

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

452 DURHAM RD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

PHONE: 215-860-9640 • EMAIL: INFO@STMARKSOCA.ORG

WWW.STMARKSOCA.ORG

Follow us on Facebook at *St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown,*
on Twitter *@stmarksoca* and Instagram *@st.marksorthodox*



Archpriest Raymond Martin Browne, Rector

Phone: 570-906-1388

Archpriest Michael Sekela, Attached

Phone 540 -841-3202

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, Attached

215-794-8980

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



SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND, 2016

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.

Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia (304). Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (936).

Epistle: Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

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, Oct. 2:

Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am. Coffee Hour. Church School.

Wed, Oct. 5:

Akathist – 9:15am; Prison Ministry – 7pm.

Fri, Oct. 7:

Preschool Church School – 12:30pm – 2pm.

Sat, October 8:

Great Vespers and Confessions – 6pm. Church School Movie Night 7pm at the Rectory.

Names Day
Grace Michelle Browne

Birthday
Anthony Kasmer
Yuri Tyshko

Church Cleaning: Calendar for next year will soon be out. Consider signing up for a week or two or a month.

Church School: Will meet from Noon to 12:30pm on Sundays. Preschool Church School will not meet on Friday October 16th. **Movie Night for Church School this coming Friday night at 7pm at the Rectory. Star Wars: The Force Awakens.**

Coffee Hour: The Sisterhood has decided to sponsor the first Sunday of the month as a potluck, that leaves three Sundays a month for others to pick from.

Holy Myrrhbearers Sisterhood. Movie night and meeting on Saturday, October 29th at 7pm, following Vespers.

Mirrors of Truth: We will meet again on October 25th, at 7pm.

Parish Development Committee:

In the meantime the members heard about our initiative to improve the quality of the sacred objects and vestments for the altar. We are waiting for a quote for re-gilding of the fans, cross and gospel book. Additionally we will be ordering new vestments for our altar servers. Donations have already been made for the vestments (\$450 and one color set), though more will be necessary. And as soon as St. Tikhon's press publishes them, we will have new copies of the Liturgy Book to replace the ones we have which are disintegrating. The new books will include the texts for the St. Basil and Presanctified Liturgy as well as St. John Chrysostom.

Finally, this past week saw the completion of a new set of steps and walkway for the rectory. The previous entrance was structurally unsound and dangerous, especially during rain or snow.

Parish Council Meeting: The Parish Council met this past Thursday. Approved minutes are posted downstairs. The financial reports are on the bulletin board.

Income: 11,216

Expense: 7713

Scrip: Today.

Sister Vassa: Thursday October 20 at 7pm Sister Vassa (Larin) an Orthodox nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, born and raised in New York though currently resident in Vienna, Austria, will offer a lecture at St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) on the topic of "Keeping Christ in Orthodoxy." She has a multifaceted teaching ministry, including her well known and highly recommended "Coffee with Sister Vassa" videos on saints, Christian living, liturgy, prayer and everything in between. This event is co-sponsored by St. Mark's and is the final lecture in our diocese that week. All are strongly encouraged to attend. If you are in need of transport, the sisterhood is helping with transport for those in need of a ride. THERE IS A SIGNUP SHEET IN THE VESTIBULE.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: Needs vegetables are especially needed at



include pasta, tea, coffee, peanut butter, juices. **Canned this time. Please help!**

In Memory of: Angelo, Evangelia, Arthur, Zografia, Kleo, Nikolas, Demetrios, Anna, Ekaterini, Spyridon, Christopher

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Renee Szeliga

For the Health of: Caton, Carmen, Nathan, Marek, Renee, Trish, Mary, Romek, Gosha, Grazyna & Pyot

In Memory of: Edward, Mary, Corrine, James, Agnes, Ralph, Stephen, Glen, Lafayette

From the Perdikis Family

For the Health of: Angelo, George, Demosthenes, Carmen, Mohamed

From the Ristveys

For the Health of: George, Margaret, Virginia

From Anna Berestovsky

For the Health of: Michael, Vladimir, Olga, Anna, Victor, Valeriya, Mikhail, Marina, Narine, Christina, Valentina, Vladimir, Andrei, Valentin, Natalia, Valeriy, Kamilla, Yulia, Varvara, Vasily.
In Memory of: Valentina, Irina, Maxim, Valentin

The Old Testament Continued

Ezra and Nehemiah.

These two books form part of a larger history which includes 1st and 2nd Chronicles (mentioned above). The theme of these books are the religious and political reorganization of Judah after the Return from the Babylonian Exile in the time of the Persian Empire (Kings Cyrus, Darius I, Ataxerxes I and Ataxerxes II). Attention is focused on the importance of the Temple and religious reforms for the preservation of the Jewish State.

The books can be divided into four parts: 1) The return of the first exiles in 537 B.C., followed by the rebuilding of the altar in 536 and the Temple in 516 (Ez. 1-6); 2) the return of a second group of exiles in 458, led by Ezra the Scribe, and the marriage reforms introduced by him (Ez. 7-10); 3) the return of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in 445 (Neh. 1-7); and 4) the religious reforms and the renewal of the Covenant instituted by Ezra and Nehemiah (Neh. 8-13).

Esther.

The book of Esther is concerned primarily with the story of Esther, the Jewish wife and Queen of the Persian King Ahasuerus. The story portrays the foiling of a plot by Esther and her adoptive guardian, Mordecai, hatched by the evil Haman against the Jews. This account, which shows God's love and care for His people, is greatly venerated by the Jews as the basis for their Feast of Purim.

This book can be divided into four parts: 1) (Ch. 1-2) the setting of the scene in the Court of the King; 2) (Ch. 3-7) the development of the plot and its overthrow by Esther and Mordecai, resulting in the hanging of Haman and his sons; 3) (Ch. 8-10) the destruction of the enemies of the Jews and the institution of the Feast of Purim; and 4) (Ch. 11-16) further additions to the story. [We note here that Chapters 11-16 are not found in the Hebrew Bible, as well as most English Bibles, but form a part of the Orthodox Bible (LXX). In other Bibles, this section constitutes part of the so-called Apocrypha or Deutero-canonical books.].

Job.

The book of Job is concerned with the problem of suffering in the world. It does not attempt to explain the mystery of suffering or to justify the ways of God with men, but rather aims to probe the depths of faith in spite of suffering. It is the story of a righteous man, Job, who loses everything in the material and physical sense, but who maintains his faith in God despite his personal sufferings. The Church sees here a parallel between Job and Christ.

The book can be divided into eight parts: 1) Prologue (Ch. 1-2); 2) 1st Cycle of Speeches (Ch. 3-14); 3) 2nd Cycle of Speeches (Ch. 15-21); 4) 3rd Cycle of Speeches (Ch. 22-28); 5) Job's final summary of his case (Ch. 29-31); 6) Elihu's speeches (Ch. 32-37); 7) God's speeches (Ch. 38-42:6); and 8) an Epilogue (Ch. 42:7-20). [We note that the last three verses are found only in the Orthodox Bibles (LXX).]