



St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, Saint Paul, MN
854 Woodbridge Street, St. Paul, MN 55117
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

The bulletin

MAY 2025

ÎNĂLȚAREA NOASTRA ÎNTRU HRISTOS

Înălțarea Domnului reprezintă unul dintre cele mai importante evenimente din istoria mântuirii neamului omenesc, pentru că prin Înălțare firea umană a Domnului Iisus Hristos este, pe de o parte, ridicată și actualizată pe deplin în coezistența Persoanelor Sfintei Treimi, iar pe de altă parte face posibilă venirea în lume a Mângâietorului, căci Pogorârea Duhului Sfânt este un eveniment care depinde de Înălțarea Domnului, spre folosul întregii umanități: „*căci dacă Eu nu Mă voi duce, Mângâietorul nu va veni la voi*” (Ioan 16, 7).

Sfântul Evanghelist Marcu subliniază faptul că Domnul Iisus Hristos, după ce S-a

înălțat la cer, a stat „de-a dreapta Tatălui” (Marcu 16, 19). În general, când cineva stă de-a dreapta cuiva înseamnă că este disponibil în a împlini voia aceluia. Astfel, șederea Fiului de-a dreapta Tatălui arată rolul Înălțării, „acela de a situa umanitatea lui îndumnezeită în raport filial cu Tatăl, raport pe care, de altfel, îl are din veșnicie ca Ipostas.

Înălțarea Domnului trebuie văzută și ca un semn al înălțării tuturor oamenilor care se sfințesc întru Hristos, evenimentul Înălțării fiind modelul creștinilor care prin credință puternică și faptele izvorâte din ea se înalță odată cu Hristos, în El. (Continuare pag. 3)

OUR ASCENSION INTO CHRIST

In the Ascension, in a way distinct from on the Cross or in the Resurrection, we see the fulfillment and purpose of Christ's mission to Earth. Through the Cross and the Resurrection, Christ tramples upon death and destroys its hold over us. And in the Ascension, we see what the purpose of

death's destruction was. We see what is now possible for us because of the Cross and Resurrection.

So what happens at the Ascension? On the most obvious level, we might say that in the Ascension, Jesus is going back home.
cont. page 2

Parish priest:
Mircea
Vasiu

office (651)488-5669
cell (734) 497-4544
Email:
frmirceavasiu@yahoo.com

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

Coming Events - p 4

Pentecost PICNIC
JUNE 8, 2025
After Divine Liturgy

PLEASE keep making donation to our church, online via PayPal – on our website

ARFORA
CONGRESS

MAY 31– JUNE 1

DETAILS PAGE 7

Click here for
MAY CALENDAR

After spending about thirty-three years on Earth, having accomplished what He came to do, He is returning to His Father. But He is bringing something back with Him—humanity.

Whenever we recite the Nicene Creed, we affirm that He “*ascended into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father.*” We’re not just telling the story here, that Jesus did what He came here to do and then went back to Heaven. When He ascended, the disciples who stood there on the Mount of Olives saw Him go up into Heaven not as a spirit or ghost. They saw Him ascend with His human body and all that it means to be human, including a soul, mind, will—everything.

So now the Son of God is sitting at the right hand of God the Father, right where He belongs, right where He paradoxically never left even while spending thirty-three years with us here on Earth. But now, as of the Ascension, included in the divine Person of the Son of God at that divine right hand is human nature. There is now a human man sitting at the right hand of the Father! So there sits the God-man.

So what does this have to do with working up to our potential? Many Christians these days have no sense of the Ascension. For most of them, it’s not even on their calendar. For those who do not pay attention to the Ascension, Christian life consists mainly in waiting to go to Heaven when they die.

But this is a reduced Christianity. This is not the Christianity of the Ascension. What is so seductive about this reduced Christianity is that it appeals to our desire not to live up to the potential of the Christianity of the Ascension. We settle for a lot less. But in the Orthodox tradition salvation in Christ is not a “Get Out of Hell Free” card that we get to play at the end of our lives, preceded by a few decades of religious activism in the meantime.

Salvation means union with Jesus Christ, which takes dying to ourselves, putting Him on in baptism, and then growing into His likeness, becoming more and more suffused with the power and energy of the Holy Trinity, rising from the dead at the end of time and then ascending with Him to glory. The Ascension is our destiny as Christians. If we are in Christ, we sit at the right hand of God the Father, participating in the glory and the majesty of the Godhead, experiencing the divine life of God Himself.

