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# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**452 DURHAM ROAD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA, 18940**

**(215) 860-9640**

www.stmarksoca.org

Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown

Twitter: @stmarksoca

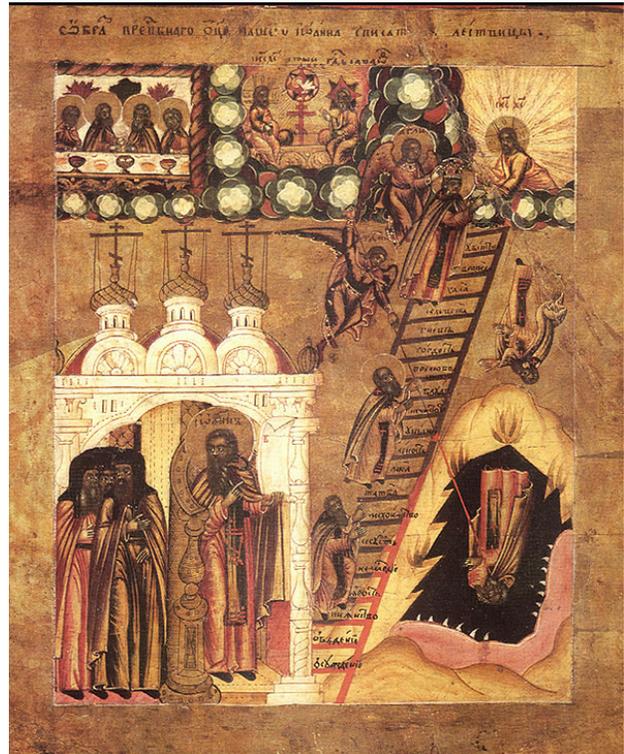
Instagram: @st.marksorthodox

**MARCH 26TH, 2023 — THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

## **Tone 8 — Sunday of St. John**

### **Climacus. Leavetaking of Annunciation.**

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. Martyr Montanas the Presbyter of Singidunum, and his wife Maxima (235). Hieromartyr Irenæus, Bp. Of Sirmium in Hungary (304). Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus the Presbyters; Arpilus the monk; the laymen Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igathrax, Iscoeus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonirilus, Suimbalus, Thermus, and Phillus (Philgas); and the women: Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Monica), Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha and Duklida, in the Crimea (375). St. Malchus of Chalcis in Syria (4th c.). Ven. Basil the New, Anchorite, near Constantinople (10th c.).



**Epistle: Heb. 6:13-20; Heb. 2:11-18**

**Gospel: Mark 9:17-31; Luke 1:24-38**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Sunday, March 26th:</b>	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Presentation on Legacy of Life
<b>Monday, March 27th:</b>	Preschool Church School — 10:45 AM
<b>Wednesday, March 29th:</b>	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 9:15am Matins w/ Great Canon — 7:00 PM
<b>Friday, March 31st:</b>	Akathist Matins to the Theotokos — 7:00 PM
<b>Saturday, April 1st:</b>	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6:00 PM

**Lenten Book Group:** On the sixth Wednesday of Great Lent (April 5), we will meet on at 7 PM (in person and on Zoom) to discuss C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters. There is much practical spiritual advice in this work for Great Lent and throughout the year.



**Confessions:** As we enter the fifth week of the Great Fast, please do not wait until the fifth week or Holy Week to go to Confession. Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday. Confessions are available before and after most scheduled services, and by appointment. It is an experience to be prayerfully prepare for, and should be done with sufficient time and attention, not squeezed in hastily.

**Parish Council Minutes:** Starting this month, minutes will be emailed to those who are on the parish census, or in print form if you have so requested. At our meeting last Thursday, we decided that we will review the minutes for the meetings as soon as they are forwarded to us, make any corrections or amendments, and approve them prior to the next meeting so as to expedite their distribution. Obviously, we have had a month lag since the first meeting of the newly elected Council; the minutes of that meeting will be sent out/distributed this week. We thank you for your patience. Please note that the email list for this will be other than the general announcement email list that is used for the bulletin/sermon.

