



# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA ([www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org))

452 Durham Road

Wrightstown, PA 18940

215 860-9640

DECEMBER 22, 2019

## Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

*Rector*

Cell: 570-906-1388

Email: [frraymondmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:frraymondmartin@hotmail.com)

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*

V. Rev. Michael Sekela, *Retired. Attached*

## Readers:

- ❖ G. Peter Bohlender
- ❖ Dustin Joseph Crosby

## Service Schedule

Great Vespers/Vigil

*Saturdays 6pm*

*Eve of Feast 7pm (6pm on Sundays).*

Hours

*Sundays and Feast Days 9:10am.*

*Sundays and Feast Days 9:30 am*

## Choir Directors:

- ❖ Daria Cortese
- ❖ Mat. Martha Moser
- ❖ Sergei Arhipov

## Church School

### Director

- ❖ Jennifer Sremanak



## Divine Liturgy

### Confessions:

*Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.*

### Akathist Service

*Wednesdays at 9:15am.*

**Memorial Services (Panikhida/Litya):** as requested



**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (14th of Luke) — Tone 2. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Greatmartyr Anastasia, "Deliverer from Bonds", and her teacher, Martyr Chrysogonus, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others, who suffered under Diocletian (ca. 304).**

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ: **Hebrews: 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**

ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ: **MATT. 1:1-25**

**Baptisms:** Children must have Orthodox Godparents who provide a letter from their parish priest. Parents and Godparents are required to attend two preparatory classes. Scheduling arrangements should be made with the Rector by contacting him directly.

**Weddings:** Arrangements should be made **at least** six months prior to the wedding and scheduling is subject to the liturgical calendar of the church.

**Please do not** make arrangements for receptions without speaking with the Rector first.

Weekly SCHEDULE OF SERVICES and EVENTS:

**Sun. December 22: Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am. Coffee Hour. Carolling at The Birches - 1pm.**

**Tues. Dec 24: Royal Hours 8:30am, Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 9:45am; Vigil - 7pm**

**Wed. Dec 25: Hours and Divine Liturgy for Nativity -9:10am.**

**Thurs Dec 26: Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am.**

**Sat. Dec 28: Vespers and Confessions - 6pm.**



**Envelopes and Calendars for 2020:** Envelopes are in the vestibule for parishioners to pick up. Also, calendars for 2020 are available. **One calendar per household** until all have one.

**First Confession:** Among the confessions made during this Nativity Fast, four were made for the first time by some of our youngest members Jack and Elie Crosby, Julia Sremanak, Valerie Tyshko. Their desire to experience this Mystery of God's Mercy, the seriousness with which they approached it and their joy at receiving it were a privilege to witness and an inspiration. May God bless them and their families for teaching, encouraging and supporting them in this major step in their Christian life.

**Icons:** We have recently received two donated icons. One of St. Silouan the Athonite that was done for us by Joe Brown as part of an ongoing donation of a series of icons requested by St. Mark's. Additionally, we now have an icon of the Great-martyr Irene donated by Ellie Crosby. St. Irene is her patron saint. We are grateful to have these new icons revealing God's kingdom to us in new ways. May the Lord bless the donors!

**Scrip:** Beginning in January orders will be taken Jan Ruano or Martha Moser. Last Week: \$99.91, YTD \$357.56.

**Thank You:** to our Church School families and the other parishioners who supported our drive to collect items for those serving in a particular unit of our armed forces in Afghanistan. Ten large boxes of items they like/need along with 83 cards made by our Church School students were sent.

Invite an unchurched friend.

**Water Font:** We are most grateful for the timely arrival of a new Holy Water Font for Theophany donated by anonymously.

**Financial Update for Sunday 12/15:**

Collection: \$3533. Recent expenses: Gutters \$2080; Tree Removal \$4300 (so far).

