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1974

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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www.stmarksoca.org

Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown

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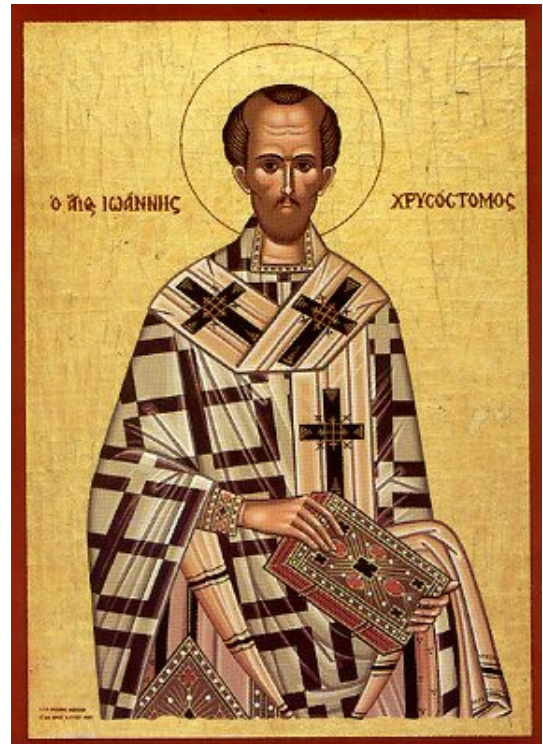
NOVEMBER 13TH, 2022 — 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 5 — St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407).

Martyrs Antoninus, Nicephorus, and Germanus, of Caesarea in Palestine (308).
Martyr Manteca of Caesarea in Palestine (307-8). Monk-Martyr Damian of the Lavra (Mt. Athos — 1568). Monk-Martyr Damascene of the Lavra (Mt. Athos — 1681). New Hieromartyr Archpriest John Kochurov (1917 — 31 October O.S.; commemorated in the OCA on 31 October N.S.).

Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18
Heb. 7:26-8:2

Gospel: Luke 10:25-27
John 10:9-16



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 13th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal & Coffee Hour
Monday, Nov. 14th:	Preschool Church School — 10:45 AM
Wednesday, Nov. 16th:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM Mirrors of Truth — 7 PM
Thursday, Nov. 17th:	Parish Council Meeting — 7 PM
Saturday, Nov. 19th:	Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Nov. 20th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Church School & Coffee Hour

The Nativity Fast begins on this coming Tuesday, November 15th, and lasts until the Feast of the Nativity on December 25th. During this time we refrain from meat, dairy, wine and oil.



Adult Education for the Nativity Fast: The next session of Mirrors of Truth will be held on this coming Wednesday, November 16th, at 7 PM. The book group will also meet on November 30th and December 7th.

Pre-Nativity Retreat: On Saturday, December 3rd, we will welcome Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk from St. Stephen's Cathedral as the speaker at our pre-Nativity retreat, the topic of which is the Divine Liturgy. The retreat will be followed by Great Vespers at 4 PM, with Confession available after the service.

Beginning today, choir rehearsals will take place after the Divine Liturgy on the second Sunday of each month. **If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak with Daria Cortése.**

We are collecting food for the St. Basil's House Thanksgiving food drive. On Sunday, November 20th, the Church School will assemble the donation bags, so that is the last day to donate. Please give what you can from the following list: *cash or \$20 gift cards for turkeys (Walmart only), packaged stuffing, canned cranberry sauce, canned turkey gravy, canned corn, canned green beans, canned yams, packaged corn muffin mix, packaged rolls, large white baking potatoes, large yams, and bags of onions.* (Please wait until the last week to donate the rolls, onions and fresh yams). Thank you, and God bless you!

Hot off the Press! We have St. Mark's Divine Liturgy books for children available in the vestibule, so children can follow the service. There will also be take-home copies available in the bookstore for \$5 each.

