EST. 1974

St. Mark's Orthodox Church

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

452 Durham Road, Wrightstown, PA, 18940

(215) 860-9640

www.stmarksoca.org
Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown
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May 28th, 2023 — Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Tone 6 —The 7th Sunday of Pascha. The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. St. Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). St. Germain (Germanus, Herman), Bishop of Paris (576). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th-7th c.). St. Ignátii (Ignatius), Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov (1288). Ven. Nun Elena (Helen) of Divéyevo (1832).

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
Gospel: John 17:1-13

Upcoming events

Sunday, May 28th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:15 AM Litya for Maria, Katherine and Maria (requested by the Arhipov family)
Tuesday, May 30th:	Preschool Church School — 10:45 AM
Wednesday, May 31st:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
Saturday, June 3rd:	Panikhida for the Departed — 9:30 AM Vigil for Pentecost — 6:00 PM

Our annual parish picnic will take place on Sunday, June 11th. Please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you plan to attend.

We will have a Memorial Saturday Panikhida on Saturday, June 3rd at 9:30 AM. Please submit any new names to Father. Thank you.

This year's last preschool church school class will take place this Tuesday, May 30th, at 10:45 AM. Elementary church school has also ended for the year and will resume in September (classes and times TBA). Have a great summer, everyone!

The Wrightstown Food Cupboard needs **paper towels, cleaning supplies, peanut butter** and **jelly.** The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

From the Wrightstown Food Cupboard: *The generosity shown to the pantry by St. Mark's parishioners during the holiday season is truly remarkable,* ***but did you know the period of greatest stress is now — the summer months?*** *When schools let out for the summer, students no longer have daily access to school lunches. This need must be filled by their families, and for many this means relying heavily on the food cupboard. Also, when schools are in session, many of our local high schools sponsor food drives, particularly around the holidays. This is also true for many civic organizations. During the summer months, the cupboard loses these sources of donations.*
If you can only donate once or twice per year, please consider donating now instead of around Thanksgiving or Christmas. If you can donate regularly, please continue to do so during this critical time. Many families in our community will thank you.

Birthdays: Sergei Arhipov, Charles Henderson, Ray Killough, Erin Lennon, Katerina Sremenak, Veronica Gula
Name Days: Kevin Karaffa, Kevin Swan

Please remember in your prayers

Living

Captive Hierarchs PAUL and JOHN
All those, everywhere, who care for the sick, the suffering and the vulnerable.
Ill-afflicted Clergy Archpriests Stephen, Daniel and Michael
Matushki Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne, and Jennifer
Servants of God Suzanne, Edward, Monk Nicodemos, Paul Wanko (brother of John), Karen, Rosemary, Charlotte, infant Luke, Larissa, Nicholas, Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Margaret, Elena, Ayla, Sandra, Maria, Julia, child Jacob, Michael, Nancy, Eileen, Steven, Constance, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis, Shirley

Departed

Newly departed: Mat. Galina, Eugene
Departed: Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Shirley (Stewart), Jonathan, Mat. Emily, Mat. Mary, Met. +HERMAN, Louis, Ruth, Nicholai, Thomas, Michael, Venus, Helen, Anthony, Robert, Michael, All those who have died in service to their country, Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir, Mat. Mary, Priest George, Archpriest Paul, Kh. Shirley

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Irene Arhipov
For the health of: Sergei, Peter, Stephanie, Alexandra, Anna, Henry, Fr. Alexander
In memory of: Maria

From Daria and Andrew Cortése
For the health of: Suzanne, Ned, Shirley, Peter, Sandy, Stephanie, Doug, Andrew, Christian
In memory of: Tom, Louis, Louise, Ruth, Amora, Takoda

From the Pitra Family
In memory of: Donald Weber (May 23, 2023), Tatiana

From the Ristvey Family
In memory of: George

From John Wanko
For the health of: Paul, Laurette, Carole, Cheryl, Jeffrey, Kenneth
In memory of: Peter, Wanda, Peter Jr.

Choral Corner

Q: The choir sings the hymn "It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos" at most Divine Liturgies. We know "Theotokos" refers to the Virgin Mary, but what does the word actually *mean*?

A: *Theotokos* is a Greek word that means "bearer of God" * or "she who bore/gave birth to God". There is no single-word English cognate; in our language, we frequently also refer to the Virgin as the *Mother of God*, but this phrase has a different Greek equivalent: *Μητηρ Θεου,* the abbreviation of which frequently appears in icons of the Theotokos.

The use of the term *Theotokos* in reference to the Virgin Mary began in the first centuries of the Church, and was officially adopted at the Third Œcumenical Council, held at Ephesus in 431, as a direct refutation of the Nestorian heresy. The Nestorians referred to the Virgin as "Christotokos" — "she who gave birth to Christ (in His humanity)", implying that Christ not only has two natures (which He indeed does), but that His Personhood was somehow divided. Orthodoxy proclaims that Christ's divine and human natures are united in one Person, or *Hypostasis*, of the Consubstantial Trinity. Consequently, the Holy Virgin — despite her status as a created being and not co-eternal with God or existing before Him — nevertheless truly gave birth to the Incarnate Lord, who was, is and always shall be both God and Man.

*NOTE: We also ascribe the descriptor "God-bearer" to certain saints, such as Righteous Symeon, the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius of Antioch and St. George the Recluse, but this has a different Greek root: *Theophoros* (Θεοφορος), which does not imply birthgiving.

