

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

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



SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 2017

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone

1. Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.).
Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod,
disciple of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh (1406). Ven.
John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558).
Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria
(606).

Epistle: Ephesians 5:5-19

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, except Sundays when at 6pm.

Divine Liturgy: Sundays at 9:30am
Feast Days at 9:30am

UPCOMING SERVICES AND
EVENTS:

Sun, Dec 3:

Hours and Divine Liturgy –
9:10am. Coffee Hour.
Church School.

Tues, Dec 5:

Wed, Dec 6:

Sat, Dec 9:

Great Vespers – 7pm.
Hours and Divine Liturgy
9:10am. Prison Ministry-
7:30pm
Christmas Food Sale -9am-
2pm. Great Vespers and
Confessions – 6pm.

Nativity Fast: It is one of the four fasting periods of the Church Year, no less important than any other. **It is a time of sober preparation for the Feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.** Are we becoming prepared to properly appreciate the immense Gift we have been given? Have we considered how prepared we are to receive Christ when he comes again, at the moment of our death and at the Second and Glorious Coming? **Prayer**, the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours each day? 6am, 9am, Noon, 3pm or as close as possible or in combination; **Fasting**, eating less and abstaining from meat and dairy; **Almsgiving**, rather than an orgy of spending, giving sacrificially to those in need –see Worthy Causes below. **Let us together keep the fast so that we may truly celebrate the Feast.** **Please make coming to Confession a priority in preparation for the Nativity. See schedule or call Father Martin for an appointment.**

Christmas Food Sale: Help is needed for December 8th for cooking and cleanup. Help is also needed for the sale day, starting at 6am with packing of orders. The sale runs from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, December 9th. If you are willing to help, please contact Jeanette Ruano. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this vital part of our parish life.

Nativity Fast Church Cleanup: As many as are able to join us in giving the church a thorough cleaning and “spruce up” in anticipation of the Feast are invited to join us on Saturday, December 16th at 9am. We have a list of priorities which can all be accomplished if we have sufficient help. Men are needed to help with tasks in the Altar and Sacristy. Speak with Fr. Martin if you can help for any part of the morning.

Worthy Causes

This time of year we get many requests for charitable assistance. We cannot respond to them all as a community, but members of our parish may desire to donate to charitable organizations as part of their Nativity Fast and Nativity Feast.

- Locally we have received requests from Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need. P.O. Box 184, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. We have in the past donated to them as a parish and they have recently lost one of their major financial supporters. Information is posted on the bulletin board in the Vestibule.
- We have also received a request from Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 1597, New York, New York 10025. Information on the scope of their ministry is also posted on the vestibule bulletin board.

Church Etiquette

Remain for the prayer, however, and do not leave the church until you are dismissed. Remember Judas, the traitor. Not remaining in prayer with all the others was the beginning of his downfall and destruction. Anonymous 5th-6th Century

Scrip: Profit \$60.48, YTD \$1051.68. Thank you for your participation.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: At its recent meeting the Food Cupboard asked St. Mark's to collect the following: Christmas Basket prep Saturday December 16, 135 Baskets

Coffee, tea, juice, baby food, tuna and canned meat, desserts (brownie mixes, cake mix, frosting, pie and pie crust mixes).

Names Day

Barbara Malriat
John Yates

Ordination Anniversary

Fr. Martin

Wedding Anniversary

John and Carole Wanko

Vigil Lights

From Jeanette Ruano

In Memory of: Brian “Mik” Kurczeski

Please remember in your prayers

Living: *Captive Hierarchs Paul and John, orphans of St. Thekla's, Pdn. Joseph, Priest John, Mats. Myra, Elena, Laryssa, Mary, Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Anthony, Sergei, Michael, Tatyana, Vera, Anna, Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Anita, Carmen, Nathan, and for Gillian, Maura and Marina and the children they are bearing.*

Departed: *Mitred Archbishop Michael, Protodeacon Keith, Ide Trevellis, Archbishop Stephen, Archbishop Vladimir*

Words from St. Nikolai of Zhica on Love, Humility and Self-Love for consideration as we prepare to make our Advent Confession.

Men are powerless in themselves
Love for God fills them with power.
Men are proud in themselves;
Love for mankind fills them with humility.
Love for man comes from love for God.
Humility comes from a sense of divine power.

But men have chosen a third thing...self love

And this is a barrier that separates them from God and from men
Leaving them
Completely
Isolated.

Loving only himself

A man loves neither God nor his fellow-men
He does not even love the man that is in himself;
He loves only his thoughts about himself.
Were he to love the man in himself,
He would at the same time love God's image in him,
And would quickly become a lover of God and man,
For he would be seeking man and God in other men, as objects of his love.

Self-love is not love,

But is rejection of God and contempt for men.

Self-love is not love but sickness,

A serious illness that inevitably brings other illnesses in its train.
Self love produces the fire of envy and anger in the whole body.

A man full of self-love is full of *envy*

Of those who are better than he is

Or richer

Or more learned

Or more respected by men

With envy there always goes anger, like flame with fire

A concealed anger that flares at times and,

In so doing reveals all the ugliness of the man's sick heart

That has been poisoned with the poison of self-love.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich. *Homily for the Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.* **Homilies.** Lazarica Press, 1998. 277-78.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 17 – 1pm. Christmas Carols at The Birches, Newtown

Friday, December 22 – 9am, Royal Hours of Nativity with Typica. Followed by Confessions. ALSO Confessions 6pm-8pm

Saturday, December 23 – Great Vespers and Confessions -6pm.

Sunday, December 24 – Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am

Service at Doylestown Rehab – 2:30pm

Holy Supper – 5:30pm

Vigil for the Nativity -7pm

Monday, December 25 – Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Flesh Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am

Tuesday, December 26 – Synaxis of the Theotokos – Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am