

**ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)**  
**DIocese OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (DOEPA.ORG)**

452 DURHAM RD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

PHONE: 215-860-9640 • EMAIL: [INFO@STMARKSOCA.ORG](mailto:INFO@STMARKSOCA.ORG)

[WWW.STMARKSOCA.ORG](http://WWW.STMARKSOCA.ORG)

Follow us on Facebook at *St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown,*  
on Twitter *@stmarksoca* and Instagram *@st.marksorthodox*



**Archpriest Raymond Martin Browne, Rector**

Phone: 570-906-1388

**Archpriest Michael Sekela, Attached**

Phone 540 -841-3202

**Protodeacon Gregory Moser, Attached**

215-794-8980

**Choir Directors: Sergei Arhipov, Martha Moser, Daria Cortese,**  
**Church School Director: Jennifer Sremenak**



**SUNDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2017**

**30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone**

**5.** Ven. Paul of Thebes (341) and John Calabytes ("the Hut-dweller"—5th c.). Ven. Pansophius of Alexandria, Martyr (ca. 249-251). Ven. Prochorus, Abbot, in the Vranski desert on the River Pshina in Bulgaria (10th c.). Ven. Gabriel, founder of Lesnovo Monastery in Bulgaria (11th c.)

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:12-16

**Gospel:** Luke 18:18-27

 **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES** 

**Confessions:** Saturdays Following Vespers

*Also by appointment*

**Vespers:** Saturdays at 6pm

**Vigil:** Eve of Feasts at 7pm

**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays at 9:30am

Feast Days at 9:30am

## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

**Sun, Jan 15:** Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am Coffee Hour.  
**Tues, Jan 17:** Mirrors of Truth – 7pm  
**Wed, Jan 18:** Prison Ministry-7pm.  
**Thurs, Jan 19:** Parish Council – 7pm  
**Fri, Jan 20:** Pre-School Church School 12:30pm  
**Sat, Jan 21:** Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.

***Names Day***  
***Maximus***  
***Anthony***

**Annual Parish Meeting:** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. All members of the parish who are registered and in sacramental communion with the Church are expected to attend. The usual agenda items of elections for the following year council, budget for FY2017 along with a report on parish growth and some other items will be presented. Please make every effort to attend.

**Church Cleaning:** The 2017 Cleaning Schedule is in the Vestibule. Please consider taking a week or two or a month. January is covered. Ten months to go!

**Coffee Hour:** We need people to sponsor Sunday Coffee Hour. Please look at the calendar and take a Sunday, on your own or with someone else. The ministry of hospitality is one that reaches beyond the beginning of the Church to the Exodus, where God commands His people to welcome those who come to His

### **Donations:**

In Memory of Constantine and Anna Pachonas, from Patrick and Theresa Bacaris

In Memory of Joseph Horoschak, from son Mark.

**Great Blessing of the Waters:** On Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Greater Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will celebrate the Great Blessing of the Waters at the Schuylkill River on Boathouse Row. The service will begin at 3pm followed by light refreshments. All are invited to join us in this Philadelphia tradition at 1 Boathouse Row on Kelly Drive.

**House Blessings:** All Orthodox Christians should have their homes blessed annually. It is an ancient tradition of our Faith, a rite of renewal and cleansing that welcomes the Holy Spirit in our homes and all they symbolize. Blessing begins on January 6 and will continue until the week before the beginning of Great Lent, this year the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please note that due to diocesan commitments **Fr. Martin will not be available for house blessings the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>**. 14 homes have been blessed, 4 scheduled for this coming week. Speak with Fr. Martin in the next weeks or he will call you.

### **Scrip: Today**

#### **Vigil Lights**

From the Mosers

**For the Health of:** Stephanie, Reader Peter

Fr. John, Alina

**In Memory of:** Dn. John, Veronica, Rebecca, Charles, Stephen.

From Dina

**For the Health of:** Mike, Asya, Nelli, Galina, Galina, Polina, Stella, Lilia and Mikal.

The Blessing of Homes ([https://orthodoxwiki.org/Blessing\\_of\\_homes](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Blessing_of_homes))

This act is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through **Christ's baptism** in the river Jordan and his epiphany to the world.

### **Small churches**

The family is considered, by the Orthodox faith, to be a small church. The family table is the home altar where the members gather each day to receive their daily bread from **God** with thanksgiving in the name of Christ.

### **Sanctification of the home**

The sanctification of the home takes place with **prayer** and the sprinkling of **holy water**. The **priest**, at this annual visit, asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. Everyone of the house, prays together for the living and the dead of the family, and all who live and have lived in the house. They all sing the hymn of salvation and process from room to room while the priest blesses the house.

Traditions of the ceremony differ according to local custom, but these general guidelines should be observed:

A candle with an **icon** and some holy water should be placed in a suitable place, such as kitchen or dining room table, or a **home altar**.

Also, a list of first names for whom prayers are to be offered, including members of the family and all those living in the house. The list should have a clear distinction between the living and the dead.

If it is the practice (this is not necessary) to give the priest a gift, it should not be placed with the holy objects on the table. It can be prepared in advance, but given at the conclusion of the service.

### **The ceremony**

When the priest comes, all who are present in the house should gather around the icon with the candle. They should, if they are able to join in, say the **Trisagion Prayers** and sing of the **Troparion** of the Feast of Epiphany. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle. As he goes, he sprinkles holy water, and prays for a blessing upon each room and the activity that goes on there. When they have gone through the entire house, the family gathers again around the table and the priest blesses each person present, *followed by prayers for the departed.*(ed)