

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)
DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOEPA.ORG)

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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 8TH, 2017
29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone
4. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday
after Theophany. Ven. George the
Chozebite, Abbot (6th c.). Ven. Domnica of
Constantinople (474). St. Emilian the
Confessor, Bishop of Cyzicus (9th c.). Ven.
Gregory, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves
(Near Caves—1093).

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-17

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 8: Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am Coffee Hour.
Wed, Jan 11: Akathist -9:15am. Prison Ministry-7pm.
Sat, Jan 14: Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.

Birthdays

Sam Regen
Nicholas Bendas

Wedding Anniversary

Protodeacon Gregory & Martha Moser

Annual Parish Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th 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.

Calendars: 2017 Calendars are available in the Vestibule, one per family. Please take only one until we are sure all families have gotten one. If there are extras for any reason in a couple of weeks, you may take another.

Church Cleaning: The 2017 Cleaning Schedule is in the Vestibule. Please consider taking a week or two or a month. January is covered. Eleven 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.

Envelopes: 2017 Envelopes can be picked up in the Vestibule. If you don't have envelopes would like to use them for your weekly contributions, there are blank sets. Please take one and write your name and the envelope number on the legal pad next to the envelopes so that the Treasurer can accurately record donations.

Great Blessing of the Waters: On Sunday January 22nd, 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 20th. Please note that due to diocesan commitments **Fr. Martin will not be available for house blessings the week of January 22nd to the 29th.** Some have already scheduled. Speak with Fr. Martin in the next weeks or he will call you.

80th Novogodny Ball will take place on Sunday 1/15/17 for the benefit of St. Tikhon's Summer Youth Camp & other deserving charities. For info & reservations call Paul Fedoronko at 610-328-6911 or email novogodnyball@verizon.net

Scrip: First Scrip of 2017 next Sunday, January 15th!

Vigil Lights

From the Ristveys

For the Health of: George, Margaret, Stephanie, Andrew, Margaret, Lorelly

From Nicoleta Vatov

For the Health of: Maria, Krastyo, Tzvetomir, Martin, Matthew, Michael, Nicoleta

In Memory of: Tzvetanka, Kiril, Nicolay, Nikolina, Vurban, Dmitur

From the Perdakis Family

For the Health of: Evangelia, Kathryn, Shane, John, Amy, Pearse, Mohamed, Jennifer
Demetrios, George, Panayiotis, Demetra, Angela, Gregory, Angela

In Memory of: Colleen, Angelo, Evangelia, Arthur, Kleo, Zografia, Ekaterini, Demetrios
Nikolas, Christopher, Anna, Spyridon, Panayiotis

The 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)