



St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, Saint Paul, MN
854 Woodbridge Street, St. Paul, MN 55117

The bulletin

www.saintmarymn.org

October 2023

Parish priest:
**Mircea
Vasiu**

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**110th
Anniversary
Sun OCT. 21-22
2023**

**110 Anniversary
schedule** page 5

Projects page 8-9

**Sunday,
Nov. 5,
11:30am**

**Mosii de toamna
General memorial
service Parasras
de obste**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
EVERY Sunday, @
11:15 am**

Click here for
[CHURCH CALENDAR](#)

C HURCH HISTORY 1913-2023

The first Romanian immigrants setting in the Saint Paul area around the year 1910 found themselves in a land with strange customs and new life styles, with no friends except their fellow immigrants, struggling to learn the ways of this new country.

The dynamic growth of a newly industrialized and democratic United States was a vast change from the rural village life of Banat and Transylvania dominated by the Imperial rule of the faltering Austro-Hungarian Empire.

They had left “the old country” fresh from a life behind the plow or in the field and suddenly were thrust into a new life of factories and industry. Even though this new way of living was strange to them they worked hard and long

to earn their livelihood and be good members of the community.

These Romanians brought to this country very little of monetary value. However, they did bring with them a steadfast religious faith, replete with beautiful services and traditions. This faith was complemented by the rich ethnic background of the immigrants.

The Romanian customs with their music, dancing and other homeland traditions were maintained and preserved by the by the formation of a

benevolent society in the growing Romanian population of the Rice Street area.

It was because their strong Faith that their thoughts were constantly focused on building a church of their own in St. Paul.

(cont. page 3)

Rugăciunea îl eliberează pe om, îl degajează de natura exterioară și de sine însuși. În acest fel, **ea ține sufletul deschis către Dumnezeu ca Persoană.** Cel ce nu se roagă rămâne rob, închis în mecanismul complex al naturii exterioare și al înclinațiilor patimilor sale care îl domină pe om mai mult decât o face natura.

Rugăciunea asigură libertatea față de mecanismele complexe ale lumii exterioare care compun ansamblul legilor naturii. Rugându-se, omul își afirmă convingerea că aceste mecanisme sunt doar contingente și derivă din intervenția liberă a Persoanei supreme care le-a creat.

Părintele Dumitru Stăniloae,

A week later, on May 25, 1913 the church members met for the first time and elected the following officers:

President: A. Papiu Secretary: J. Farca

Financial secretary: G. Capeti; Treasurer: P. Imbrone,

1st Cantor: J. Sarafolean, 2nd Cantor: M. Ionescu; Members: Cincu Crăciun, George Cristea, Ion Miculescu, Stefan Raica, Ioan Orpria, Simion Gradia, Nicolae Pescari, Vasile Gania.

The newly formed committee lost no time in identifying the site for the new church. On November 9, 1913 the transaction was completed for the purchase of the land on which the church was to be build.

June 14, 1914 the cornerstone was laid and in October 15, the same year the Romanians celebrated the blessing of their new church together with Rev. Fr. JOHN PODEA from Youngstown, Ohio.

With Fr. Podea's help a petition was drawn and forwarded to the Metropolitan of Sibiu in Transylvania requesting a parish priest.

Unfortunately, World War 1 intervened before a priest could be sent and the new church depended on the cooperation of other Romanian Orthodox parishes that helped by sharing their priests for services. After the war the church was successful in securing the services of a regular parish priest.

Sometime later a house was bought and moved onto the property to serve as the priest's residence.

This parish house was used until 1957, when a modern, two-story, three bedroom house was build (\$17,500).

In 1930 the parishioners felt the need for

an additional building; a place to serve the needs of the parish for the religious education of its young people and also a place to be able to come to socialize and enjoy the fullness of the Romanian heritage, traditions and customs.