**Whole Burnt Offering:** As approved at our annual meeting, we will have the first of five annual whole burnt offerings next Sunday, April 2nd. Following the Scriptural teaching, the collection next week will be donated to Legacy of Life. Today Julie Stell, who has served there as a volunteer in the past, will make a presentation on the mission of this organization. Each time a different local charity/service organization will be the recipient, and a week before the Offering a presentation will be made at the end of the Divine Liturgy so people will know where the funds are going. Should you wish to know more about the Scriptural basis for this, consult Money and Salvation by Andrew Geleris, published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press. There is a copy in our Church library you may borrow to read about this, and related, topics. **Please make checks payable to the Legacy of Life Foundation.**

**The Wrightstown Food Cupboard** needs **pasta sauce** and **jelly beans**. The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

**Lenten service schedule:** Please see the last page of this bulletin.

**Birthdays:** Leeanna Gula, Ann LeGallo, Julie Stell, Doug Yates

## **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 Archpriests** Stephen, Daniel and Michael

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

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

## DEPARTED

**Newly departed:** Kathleen, Douglas, Robert, Irene, Michael

**Departed:** Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Shirley (Stewart), 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 IRENE ARHIPOV**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** SERGEI, STEPHANIE, PETER, ALEXANDRA, ANNA, FR. ALEXANDER, HELEN  
**IN MEMORY OF:** NEWLY-DEPARTED IRINA, ANNA, ANNA, BORIS, NIKOLAI, PAUL, ANTHONY, ANTHONY, KATHERINE, DIMITRI, MARIA, MARIA, MARIA, IVAN, EUGENE, VICTOR, NATALIA

**FROM MARINA**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** MARINA, ANNA

**FROM THE PITRA FAMILY**

**IN COMMEMORATION OF:** NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY (3/25/23), VIETNAM WAR VETERANS' DAY (3/29/23)

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** RICHARD, EDWARD, LUKE, LEONID, ALAN

**IN MEMORY OF:** IRENE, TATIANA, MICHAEL, IAN, PELAGEJA, JULIUS, JULIA, EVDOKYA

## CHORAL CORNER

**Q: What is the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, and why will we sing the entire thing this coming Thursday? Isn't it the same Canon we pray during the first four days of Lent?**

**A:** The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (sometimes called the *Great Canon of Repentance*, or simply the *Great Canon*) is a 7th-century work that is simultaneously a survey of biblical salvation history, an extended plea for divine mercy and a fervent self-exhortation to repentance while there is still time to do so. We first pray this Canon at Grand Compline on the first four days of Lent; it is divided into four sections to ease us somewhat gently into our Lenten pilgrimage. This is merciful, as confronting the entire truth of our spiritual situation at the very beginning of the Fast could be overwhelming and lead us to despair of salvation. Then, on the fifth Thursday of Lent, we pray it in its entirety, having (hopefully) seized the opportunities over the preceding weeks to acknowledge our sinfulness more honestly and undertake greater efforts in repentance and amendment of life. If we have used this time wisely, we are now more ready to attend to the reality presented, uninterrupted, in the Great Canon, and to understand how our personal history is knit together with the biblical figures and events described in it. In the words of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (+1983), "The events of the sacred history are revealed as events of *my* life; God's acts in the past as acts aimed at *me* and *my* salvation; the tragedy of sin and betrayal as *my* personal tragedy." (Schmemmann, *Great Lent*, p. 71) Of course, it is not merely about *me* in some sort of isolated, self-centered spiritual vacuum, but rather, but about each soul as a member of the Body of Christ, described in the accounts of the holy and the wicked in the body of Holy Scripture.

*Previous articles may be found at [dariacortese.com/my-blog](http://dariacortese.com/my-blog).*

## 50th Anniversary Jubilee Committee

**Call for photographs:** In preparation for St. Mark's 50th anniversary celebration in 2024, we are asking any parishioners who have photographs from the first three decades if they would please make them available for scanning, or scan and send them directly to us, for possible use in a commemorative book and slide show. Originals will be returned once we have scanned them for use. This will greatly aid us in preparing a proper commemoration of parish life at St. Mark's over the past half-century, Thank you!



**Online Giving Program:** As a reminder, St. Mark's offers an online giving program to contribute to the support of the parish. One of the biggest benefits of online giving is the ability to set up scheduled recurring donations. This allows you to be faithful and consistent in your generosity and allows us to plan and budget consistently as a church.

Having more parishioners participate in scheduled, recurring giving is also important to financial institutions as we seek funding for our building expansion project by showing consistent month-to-month contributions.

If you are interested in participating in the online giving program:

1. Start here: <https://www.stmarksoca.org>
2. There is a DONATE button near the top of the page.
3. Help can be found by clicking on the Learn How or FAQ buttons next to the DONATE button.
4. If you have other questions, you may contact Kevin Swan at [kswan353@verizon.net](mailto:kswan353@verizon.net), or Andy Skordinski at [andy.home@comcast.net](mailto:andy.home@comcast.net).

