

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)

DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOEPA.ORG)

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

Priest Raymond Martin Browne, Rector

Phone: 570-906-1388

Archpriest Michael Sekela, Attached

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Protodeacon Gregory Moser, Attached

Phone 215-794-8980

Choir Directors: Sergei Arhipov, Martha Moser, Daria Cortese

Church School Director: Jennifer Sremanak



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council. Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the Seven Deacons (1st c.). St.

Theophanes the Confessor and Hymnographer, Bishop of Nicæa (ca. 850). Ven. Theophanes, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Leo of Optina (1841). Synaxis of the Optina elders. Martyrs Zenaïa (Zinaïda) and Philonilla, of Tarsus in Cilicia (1st c.).

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:39-12:9

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Confessions:	Saturdays Following Vespers <i>Also by appointment</i>
Vespers:	Saturdays at 6pm
Vigil	Eve of Feasts at 7pm
Divine Liturgy:	Sundays at 9:30am Feast Days at 9:15am

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

Sunday, October 11:	Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am. Church School. Coffee Hour
Tuesday, October 13:	Education and Outreach Committee Meeting – 7pm
Wednesday, October 14:	Akathist -9:15am. Prison Ministry – 7pm
Thursday, October 15:	Preschool Church School – 12:30pm. Choir Practice -7pm
Saturday, October 17:	Great Vespers and Confessions- 6pm
Sunday, October 18:	Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am; Scrip and Coffee Hour, Church School

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Fr. Michael and Mat. Teresa Sekela – 50th

BIRTHDAY:

Charles Bendas
Martha Moser
Sarah Browne

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Church Cleaning/Grounds Care:

Want to pick a month or other time in 2016? Signup will be posted soon?

Church School: Church School for 3-5 year olds this Thursday, Oct. 15 from 12:30 – 2pm. There will be stories, art activities and singing, as well as a light lunch. Please join us!

Marriage Retreat: A free one-day retreat/conference on Orthodox marriage and family life sponsored by the Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will take place at St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia on Saturday October 24 from 10-3pm. There is no charge. See flyer on the bulletin board upstairs or in the church hall for further information.

Abbot Tryphon Lecture: Thursday, October 22nd at 7pm. Preceded by Small Compline at 6:30pm, followed by reception with light refreshments. Father Tryphon will speak on Engaging the Culture, a topic he is well equipped to speak about from his own experience as an Orthodox priestmonk, emergency services chaplain, internet broadcaster and blogger. You can listen to his daily podcast, The Morning Offering, on ancientfaith.com. It will be an enjoyable and enlightening experience for all. Bring a friend.

Scrip Program: Next Sunday. Thank you to those who participated last Sunday, profit was \$175.43, YTD \$1087.10 Please check the website and the posted flyers on changes in the program designed to make it more accessible for all, and bring greater benefit to our parish. Questions? Call Mat. Heidi at 570-906-1389.

Stewardship:

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.

— John Wesley

Visit: Next Sunday, October 18th, Chris and Jade Woodruff, who are from Life Raft International, will be visiting St. Mark's and speaking to us about the refugees in Thailand who are seeking asylum from religious persecution in Pakistan. The Woodruffs are friends of Melanie Stanek's, Julie Stell's daughter. They will bring us up to date on the current needs there.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: Pasta, sauce, tea, coffee, juice are always welcome. **If you would rather make a monetary donation put it in an envelope with "Food Pantry" and drop in the Question Box. These donations will go towards purchasing Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams for the baskets.**

DRAWING THE NET:

As one cannot rightly enjoy the sunlight, except by opening one's eyes, so neither can one largely share this splendor, unless one has expanded the eye of the soul, and rendered it in every way keen of sight. But how is this effected? Only when we have cleansed the soul from all the passions. For sin is darkness and a deep darkness.

St. John Chrysostom. Homily V on John 1, 4

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The sick and the suffering.

Those persecuted for their faith.

The lost and the lonely.

Those in prison.

The hungry, the homeless, the abused and the abandoned.

The indifferent to those in need.

Those who hate us and those who love us.



