

THE Veil

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH
JUNE & JULY 2022
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...and more inside!

The Feast of Weeks

FESTAL GREETINGS FROM FR. DAVID

Christ is among us! The feast of **Pentecost** approaches.

This feast, known as the **Feast of Weeks** (*Shavuot*, "weeks," or literally "Sevens,") falls on the 49th day (7 weeks) after Passover and so was called *Pentecosti* in Greek by the apostles (as the "50th" day). Do you know how to fully and properly observe this great and holy feast? Here is a list of questions to help you prepare.

Is your spirit ready to appear before God? Pentecost is one of the three great pilgrimage festivals commanded by God in Exodus 24, along with Passover and The Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). On these high holy days, the men of Israel were commanded to "appear before the Lord," by coming to the tent of meeting (later the temple) and bring forth their offerings. Keeping these feasts was an essential predicate to Israel receiving the promises of safety and prosperity in the years to come. On this feast today, all Orthodox Christians are likewise called — no, commanded — to be present in the church, to pray and to kneel, so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). To celebrate Pascha but miss Pentecost is to miss the final piece of God's plan for us, to choose to be left without the power from on high to bring forth good fruit.

Is your spirit ready for the harvest? The Feast of Weeks marked the beginning of a series of harvest festivals for the Hebrew people, the day of first-fruits of the grain harvest. Each man would bring to the Temple a basket of his new grain harvest to present before the Lord in gratitude to God for the continuance of life and the blessings of all that came before. It was a time of great feasting — Numbers 28 describes the holy convocation on which no work should be done but much food prepared as an offering equivalent to that offered at Passover. Today, Orthodox

Christians continue to celebrate both Pascha and Pentecost with a week of feasting during which there is no fasting, and at least one day of no work! Taking time out to observe God's blessings as a community is a central part of our fellowship with him and how we bring forth the Lord's ripening harvest — one that began long before us and will continue long after us — if indeed we have been faithful (John 4:34-38).

Is your spirit festally adorned with radiant virtues? Traditionally, both Jews and Orthodox Christians also decorate their homes and sacred spaces with greenery at this feast, remembering the gift of life. This has biblical resonances to the event of the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, also commemorated on this day. At that time, the base of the holy mountain was blooming with fresh grasses and flowers (cf. Ex. 34:3 — a different image perhaps than the one many of us have in our heads thanks to Cecil B. DeMille!). This should remind us to adorn our souls with the evidence of our new life in Christ through the virtues — for He is the living Torah. Through the virtues we make our souls and bodies a clean and worthy place for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Has your spirit been grateful for the blessings it has received? In the liturgical service described in Deuteronomy 26 for the offering of first-fruits, the Exodus was remembered, and thanks were given for the blessings of the Promised Land — a land flowing with milk and honey. Then follows the instruction concern the offering: "Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you." Thanksgiving in remembrance ("anamnesis" in Greek) is the first half of our worship still, but it is not complete. **(continued on p.5)**



God grant you many years!

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

BIRTHDAYS

Protodn. Peter D.	Allie H.	Merion L.	Elissa R.	Alex W.
Nathalie A.	Dawn D.	Daniel J.	Mihai R.	Julia Y.
Rafael A.	Laurel E.	Rachel J.	Paula R.	Sarah Z.
Mihaela B.	Kristi F.	Matthew K.	Julie S.	
Elena B.	Nicole F.	Nina K.	Psa. Stephanie	
Anna C.	John G.	Stephanie K.	Grace S.	
Jonathan C.	Mike G.	Elias L.	Andrew T.	
Daniel C.	Stacy G.	Ben L.	Jacob R.	Mariel T.

NAMEDAYS

Allison J.	Irene L.
Amy B.	Nathaniel L.
Elsbeth G.	Stephen S.
Christina J.	Renee L.

ANNIVERSARIES

Protodn. Peter & Dsa. Tanya
Armand & Amanda
Chris & Sarah
Bobby & Nathalie
Mihai & Cristina
Victor & Elena

Would you like to help nurture the next generation?

Be a Sunday School Teacher!

Please contact David D. if interested.

