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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

OCTOBER 2ND, 2022 — 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 7 — Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctist, of Nicomedia

(304). Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia (740). Blessèd Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (936). Repose of Right-believing Princess Anna of Kashin (1338). Venerable Cassian of Uglich (1504). Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov (1817).

Epistle: 2. Cor. 6:1-10

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 2nd:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour
Monday, Oct. 3rd:	Preschool Church School — 10:45 AM
Wednesday, Oct. 5th :	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:30 AM
Saturday, Oct. 8th:	Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Oct. 9th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour

Mirrors of Truth will resume on Wednesday, October 12th at 7 PM, in person and on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We will have five monthly presentations; the topic of the first two will be The Universe According to Orthodox Theology and Christianity, followed by two sessions on Divine Actions and the Universe in the Laws of Physics. The final session will be on The End of the Universe: Eschatology and the Fate of the Universe. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Iconography presentation: Author and iconographer Susan Cushman will give a presentation on spirituality and iconography on Monday, October 10th at 7 PM via Zoom. A link to the program will be emailed next week with the bulletin and sermon.

Giving brochure: Every family will receive a brochure from the Stewardship Committee on opportunities to make special gifts and offerings to St. Mark's. Printing services were donated by a parishioner; we received 100 copies, so please take only one per household at this point.

St. Basil's House: The coffee hour presentation on St. Basil's House in Trenton has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 16th.

Elementary Church School will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during Coffee Hour, except for October, when it will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. **Preschool Church School** occurs every Monday from 10:45-noon in the Fellowship Hall.

The Wrightstown Food Pantry needs **juice, tea and jelly**. This organization recently received federal 501(c)3 status, which means that donations to the Pantry are now tax-deductible.

Birthdays: Peter Hadgimallis, Eileen McKeown, Matthew Vatov

Name Days: Grace Browne (Charitina)

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 Daniel and Michael

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

Servants of God Charlotte, infant Luke, Larissa, Nicholas, Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Margaret, Elena, Ayla, Sandra, Anatole, Maria, Julia, infant Jacob, Michael, Nancy, Eileen, Steven

DEPARTED

Newly departed: His Beatitude Met. +HERMAN, Met. +KALLISTOS

Departed: 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

IN MEMORY OF: VERA, NADEZHDA, LUBOV, MARIA, MARIA, LYDIA, LYDIA, ANNA, KATHERINE, NATALIA, PAUL, NICHOLAS

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

St. Mark's now has an Amazon Smile wishlist, which will allow donors to purchase needed supplies such as paper towels and have them shipped directly to the parish. The list may be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/2s4fc5zp>. Purchasing an item from this list will generate a receipt from Amazon you may use for tax purposes. **If you want your donation to appear on your parish contribution statement, please submit your receipt to Andy Skordinski.**

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, or Andy Skordinski at andy.home@comcast.net.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sunday Collection (Sept. 25th)

Weekly general: \$1,133

Candles: \$36

Total: \$1,169

Online Giving (Sept. 19-25)

Weekly general: \$3,610

Parish Dev.: \$250

Candles: \$9

Total: \$3,869

Grand total: \$5,038



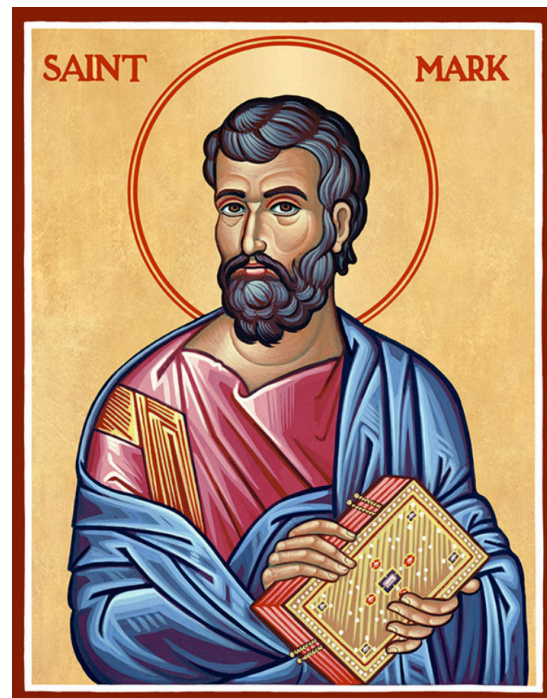
SERVICE SCHEDULE

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:	9:30 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

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**.



