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ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023 — PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

Tone 1 — Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee. Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Beginning of the Lenten

Triodion. Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (251). Repose of St. Theodosius of Chernigov (1696). Martyr Theodula of Anazarbus in Cilicia, and with her Martyrs Helladius, Macarius and Evagrius (ca. 304). Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos "Seeker of the Perishing" and "Rescue of the Drowning".

Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 5th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Church School & Coffee Hour
Wednesday, Feb. 8th:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
Saturday, Feb. 11th:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 12th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal & Coffee Hour

The Wrightstown Food Cupboard needs **bottled juices**, as well as **paper towels, cleaning products, tissues, and toiletries for men and women**, which are not covered by WIC. The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.



House blessings: Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule if you wish to have your house blessed. Please indicate your name and preferable dates/times, and Father will contact you to make an appointment. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity for the sanctification of our lives and families. As always, feeding or compensating the priest is not required or desired.

Birthdays: Marek Szeliga

Wedding Anniversaries: Julia & Dmitrii Petrov

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 Archbishop +MELCHIZEDEK, Archpriests Stephen, Daniel and Michael

Matushki Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne, and Jennifer

Servants of God Monk Nicodemos, Charlotte, infant Luke, Larissa, Nicholas, Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Margaret, Elena, Ayla, Sandra, Maria, Julia, infant Jacob, Michael, Nancy, Eileen, Steven, Constance, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Olga, Anatole, Katherine, Archpriest Sergius, Archpriest Theodore, Jonathan

Departed: Mat. Emily, Mat. Mary, Met. +HERMAN, Louis, Ruth, Nicholai, Thomas, Michael, Venus, Helen, Anthony, 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 THE RISTVEY FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: MARGARET, STEPHANIE, ANDREW, MARGARET, LORELLY, STEPHANIE, EILEEN, ANDRY AND HIS FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF: GEORGE, KATHERINE, PETER, THOSE LOST IN THE WAR IN UKRAINE

FROM ANONYMOUS

FOR THE HEALTH OF: SERGIUS, DAVID, ROY, SOPHIE

IN MEMORY OF: JOHN, AUSTIN

CHORAL CORNER

Q: What does the word “Alleluia” actually mean?

A: “Alleluia” (sometimes spelled “Hallelujah”) is Hebrew for “praise the Lord” (literally, “praise Yahweh”). This term appears frequently in the Psalter, and in most, if not all, Christian worship traditions. Despite its Hebrew origins, in modern Jewish practice “Hallelujah” only appears in the Hallel prayers: a combination of Psalms 113-118 (112-117) prayed on holy days.

Compared to other liturgical Christian traditions such as Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism and Lutheranism, Orthodoxy employs Alleluias far more frequently, especially during Great Lent. In the West, the Lenten period is devoid of Alleluias, as the festive, joyous acclamation is considered at odds with the sad, doleful season of Lent.

In the East, we see no conflict between the word and the season, as our approach to Lent is one of solemn, yet deeply joyful, expectation and “bright sorrow”. While lamenting our expulsion from Paradise, we already rejoice in our Lord’s promise of restoration to our original blessedness. While sorrowing for our sins, we joyfully accept God’s promise of mercy to those who repent. Even on Great and Holy Friday, unquestionably the most solemn day of the year, we lay Christ in His tomb while singing “The noble Joseph took down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped It in clean linen with sweet-smelling spices, and laid It in a new tomb,” which is *immediately* followed by “The angel cried to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: ‘Myrrh is meet for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption.’” Having just laid our Lord in His tomb, we already anticipate His glorious Resurrection, trampling down death by death. How can our response be anything but “Alleluia”?