BISHOP ANDREI will be visiting the parish June 18-19.

Please join us for vespers and liturgy to welcome His Grace!

Orthodox Youth Directors of North America presents



Cultivating Gifts

WEBINAR | JUNE 7, 2022 @ 8PM EST

Erin Ghata, a highly experienced youth director in Oklahoma, will present on cultivating gifts in ministry, our youth, and ourselves.

Register in advance at orthodoxyouth.net

Family Care Drive

JUNE 11 2022 11:00 AM

FOCUS with Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry
3601 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22305

In partnership with Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry (Alexandria, VA), the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve is inviting you to take action to help our neighbors in need. Collect any of items on our [wish list](#) and join us in delivering them to Grace Food Pantry on Saturday, June 11th.

TOP PRIORITIES

- ◆ Baby wipes, including unscented/sensitive skin
- ◆ Baby formula (for sensitive tummy)
- ◆ Individually wrapped rolls of paper towels
- ◆ Individually wrapped toilet paper rolls

Full wish list: tinyurl.com/yrhwxfb2
Donate: tinyurl.com/4yz3uppy

Learn more: focusna.org/dc



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	6	7	8 7pm-7:40pm Vespers	9	10 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	11
12 PENTECOST 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 11:30am-12pm Kneeling Vespers	13 Holy Spirit Day	14	15 7pm-7:40pm Vespers	16	17 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	18 Leavetaking of Pentecost 11am-2pm Wedding: Subu 5pm-6pm Great Vespers with Bp. Andrei
19 All Saints 9am Matins 10am Liturgy with Bp. Andrei	20	21	22	23	24 12pm-1pm Book Group	25
June 20-29 — Apostle's Fast: Office Closed						
26 All Saints of America 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	27	28	29 Ss. Peter and Paul	30	1 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	2
June 20-29 — Apostle's Fast: Office Closed						
June 26-July 9 — Camp Vatra Seniors						
3 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	4	5	6	7	8 9am-12pm Good Shepherd Summer Camp VBS 12pm-1pm Book Group	9 9am-12pm Good Shepherd Summer Camp VBS
June 26-July 9 — Camp Vatra Seniors						
10 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 1pm-4pm Good Shepherd Summer Camp VBS	11	12	13	14 7pm-9pm Parish Council	15 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	16 11am-12pm Baptism: Oberlin
Office Closed						
17 9am Matins 10am Liturgy 1pm-4pm Nats Day	18 St. Elizabeth the New Martyr	19	20 Prophet Elijah	21	20 St. Mary Magdalene 12pm-1pm Book Group	23
July 18-22 — All-American Council						
July 17-30 — Camp Vatra Juniors						
24 9am Matins 10am Liturgy	25 Dormition of St. Anna	26	27	28	29 12pm-1pm Philokalia Book Group	30

Events are subject to change. Please check the online calendar at stmaryorthodox.org/calendar for the most updated listings. Most services are streamed online on Zoom, YouTube, and StreamingChurch. Find the streaming links on the calendar, and the Zoom password on Realm.

Church School Celebrates the Close of the School Year



NEWS | DAVID D., CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

2021-2022 was a year to get “back to normal.” St. Mary’s Church School successfully made the transition, thanks to hard-working teachers, loyal parents, and a supportive parish. On Sunday, May 22, I was pleased to recognize all the children who participated in our classes, activities and events this past school year. We have had a very full calendar, with in-person classes resuming, Vacation Bible School, Advent pageant, Lazarus Saturday Retreat, and regular activities organized by Betsy B. and the new “Church Kids’ Club”.

Our resumption of in-person instruction and active year would not have been possible without our many contrib-

utors and volunteers. I want to specially thank our teachers: Fr. David and Ken L. in the High School class, Renee L. and Jonathan J. in Middle School, Nicole F. and Amy B. in Elementary, and McKensie R. and Jessica O. in our pre-school and kindergarten group (also known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd). We also had several substitutes this year, including Stephanie H., Allison J., Betsy B., Nick M., and Ileana C. Finally, we want to thank parents for getting to church on time and reinforcing at home the lessons and wisdom their children are receiving each Sunday.

