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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

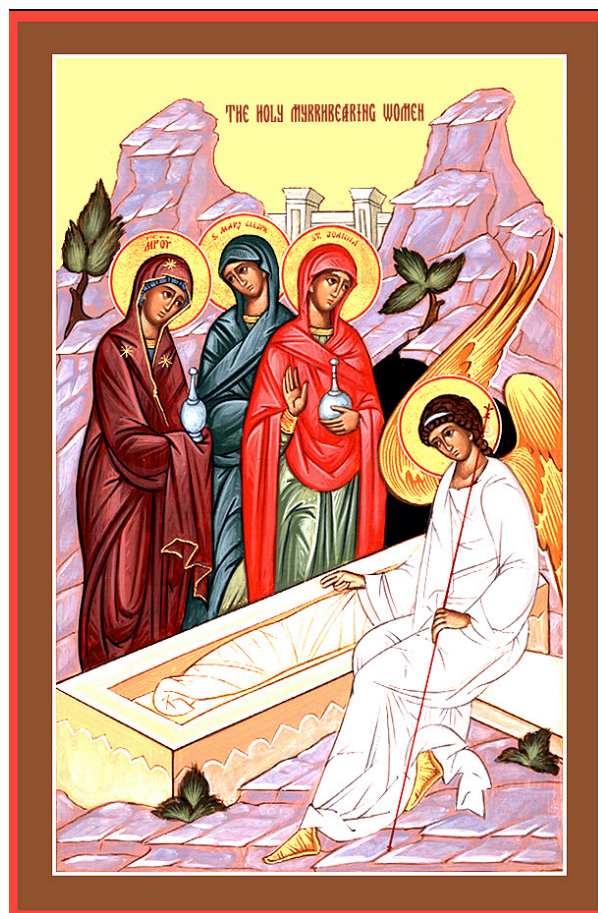
Instagram: @st.marksorthodox

## APRIL 30TH, 2023 — THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS

**Tone 2 — The 3rd Sunday of Pascha. The Holy Myrrhbearing Women. Holy Apostle James (Jacob), brother of St. John the Theologian (44 AD).** St. Donatus, Bp. of Euroea in Epirus (ca. 387). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Basil, Bp. of Amasea (4th c.). Martyr Maximus of Ephesus. Uncovering of the Relics of St. Nikita, Bp. of Novgorod (1558). Bp. Ignátii (Ignatius) Brianchaninov, Bishop of Stavropol' (1867). The "Passion" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

**Epistle:** Acts 6:1-7  
Acts 12:1-11

**Gospel:** Mark 15:43-16:8  
Luke 5:1-11



### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Sunday, April 30th:</b>	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:15 AM
<b>Tuesday, May 2nd:</b>	Jubilee Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 3rd:</b>	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
<b>Saturday, May 6th:</b>	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6:00 PM



**Communion Announcement:** As there will be only one Chalice available for the foreseeable future, we ask that you form one line. The altar servers receive first, followed by the children (with their parents, as needed), and then alternating rows, starting from the front Theotokos (left) side. Those who are infirm or unable to stand for too long may wait until others have received, or advise a Parish Council member Father will bring Holy Communion to you. This will contribute to good order and proper reverence during this time. Those on the way should be praying; those returning to their seats, likewise. *The easiest way to do that is to listen to what the choir is singing.* Likewise, when the Thanksgiving Prayers are being said, *there should not be any other voices heard in the Church.* We should all say these prayers, whether on our own or together, being like the one leper who returned to thank the Lord for his healing, rather than the nine who went on their way ungratefully. (Luke 17:11-19)

**Many thanks to Buddy Rybny and Jim Pitra** for installing the septic pump access hatch downstairs.

**The Legacy of Life Foundation** sent us a thank-you letter, a portion of which is reproduced here. The full letter is posted in the Parish Hall.

*Dear Father Raymond, Deborah and Parishioners of St. Mark's,  
You are an incredible blessing! Your gift is helping pregnant moms make the bravest decision to choose life for her baby. As more moms choose life and babies are born, I praise God for the new life in this season. I can't thank you enough for your compassionate gift to help moms and their babies. We will be praying for you and your parish family.*

*God bless,  
Marie Joseph (Executive Director)*

**The Jubilee Committee** will meet in person at St. Mark's on May 2nd at 7 PM. The focus of the meeting will be on the commemorative book. The Committee is still asking for photographs from the early years of our parish (photographs will be scanned and returned). If you have photographs to share, please send an email to [saintmarksjubileecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarksjubileecommittee@gmail.com).

