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ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

452 DURHAM ROAD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA, 18940

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Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown

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FEBRUARY 12TH, 2023 — THE PRODIGAL SON

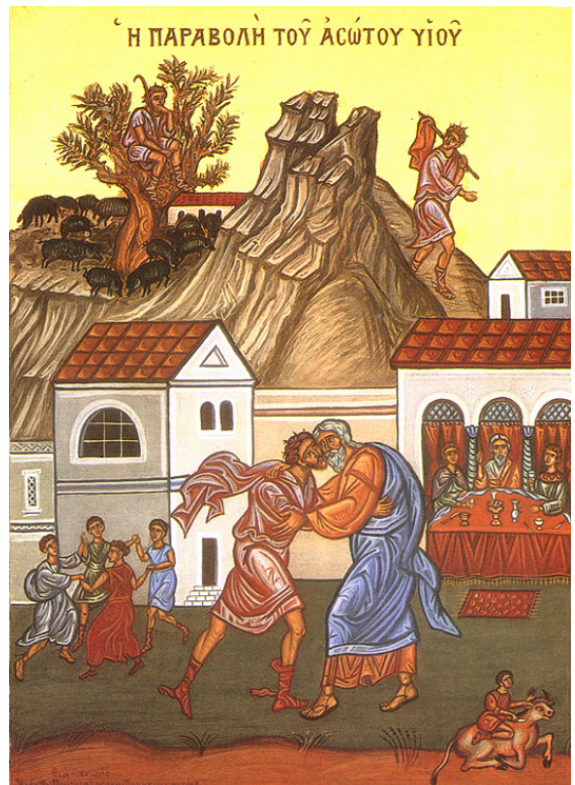
Tone 2 — Sunday of the Prodigal

Son. St. Meletius, Archbishop of

Antioch (381). Ven. Mary (who was called Marinos), and her father, Ven. Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.). St. Anthony, Patriarch of Constantinople (895). St. Aleksy (Alexius), Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1378). St. Kristo the Gardener (Albania — 1752). St. Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840). The "Iveron" (Iberian) Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 12th:

Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM
Choir Rehearsal & Coffee Hour

Monday, Feb. 13th:

TASK Carpool — 8:30 AM
Preschool Church School — 10:45 AM

Saturday, Feb. 18th:

Great Vespers & Confessions — 6:00 PM

Fr. Martin will be out of town Monday through Friday this week. In the event of an emergency, please call Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk at St. Stephen's Cathedral at 215-745-3232 or 215-756-2289.



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: Daria Cortése, Robert Marshall, Benjamin Snyder

Names Days: Zoe Gibson, Dmitrii Sosedov

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: Archpriest Daniel, Olga, Anatole, Katherine, Archpriest Sergius, Mat. Katrina

Departed: Archpriest Theodore, Jonathan, 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 CORTÉSE FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: SHIRLEY, ANDREW, CHRISTIAN, ROSEMARY, CARLEEN

IN MEMORY OF: LOUIS, RUTH, KATHERINE, LOUISE

FROM SONJA LENGEL

FOR THE HEALTH OF: SBN. SERGIUS, SONJA, RAMON, MELODY

IN MEMORY OF: JOHN, ANASTASIA, JIM

FROM THE MOSER FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: STEPHANIE, BENJAMIN, PETER, LARISSA, REBECCA

IN MEMORY OF: DN. JOHN, VERONICA, REBECCA, CHARLES, STEPHEN, SOPHIA

CHORAL CORNER

Q: What is an *antiphon*?

A: In the Divine Liturgy, the *antiphons* are the first three hymns. Except on great feasts, the Sunday antiphons consist of portions of Psalm 102 (“Bless the Lord, O my soul”), Psalm 145 (“Praise the Lord, O my soul”), and the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12); the weekday antiphons contain portions of Psalms 91, 92 and 94. However, the term “antiphon” describes the manner of intended performance, not the theological content or liturgical context; technically, any piece sung back-and-forth between two choirs or soloists may be called an antiphon. So, all of our services are, in a sense, antiphonal, as they consist of a constant dialogue between the clergy and the choir.

The Orthodox antiphonal tradition originated with St. Ignatius of Antioch (“the God-bearer” — c.107), who had a vision of heavenly worship in which two angelic choirs sung hymns in this manner. There is also likely a connection with the opening of Isaiah 6, in which the prophet beheld two seraphim flanking the Lord on His throne, each crying out to the other: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!” (Isaiah 1-3)

In his excellent presentation on the Divine Liturgy given at our most recent Nativity retreat, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk from St. Stephen’s Cathedral noted that St. John Chrysostom (347-407) was another important early influence on the use of antiphonal singing in Orthodox worship. At the time, the Divine Liturgy began *outside* the church building, with a Cross-procession that eventually led indoors. St. John was concerned that some of the more simple in his congregation might be swayed by the loud singing of Arian heretics who worshipped in the open air just outside the Constantinople city walls, so he had his own liturgical singers drown out their false doctrine with antiphonal singing until all of the faithful were inside the temple.

So, why do we not sing our antiphons...well, antiphonally? It’s because in parish churches, particularly in America, it’s very rare to have enough singers to form two choirs (*hint, hint!*). 🕶️

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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sunday Collection (2/5)

Weekly general: \$821

Candles: \$222

Cupola: \$10

Total: \$1,053

Online Giving (1/30-2/5)

Weekly general: \$3,317

Parish Dev.: \$100

Total: \$3,237

Grand total: \$4,290

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TRACKER

JANUARY 2023

	Jan-23	YTD
2023 Total General Contribution	\$30,706.59	\$30,706.59
2023 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	\$111.66	\$111.66
Change from 2022 (Goal >\$8)	\$35.45	\$31.76
2022 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	\$76.21	\$79.90
	Jan-23	YTD
Building Fund Contributions	\$13,055.00	\$13,055.00
% of Goal Obtained (\$100k)	13.06%	13.06%



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

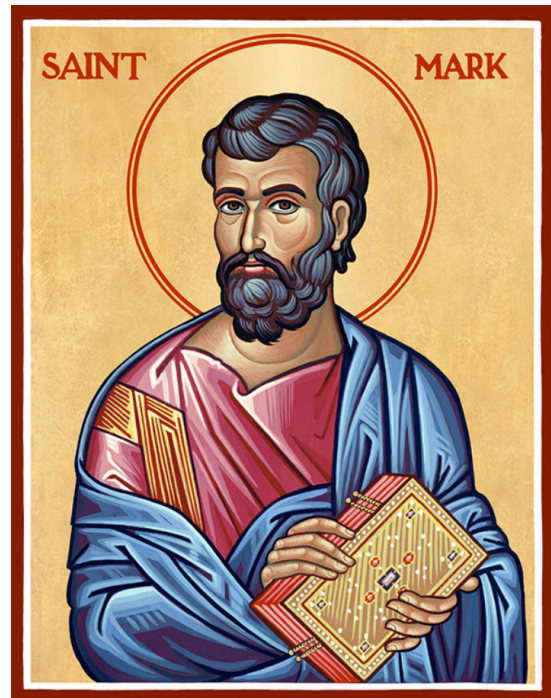
Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*
V. Rev. Michael Sekela (Retired), *Attached*
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby
Sergei Arhipov
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender
Marek Szeliga

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.**