With more volunteers and teachers, we hope to someday add even more clas-

ses, activities, and events! If you would like to become involved in any way, please let me know the next time you see me at St. Mary’s, or contact me via email.

While the school year is over, our commitment to enriching our children’s parish experience and spiritual development continues! We have scheduled another Vacation Bible School for July 8-10. Learn more on the Realm registration: **The Good Shepherd Summer Camp.**

Finally, I’d like to repeat Father’s congratulations to our graduating high school seniors. God grant you many years! ✝



Thank you to all our Sunday School teachers!

\$2.5k Raised for Nathan's Work at Project Mexico

MINISTRY REPORT | NATHAN L.

Since 1988, Project Mexico through St. Innocent Orphanage has been building hope for boys without families, and families without homes. For ten weeks this summer, sixteen other interns and I will lead groups of week-long volunteers in building those houses. I arrived here in Rosarito, Mexico on May 30th.

In the March/April *Veil*, I asked for your support for my service at Project Mexico this summer. Together, St. Mary's raised \$2,455!

Thank you to everyone who donated. I ask that you continue to support my work by keeping me in your prayers. Please also join me in praying for the families who will receive the homes we build, for the boys at the St. Innocent Orphanage, and for all the volunteers, interns, and staff.

While at Project Mexico, I pray that I will grow in my spiritual life. I have heard that when you serve at Project Mexico, you learn humility from observing the families we serve as well as by

living in unpredictable circumstances. I am excited to meet lots of Orthodox Christians from across the U.S. and Mexico. And I pray that the internship will be a time of rededicating myself to God in service to Him before stepping into a "secular" full-time job this fall.

I invite you to follow my summer blog, where I will be posting brief updates and photographs at projectmexico-nathanliu.blogspot.com. If you feel called to support Project Mexico financially, you can go to the Amazon Smile needs list at tinyurl.com/222j9pde or donate directly at projectmexico.org/support-us.

Thank you again for your support! ✕



(Pentecost, cont'd) Has your spirit been generous, caring for others first? This worship was followed by instructions for a special tithe that took place every third year (Dt. 14:28-29). This holy tithe was collected not only for the Levite (the priestly tribe which received annually for their service and the upkeep of the holy places) but also for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow. Only once this special tithe had left the house would the supplicant dare ask God to bless them with a land flowing with milk and honey. This principle is reiterated by St. James when he says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world." By giving of our substance (time, talent, and treasures) to those in need, we are offering back what God gave us in the first place — His own of His own — and make our Eucharist more than words and good intentions.

Has your spirit made and renewed its covenant with God? Lastly, did you know that the Feast of Weeks is even older than the Passover? According to the Book of Jubilees, the feast of week



was celebrated by Noah at the time of his covenant with God after the flood. Before that it was celebrated in heaven from the beginning of creation! Jubilees 6:18 says, "For this reason it is ordained and written on the heavenly tablets, that they should celebrate the feast of weeks in this month once a year, to renew the covenant every year. And this whole festival was celebrated in heaven from the day of creation till the days of Noah..." According to this tradition, by receiving the Torah on Pentecost, Moses was in a sense renewing the covenant with God that had also been renewed by Noah and Abraham — the covenant of God's love with His children and His creation. Wherever in the Scriptures God says "I will remember my covenant," He is saying He will renew it. By kneeling before God and receiving the Holy Spirit today, He continues to renew our covenant with Him, the New Covenant in Christ foretold by Jeremiah: "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Jer. 31:33 and Heb. 8:10)

May God grant us all a blessed and joyous feast of Holy Pentecost, renewing our faithfulness and our spirits! ✕

— FRD



Inside the Sheepfold

An exploration of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a new curriculum for our 3-to-6 year-olds in Church School



COLUMN | MCKENSIE R.

"I took a child's hand in mine. We were to walk together for awhile. I was to lead her to God. It was a task that overcame me, so great was the responsibility. And so I talked to the child only of God. I pointed to the sternness of God's face were the child to displease. I spoke of the child's goodness as something that would appease God's wrath. We walked under the tall trees. I said God had the power to bring them crashing down with thunderbolts. We waked in the sunshine. I told her of the greatness of God who made the burning, blazing sun. And one twilight we met God. The child hid behind me. She was afraid. She would not take God's hand. I was between the child and God. I wondered. I had been so conscientious, so serious.