Getting to that point, where we ascend with Him from the Mount of Olives, requires extended

effort and focus. We have to be inspired. We have to want it so badly that we will do whatever it takes to get it. *If we are not willing to be crucified with Him, then we are not headed toward the Ascension. If we are not willing to set aside everything for Him, then we are not headed toward the Ascension. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments, and if we do not keep them, how can we say we love Him? And if we do not love Him, how can we expect to be in communion with Him, not to mention “happily ever after” in Heaven?*

If we want eternal life, then that means knowing God. So how do I get to know God so that I can have eternal life? It starts with Jesus, Who is the Son of God Who reveals to us the Father. The place to begin is really getting to know Him in the Gospels, by reading them all and getting to know them well. It also takes prayer. When you want to get to know someone, you spend time with him. You can’t do it just by reading about him or hearing someone else talk about him. You’ve got to get your own experience.

As time goes by, and we participate in all these things, especially in the sacraments, the holy mysteries where Jesus touches us directly, we find that we really do know Him, know His character, His personality, the way He communicates and acts. We find that we can’t imagine life without Him. We find that we begin to imitate Him. *Doesn’t this happen with all our friends?* The more time we spend with them, the more we become like them.

Jesus Christ took the initiative. He came to earth and became like us. He spent time with us. He is still here, spending time with us. So we respond. And we follow Him everywhere—the Cross, death, the Resurrection and the Ascension.

As Orthodox Christians, we do what it takes to follow Him everywhere, even when we don’t feel like it or are tempted by other priorities. **Why? Because if we are not pressing toward perfection, then we are not following Christ to His Ascension.** Achieving perfection is not what is required for union with Christ or life in Heaven with Him, but striving for perfection is. If we don’t even try, we will not be able to ascend with Him, because we will be too weighed down by the heavy and temporary cares of this world. But if we strive with inspiration and focus, then we will ascend with Him. That is our potential. Let’s live up to it.!

Este ceea ce Părinții Bisericii numesc, din punct de vedere antropologic, viața omului în Hristos, adică acea înălțare, ca urcuș spre Dumnezeu, ca mișcare a voinței către El. De aceea, este foarte importantă înălțarea minții la cele înalte, pentru a se apropia de Dumnezeu.

Sărbătoarea Înălțării Domnului mai este numită în popor și Ispas, de la termenul slavon Supasu, care înseamnă Mântuitorul. Așadar, acest termen arată rolul mântuitor al Înălțării Domnului, care a produs bucurie Ucenicilor Săi prin promisiunea făcută lor că vor primi pe Duhul Sfânt, după cum reiese chiar din troparul praznicului: „Înălțatu-Te-ai întru slavă, Hristoase Dumnezeul nostru, bucurie făcând Ucenicilor cu făgăduința Sfântului Duh, încredințându-se ei prin binecuvântare că Tu ești Fiul lui Dumnezeu, Izbăvitorul lumii”.

Înălțarea Domnului revarsă peste oameni binecuvântare și bucurie sfântă, căci Iisus Hristos Cel înălțat întru slavă la ceruri este Izvorul bucuriei și al tuturor binecuvântărilor. De aici înțelegem că oamenii au fost creați de Dumnezeu pentru a moșteni viața veșnică în Împărăția cerurilor, nu pentru a fi stăpâni aici pe efemerul pământ, ci pentru a fi înălțați la cer. Căci dacă prin Jertfa sângeroasă și prin Învierea lui Hristos opera de răscumpărare și mântuire a lumii s-a împlinit, prin Înălțarea Sa

la cer Domnul Hristos a consacrat opera de mântuire a omenirii. În acest sens, este foarte important să avem privirea ațintită spre Hristos, să Îl avem permanent în fața noastră pe Hristos, pentru a nu ne pierde identitatea. Omul care privește la Hristos știe cine este și încotro se îndreaptă. Când omul a încetat să mai privească la Dumnezeu, atunci nu a mai știut cine este și în acel moment a început rătăcirea și exilul său. Omul știe cine este și care este menirea sa pe pământ atunci când privește la Hristos.

Așadar, prin Înălțarea Sa, Domnul Hristos îl înalță și pe om și îi arată cine este, îi descoperă calea pe care trebuie să o urmeze pentru a moșteni Împărăția lui Dumnezeu, căci Hristos este „Calea, Adevărul și Viața” (Ioan 14, 6) și nimeni nu vine la Tatăl decât prin El.

„Plinind rânduiala cea pentru noi și cele de pe pământ unindu-le cu cele cerești, Te-ai înălțat întru slavă, Hristoase, Dumnezeul nostru, născut din Tatăl și despărțindu-Te, ci rămânând nedepărtat și strigând celor ce Te iubesc pe Tine: Eu sunt cu voi și nimeni împotriva voastră!” (Condacul praznicului Înălțării Domnului).

Hristos a Înviat! ADEVĂRAT A ÎNVIAT Hristos!

NEWLY BAPTIZED - Welcome to the Orthodox Christian World!

