

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)
DIocese OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (DOEPA.ORG)

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**Choir Directors: Sergei Arhipov, Martha Moser, Daria Cortese,
Church School Director: Jennifer Sremenak**



SUNDAY JANUARY 22ND, 2017

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone

6. **Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (96).**

Monk Martyr Anastasius the Persian (628).

Monk Martyr Anastásii, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Makáry of Zhabynsk, Wonderworker (1623). Martyrs Manuel, George, Peter, Leontius—Bishops; Sionius, Gabriel, John, Leontius, Parodus—Presbyters; and 377 companions in Bulgaria (ca. 817).

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

 **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES** 

Confessions: Saturdays Following Vespers
Also by appointment

Vespers: Saturdays at 6pm

Vigil: Eve of Feasts at 7pm

Divine Liturgy: Sundays at 9:30am
Feast Days at 9:30am

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- Sun, Jan 22:** Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am Coffee Hour. Blessing of Schuylkill River at Boathouse Row – 3pm.
- Mon, Jan 23:** O.C.A. Chancellors and Treasurers Meeting in New York
- Tues, Jan 24:** O.C.A. Chancellors and Treasurers Meeting in New York
- Thurs, Jan 26:** Diocesan Assembly, Harrisburg – 4pm
- Fri, Jan 27:** Diocesan Assembly Harrisburg until 3pm. **No Preschool Church School**
- Sat, Jan 28:** Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.
- Sun, Jan 29:** Hours and Divine Liturgy- 9:10am, Coffee Hour-Annual Parish Meeting. Service at Golden Living-2:30pm

***Names Day
Isaac Chappe***

Annual Parish Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th at 12 Noon. All members of the parish who are registered and in sacramental communion with the Church are expected to attend. The usual agenda items of elections for the following year council, budget for FY2017 along with a report on parish growth and some other items will be presented. Please make every effort to attend.

Church Cleaning: The 2017 Cleaning Schedule is in the Vestibule. Please consider taking a week or two or a month. January and February are covered. Ten months to go!

Coffee Hour: We need people to sponsor Sunday Coffee Hour. Please look at the calendar and take a Sunday, on your own or with someone else. The ministry of hospitality is one that reaches beyond the beginning of the Church to the Exodus, where God commands His people to welcome those who come to His

Great Blessing of the Waters: TODAY the Greater Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will celebrate the Great Blessing of the Waters at the Schuylkill River on Boathouse Row. The service will begin at 3pm followed by light refreshments. All are invited to join us in this Philadelphia tradition at 1 Boathouse Row on Kelly Drive.

House Blessings: All Orthodox Christians should have their homes blessed annually. It is an ancient tradition of our Faith, a rite of renewal and cleansing that welcomes the Holy Spirit in our homes and all they symbolize. Blessing begins on January 6 and will continue until the week before the beginning of Great Lent, this year the week of February 20th. Please note that due to diocesan commitments **Fr. Martin will not be available for house blessings the week of January 22nd to the 29th**. 19 homes have been blessed, speak with Fr. Martin in the next weeks or he will call you.

Parish Directory: It is two years since our last directory and it is time to update it. If you are in it and your information has changed, please email Fr. Martin at frraymondmartin@hotmail.com with the changes. If you are not in it and wish to be in it, email Father with the information you wish to have included. Deadline is February 27th – Forgiveness Sunday.

Scrip: Thank you to those who got us off to a good start for the year. Profit last week and YTD, \$85.10.

Vigil Lights

From Inna Dyachenko

For the Health of: Anastaasi, Lidumila, Elia, Igor, Galina
Victor, Olga, Maxim, Iliana, Olga, Sergei, Michael, Alexander
Artem

In Memory of: Albert, Araksi

From the Ristveys

For the Health of: Margaret on the occasion of
her birthday

Toward A Definition Of Christian Stewardship

Can we now build a definition for stewardship? How might we describe "stewardship in action?" The following list is adapted from one prepared by Ron Nicola:

Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.

Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.

Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as deaneries, as diocese, as national Church, and as the Church universal. (Ron Nicola, "Stewardship - A Set of Basic Principles," The Word, November 1982,4.)

Perhaps we could summarize the points just mentioned this way: Christian stewardship is a life in service to God and His Church motivated by our thankfulness for His love to us . ".... in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." It is the wise and proper use of all the gifts God has entrusted to our care. (See Romans 5:8) What then are the essential elements of stewardship?

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

1 Acceptance of the belief that all life and life itself is a gift from God.

2 Freedom to choose not to sin and freedom from the constraints, pressures and temptations of the world that smother the expression of this belief.

Life in the Spirit which is characterized by behavior that uses and nurtures the time, talents, and treasure entrusted to us by God.

From Benjamin D. Williams. An Orthodox Understanding of Stewardship.

From <https://oca.org/the-hub/the-church-on-current-issues/an-orthodox-understanding-of-stewardship>