From the Perdakis Family:

For the Health of:

Patricia, Jessica, Nikolas, Anthony, Bruce Jr., Rena, Evangelia, Demetrios, Shane, Kathryn, Michele, Arthur Sr., Joseph, Mohamed, Donna, George, Demetra, Angela, Zografia, Raymond, Demetra

In Memory of:

Angelo, Arthur Sr., Evangelia, Spyridon, Anna, Christopher, Ekaterini, Kleo, Zografia, Nikolas, Demetrios

From the Swan Family:

For the Health of

Constance Swan, Katherine Swan, Michael Love, Venus Love, Neville Noel

In Loving Memory of:

Thomas O. Swan Jr. 10-8-10. 5th Year Anniversary



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Biblical Precepts of Proportionate Giving Through Tithes, Offerings and Sacrifices

October 11, 2015

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! The All American Council in Atlanta voted to move to proportional giving in the coming year, previously voted upon in our own Diocese in 2008. As we prepare for this transition, I will prepare bulletin inserts based on the Holy Scripture to help us to better understand the Biblical precepts of Proportionate Giving through Tithes, Offerings and Sacrifices. We will make use of both the writing of the New and Old Covenant. In his Second Letter to Timothy, St. Paul specifically refers to the writings of the Old Covenant, as many of the Books of the New Covenant had not yet been written and the ones that were, were not yet regarded as on the same level as the Scripture of the Old Covenant. Let us open our ears to hear what the Lord teaches through the Holy Scriptures and set aside our preconceived ideas. Let us remember the word of the Lord, spoken through Isaiah, the Prophet, ⁸*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9).*

Creation from Nothing, All belongs to the Lord: When we read the Book of Genesis, we are told the Lord created the Heavens and the earth and all it contains. The Hebrew verb for create used in Genesis specifically refers to *creatio ex nihilo*, i.e., God created out of nothing. This theme is also repeated in numerous passages of the New Covenant, such as **Colossians 1**. Thus we acknowledge that *all we have* comes from the Lord. He is the source of *all* things. It ALL belongs to Him. Think of the words said at the graveside of our loved ones, *The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein (Psalm 24:1)*. This psalm tells us, not only that which we accumulate during our lives or make use of is the Lord's, but we ourselves belong to Him.

Only Man is not created from nothing: Man is unique The only part of creation not created *ex nihilo*, is mankind, as indicated in **Genesis 2**. Not only is mankind, not created *ex nihilo*, but Genesis, portrays God's intimate involvement in the creation of mankind, like a potter molding clay. Additionally, only mankind has the Lord breathing the breath of life into him. Mankind, holds a unique position in God's creation as he is created in the image and likeness of God and given dominion over creation, This same theme is repeated in Psalm. 8.

Scripture as a Source for Teaching.

¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and^[a] profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work **2 Tim. 3: 10ff.**

God the Creator from Nothing

¹⁶*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. Colossians 1:16-17*

Man as Unique Creation of God

²*Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Genesis 2:7*

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established;⁴ what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?⁵

Thus mankind occupies an *exceptional* place in the Lord's creation, one of dominion, which entails responsibility and stewardship. Mankind does not *own* creation or even *his self*, but he is entrusted with their care during his brief sojourn in this life. As we will see as we continue our studies, mankind's *unique* place in creation as well as being in the Divine Image and Likeness is a *distinctive* gift that comes with responsibilities. Mankind was given dominion over creation to fulfill a *priestly role* and one of *stewardship* in caring for God's creation. The Lord blessed mankind with, his very life, his gifts, his talents, abilities, good weather, fertile land, a bountiful harvest, multiplication of cattle, sheep and goats, etc., and as an expression of mankind's *gratitude* and means of Communion, in his priestly capacity he *offers back to God the very best of what the Lord blessed and gave to him. Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee in behalf of all and for all. There is nothing we can offer to God that is not already his, other than our free will and obedience.*

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Bp Mark

**Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern
Pennsylvania**

*Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. ⁶ Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet,⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the sea. **Psalm 8: 3-8***

26**Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27**God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28**God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29**Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; **30**and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so **Gen. 1:26ff.