

# THE VEIL

The Monthly Journal Covering The News at St. Mary



Dec: 2019

## New Members and New Website!

This November we welcomed a blessed harvest of new members into the parish on **New Member Sunday**, Nov. 10. Because of the 30th anniversary in 2018, we did not hold one of these events last year so this year was for 2018 and 2019. We recognized in our program a total of 24 adults and 5 children as new members. God has been good and so have you! Programs with introductions to each person were distributed and still available if you'd like one. Please make sure you introduce yourself to these families, couples, and individuals and welcome them to the parish!

This December please also visit our new website which will be launching the first week of the month! Same address: **www.stmaryorthodox.org** but new look and new functionality. The main purpose of the website is to be a digital front door for those who are seeking an Orthodox parish or simply curious about the Orthodox faith, but it also will have many resources useful to current members as well. Features include, but are not limited to the following:

- ◇ On-line calendar (to which you can subscribe through things like iCal and google calendar)
- ◇ Realm log-in page
- ◇ Secure Donations page
- ◇ Sermons page with up to date YouTube channel embedded
- ◇ Complete ministries directory
- ◇ FAQ page about services and sacraments
- ◇ Most recent issues of this newsletter!
- ◇ A welcome video and introduction to the community (forthcoming)
- ◇ Event registration pages for public events linked from Realm

We hope this will be a great resource for everyone in the parish and for those to whom we have yet to meet!



# God Grant You Many Years!

*Don't see your name? Join the City and fill out your profile for us for birthdays/saints' days. Last Names abbreviated for your privacy.*

## December Birthdays

Jeff B.  
Steve B.  
James C.  
Amy D.  
Anna D.  
Michi D.  
Libby H.  
Lori Monica J.  
Sue K.  
Nicholas M.  
Leyci P.  
Hans S.  
Doris S.  
Alexander S.  
Eleni W.  
George W.

## December Anniversaries

28-Allison  
& William  
31-Eric & Kami

*Would you like your Birthday, anniversary or saint's day recognized? Make sure you fill out your profile on Realm: <https://onrealm.org/stmaryorthodox> to login or sign up now!*

## Saint's Days

6—St Nicholas:  
Nicholas A.,  
Nicholas D., Nicholas J.,  
Nicholas M.  
9—Conception of the  
Theotokos :  
Anna C.  
13-St. Eugene: Eugene H.  
15- Sarah J.  
20-St John Kronstadt:  
Jonathan J.  
24: St. Adele: Lauren Adele C.  
27—St. Stephen: Psa. Stephanie S. Stephen B.,  
Stephanie Th.

## The Veil

*A Ministry of The Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America,  
Orthodox Church in America (OCA)  
Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit, Hierarch  
Parish Priest: V. Rev. Fr. David G. Subu,  
Deacons: Protodn. Peter Danilchick,  
Dn. Nicholas Dujmovic  
Choir Director: Sub-Deacon Nicholas Jones  
Parish Council President: Todd Sweet  
Irene L. and Kami G. , Church School Principals  
7223 Roosevelt Ave.  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042*



## Ancient Faith Women's Retreat 2019

*By Christina J.*

I had the pleasure of attending the second annual Ancient Faith Women's Retreat Nov. 14-16 at Antiochian Village. The retreat was attended by over 160 Pan-Orthodox women from all over the United States, Canada and even the Bahamas! The wonderful women speakers included Mother Christophora, the abbess of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, speaking on being a woman disciple of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Molly Sabourin speaking on being filled with less, Dr. Jeannie Constantinou speaking on "thinking Orthodox," and Presbytera Dr. Roxanne Louh speaking on how your inner thoughts guide your life. All the speakers displayed their love for Christ and helped bring a renewed spirit to everyone. I encourage all women in the parish to listen to the talks that were recorded at the link below: <https://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/the-ancient-faith-womens-retreat-2019>

## Finding God on the Water

By Mina C.

Last year our family adopted a new family name – the Graceful people. It is quite a name to live up to! It is the name of our new home – a 39ft sailboat (1985 Grand Soleil 39).