"I took a little child's hand in mine. I was to lead her to God. I felt burdened with a multiplicity of the things I had to teach her. We did not ramble. We hastened from spot to spot. At one moment we compared the leaves of different trees. In the next moment we were examining a bird's nest. While the child questioned me about it, I hurried her away to chase a butterfly. Did she chance fall asleep, I wakened her, lest she miss something I wished her to see. We spoke of God, Oh yes, often and rapidly, I poured into her ears all the stories I thought she ought to know. But we were often interrupted by the wind blowing, of which we must trace its source. And then in the twilight we met God. The child merely glanced at God and then her gaze wandered in a dozen different directions. God stretched out a hand. The child was not interested enough to take it. Feverish spots burned in her cheeks. She dropped to the ground exhausted and fell asleep. Again I was between the child and God. I wondered. I had taught her so many things.

"I took a little child's hand to lead her to God. My heart was full of gratitude for the glad privilege. We walked slowly. I suited my steps to the short ones of the child. We spoke of the many things the child noticed. *(continued on p. 7)*

One Step Closer to Execution

St. Mary's Town Hall on the Capital Renovation Project

PARISH NEWS | ANNA C.



On May 15, during coffee hour, the team behind the Capital Renovation Project (CRP) offered a town hall, in which our architect Maria A. presented detailed 3D sketches of our proposed design (one seen above) and helped us envision parish life in this new, enhanced space. All in all, it was a positive, inspiring meeting that not only made the value of the project quite apparent, but also made it seem doable and real.

Imagine if all the problems with St. Mary's current facilities suddenly disappeared on one fell swoop. You could bring your relatives with disabilities to church, because there is an elevator that goes to all levels, as well as accessible bathrooms in the fellowship hall. You could have your daughter's wedding reception in a beautiful hall nearly three times the size of the current one. You could attend community celebrations, like the annual dinner dance, or host charitable or fundraising events with food prepared on-site in a spacious, state-of-the-art kitchen. And, when the weather is nice, you can sip your coffee and enjoy a lazy breeze in a lovely covered outdoor pavilion adjoining the fellowship hall. These are, in fact, the features of the new expansion design, drawn up by Maria A. to address these known problems, and adapted over time with parishioner feedback.

The town hall was called to apprise parishioners of the progress of the project and confirm, once again, the value of the major investment we are making. The meeting began with a presentation given by Cathy D., a member of the Steering Committee of CRP, in which she outlined a number of social events and service efforts that we cannot host due to ill-repair, size constraints, lack of accessibility, and other aspects of our facilities that need improvement. Fr. David gave a timely example of our current limitations when he explained to us that his family had to move his son Stephen's wedding to a different church because some of the guests were disabled. Maria's impressive 3D sketches created a clear vision for how our projected plans for expansion would remedy those limitations in an astonishingly beautiful fashion. Accordingly, the town hall stirred up excitement and inspiration for a future that is, in fact, within our reach.

Here are ways that you can keep up with the process and progress of the CRP:

- **Visit the upcoming CRP Corner at the Connections Corner.** We're planning a rolling slide show including all of Maria's sketches and, eventually, the stages of the construction as they occur
- **Pick up a paper materials from the Connections Corner.** We have a brochure with the project's evolution and current state, and an FAQ sheet that may just include some questions that you had wanted to pose
- **Look for articles in *The Veil***
- **Check out the CRP section of the St. Mary's website** (coming soon)✝

Upcoming Parish Events

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



Volunteer Event: Love Your Library

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 @ 9AM

Come help add all the books in the library to the new shelves! Shelving will begin at 9am and we will go until we finish. Please RSVP on Realm or to Ileana C.



Parish-wide Game Night

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 AFTER VESPERS

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is proud to announce the return of the Parish-wide Game Night! Following vespers, we will gather in the parish hall. We will have board games, card games, and any games of your own you would like to bring. A meal will be provided, so please RSVP to yam@stmaryorthodox.org so we know how much food is needed. We will also be continuing our service initiative, so if you are able, we invite you to bring a canned good with you for donation.