Previous entries can be found at **www.dariacortese.com/my-blog**

Weekly Collection

Sunday Collection (5/21)
Weekly general: $1,929
Candles: $122
Food pantry: $10
Misc. dedicated: $74.16
Workers' comp. refund: $7
Total: $2,142.16

Online Giving (5/15-21)
General: $1,368
Parish development: $515
Total: $1,883

GRAND TOTAL: $4,025.16

Burnt Offering Sundays FAQ

What is a Whole Burnt Offering, and why are we making one here at St. Mark's?

In the Scriptures, the Lord commands that various offerings be made, one of which is a whole burnt offering. This is as it sounds: an offering of a valuable animal is made to God by being consumed in a fire so that nothing is left. All is given to God. It is marked by the fact that it involves a significant sacrifice, it is total, and it is not offered in expectation of any return. It is an act of, to some, seemingly reckless generosity which has only one purpose: to imitate in our own way the unconditional and abundant generosity of God toward us ("Thine own of Thine own…").

Rather than taking up the collection and burning it on the altar, we have decided to make such generous offerings of our weekly collection, up to five (5) times a year, to God as He is present in members of our local communities who are in need.

(continued on next page…)

What are the dates of the Burnt Offering Sundays?
The first five Burnt Offering Sundays are: April 2nd, 2023; June 11th, 2023; August 20th, 2023; October 29th, 2023 and January 7th, 2024.

How will we select charities to be recipients of the Burnt Offering?
We made our first Burnt Offering to Legacy of Life, which will assist in saving the lives of unborn human beings who, whatever the circumstances of their conception, would not exist had the Lord not created them. Our offering to God is to cooperate with Him in bringing these men and women of the future to life, as He wills. This charity was selected by the Parish Council.
Going forward, the Parish Council will continue to select the charitable organization, taking into consideration suggestions received from the parish. To suggest a charity, contact any Parish Council member.

How will the Parish Council communicate the selection of the charitable organization to the parish?
This information will appear in the bulletin and during post-Liturgy announcements at least two (2) weeks prior to each Burnt Offering Sunday. In addition, when possible, there will be a short presentation on each organization given after the Divine Liturgy two (2) weeks before each Burnt Offering Sunday.

How will the accounting for the Burnt Offering Sundays work?
We will <u>not</u> take up a second collection on Burnt Offering Sunday. We will donate everything we collect from our normal weekly income (see the exceptions below), with the intent that we will not have any (or only very little) income for that week.

What donations will be excluded from the Burnt Offering?
Examples of an earmarked donation, as mentioned above, would be for the Parish Development or Cupola funds.

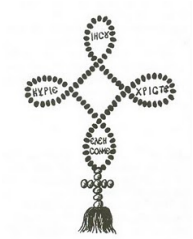
What time period is considered to be part of the Burnt Offering?
We will include all funds received *that are not earmarked for specific purposes* starting on the Monday prior to a given Burnt Offering Sunday through that Sunday. With this method, we will capture both online and in-church offerings. This process matches the way we have been reporting weekly income in the bulletin.

How will online donations *other than weekly donations* be handled?
If, during the week prior to the Burnt Offering Sunday, we receive donations that are bi-weekly or monthly, we will prorate them accordingly (50% for biweekly; 25% for monthly).

Will an accounting of the total Burnt Offering amount be published?
Once we determine the final amounts (weekly collection, checks made out to the recipient charity, cash received, etc.), we will publish the accounting in the weekly bulletin.

What if I do not want my Sunday offering included in the Burnt Offering, and would prefer to make a separate donation?
If any parishioner would prefer that their normal offering, whether online or via in the collection basket, not be used for the Burnt Offering, please let the Treasurer (Deb Vivirito) or Financial Secretary (Andy Skordinski) know.

Can I make a separate check or online donation to the designated charitable organization?
Yes. If you wish, please make the donation out to the charity and we will forward them along with the parish's contribution. The online form on our parish website has a Burnt Offering choice in the Fund field of the donation form. If you want to make a separate donation and <u>not</u> have your weekly donation included in the Burnt Offering, please speak with the Treasurer or Financial Secretary as noted above.



Service Schedule

Hours + Divine Liturgy:	9:10 AM (Sundays & feast days)
Great Vespers / Vigil:	6 PM (Saturdays)
	7PM (Eve of feast)
	6PM (Eve of feast – Sundays)
Confessions:	Saturdays after Vespers & by appointment
Akathist Service:	9:15 AM (Wednesdays)
Panikhidas/Lityas:	as requested

Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne, *Rector*
(570) 906-1388 (cell)
stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*
V. Rev. Michael Sekela (Retired), *Attached*
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby
Sergei Arhipov
Marek Szeliga
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender
Samuel Regen

Lay Leadership

Choir Directors: Daria Cortése
Mat. Martha Moser
Sbn. Sergei Arhipov (Emeritus)

Church School Coordinators: Mat. Martha Moser
Julie Stell

Sisterhood of the Holy Myrrhbearers: Julie Stell, President

Baptisms: Children must have **Orthodox Godparents** who provide a letter from their parish priest. Parents and Godparents are required to attend two preparatory classes. Please make scheduling arrangements by contacting Fr. Martin directly.

Weddings: Arrangement should be made **at least six months** prior to the wedding; scheduling is subject to the Church's liturgical calendar. Please speak with Fr. Martin **before making reception arrangements.**