Our life as we had managed it for years, took a bit of a turn, in November, 2018, following our decision to buy a boat and live on it. We became “liveaboards”, people who live aboard a boat, a decision preceded by much research and preparation.

This new lifestyle has pushed us out of many comfort zones. Every chore aboard requires planning, care, team-work and some complaining. Being rocked out of balance (sometimes literally), has made us aware of our surroundings and be thankful in a way we never have been before.

Losing personal space is inevitable, but it can be a blessing, because how do you isolate yourself (physically and mentally) and slam the door of your room, if you barely have any! In a way, we relearn how to be a community, starting with our own family. Everyone aboard has a job to do, and we all depend on each other for smooth and safe passages. Taking a shift at night, with no land in sight can easily bring up panic. What has helped me stay calm and admire the view, even while fearing it, have been psalms and the Hymn to the Theotokos – I may have just been singing in the most awesome choir loft there is!

Romance, adventure and joy are in much of what we do. We have seen sunsets and sunrises in their full glory, surrounded by God's creation unaltered by man. Last school year we studied about the continental slope, then sailed and even swam over it! Sailing has offered valuable lessons in physics as well.

As we sailed south, there were quite a few OCA churches close to the ports we were docked at. We met many people from various parishes, and that was another comfort zone scratch – we were always the new family. It was a humbling experience to learn to accept different faces and customs. After all, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, but it is easier to believe that surrounded by friends and familiar faces. As far as being far from a church – I never knew how beautiful Typika can sound on the water.

So is the boat our solution to everything? Of course not, but we would like to think it is a step in the right direction, for us, at this particular time in our lives, and by your prayers, please! One day, sooner or later, we will find land again, and land is still perfect soil to plant and keep the word of God. [*Visit their Blog at <http://www.notextingandtacking.com> for the continuing story...*]



## Holy Synod Elects Auxiliary Bishops

SYOSSET, NY [OCA News]

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude at its Regular Fall Session, Tuesday, November 12, 2019, elected Archimandrite Alexis (Trader) as Bishop-elect of Bethesda, Auxiliary to the Metropolitan for Stavropegial Institutions, and Hieromonk Andrei (Hoarste) as Bishop-elect of Cleveland, Auxiliary to His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Episcopate...



Hieromonk Andrei Hoarște was born in 1982 into an Orthodox Christian family in Făgăraș, Romania. At the age of 15, he moved with his family to the United States where they established their home in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, becoming members of Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church. While completing his high school and undergraduate studies, he was active in the life of the parish and Episcopate. In September 2004, with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, he began pursuing theological studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, graduating in 2008 with a Master of Divinity Degree and working at the same time for the Master of Theology Degree. In October 2010, he commenced doctoral studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, Italy, earning a Doctorate of Theology Degree in June 2019 in the field of dogmatic/liturgical studies.

He was ordained into the Holy Diaconate in September 2012 and then the Holy Priesthood that December by Archbishop Nathaniel, who subsequently appointed him to lead the Episcopate's *Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry* in 2013 and then as Vicar of Canada in 2014 to assist with the administrative and pastoral responsibilities of the Episcopate. At the request of Archbishop Nathaniel and in accordance with the ROEA By-Laws, the Church Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America in Special Electoral Session elected him as a candidate for the office of Auxiliary Bishop on August 31, 2019. On October 13, 2019, he received the monastic tonsure and was given the name Andrei.

*It has also been announced that the **consecration** of Archimandrite Andrei will take place on Feb. 1 at the Cathedral of St. George in Southfield, Michigan. The faithful are invited and encouraged to attend this historic event in the life of the diocese. Look for more information soon on Realm. (Left: Chancery Office)*



*For more information on Bishop-elect Alexis Trader, visit <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-elects-auxiliary-bishops>.*

# DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nov 15th-Dec 24th Nativity Fast						
9am-10am Matsins	7pm-8pm NAMI Family Support		7am-8am Divine Liturgy	7pm-8pm Byzantine Notation	10:30am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	10am-2pm Church School Nativity Retreat
10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy			7pm-7:30pm Vespers		12pm-1pm Book Study	3:30pm-5pm Adult Catechism
11:30am-1pm Fellowship/Church School			7:30pm-8:30pm Inquirers' Class			5pm-6pm Vespers
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Nov 15th-Dec 24th Nativity Fast						
9am-10am Matsins	7am-8am Divine Liturgy		7am-8am Divine Liturgy	7pm-8pm Byzantine Notation	10:30am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	9am-11am Baptism and Liturgy
10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy			7pm-7:30pm Vespers	7:30pm-9pm Women's Bible Study	12pm-1pm Book Study	5pm-6pm Vespers
11:30am-1pm Fellowship/Church School			7:30pm-8:30pm Inquirers' Class			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Nov 15th-Dec 24th Nativity Fast						
9am-10am Matsins		7pm-9pm Parish Council	7am-8am Divine Liturgy	7pm-8pm Byzantine Notation	10:30am-11:30am Divine Liturgy	5pm-6pm Vespers
10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy			7pm-7:30pm Vespers		12pm-1pm Book Study	6pm-7pm Group Confession
11:30am-1pm Fellowship/Church School			7:30pm-8:30pm Inquirers' Class			
6pm-8pm Men's Group						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Nov 15th-Dec 24th Nativity Fast			Christmas	Dec 26th-28th Office Closed		
9am-10am Matsins		Christmas Eve	10am-11:30am Christmas Liturgy			
10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy		10am-12pm Royal Hours	11:30am-12:30pm Christmas Brunch			
11:30am-1pm Fellowship/Church School		5pm-6:30pm Vespertal Liturgy				
		10pm-11:30pm Candlelight Vigil				
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9am-10am Matsins		New Year's Eve	New Year's Day/ Circumcision of the Lord/ St. Basil the Great	7pm-8pm Byzantine Notation	7am-8:30am Royal Hours	5pm-7pm Vespers with Group Confession
10am-11:30am Divine Liturgy			10:30am-12pm St. Basil Liturgy			
11:30am-1pm Fellowship/Church School						

## Young Adult Kollektive

Thank you everyone who signed up for the **Ronald McDonald House** volunteering opportunity on Saturday, Nov. 24. We were able to fill all of the spots!

The next young adult event will be a **Wine and Paint** session with Amy D. on Saturday, December 14th at 1 PM! We have a few spots available. Please email to RSVP and to receive more information: [yam@stmaryorthodox.org](mailto:yam@stmaryorthodox.org)

We will also be doing a **Georgetown Glow** again this year on Friday December 20th. Mark your calendars! Please see this link for more information: [www.georgetownglowdc.com/](http://www.georgetownglowdc.com/)



## St. Juliana Fellowship

St. Juliana Fellowship held the most recent in its regular series of teas on Saturday, November 9 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Those who came enjoyed the fellowship of many of their fellow parishioners (the largest turnout yet for these events), while noshing on diverse kinds of sweet and savory goodies, and washing them down with a variety of choicest steeped beverages, as well as artisanal coffee. As one attendee later said, 'If you missed it, you missed out!' A winter tea, prior to the beginning of Great Lent, is planned.

The Fellowship also sponsored the Nativity Fast Soup Luncheon on Sunday, November 17. This semi-annual fundraiser (one is also held during Great Lent) raised a total of \$2,885 for OCMC missionaries in Romania and Guatemala (St. Juliana will round this up to \$3,000). Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, treasure, talents, and tasty soups to make the 2019 Nativity Fast Soup Luncheon fundraiser a success.

## Doxacon Prime 2019

### Our Most Successful Doxacon To Date!



Our fifth Doxacon had the highest attendance—over 118 attendees, vendors, speakers, and staff. Many thanks to St. George in Bethesda, Maryland for hosting us this year. Our theme this year was Superheroes, we have two amazing keynote talks on this topic. Fr. Niko Bekris and Steven Christoforou both spoke on this topic. We were also pleased to have Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick at Doxacon speaking on Lord of the Rings. This Doxacon had a real sense of community, we had more time for discussion, gaming, fellowship, and worship. We hope to continue building on this sense of community and make Doxacon a yearly meeting place for friends from all over.