The parish members felt as if they lost a part of themselves when "The Hall" was destroyed by fire in March of 1963. After this unfortunate event they worked together and pledged to build a new hall.

A brand new building (1964 - \$41,500) and a quick payment of the mortgage was the result of the cooperation and good will of the church members and the Rice Street Community.

Originally, the church was blessed by Fr. Podea (Youngstown, OH). However, it was not officially consecrated until 1935 by the first Bishop from Romania, His Grace POLICARP MORUȘCA. As part of the consecration service, religious relics were set in a part of the Holy Altar table.

The turbulent war years of the 1940's saw many of the **parish members serving in the armed forces of the United States** and their parents and friends prayed for their safe return. In 1955 the interior of the church was remodeled and new pews were installed. The new interior was blessed on February 13, 1955 in a service pontificated by His Grace Bishop VALERIAN TRIFA.

Another hallmark for St. Mary's was a visit by **Princess ILEANA of Romania in 1956**. Other improvements such as a new Iconostas and renovations as necessary have taken place through the years and have provided **worthy and hospitable accommodations for national**

OUR next FOCUS MEAL will be on SUNDAY, November 12, 2023.

We are looking for Sponsors and volunteers to help us prepare and serve the meal.

We are going to prepare aprox. 250 meals. Please contact Fr. Mircea with questions .

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink ... "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25, 40)

organizations of the Romanian Church such as the **Ladies Auxiliary** (A.R.F.O.R.A.) – founded on February 24, 1929 with **Psa. Valeria Moldovan** as first president. During all the years the constant activity and growth of the parish can be attributed to the spirit and deep religious convictions of the people of the church.

S.P.A.R.O.Y. - youth group - was founded on 1934 and in August 1934 and Constantin Capeți and Nick Geletar participated in the National AROY Convention in Philadelphia.

The accomplishments of a small number of members (never exceeded 150) are a constant reminder of how God works His Will through the faithful.

It is our hope that the same spirit will continue to dominate the hearts of the church members in the future and perpetuate and improve their religious faith in God, with the assurance that, by doing so, they are better citizens of the community and of the country.

After 1989 St. Mary Church experienced resurgence in membership due to the addition of many new Romanian immigrants who were able to leave Romania after the overthrow of the Communist regime.

In 1996 the Ladies Auxiliary of our parish hosted the 48th ARFORA Congress under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Mihai Cerghizan. President of Ladies Auxiliary at the time was Mrs. Georgeta Poliac. Delegates from many Romanian Orthodox parishes in the U.S. attended this event.

The church and the parish house were renovated in 2004-2005. A major renovation and modernization of the parish hall and property occurred between 2009-2010.

In 2010 the St. Mary SPAROY chapter hosted the National AROY Convention under the guidance of Rev. Fr. George Oancă & Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU. The president of SPAROY chapter was Anthony Hedesh.

In the recent years we were overjoyed to welcome the birth of many Romanian-American babies in our Orthodox community.

Together, the old and the new families, worked hard to keep our faith strong and to keep the parish in good shape. The Parish council and Ladies Auxiliary together with the faithful developed many fundraising activities (like the annual Romanian Festival) and served people in need (like FOCUS MN) and other activities with children (Sunday School), with adults (Lenten Retreat), pan-orthodox services (with MEOCCA clergy and faithful) and cultural activities – Romanian dance lessons with maestro John Omorean.

We beautified the interior of our church with new painted icons in 2014 & 2023 and installed AC in church in 2016. On 2019 we added a parking lot on the property (179 Atwater) that we bought in 2017. In 2013 a new Holy Altar Table was donated by Elena Lozne.

In the last 10 years we had smaller and bigger projects to maintain the Church and St. Mary's property in good shape: floor waxing, wall painting, church windows restoration (2021-2022), altar floor (2020). Most recently, the granite monument Church sign, donated by Stefan & Yelena Ciufac.

May God grant the parishioners and their friends the strength to be as good as or even better than their ancestors.



