

VOL 1 ISSUE 11

2018

ST MARK DC

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER





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Dear St. Mark's family,

**G**od Commanded Moses to fasten a golden plate in the turban of the High priest. So, He says: "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD." (Ex 28:36) This golden plate is the proclamation of the Lord Christ (Our True High Priest), the Firstborn accepted by the Father on our behalf. The Lord has made His life holy to the Father for our sake, to enable us to be holy in Him. He prayed: "For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified." ( Jn 17:19). Let us all pray that this New Year may be the Year of sanctification, as Tertullian says: "God's will is our sanctification (1Thess. 4:3) for He wants us to be according to His likeness, to be holy as He is holy. (Lev. 11:44)." Let this golden plate where it is written " Holy to the Lord" be on our hearts , minds and bodies. Let our houses be Holy to the Lord, Our families sanctified to the Lord. Let every breath praises: holy to the Lord.

**W**e wish you all Very Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!

In Christ,  
The Priests of St Mark's





# EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

## Here is what is currently happening:

- Framing the exterior of the second floor addition is almost complete
- The concrete footings for the basement have been completed, as well as the excavation support
- Pouring the perimeter walls of the basement is underway

## Next Steps:

- The laying of the foundation for the new basement and Sanctuary
- Continued progress on the second floor of the Social Hall
- Installing the roof and glass dome skylight of the reception

## Reminders:

- Please DO NOT park on Braddock Rd
- Please DO NOT park on any unmarked parking spots including, Fire Lanes, Church Lawn, Sidewalk etc.
- Please follow and obey all traffic signs and patterns.
- Failure to follow these rules can put yourself, your family and the Church in great danger or worse. Please do your part to keep our Community safe.





# LET US REMEMBER

Mrs. Aida Farag Habib departed to be with the Lord on December 11, 2017. Mrs. Habib was one of the founding members of Washington, D.C's St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church. She continually supported our church and started the first bazaar to begin fundraising for the church. We thank her for her support and service over the years at St. Mark's.



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If you would like your occasion (baptism, engagement, wedding) or funeral placed in the newsletter, please email [communications@stmarkdc.org](mailto:communications@stmarkdc.org)

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# CALENDAR



**January**  
**2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5a Liturgy (Chapel)	4	5 3:30p Liturgy	6 8a Paramoun Liturgy (Gym)  7p-11p Nativity feast Liturgy (Our Lady of Good Counsel Church)
7 12p-2p Sunday School Christmas party	8	9	10 5a Liturgy (Chapel)	11	12	13 8a Liturgy (Gym)  7p Vespers (Chapel)
14 6a 1st Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a Kids Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a 2nd Liturgy (Chapel) 11:15a Sunday School/ Light&Life/Arabic Meeting	15	16	17 5a Liturgy (Chapel)	18 5a-7a Epiphany Paramoun Liturgy  6p-930p Feast of Epiphany (Gym)	19	20 8a Liturgy (Gym)  7p Vespers (Chapel)
21 6a 1st Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a Kids Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a 2nd Liturgy (Chapel) 11:15a Sunday School/ Light&Life/Arabic Meeting	22	23	24 5a Liturgy (Chapel)	25	26	27 8a Liturgy (Gym)  7p Vespers (Chapel)
28 6a 1st Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a Kids Liturgy (Gym) 8:45a 2nd Liturgy (Chapel) 11:15a Sunday School/ Light&Life/Arabic Meeting	29 4p Divine Liturgy Jonah's Fast	30 4p Divine Liturgy Jonah's Fast	31 4p Divine Liturgy Jonah's Fast	Feb 1 5a Divine Liturgy Jonah's Feast		



# IMPORTANT DATES

January 6th - 8am - Paramoun Liturgy

January 6th - 7pm-11pm - Nativity Feast Liturgy (Our Lady  
of Good Counsel Church)

January 18th - 6pm-9:30pm - Feast of Epiphany (Gym)

January 29-31 - Jonah's Fast



# CHURCH NEWS

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS

This December, the High School Ministry hosted a retreat on a character study of the life of Jacob. The topic circled around the understanding of our relationship with God in the life of Jacob and just as God did with Jacob, He takes our old deceptive nature, reveals His love to us, wrestles with us, gives us a new name and identity and calls us to return to Him and bury our idols. A special moment that happened at both the girls' and boys' retreats was the youth took some quiet time before heading home to identify the idols in their lives, write down what they were, and buried their idols (with popsicle sticks) as Jacob and all his household did. We are so proud of our high schoolers and we pray that God continues to bless this service!









# KIDS Corner



## The Meaning of the Candy Cane

### Hard Candy

Reminds us that Jesus is like a "rock," strong and dependable.

*(Read Psalm 31:3.)*

### Peppermint Flavor

Reminds us of the gift of spices from the wise men.

*(Read Matthew 2:11.)*

### White Candy

Stands for Jesus as the holy, sinless Son of God.

*(Read 1 John 1:7.)*

### Cane Shape

Is like a staff used by shepherds in caring for sheep.

Reminds us of Jesus, our "Good Shepherd."

*(Read John 10:1-18, 27-30.)*

### The Letter "J"

Is the first letter in the Name of Jesus, our Savior.

*(Read Matthew 1:21.)*

### The Color Red

Reminds us that Jesus is the Gift of God's love.

Reminds us that Jesus shed His blood for us.

*(Read John 3:16 and Revelation 1:5.)*

### The Stripes

The large stripe reminds us of the cross on which Jesus died.

Three small red stripes remind us of His sufferings from the whip on His back, the crown of thorns on his head, and the nail wounds in His hands and feet.

*(Read John 19:1-30.)*

Helen Haidle • The Candymaker's Gift  
SeedFaithBooks.com



*Loving  
Father,*

help us remember  
the **birth of Jesus**  
that we may share in

the *song of the angels,*  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the *worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate and

*open the door of love* all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from  
evil by the *blessing which Christ brings,* and teach us  
to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be *Thy children,* and the Christmas  
evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

*forgiving and forgiven,*

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

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