The Wrightstown Food Cupboard needs **cranberry sauce** and **stuffing**. The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Birthdays: Jamie Bendas

Name Days: Mat. Heidi Browne, Fr. Dn. Gregory Moser, Gregory Swan, Matthew Vatov

UPCOMING PRE-NATIVITY EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 20th	Vigil for the Entrance of the Theotokos — 6 PM
Monday, Nov. 21st	Hours & Divine Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos — 9:15 AM
Saturday, Dec. 3rd	Retreat w/ Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk — 10 AM Great Vespers & Confessions — 4 PM
Monday, Dec. 5th	Vigil for St. Nicholas — 7 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 6th	Hours & Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas — 9:15 AM
Monday, Dec. 12th	Vigil for St. Herman of Alaska — 7 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 13th	Hours & Divine Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska — 9:15 AM

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, Anatole, Maria, Julia, infant Jacob, Michael, Nancy, Eileen, Steven, Constance, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Pdn. Paul, Igumen Victorin, Ivan, Jonathan, Matthew

Departed: Met. +HERMAN, 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, ALEXANDRA, ANNA, VALERIE, MAT. TAMARA, FR. DANIEL,

IN MEMORY OF: VERA, DIMITRI, NEWLY-DEPARTED IVAN, MARIA, MARIA, TAMARA

FROM GEORGIY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: GEORGIY, MILA

IN MEMORY OF: BORIS, GALINA

FROM LYUDMILA

FOR THE HEALTH OF: NINA, GEORGIY, ALEXANDER, ALEXANDRA, NIKITA, TAMARA

IN MEMORY OF: NATALIA, ANATOLIY, VALERIY

FROM THE MOSER FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: STEPHANIE, PETER, MICHAEL, NICHOLAS, LARISSA

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

FROM THE PITRA FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF: APOLONIA, ANDREW, PELAGEJA, IWAN, TATIANA, MICHAEL, EVDOKYA, MICHAEL, GEORGE, STANLEY, EMILIA, DELORES, MARY, DEPARTED VETERANS

FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: EILEEN, STEPHANIE, VALERIE, CHARLOTTE

IN MEMORY OF: GEORGE

CHORAL CORNER

Q: The Psalms frequently mention artificial instruments used in worship, so why don't we use them?

A: The Psalter contains many references to artificial instruments, especially stringed instruments such as the harp, lyre and psaltery (*Ps. 56:9, Ps. 70:22*). These relatively quiet instruments were used in indoor devotions, rather than the corporate outdoor worship of the ancient Jewish temple, which involved loud, bombastic music to accompany bloody animal sacrifices. These are occasionally mentioned in the Psalms as well, such as Psalm 150:5 (*Praise Him with loud joyful cymbals*). Similar noisy instruments were used in many pagan rites, serving as musical manipulation to whip devotees into a froth of ecstatic emotion. This double association of clamorous music with animal sacrifices and paganism is underscored by their absence from Jewish worship during the Passover period.

Early Christian worship did not involve artificial instruments, although the holy apostles and their contemporaries certainly had access to the Psalter. Christ's Resurrection eliminated the need for slaughtering animals, pouring their blood upon the altar, and burning their flesh on huge outdoor pyres, because Christ is the new Lamb offered in *reasonable* and *bloodless* sacrifice (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lecture XXIII, 7-8*). We must therefore conclude that the omission of artificial instruments was a deliberate choice woven into the fabric of Holy Tradition.

For more information on this fascinating topic, see:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YUZTSU6J](https://tinyurl.com/yztsu6j) (ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE)

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2MD39Y46](https://tinyurl.com/2md39y46) (AN ARTICLE BY FR. LAWRENCE FARLEY OF ANCIENT FAITH RADIO)

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.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sunday Collection (11/6)

Weekly general: \$2,068

Church store sales: \$70

Parish development: \$100

Total: \$2,238

Online Giving (10/31 — 11/6)

Weekly general: \$2,904

Parish development: \$100

Total: \$3,104

Grand total: \$5,342

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TRACKER

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	YTD
2022 Total General Contribution	\$20,194.59	\$20,090.00	\$18,668.00	\$15,574.00	\$26,949.00	\$16,942.00	\$18,850.00	\$13,950.00	\$13,911.00	\$17,486.08	\$182,614.67
2022 Avg. Per Week Per Unit (56)	\$72.12	\$89.69	\$83.34	\$69.53	\$96.25	\$75.63	\$67.32	\$62.28	\$62.10	\$62.45	\$73.29
Change from 2021 (Goal >\$8)	\$5.23	\$40.54	\$12.64	\$9.80	\$42.12	\$28.70	-\$7.99	\$12.63	\$6.78	-\$5.41	\$11.69
2021 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	\$66.89	\$49.15	\$70.70	\$59.73	\$54.13	\$46.94	\$75.31	\$49.65	\$55.32	\$67.86	\$61.60
	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	YTD
Building Fund Contributions	\$13,305.00	\$3,055.00	\$3,505.00	\$3,190.00	\$5,655.00	\$2,855.00	\$2,855.00	\$3,555.00	\$3,305.00	\$3,055.00	\$44,335.00
% of Goal Obtained (\$100k)	13.31%	3.06%	3.51%	3.19%	5.66%	2.86%	2.86%	3.56%	3.31%	3.06%	44.34%