October 2, 2022
Protocol 10/001

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

'Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Sing to him a new song, play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.' (Ps. 33:1, 3). Music suffuses the scriptures, starting from the first pages of the Pentateuch. In the fourth chapter of Genesis we read of Jubal, 'the father of all such as handle the harp and organ' (Gen. 4:21). Songs of holy people are found throughout the Old Testament and the New: the songs of Miriam, Moses, Deborah, Hannah, David, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Jonah, the Three Children, Zachariah, and the most Holy Theotokos, to name but a few.

But of course, even before the first father Adam was formed, when the physical world was first coming into being, the scriptures speak of music: 'the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy' (Job 38:7). 'Praise the Lord, O sun and moon,' says the psalmist (Ps. 148:3). Music is, in some mysterious way, part of creation and part of redemption, such that even heaven is filled with song. 'With the angels' song we cry to thee, All-powerful: Holy, Holy, Holy art thou, O God' (troparion from the Morning Prayers). And this song, though it begins in time, extends beyond time, and is taken up by the angels and saints forever. As such, the Apocalypse of St. John the Theologian is perhaps the most musically rich text of all scripture, full as it is of canticles and invocations of song: 'And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints' (Rev. 5:9, 14:3, 15:3).

Today in our churches, we carry on the tradition of sacred song, bridging the gap, as it were, between those ancient songs sung by prophets and patriarchs and the eternal song sung by angels and saints. Our traditions of church music are both a continuation of the ancient worship of the Old and New Covenants and a participation in the heavenly liturgy. This is why the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has set aside the Sunday following the feast of St. Romanus the Melodist for an annual celebration of church musicianship, to honor singers, choir directors, composers, arrangers, chanters, readers, bell-ringers, hymnologists, translators, hymnographers, and all who help our parishes and their congregations to make a 'joyful noise unto the Lord' (Ps. 98:4) so that our temples resound with the praise of God.

I encourage all of our parishes and institutions to take this opportunity to honor those who contribute to church music, and I urge all church leadership to help foster vocations in this area. May we all of us, at all times, according to our own vocation, praise the Lord with 'psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs' (Eph. 5:19). And may he in turn be well-pleased with our sacrifice of praise, and rejoice over us, and quiet us with his love, and sing over us in his joy (Zeph. 3:17).

With the blessing of the Lord, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



September 30, 2022

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

*Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! This year we ministered to 126 children at the St. Tikhon's Camp Program. Through the program our youth not only learn about their faith, have fellowship with other Orthodox youth, but have the opportunity to develop lifelong relationships. These relationships and their experience help solidify their relationship to Christ and the Church.

Our Diocesan Council wanted to help get our Camp up and going again after a two year hiatus and insure that all children of the Diocese were able to attend. This year the Diocese covered the cost for all children of the Diocese. The cost of \$375 for the first child and \$350 for any siblings, made it quite difficult for families with more than one child. Parents, previously decided if they could not send all their children who were age appropriate, not to send any of them. Thanks be to God, we had numerous children there for the first time!

As a Church we should never want any child unable to attend because of the cost. Secondly, we do not want to embarrass or humiliate parents by having to ask for assistance from their parish or the Diocese, whether it is for one child or more. We as Orthodox Christians need to invest in our youth by supporting all youth ministry fully. In some Orthodox jurisdictions parishes or organizations within the parish make sure every child can go to camp.

Statistically, 70% of our youth once going away to college or entering the workforce fall away from the Church and 2/3 of those never return. We as a Church must do a better job of caring for our youth and providing opportunities for learning, fellowship and growth in their faith. Our Camp program is an important part of addressing the problem and has also contributed to young men and women making decisions to serve the Church in various ways. They want to give back.

In order to make our camp available and accessible to all our youth within the Diocese we are asking our faithful to consider sponsoring a camper with a contribution of \$350. We also ask our parishes to consider helping to underwrite the cost of caring for our youth with an annual contribution of \$500, or a greater amount if your parish sends lots of children to camp, perhaps \$350 per camper. If we can get a commitment of \$30,000 a year through various contributions, we can offer the camp free of charge for all our children. We are also setting up a donation button on our website. You may send contributions to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, 325 N Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014 and earmark it St Tikhon's Camp. Thank you for your generosity and concern for our youth.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK (Maymon), Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Please post on every parish website and in every parish bulletin.



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Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne * Mobile: 570.906.1388
Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan * treasurer@doepa.org

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