Previous articles may be found at dariacortese.com/my-blog.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sunday Collection (1/29)

Weekly general: \$4,152.59

Candles: \$108

Church store: \$30

Total: \$4,290.59

Online Giving (1/23-28)

Weekly general: \$2,413

Candles: \$9

Total: \$2,422

Grand total: \$6,712.59

FROM THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Since our last update in October, the engineering firm and the lawyers completed and submitted the final zoning application package in late November. On December 8th, we met with the Wrightstown Township Planning Commission to review the requested zoning variances and hopefully obtain the Commission’s favorable recommendation to the Zoning Board. The meeting was somewhat frustrating, as the Commission raised concerns about stormwater management topics on the property, which are not really part of the requested zoning variances, but are topics

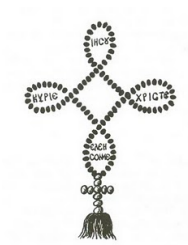
to be addressed in the land development phase, which we cannot begin until we have obtained the zoning variances. Ultimately, the Commission settled on a “neutral” recommendation, which is not really what we wanted.

On January 9th, we met in a workshop setting with the Wrightstown Board of Supervisors (*cont.*)

and reviewed the requested variances with them. They gave a “no objection” recommendation, along with a specific clarification that they had no objection to the impervious surface ratio variance, as the property has no stormwater management systems at this point, and those systems would be covered during land development.

Finally, we attended the Wrightstown Township Zoning Hearing Board on January 18th, where both Fr. Martin and a representative from the engineering firm testified before the Board on the zoning variances being requested. Several members of the parish also attended the meeting, as well as one neighbor who lives on Rt. 413, across from the church. He was present to represent several other close neighbors. All additional attendees gave the Board favorable opinions of our proposed expansion. Following the formal testimony, the Board voted to grant us our requested zoning relief, with two conditions: (1) to go back and make sure we have abided by the conditions of the original zoning relief granted when the church was built in 1988/89 (the most obvious of which is to decommission the rectory driveway), and (2) that we consider using special pervious asphalt for the parking lot. Pervious asphalt allows water to flow through it and drain into the underlying ground. This is not a binding condition, but we will be mindful of it when the time comes.

We now await formal documentation from the Zoning Board certifying that they have granted our requested zoning variances. Once we receive that, we may begin the land development phase.



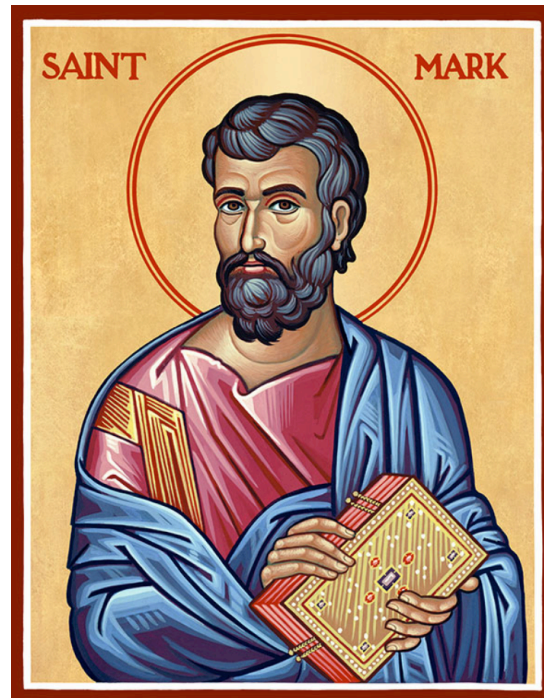
SERVICE SCHEDULE

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
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender
Marek Szeliga



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**.



Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp

Volunteers Needed

HELP US SPREAD
THE WORD

ENCOURAGE
FAMILY & FRIENDS
TO VOLUNTEER



Available Positions

- + Counselors
- + Kitchen Crew
- + Nurse
- + Lifeguard

Must be 18+, an
Orthodox Christian in
good standing &
available July 1-8

Apply Today

Answer The Call To Serve
And Signup Now Online

[StTikhonsCamp.org/
staff_application](https://StTikhonsCamp.org/staff_application)



More Info

Fr. Michael Shepherd
Executive Director

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Info@StTikhonsCamp.org