A Visit from His Grace, Bp. Andrei

• **SATURDAY, JUNE 18**
• **SUNDAY, JUNE 19**

Please join us for vespers and liturgy to give His Grace a warm welcome!



JOIN ST. MARY'S AT THE NATS GAME



St. Mary's Nats Day

**SUNDAY, JULY 15, AFTER LITURGY
NATIONALS PARK | \$10/TICKET**

Join St. Mary's parishioners at the Nats Game! Purchase tickets through Christina J. at yam@stmaryorthodox.org by **June 12**. Please write "Nats Game" in the memo line on your checks or in Realm. If you'd like to come but are in financial need, please inquire about fully-sponsored tickets.



The Good Shepherd Summer Camp: Vacation Bible School 2022

• **FRI, JULY 8 @ 9AM-12PM**
• **SAT, JULY 9 @ 9AM-12PM**
• **SUN, JULY 10 @ 1PM-4PM**
\$20 PER CHILD

At this year's VBS, we invite your children to build a relationship with God through prayer and deepen their understanding of the Orthodox faith through hands-on activity over the course of three days.

(Sheepfold, cont'd) Sometimes we picked God's flowers and stroked their soft petals and loved their bright colors... Sometimes we watched one of God's birds. We watched it build its nest and lay its eggs. We wondered, elated, at the care it gave its young... Often we told stories of God. I told them to the child and the child told them again to me. We told them, the child and I, over and over again. Sometimes we stopped to rest leaning against one of God's trees and letting God's cool breeze cool our brows, never

speaking. And then in the twilight we met God. The child's eyes shone. She looked lovingly, trustingly into God's face. She put her hand into God's hand. I was, for the moment, forgotten. I was content."

This time, for my article, I chose to share a text I read in my training. In Atrium, we have a special role as the adult — to walk with the child, keeping the Holy Spirit as the teacher, and taking a stance of listening to God with the child. The more years I spend in Atrium with children, the more it strikes me

that fostering a spirit of humility with the children and a listening heart is at the core of my work, not only in Atrium, but in my life. In pondering this work I do and this journey I am on towards the Kingdom of Heaven with my fellows, I find myself asking this question: how can I foster this listening heart and humility with not only the children, but with all who surround me? Let us look to our Good Shepherd, our greatest Teacher, and ask Him, "How we are called to walk with others in this journey ahead of us?" ✠

Regular Service Schedule

Sundays | 9am Matins / 10am Divine Liturgy

Saturdays | 5pm Great Vespers

Wednesdays | 7pm Vespers

Other Regular Events

Sundays after liturgy | Coffee hour in the fellowship hall

Wednesdays after vespers | Adult Education

Fridays @ 12pm | Philokalia Book Group (*virtual*)

Saturdays @ 3pm | Adult Catechism Class (*current class: The Holy Mysteries*)

2nd Saturday of the month, after vespers | Newly-Planted Fellowship

Monthly (*time and location vary*) | Men's Fellowship Group

Find the full schedule at stmaryorthodox.org/calendar

Join a Group or Ministry

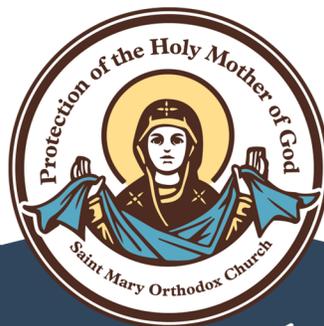
Come join us in our ministry efforts, develop relationships, and enrich your life and the lives of others. Learn more about this year's groups, ministries, and activities on the website or the **2022 Parish Groups** brochure!



Write for
The Veil

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 P. at UnderTheVeilOfHerProtection@gmail.com



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. Nicholas Dujmovic | **Choir Director & Head Chanter:** Sdn. Nicholas Jones

Subdeacons: Sdn. Eugene Huang, Sdn. Nicholas Jones, Sdn. Bogdan Maxim | **Parish Council President:** Todd Sweet

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