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

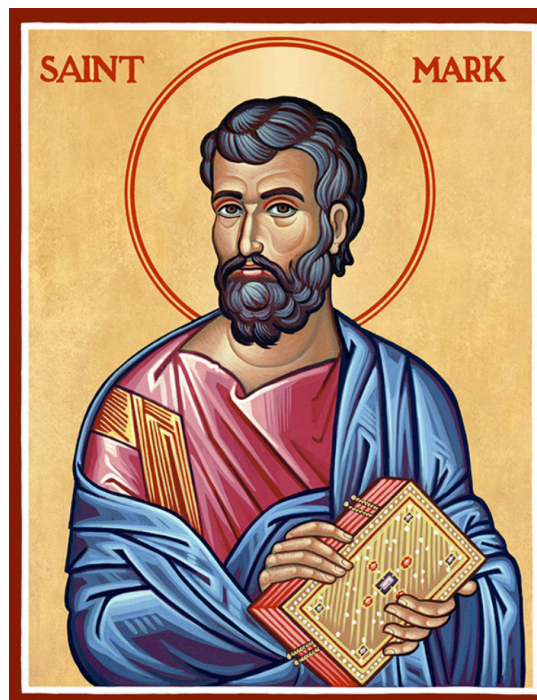
V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne, *Rector*
(570) 906-1388 (cell)
stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

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



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**.

“My hope awaits Thee, Lord. Expecting Thee is the only content and meaning of my tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. The grass expects the dew and is not disappointed. The mountain expects the thunder and is not disappointed. The mole in the ground expects its meal and is not disappointed. Thou dost fulfill the expectations of all beings. I am expecting Thee, and Thou art coming to meet me. With the same haste that I am approaching Thee, Thou art coming toward me. What is tomorrow, children of earth, except your hope. If you eradicate all your hope, your desire to see tomorrow dawn will die.

Do not grumble against heaven because it does not fulfill all your hopes. Grumble against yourselves, because you do not know how to hope. Heaven does not fulfill hopes but hope. The most sublime and steadfast hope heaven always fulfills. Do not grumble against heaven because it does not see the benefits for your family and your factions or enter into your intrigues against one another. Heaven is discerning and merciful. It is discerning for anything good in any faction, and is merciful towards your infirmity, provided that good-will accompanies it.

My hope is not an inkling, but a certainty that Thou wilt come. Thou has promised, and I bear the seal of Thy promise in my soul. If Thou hast not yet come, it is not Thy fault, but mine. Thou art tender and compassionate, and wouldst not wish to make me ashamed of my unpreparedness. Therefore, Thou dost approach slowly, and dost continuously announce Thy coming.

Hopelessness sits idle, but my hope cleans and washes continuously. It airs out and censes the quarters where it will receive Thee. It frets day and night, lest it forget anything whatsoever that might be pleasing to Thee. And it continuously calls upon the angels and the saints, the mystery-seers, to show it how to make its cave like heaven.

My hope has no other partners. I have chased out of myself all other hopes as proven imposters, and now, in their place, there sprouts only one hope, which awaits Thee. When Thou comest, Thou wilt bring me the richest gifts. With Thee, O victorious One, will come light, and health, and strength, and wisdom, and the complete fulfillment of all human expectations from the beginning to the end of time.

In truth, the people with many hopes — hopes that exclude Thee — sit on the mountain and wait for the sun to rise from the west. But I stand facing the east, and I know for certain that the sun will soon be born, for I see the dawn becoming rosy.

Others plant dry rods in the ground and hope for greenery and fruit, but over my field I have sowed living seed, which is turning green and bearing fruit.

My hope in Thee is not a myth, but a certainty — as certain as the fact that the sun must rise from the east, and that good seed, when sown in good soil, must sprout. The field is Thine, and Thou art the Sower and the Seed.
Come, O Lord; my hope awaits Thee!”

—St. Nikolai of Zicha
Prayers by the Lake, Prayer 33