Thursday, November 16, 2023 [St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church](#) (SMROC) will participate in **Give to the Max Day** again this year. **Please make an ON-LINE DONATION TO ST. MARYS ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH** and we can win one of the prizes (in money) offered by <https://givemn.org/organization/St-Marys-Romanian-Orthodox-Church-2>

You can make online donations anytime on our web site:
<http://www.saintmarymn.org/Donations.aspx>



**During the 100 year history of St. Mary Romanian
Orthodox Church, the following priests served
the spiritual and administrative needs of the parish:**

Rev. Fr. John Podea	- 1914	Fr. George Preda	- 1954-1956
Fr. Gherasim Luca (monk)	- 1915-1916	Fr. Jurich Ljubisav	- 1956-1957
Fr. Ilie Pop	- 1915-1916	Fr. John Ivaşcu	- 1958-1967
Fr. Irimie Dalea	- 1917-1919	Fr. Mircea Marinescu	- 1968-1971
Fr. Pavel Negovan	- 1919-1920	Fr. Coriolan Isacu	- 1971-1976
Fr. Grigorie Coste	- 1921-1925	Fr. Romey Rosco	- 1976-1979
Fr. Grigorie Băloiu	- 1925-1926	Fr. Constantin Alecese	- 1980-1982
Fr. Andrei Moldovan	- 1926-1930	Fr. Filimon Barbos	- 1983-1984
Fr. Moise Balea	- 1930-1931	Fr. Cornel Todeasa	- 1985-1991
Fr. Ştefan A. Oprean	- 1931-1932	Fr. Corneliu M. Cerghizan	- 1991-1997
Fr. Aurel Reu	- 1932	Fr. Ovidiu Mihalache	- 1998
Fr. Traian Damian	- 1933-1936	Fr. Ioan Poptelecan	- 1998-2003
Fr. Theodore Scaletski	- 1936	Fr. Georgel Oanca	- 2003-2010
Fr. Ioan Stănilă	- 1936-1937	Fr. Mircea VasIU	- 2010- present
Fr. Vasile Paşcău	- 1937-1938		
Fr. Petru Moga	- 1939-1945		
Fr. Eugene Lazar	- 1945-1947		
Fr. Ilie Moţu	- 1948-1953		

Dragostea, bucuria, pacea – toate acestea sunt daruri dumnezeieşti, însuşiri dumnezeieşti. Ele pot săvârşi şi separat minuni. Dragostea uneşte toate laolaltă, pacea izvorăşte din om şi răspândeşte linişte, bucuria ridică povara de la sufletul omului.





Anniversary

1913
2023

OCTOBER 21-22, 2023

**St. Mary Romanian
Orthodox Church**



110th Anniversary

ST. MARY ROOC 110TH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

- 4:00 p.m. Blessing the graves at Oakland cemetery
- 5:00 p.m. Vespers & Children meeting the bishop
- 6:30 p.m. Romanian Cultural Evening - at St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church HALL- Food, Authentic Romanian Orchestra from Chicago, \$50 admission (free under 13) - Local entertainers and IZVORASUL performance followed by open dancing

651-488-5669
www.saintmarymn.org

Anniversary 110

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel
- 1:00 p.m. - Traditional Romanian Festive Banquet - at our parish hall (your monetary donations will be well received)

854 Woodbridge St.
Saint Paul, MN 55117

How to celebrate our Anniversary?

Let us **renew our membership** in the church, today!

Let us make time to participate at Church services, Cultural Night & fundraising Dinner & Divine Liturgy.

Bring your children to Sunday School every Sunday at 11:15am!

Cum sărbătorim Aniversarea noastră?

Să ne facem timp să participăm la Slujbele Bisericii, Petrecerea de Sambata, la masa aniversară & la Sf. Litughie. **Să ne reînnoim membruria la biserică astăzi** - sa devenim memebrii.