Congratulations to Jessica & Valeriu Bortnov on the Baptism of their daughter Luminita Jo.

Năși Silvia Antonescu – La mulți ani!

SFINTELE PAȘTI 2025 / The “PAȘTI”

The bread & wine were donated by / Pâinea & vinul au fost donate de familia:

Agrigoroae Bolos Family

Dumnezeu să-i binecuvinteze, sănătate să le dăruiască!

CANDLES IN THE FRONT AND INSIDE THE ALTAR



On 04/06 – donated by Irina Candet IMO her husband Eugen- Dumnezeu sa il odihneasca!

On 04/12 donated by Eugenia Cerghizan IMO her daughter Mirela - Dumnezeu sa o odihneasca si sa o ierte;

On 04/13 donate de familia Ivanov pentru sanatate si binecuvantare;

On 04/16-18 – donate de familia Druta Corneliu pentru sanatate si binecuvantare;

On 04/20 - donate de familia Nicolae & Marinela Grigore pentru sanatate;

On 04/20 - donated by Corina & Alex Hansen for good health and blessings;

On 04/21 - donate de familia Maria & Dumitru Tofan pentru sanatate

On 04/27 - donated by Georgia M Omorean IMO Gerald Larson - May God rest his soul

On 04/27 - donate de Bortnov family with the occasion grand-daughter Luminita - pentru sanatate si pace sufleteasca;

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

COMING EVENTS

1. Blessing the graves on Memorial Day, May 26 at 10am at Oakland Cemetery.
2. Ladies Auxiliary (ARFORA) National Congress on May 31- June 1
3. **May 29, 2025** - **Ascension of our Lord** into Heaven - **10am Hierarchical Liturgy** in the presence of our **Archbishop Nathaniel**
4. **June 1, 2025** - **10am Hierarchical Liturgy** in the presence of our **Archbishop Nathaniel** with the occasion of Ladies Auxiliary congress host by our parish.

Please mark your calendar and come to the Liturgy with our archbishop.

5. **ROMANIAN FESTIVAL** - Saturday, September 13 from 12pm to 7pm

Spring

*MICI, KIDS MENU,
SIDES, SALAD & yummy
pastries
Something for
everyone!*



SPRING PENTECOST PICNIC

*Come and enjoy our delicious
food on*

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
*after Divine Liturgy and
Knelling prayers*



We would like to thank:

- To Ladies auxiliary who organized the **Easter coffee hour** . Please sign up on the list (at the hall) if you like to donated coffee hour after Sunday service
- To Ema & Bianca Agrigoroae Bolos for preparing the Easter egg for kids;
- to our Palm Sunday **FISH DINNER (April 13) sponsor:** Nicholas & Carolyn Manciu family (\$300) and Cora & Adrian Pirvu family (\$ 260)
- And to our chairman Adrian Pirvu and to Aurel Cernea, Nick Manciu, Psa Eugenia, Raisa Crihan and to those who helped at the dinner.
- Thank you to all who participated & donated - we received \$1,600 at the dinner.

**Puteti dona si online prin PAYPAL <https://saintmarymn.org/Donations.aspx>
Deasemenea, vă rugăm să deveniți membri activi ai parohiei noastre.
Membria este de \$175 pe an**

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Anonymous \$ 200 - Pledge donation
John Omorean \$ 150 - IMO brother Leo,
Traian & sister Sofica
Liliana Badea \$ 50 - Pledge donation
Agrigoroae Bolos V & N \$ 440 - Pledge donation
Nicholas Manciu \$ 105 - Pledge donation
Ron Bongard \$ 200 - IMO his mother Ann
Livi & Viorica Brezai \$ 50
Constanta Korolchuk \$ 300 - Pledge donation
Catherine Rankin \$ 45
Maria & Dumitru Tofan \$ 50
Juliann Larson \$ 200 - Pledge donation

PayPal donations

Doina Neculescu \$ 50 - pledge donation
Anca Zamfirescu \$ 50 - pledge donation
Camelia Florea \$100

Michael B. \$ 60 - Easter Flowers
Matthew Andriescu \$ 10
Simona Nistor \$ 100 - Easter Donation
Serghei Turcu \$ 50

2025 MEMBERSHIP (\$175)

Valentina Liutcan
Raisa Chrihan
Ion Crihan
Petre Didenco
Mary Zeimet
Frank Belgea
Gabriela Jancik
Octavian Cornea
Virginia Cornea

