



**Help needed on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**, This Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> help is needed for the baking of nut, apricot, poppy seed, and lekvar rolls for the upcoming Slavic American Festival. Assistance with dough preparation will be needed as early as 6:35 AM. Rolling will begin at approximately 7:20 AM. Volunteers to bag the rolls and cleanup will be needed at 1:00 PM. Please come and participate in this important parish event. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information, call Theresa Matlaga (703) 802-1496 or Dolores Opachko at (703) 938-2373.

**Post-construction Update.** The following items were addressed. On Monday we had personnel from Miller Brothers, ICE, and Annandale Balancing at the church to complete the contract work required on the HVAC. We also had our HVAC consultant here on Monday. The work continued on Tuesday and Thursday. There will be some minor work performed this coming Monday. An automatic air valve which will remove air from the water piping was installed on the air handler. And balancing the water flow in the system to meet the design parameters was completed. The balancing report will be sent to our consultant for review that the work has been completed correctly. With the completion of this work we can close the contract and pay the retention amount to Miller Brothers.

**Slavic American Festival.** The date for this year's Slavic American Festival is September 13<sup>th</sup>. A planning meeting for the festival will be held Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the parish center. All chairpersons and festival workers are encouraged to attend.

**Chapel Roof Update.** The Finance Office of the Eparchy informed the Parish Office that the Stewardship 2014 rebate check will be mailed on Monday, July 13. The amount is \$8,778.80. In addition, parishioners have donated \$2,460 towards the roof repair to make a total of \$11,238.80 towards the cost of the roof. Proposals are being solicited. The roof is planned to be repaired prior to the Slavic-American Festival.

## EPARCHIAL AND OTHER CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special Collection.** As you have been reading in the news, the people of Greece are in grave difficulty at this time. The banks are freezing funds. The ATM machines are limiting withdrawals. The socialists are threatening to confiscate the church property unless they pay exorbitant taxes. And so on. Bishop Kurt met the Greek Catholic bishop of Athens while he was in Sicily. The bishop said that Bishop Dimitrios Salachas is a very strong man, but was very worried. Bishop Kurt has asked all the parishes of the Eparchy of Passaic to take up a collection today, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and next Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> for the relief of our fellow Greek Catholics in Greece.

**New Marriage Ruling-How did we get here?** Steven Greydanus, a married man and father of seven children, wrote an article in ten parts for the National Catholic Register entitled "Redefining Marriage: Who's to Blame?" For the complete article see: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/steven-greydanus/redefining-marriage-6/#ixzz3elkdvHgo>.

**Religious Liberty and new Marriage ruling.** "Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde celebrated Mass at St. Ambrose Church in Annandale June 27 as part of an event called 'Religious liberty ... for how long? How to prepare spiritually for the coming persecution.' The event marked the annual Fortnight for Freedom, a USCCB initiative for religious liberty... [After the Mass,] Father David Pignato, a Harvard Law School graduate and Massachusetts-based priest, lamented what Father Pignato called the "erosion" of religious liberty in the United States...At the end of the talk, three audience members had the chance to ask questions about religious liberty and same-sex marriage. The first question asked if Catholic priests would be mandated federally to wed same-sex couples. Father Pignato said he believes that will happen eventually, and when it does, Catholic priests will no longer serve as official witnesses of weddings for the state. The second question considered how to engage with people who say religion cannot be used to justify public policy. "Voice your beliefs even if others don't share the same conviction," he said. "It will help us find common ground with other religions." He paraphrased the advice of Pope Benedict, adding that "most of our convictions can be translated to the common currency of reason." The last question was a request for a timeline on the progression of same-sex marriage. Father Pignato said while it is "difficult to predict with precision," he estimates that in five years, a court ruling will remove the religious exemption on performing same-sex wedding ceremonies. In 10 years, he believes churches will have to begin paying fines and penalties for not accommodating same-sex couples." The above is a lengthy quotation an article from the Arlington Catholic Herald. For the complete article in the Arlington Catholic Herald, July 2-15 issue see [www.catholicherald.com](http://www.catholicherald.com) and go to "Local News" and click on Religious Freedom.