**Wrightstown Food Cupboard:** Thank you for the donations. 146 baskets were filled and given to needy families.

VIGIL LIGHTS

FROM: SWAN FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: MICHAEL, CONSTANCE

IN MEMORY OF: THOMAS, VENUS, HELEN, NEVILLE

FROM: VALERIE

FOR THE HEALTH OF: GEORGE, MARGARET, STEPHANIE, ANDREW, MARGARET, LORELLY, PETER

IN MEMORY OF: NICHOLAS, ANNA, GEORGE, MARY

FROM: MIHAELA

FOR THE HEALTH OF: MARIA, LUCICA, ALINA, DUMITRA, CRISTINA



**Please remember in your prayers**

**Living:** Captives Hierarchs Paul and John III afflicted *Matushki* Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne; *Servants of God* Peter, Stephanie, Anthony, Samuel, Sergei, Tatyana, Vera, Anna, Scott, Dennis, David, Garry, Vincent, Anthony, Helen, Stephen, Raymond, Darrell, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda, Michael, Laura, Stephen, Jason, Katina, Donna, Nina, Rebekah, Anthony, Alexander, Grover, Valerie, Raymonde, Anita, Jim, Peter, Jonathan, Gregory, Charles, Kyra, Margaret, Arlene, Vaughn, Ruslan. **Good estate** of Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Carmen and Nathan, Ferne.



**Departed:** *Newly departed* Dn. Gregory, Martha *Departed* Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir & Mat. Mary, Priest Georg

Names Day

Anastasia Nancy Letzo  
Anastasia Killough  
Anastasia Sonja Lengel

Stephanie Ristvey

Stephen Tiberiu Milosav  
Birthday  
Maggie Crosby - 22nd

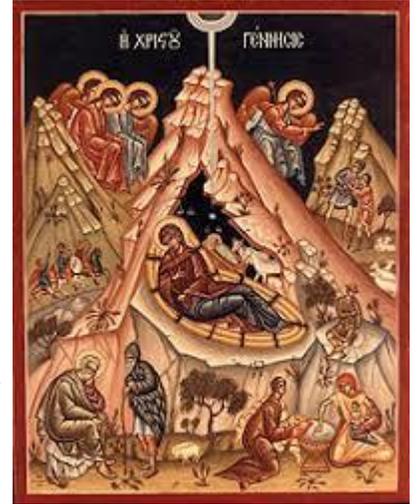


December 12, 2019

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

*Beloved Clergy, Matushki, and Faithful,*

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He hath broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear shall turn about, and the cherubim shall admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I shall return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His eternity, which it is impossible to change hath taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who wast born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.*



*Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful new year! Thank you for your hospitality over the last year as well as your generosity.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*+ Mark*

*+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*



# The "Winter Pascha"

Introduction by Father Thomas Hopko

Taken from the book: *The Winter Pascha* (SVS Press)

The liturgical services for Christmas, officially called The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, are consciously patterned after the services for the festival of the Pascha of the Lord, the holy Resurrection. There is a forty-day fast. There are prefeast preparations. There are the special royal hours with their prophecies, epistles, gospels, and hymns on the eve of the feast, followed by the vespereal liturgy of St. Basil the Great. There is the solemn all-night vigil, crowned by the matin's canon and hymns. And finally, after the Eucharistic Celebration of St. John Chrysostom on the day of the feast itself, the celebration continues to its completion in the festival of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple forty days later. At the center of the festal season remains the original "Festival of Light," the holy Epiphany, officially called in the Orthodox Church: The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The liturgical verses and hymns for Christmas and Epiphany, the Pascha of Christ's incarnation and manifestation in the flesh, repeat those of Easter, the Pascha of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lord's birth and baptism are directly connected to His dying and rising. He was born in order to die. He was baptized in order to be raised.

## Nativity/Theophany

Today, He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin.

He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-clothes as a mortal man.

God who in the beginning fashioned the heavens lies in a manger.

He who rained manna on His people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His mother's breast.

The Bridegroom of the Church summons the wise men.

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts.

We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Theophany!

## Pascha

Today, He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the tree.

The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns.

He who wraps the heavens in a cloud is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped in the face.

The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Resurrection!

Jesus lay as an infant in the cavern in the reign of Caesar Augustus that He might lay in the tomb under Pontius Pilate. He was hounded by Herod that He might be caught by Caiaphas. He was buried in baptism that He might descend into death through the Cross. He was worshipped by wise men that the whole of creation might adore Him in His triumph over death.

The Pascha of His Cross was prepared by the Pascha of His Coming. The Pascha of His Resurrection was begun by the Pascha of His Incarnation. The Pascha of His Glorification was foretold by the Pascha of His Baptism. This is what Christians celebrate each year in what Father Alexander Schmemmann was the first to call "the Winter Pascha."