, it was stepping into an alternate universe. We stayed on the closed grounds of the orphanage in tents; even those tents were nicer than what some of the locals had.

The first day was devoted to organization. Tents were set up, and church groups were put with other church groups to form groups of about 25-30 into a work crew. We met our crewmates and learned a little about the family that would receive the house at the end of the week. Our family was a single mom named Rosa, along with her two daughters, Jimena and Nicole. Rosa works as a landscaper with her father trying to provide for her daughters, and she

needs a proper home in which they can grow up. The next day, indeed every day before breakfast, we started with a morning prayer and a homily from one of the priests or deacons onsite at the orphanage; we prayed again, as an entire group, every night after dinner. These times enabled us to start and end everyday with reverence and perspective.

On the first work day, I met Rosa and our work crew of 25 people, who were Ortho-

dox Christians of all different ages and from all over the United States. That first day was foundation day: we hand-mixed and poured a 10-by-25-foot slab of concrete on which we would be building the rest of the week. The second day we framed the house with prefabricated metal frames, screwing them into the concrete while starting the roof. The third day we wrapped the house in paper and chicken wire and hand-mixed the stucco that covered the house. On the fourth day, we finished the house with another layer of stucco and painted it a bright yellow that the family had picked out. Each day at the work site, we started with prayer and ended with prayer. We did not stop from 10 am to 5 pm, except for lunch and water breaks. All told, we built a two-room house in four days, and with not a piece of machinery heavier than a power drill. When we finished, we blessed the house using smoke that was created from ash twigs that we found on the property.

It was an emotional week for both the family for *(cont'd on p.7)*



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Summary of Phase 1 – Financial Study

BY ANNA CARAVELI

Overview

Between September and November 2019, we engaged Jerry Minetos, a highly-respected parish development and capital campaign consultant, to conduct a financial study as the first phase of a projected capital campaign. The study was undertaken to provide answers to questions that explore what we would like to do as a parish and measure our ability to accomplish them. Such questions include:

- Is there support for the vision and “appetite” for a major capital campaign project?
- What funds might we be able to raise as a parish?
- How do parishioners rank their needs and priorities?
- How can we best organize and sequence our efforts for the phases that follow?

To date, we have:

- conducted interviews and surveys using carefully-prepared and detailed questionnaires
- achieved a statistically-solid response rate of 50% to project from (84 of 168 core families)
- collected data that, for the first time, show a high level of support from the parish for an expansion/renovation project (63% “yes”, 21% “perhaps; need more information”, 6% “no”, 10% “unsure/no opinion”)
- an estimate of approximately how much can be raised by this parish
- prepared a “Statement of Need” – the foundation for opening up communication with parishioners, ascertaining their needs and building a business case
- collected more concrete details on parishioners’ priorities and needs
- clear recommendations for planning next steps; eliminating weaknesses and building on strengths

Recommendations on Fundraising Capacity and Targets

Mr. Minetos advises that, right now, embarking on a \$2.5M capital project is not recommended, but that a \$1M–\$1.25M scope is very doable.

(Telos, cont’d) – even when they are not always sure where all this experimentation is leading!

Ultimately, the Telos Project is a massively collaborative project. As each Telos team starts mapping sustainable plans for their new young adult ministries after the Telos Project ends in 2022, they are helping to create a tested process that any parish can use to create a truly welcoming spiritual home for young adults. We at Telos HQ want to thank you for helping build that future! ✠

(Open the Door, cont’d)

*He has no swaddling clothes,
Nor garment to wear,
O Pure One, for the infant King.

O Mother! Cry no longer!
Swaddling clothes we give to you,
O Pure, to wrap the Holy Infant.*

Lastly, *colinde* traditionally end with the singing of “Many Years” just as if at a wedding, baptism, or birthday. The Romanian setting is particularly beautiful and elaborate, and we hope to have our choir at St.