Aduceți copiii la Sunday School in fiecare Duminică la 11:15am!

Dear Friends, Parishioners and Volunteers,

Thank you! St. Mary's would like to thank to all of you who came and participate at our Festival last month. We had a wonderful event.

Thank you the chairman Octavian Cornea and his team Georgia Omorean, Prascovia Bortnova, & John Omorean. and to all volunteers. Thank you to Denisa Blaga for very nice performance during the Festival, to Omorean Family for hosting her. Thank you to Izvorasul assemble for their performants. The good news is that your hard work and donations enabled us to bring an income to our church. This is one of the fundraiser for our church.

*WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU among us again next time for our **110th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, October 22 @ 1pm.***

ST. MARY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
www.saintmarymn.org 651-488-5669

Cultural Night Celebration

Saturday, October 21
@ 6pm
St. Katherine Ukrainian
Orthodox Church HALL
1600 Hwy 96, Arden Hills

MENU:

- ♦ Chicken Alfredo pasta
- ♦ Romanian Sausage
- ♦ Cavatappi pasta with red sauce
- ♦ Garden salad & bread
- ♦ Anniversary cake

\$50 admission (free under 13)



*Tickets are on sale every Sunday at the church.
Online via PayPal (mention Cultural Night).
Tickets at the door will be \$60/ person*

**Buy
Tickets
Now!**

**Come and
Celebrate
with us
Saturday
&
Sunday!**

Tickets for Saturday, Oct. 21, "Cultural Night Celebration" are on sale every Sunday at Church (\$50/person, under 13 free) or online <https://saintmarymn.org/Donations.aspx> (please mention "cultural night") .

At the door - \$ 60 / person



CANDLES IN THE FRONT AND INSIDE THE ALTAR



On 09/03, 2023 - donated by Marinela Grigore IMO her sister Maria - Dumnezeu sa-l ierte!

On 09/10, 2023 – donated by Gabriela Jancik IMO her brother Ionut - Dumnezeu sa-l ierte!

On 09/17, 2023 – donated by Marina Feraru IMO her father Marin - Dumnezeu sa-l ierte!

On 10/01, 2023 – donated by Nicoleta Cornea for Elisabeta Vranceanu;

If you want to donate candles for Holy Altar please see the chart in “epitrop’s area” (pridvor – pronaos) and sing up for a Sunday or Holyday.

**A DONATION FOR ALTAR
CANDLES IS \$ 50**

COMING EVENTS

110TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

4:00 p.m. Blessing the graves at Oakland cemetery

5:00 p.m. Vespers & Children meeting the bishop

6:30 p.m. *Romanian Cultural Evening* at

St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church HALL - 1600 Hwy 96, Arden Hills MN 55112 - Food, Authentic Romanian Orchestra from Chicago,

- Local entertainers and IZVORASUL performance followed by open dancing

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

10:00 a.m. - *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy*

celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel

1:00 p.m. - *Traditional Romanian Festive Banquet* - at our parish hall (your donations will be well received)

OCTOBER 2023 – 110th Anniversary

Address:
854 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, MN 55117 ;
651-488-5669, www.saintmarymn.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Utenia / Confessions 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Sunday school	2.	3.	4. (Post / Fast)	5. +) Ven. Daniel and Misail of Turnu mon-astery	6. +) Glorification of St. Innocent, Apostle to the Americas (Post / Fast)	7.
8. 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Utenia / Confessions 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Sunday school	9.	10.	11. (Post / Fast)	12.	13. (Post / Fast)	14. (+) Sfanta Cuv. Parascheva 9:30am Divine Liturgy
15. 21 st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Utenia / Confessions 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Sunday school	16.	17. 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	18. +) St. Apostle & Evangelist Luke (Post / Fast)	19.	20. (Post / Fast)	21. 4:00 pm Memorial service in Oakland cemetery 5:00pm Vesper 6:00pm Cultural night at St Katherine Ukrainian O. C.
22. 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Utenia / Confessions 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 110th ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 1:00PM	23.	24.	25. (Post / Fast)	26. (+) Saint Demetrios the myrrh streaming 7:00pm Divine Liturgy	27. †) Cuv. Dimitrie cel Nou, Ocrotitorul Bucureștilor (Post / Fast)	28. 5:00 pm Vespers and Confession
29. 24 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Utenia / Confessions 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Sunday school	30.	31.	1. Nov. (Post / Fast)	2. Nov.	3. Nov. (Post / Fast)	4. Nov. 5:00 pm Vespers and Confession