**The Wrightstown Food Cupboard** needs **paper towels, cleaning supplies, peanut butter and jelly.** The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

**Birthdays:** Alan Litvin, Kevin Karaffa, Melanie Stanek

**Name Days:** Irene Arhipov, Ellie Crosby

## **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, Paul Wanko (brother of John), 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:** Mat. Galina, John, Eugene, Irene

**Departed:** Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Shirley (Stewart), Jonathan, Mat. Emily, Mat. Mary, Met. +HERMAN, Louis, Ruth, Nicholai, Thomas, Michael, Venus, Helen, Anthony, Robert, Michael, 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, MICHAEL, STEPHANIE, PETER, ALEXANDRA, ANNA, LARISSA, HENRY, LUDMILLA, LUDMILLA

**IN MEMORY OF:** NEWLY-DEPARTED IRINA, VERA (2 YEARS), GEORGE ALAN, JAKE

**FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** MARGARET, ANDREW, STEPHANIE, MARGARET, LORELLY, STEPHANIE, CHARLOTTE

**IN MEMORY OF:** GEORGE, KATHERINE, PETER, KATHLEEN, JOHN

### **CHORAL CORNER**

**Q: Why don't we sing "O heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" from Pascha until Pentecost?**

**A:** Although the prayer "O heavenly King" appears near the beginning of almost every service and personal prayer rule throughout the liturgical year, it is part of the *propers*\* of Pentecost, appearing for the first time near the end of Great Vespers. Similarly, we first sing "We have seen the True Light" earlier in the same service. During the rest of the year, we also sing this hymn after Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgy.

The reason we don't sing "O heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" during the Paschal season is because, in the earthly chronology of biblical events, the disciples did not receive the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection. Of course, the Holy Spirit does not absent Himself from the Church during Paschaltide; every Orthodox Christian has received the "seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of Chrismation. However, we omit these hymns from Pascha to Pentecost as we step outside chronos-time to anticipate, with the disciples, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the final divine self-revelation to humankind and the founding of the Orthodox Church, thereby reaffirming the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our own souls. This is also why we decorate our temples with greenery and blossoms on Pentecost: to signify that the Holy Spirit, the life-giving Breath of God, refreshes and renews the whole creation.

\* — *Propers* are texts specific to a given feast, commemoration or calendar date. By contrast, *ordinaries* are texts intrinsic to a given service, regardless of what the propers are. For example, the Six Psalms of Matins are ordinaries; they are always chanted.

Previous entries can be found at [www.dariacortese.com/my-blog](http://www.dariacortese.com/my-blog)

### **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

#### **Sunday Collection (4/23)**

Weekly general: \$1,272

Candles: \$80

Pascha: \$300

**Total: \$1,652**

#### **Online Giving (4/17-23)**

General: \$2,634

Candles: \$9

Pascha: \$200

**Total: \$2,843**

#### **GRAND TOTAL: \$4,495**

**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).



## 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

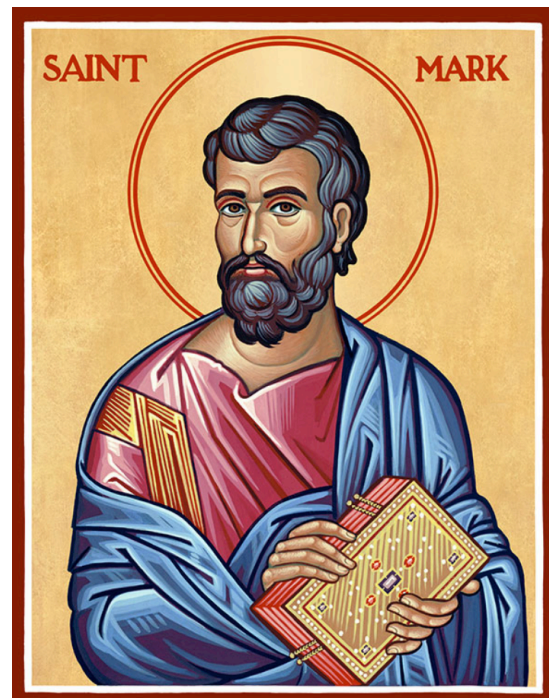
Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*  
V. Rev. Michael Sekela (Retired), *Attached*  
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby  
Sergei Arhipov  
Marek Szeliga  
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender  
Samuel Regen

### 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**.