Mary’s singing it in full for you starting this year (and especially at your home blessings this month!):

*Many years with good health,
May the Lord grant all you desire,
Days full of peace and happiness,
God grant you many years!*

*May your life be only light,
And in the Light may you remain
For your faith and your salvation
God grant you many years!*

God grant you many years! ✠



(Project Mexico, cont'd) whom we built the house and for the service group. We prayed every day for God to give our sore bodies enough strength to complete another day of work in order to finish the family's house in the time allotted. When we presented the house to the family, there was not a dry eye on the entire worksite. To see the faces of the mother and two daughters just when



Kate and her sisters on the first day of work.

we locked the front door for the first time was such an affecting moment. That reaction opened my eyes and others' to see how fortunate we are to have so many seemingly trivial things here in America, while the mom of this family cried just seeing that her new front door could be locked. I want to go back for more Project Mexico trips. Just thinking again about that family (as well as about the foundation,

four walls, and roof that we built) brings me back to the reality of the privilege I have been granted to live here in Northern Virginia. It also reminds me how much I want to help those who were not born into the privileges that I and so many other Americans enjoy. Each step of the journey consisted of prayer and fellowship, from Divine Liturgy on Sunday to daily prayer for our peanut butter and jelly sandwich lunches as we ate at the worksite. When we were not working at the site, we would come together and talk about our relationship with God. In the end, we came closer not only to each other, but also to God. It was unlike anything else I have ever experienced, and I hope to share it with others soon. ✠

Have Your Children Find the Angels

BY DN. NICHOLAS DUJMOVIC

All parents know that sometimes it's necessary to distract a small child from certain behaviors. During Divine Liturgy and other services, Orthodox parents, of course, often seek to point the child's attention to what is happening in church ("What's Father Deacon doing NOW?") or to their surroundings with spiritual significance ("Where's the Baby Jesus?"). This is not to say we don't also use good books, soft toys, etc., to redirect a little one's behavior, but since we're in church, it's smart to use, as we can, the beauty within it for this purpose as well.

One thing parents might try is to "find the angels." There are, by my count, 16 angels depicted in the festal icons and iconostas combined (though I claim no infallibility on this score).

Obviously we should encourage our children to pay attention, as they can, to the "work of the people", that is, the Liturgy. But for those times when it's appropriate and helpful, a parent can do worse than encouraging a child to "find the angels." ✠

How Many Angels Are on the Iconostasis & Festal Icons?

- *Iconostasis* — 3 (yes, we're counting Gabriel twice, and we don't count St. John the Baptist, even though sometimes he's depicted with an angel's wings)
- *Nativity of the Theotokos* — 0
- *Presentation of the Theotokos* — 1
- *Nativity of our Lord* — 2
- *Meeting of our Lord in the Temple* — 0
- *Baptism of our Lord* — 3
- *Transfiguration* — 0
- *Elevation of the Cross* — 0
- *Entry into Jerusalem* — 0
- *Crucifixion of our Lord* — 0
- *Ascension* — 2
- *Pentecost* — 0
- *Dormition of the Theotokos* — 5 (don't forget the many-winged seraph at the top!)

(I have left out the two large panel icons in the altar, because they can be seen only over the top of the Royal Doors at an oblique angle.)



STEWARDSHIP 2020

Let's Get Organized!

St. Mary's has big plans this year, especially in **deciding the future of our parish building***, but we can't make it happen without your committed support! Help us accomplish our communal mission for St. Mary's by letting us know what you intend to give in time, treasure, and talents.

Please fill out a stewardship snapshot form!

We need to know how to plan according to what each of us is able to offer. Thank you!

* See the update on the Capital Campaign on p.6

A Pan-Orthodox Singles Event (Ages 21-40)

Masters of Hawaiian Music

SATURDAY
JAN 25
2020

6:30-10:30pm

@ The Barns
1635 Trap Road,
Vienna, VA 22812



RSVP TO DIANA BEFORE JAN 21
DIANAHAV@EARTHLINK.NET | 703.593.2176

Please mail a \$10 check made out to:
Pan-Orthodox Christian Singles
P.O. Box 7409, N. Arlington, VA 22207

\$10/ticket
(22 available)

Please, unmarried Orthodox Christians only!

Write for the Veil!

Want to share an interesting story or insights from your life or reading?

We want to hear from you! Get in touch with **Sophia Porcu** at

sophia@stmaryorthodox.org

Sign up for a house blessing this month!

1. Coordinate with Fr. David on a time
2. Fill out the St. Mary's Home Blessing form



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. Fr. David G. Subu
Deacons: Protodn. Peter Danilchick, Dn. Nicholas Dujmovic | **Choir Director & Head Chanter:** Sdn. Nicholas Jones
Parish Council President: Todd Sweet | **Church School Principal:** Irene Liu

7223 ROOSEVELT AVE., FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042 | 703.280.0770 (OFFICE) | WWW.STMARYORTHODOX.ORG