### **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

#### **Sunday Collection (3/19)**

Weekly general: \$2,093

Candles: \$183

Church store: \$50

Parish dev.: \$550

Food Pantry: \$10

**Total: \$2,886**

#### **Online Giving (3/13-19)**

Weekly general: \$1,917

Parish dev.: \$515

**Total: \$2,432**

**Grand total: \$5,318**



## SERVICE SCHEDULE

<b>Hours + Divine Liturgy:</b>	9:10 AM (Sundays & feast days)
<b>Great Vespers / Vigil:</b>	6 PM (Saturdays) 7PM (Eve of feast) 6PM (Eve of feast – Sundays)
<b>Confessions:</b>	Saturdays after Vespers & by appointment
<b>Akathist Service:</b>	9:15 AM (Wednesdays)
<b>Panikhidas/Lityas:</b>	as requested

### CLERGY

V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne, *Rector*  
(570) 906-1388 (cell)  
stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

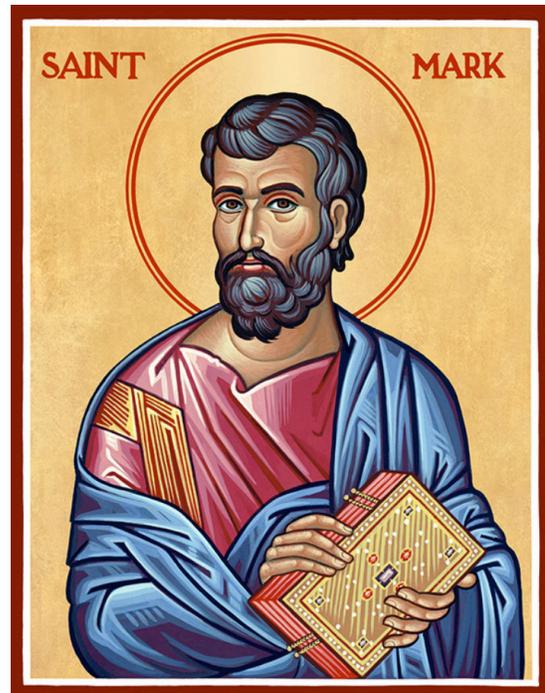
Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*  
V. Rev. Michael Sekela (Retired), *Attached*  
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby  
Sergei Arhipov  
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender  
Marek Szeliga

### 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



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**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.**

## **LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE**

*NOTE: This list does not include regular Saturday Vespers services and Sunday Divine Liturgies.*

Wednesday, March 29th	9:15 AM	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Wednesday, March 29th	7:00 PM	Matins w/ Great Canon
Friday, March 31st	7:00 PM	Akathist Matins
Wednesday, April 5th	9:15 AM	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday, April 7th	6:00 PM	Baptism of Jacob Hawthorne
	7:00 PM	Great Vespers
Saturday, April 8th	9:15 AM	Divine Liturgy (Lazarus Saturday)
Saturday, April 8th	6:00 PM	Vigil for Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 9th	4:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Monday, April 10th	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 11th	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 12th	9:15 AM	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
	TBA	Unction Service (St. Stephen's Cathedral)
Thursday, April 13th	9:15 AM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
	7:00 PM	Matins of Holy Friday (12 Passion Gospels)
Friday, April 14th	9:15 AM	Royal Hours of Holy Friday
	3:00 PM	Vespers of Holy Saturday
	7:00 PM	Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations)
Saturday, April 15th	9:15 AM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy (15 OT Prophecies)
	11:30 PM	Paschal Nocturns, Matins & Divine Liturgy
Sunday, April 16th	12:00 PM	Paschal Vespers



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

March 24, 2023  
Martyr Luke of St Anne's Skete

V. Rev. Fr. Raymond Martin Browne  
St. Mark Orthodox Church  
452 Durham Rd.  
Wrightstown, PA 18940

Dear Fr. Raymond, esteemed members of the parish council and faithful,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be! I pray your Lenten journey is fruitful. I am writing to thank you for your warm and gracious welcome, as well as your generous hospitality, when I visited St. Mark's this past Sunday I gave thanks to God your parish is thriving and growing. By the grace of God, you are also blessed with young men who genuinely love our Lord and desire to serve Him through reading and attending to the needs within the Sanctuary. My prayers are with you as you address the need for additional space to accommodate continued growth. My thanks to all those who prepared for a beautiful Liturgy and delicious luncheon. Visiting our parishes and spending time with the clergy, their families and the faithful is always the best part of my week, My heart was lightened seeing the faithful filling the Church.

As always, the Choir was prayerful and well prepared. The Altar servers were attentive and created a peaceful flow during the Divine Services. May the Lord continue to bless the work of your hands. May He continue to look down from Heaven, visiting, establishing and perfecting this vine which He has planted with His own Right Hand.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

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



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Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne \* Mobile: 570.906.1388  
Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan\* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