EASTER DONATIONS

Maria & Dumitru Tofan	\$ 50	Catherine Rankin	\$ 100
Adriana Simionescu	\$ 300	Ioan Pop	\$ 100
Psa Eugenia Cerghizan	\$ 100	Anca Gafencu	\$ 100
Elena & Serban Siman	\$ 100	Fr Mircea & Psa Anca	\$ 100
John & Georgia Omorean	\$ 100	Cezar & Silvia Panait	\$ 80
Mihnea & Carmen Popa	\$ 100	Aurel & Luiza Cernea	\$ 50
Doina & Cristian Neculescu	\$ 100	Deborah Muntean	\$ 25
John Stanek	\$ 50	Juliann Larson	\$ 50
Ana Maria Twohy	\$ 150	Liliana Badea	\$ 50
Pratt Kimberly	\$ 100	Cornelia Stanescu	\$ 20
Ion & Mria Crihan	\$ 100	Prascovia Bortnova	\$ 100
Raisa Crihan	\$ 100	Georgeta Poliac	\$ 100
Nicolai & Anastasia Bolboceanu	\$ 100	Jeanin Wanberg	\$ 100
Mary Zeimet	\$ 50		
Eugen & Irina Turcu	\$ 50		
Stefan & Yelena Ciumac	\$ 200		
Alina & Dumitru Rosca	\$ 100		
Dumitru & Tatiana Istratii	\$ 100		
Mirela Oliva	\$ 20		
Lucia Ciolan	\$ 20		
Octavian Cornea	\$ 50		
Frank Belgea	\$ 125		
Mihaela & Sergiu Lisnic	\$ 500		
Marilynn Fibison	\$ 500		
Constanta Korolchuck	\$ 100		
Corina Pambuccian	\$ 300		
Lucian & Dana Bejinariu	\$ 300		
Corina Tasi	\$ 300		
Diana & Alexandr Groza	\$ 150		
Dorina & Mihai Vincze Turceanu	\$ 150		
Irinel Ardeleanu	\$ 100		
Adrian & Cora Pirvu	\$ 100		

Memorial Day ~ May 26, 2025



Let's not forget to thank those who fallen asleep in the Lord and those who served in the Armed Forces to preserve our nation and insure our freedoms.

On Memorial Day, we will bless the graves at Oakland cemetery starting with 10:00 am. All persons who want to have a service on Memorial Day please contact Fr Mircea 734-497-4544. **Other cemeteries, by appointment.** De ziua eroilor Luni, 26 Mai, vom săvârși slujbe de pomenire la cimitir începând cu ora 10:00am. Cei care doresc să pomenească pe cei dragi în aceasta zi, îi rugăm să contacteze pe Pr. Mircea la 734-497-4544 sau să vină la cimitirul Oakland, St. Paul.



THE PASTOR SAYS: "A thorn bush can never produce a fig. Just so, your heart can never be free from oppressive thoughts, words, and actions until it has purified itself internally. Be eager to walk this path. Watch your heart always. Constantly say the prayer 'Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.' Be humble. Set your soul in quietness.
(St. Hesychius the Priest)"

Vacation Church School

**"Super heroes super saints"
at Vacation Church School
June 16-20.**
4 years old through 6th grade.

Register [here](#)



77th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress

May 30 – June 1, 2025

Convocation

Hosted by: St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church

854 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, MN 55117

Chairperson: Prascovia Bortnova, (612) 298-9066

Co-chair: Psa. Eugenia Cerghizan (651) 278-1890

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Mircea Vasile, Phone: (734) 497-4544

A.R.F.O.R.A.

In conformity with Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws,

We hereby convoke the 77th National A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress to be held on May 30 – June 1, 2025

St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, 854 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, MN 55117; 651-488-5669

Diocesan Hierarchy: The Most Reverend **Archbishop NATHANIEL (POPP)**

ARFORA National President: **Lucy Pop**

ARFORA National Secretary: **Adela Price**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 30, 2025:

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Early Registration & Reception at the Church

5:00 pm Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, May 31, 2025:

8:30 am Delegate Registration and Breakfast

9:30 am Congress Session I

12:00 pm Lunch & Speaker

2:00 pm Congress Session II

4:30 pm Congress Photograph

5:00 pm Great Vespers & Parastas

6:30 pm Dinner

Sunday, June 1, 2025:

9:00 am Matins

9:45 am Vesting of Hierarchy

10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy

12:30pm Congress Banquet & Farewell

Hotel Accommodations:

Drury Plaza Hotel, Saint Paul Downtown

Hotel address: 175 10th E, Saint Paul, MN 55101 Phone: (651) 222-3337

CHURCH BATHROOM PROJECT



With God's blessings, parish council guidance and help of many people we finished our big project - social hall restrooms restoration.

We would like to thank to Sergiu Lisnic who installed the tiles, sinks, toilets, partitions etc... and to those who also helped in any way (Nicolai B., Adrian P.), to Alexei C. & Ion C. who installed new doors.