Visit www.saintmarymn.org for more information

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

<i>Anonymous</i>	\$ 500 - Pledge donation
<i>Juliann Larson</i>	\$ 200 - anniversary donation
<i>Petru & Vera Didenco</i>	\$ 1,000 - anniversary donation
<i>Maria Nicu</i>	\$ 100
<i>Nicholas Manciu</i>	\$ 100 - Pledge donation
<i>John Omorean</i>	\$ 250 - Festival Donation
<i>Nicholas Manciu</i>	\$ 300 - Festival Donation
<i>Octavian Cornea</i>	\$300 - Festival Donation
<i>Liliana Badea</i>	\$ 50 - pledge donation
	PayPal donation
<i>Anca Zamfirescu</i>	\$ 50

<i>Michael Beecroft</i>	\$ 100
<i>Doina Neculescu</i>	\$ 50
<i>Matthew Andreiescu</i>	\$ 10
<i>Kelly Rynda</i>	\$ 10

2023 Membership

Gabriela Jancik
Psa. Anca Vasii
Georgeta Poliac



VĂ RUGĂM, să faceți donații de tip “pledge” (periodic) pentru a ajuta biserica noastră și să deveniți membri activi ai parohiei noastre.

Membria este de \$175/an – din care noi plătim \$85 la Sfânta Episcopie. Mai sunt 3 luni si multi dintre dvs nu au platit membra pe 2023.

Va rugam sa incercati sa plătiți membra pe 2023 cat mai curand. Vă mulțumim anticipat.

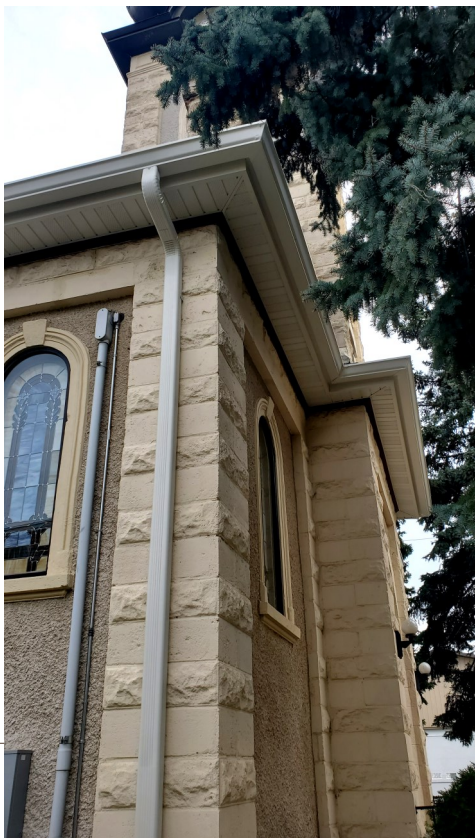
New church altar covers/vestments



We would like to thank Carmen & Viorel Herea for donating new vestments and covers for church altar. God bless you!



New fascia, soffit and gutters



We would like to thank Ion Ungureanu, Victor Spinachi & Ștefan Ciumac for fixing/covering the church fascia/soffit, donating their time and work.

And to Victor Borozan who replaced and donated church gutters offering his time and work .



New church sign



**Thank you
Stefan &
Yelena Ciumac
for donating
a new
Church sign.**