As Doxacon continues to grow we hope that more people at St. Mary's will become involved either in planning, volunteering, or attending! You can talk to Fr. David or Daniel Silver if you want to learn more. Thank you for all your support to date, this parish has gone above and beyond our expectations to make this event something really special. And a big thanks to all of our Doxacon volunteers!



### Food Pantry Donations: A New System!

You may have noticed the large blue bucket that once held food pantry donations is no longer in the Narthex. We have set up a small shelving unit at the bottom of the stairs from the narthex to the basement to house donations to the food pantry.

We are now contributing these donations to the **Falls Church Community Service Council**, a local Food Pantry that serves the greater Falls Church area. The FCCSC is a coalition of churches and human service organizations that serves the Falls Church Community. St Mary's is a member of this group. They do wonderful things for citizens in the community who are in need!

**Most needed items:** White Rice (1 lb bags), Meals in a can (ie Soups, Beef Stew), Spaghetti Sauce, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Fruit, Diapers (Larger sizes) and Toilet paper. The full list is posted by the shelves.

**Help deliver:** We need volunteers to take the food donations to the Knox Presbyterian Church, which is on Rt. 50 at Allen Street. Drop off times are weekday mornings between 9:30 am and 1:00 pm.

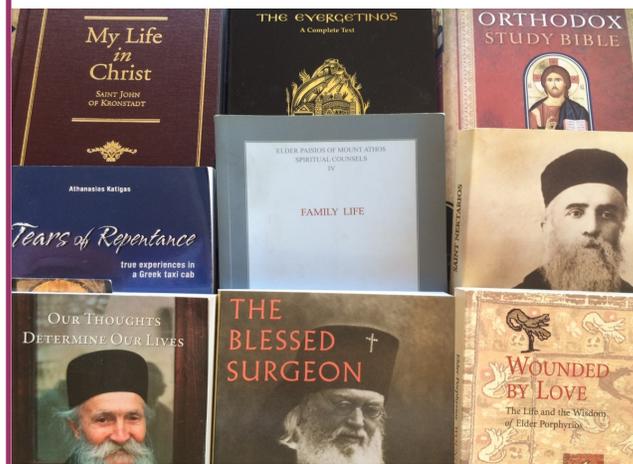
### Do You Love Books? Our Library needs you!

*Love to catalog books?  
Love to sort, organize, and make labels?  
Love reading new information and sharing your knowledge?*

#### The St. Mary library needs your help!

We have many donations to our church library just waiting to be processed and added to our wonderful collection. We could use several volunteers to take care of this valuable church asset!

We would also like to renovate the Library space with a new paint job and new shelves. Please consider a donation to the **Library Project** this Christmas!



### Giving Back to the Earth: We are now composting our fellowship supplies!

You may not know this, but all of the utensils, bowls, plates, and cups provided by our church in our fellowship hall are compostable! This means they can be broken down by bacteria and turned into lovely, nutrient-dense soil. The young adult ministry (YAM) has recently sponsored the pickup and commercial composting of our supplies, to help us all be good stewards of creation, and to reduce our overall waste while we enjoy each other's company. **Veteran Compost** (a veteran-owned small business) comes once a week to pick up the little green bins you may have noticed recently in the fellowship hall. The YAM organizing team has been helping to guide us as we make the transition to composting almost all of our items. There is still a lot to learn, but they appreciate your patience as we figure out what is the best method for preserving the earth and being most efficient in packing the bins. As an extra note, many of these items are not actually compostable at home, but a commercial facility can handle the task. Any food that is on your plate can be composted, bones and all!

## Holiday Services Schedule

### Christmas 2019

Tuesday Dec. 24:

- \* 10:30 AM Royal Hours
- \* 5:00 PM Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil
- \* 10:00 PM Candlelit Vigil

Wednesday, Dec. 25:

- \* 10:00 AM Christmas Liturgy
- \* 11:30 Strada Brunch

### New Year's 2020

Tuesday, Dec. 31:

- \* 6:00 PM Te Deum

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020

- \* 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil



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**St. Mary Orthodox Church**  
**7223 Roosevelt Avenue**  
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