

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

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Church School Director: Jennifer Sremenak



SUNDAY MARCH 5TH, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Martyr Conon of Isauria (1st c.). Finding of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Theodore, Prince of Smolensk and Yaroslavl', and his children Ss. David and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavl'

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

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, Mar 5: Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am; Coffee Hour. Sunday of Orthodoxy Service -4pm. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Wilmington, DE.

Wed, Mar 8: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 9:15am; Prison Ministry-7pm

Thurs, Mar 9: Diocesan Council Meeting 10am-4pm

Fri, Mar 10: Liturgy of PreSanctified Gifts -9:15am. Preschool Church School-12:30pm; Zach Borichevsky Recital in Doylestown, 8pm.

Sat, Mar 11:

Vespers and Confessions -6pm.

Sun, Mar 12:

Daylight Savings begins! Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am, Coffee Hour. Mission Service Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Pottstown.

Birthdays

John Wanko

Kevin Swan

Mihaela Milosav

Buddy Rybny

Jennifer Sremenak

Charlotte Regen

Appeal for Fr. John Nightingale: Attached to today's bulletin is a letter from Archbishop Mark giving an update on donations to assist Fr. John Nightingale, a priest of our diocese, who suffered a spinal injury last Lent.

Please take the time to read the letter and consider making a donation to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania for Fr. John. You may mail them directly to the diocese at the address on the letter or submit them through us.

Please make checks payable to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, **not St. Mark's. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Church Cleaning: The 2017 Cleaning Schedule is in the Vestibule. **Please consider taking a week or two or a month.** No one has signed up for March or April. Could you consider taking a week? We have a lot of traffic during Lent, we need help keeping the building decently and in good order. Consider it a Lenten act of almsgiving, a tithe of your time or talent.

Coffee Hour: We need people to sponsor Sunday Coffee Hour.. St. Benedict of Nursia says the following about The Reception of Guests: *"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed Me (Mt 25:35). Proper honor must be shown to all, especially to those who share our faith (Gal. 6:10) and to pilgrims."* RB53:1,2.

Colonial District, F.O.C.A Religious Education Day: All welcome to St. Vladimir Orthodox Church 812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610. Registration at 11, Presentation 12-2pm followed by Lenten Meal. Speaker Fr. Martin Browne on Repentance: A Positive Approach. Free Will Offering.

Food Sale: Order forms are available in the vestibule, if you did not receive one by email. Please note the March 17th deadline!

Scrip: Due to the schedule of Forgiveness Sunday and the attendance, we will do Scrip today!

Together We Rise: This Lenten season, our church school students will participate in a service project to benefit local children in foster care. We are teaming up with an organization called *Together We Rise* to provide duffel bags to children in foster care who would otherwise carry their belongings from house to house in a garbage bag.

Each duffel bag costs \$25 and will come with a stuffed animal, some school supplies, and personal hygiene items. The duffel bags that we purchase will then ship directly to us, and the children are invited to join our celebratory event on Bright Monday where they will attend Divine Liturgy, then decorate the duffel bags during a pizza party.

Our fundraising will go from now until Sunday, March 26. On Sunday, March 19 the church school children will host a coffee hour to raise funds from parishioners in St. Mark's for this worthy cause.

All checks can be made out to St. Mark's, please write *Together We Rise* on the memo line. We will also have an online website where donations can be made.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: St. Mark's is asked to contribute the following for the Easter Baskets, 140 of which will be packed on April 8th: **Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Baby Food, Coffee/Tea – 35 units, Jellybeans – 35 units.**

Lenten Schedule

Second Week to Holy Week- Presanctified at 9am on Wednesday

And 7pm on Friday, except Friday March 10, when it will be at 9am.

Vesper Mission Services: Sundays at 4pm

MARCH 5: First Sunday of Great Lent, Orthodoxy Sunday, at SS Peter and Paul Ukrainian, DE with Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese, presiding and homilist.....4:00 pm

MARCH 12: Second Sunday of Great Lent, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Pottstown (Daylight Savings Time Begins) 4:00pm. Fr. Martin Browne, Homilist.

MARCH 19: Third Sunday of Great Lent, Holy Cross Sunday, at SS Peter and Paul Albanian. NE Philadelphia, at.....4:00 pm

MARCH 26: Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, St. John Climacos Sunday, at St. Mark OCA Church, Bucks County, Wrightstown, PA, at.....4:00 pm. Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Homilist.

APRIL 2: Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, at St. Herman OCA Church, Gradyville, PA at4:00 pm

Fifth Week -

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - Thursday, March 30 - 7pm.

Memorial Saturdays:

Saturday March 11 - Panikhida 9am

Saturday March 18 - Hours and Divine Liturgy 9:10am, followed by Lunch and Parish Lenten Retreat
Repentance: A Positive Approach given by Fr. Martin Noon to 3pm

Confessions:

Throughout Lent at the *usual times on Saturdays, after Vespers*

Also before scheduled Lenten Services - please come early enough if you choose confess at the time. Father is at church one hour before the scheduled time for the service.

By appointment- speak with Fr. Martin directly or make an appointment via email, text or phone call.

PLEASE !

MAKE A POINT OF COMING TO CONFESSION DURING GREAT LENT - PREPARED.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL HOLY WEEK TO DO SO.

Lenten Discipline:

The Church prescribes a discipline of intensified prayer, fasting and almsgiving as the way through Great Lent. Notice that fasting is only one of the pillars of Lent, and according to the Gospel of Meatfare Sunday, not the most important one.

Make your resolutions for Lent positive and achievable. Add to your daily prayer rule a prayer or series of prayers.

Read the Scriptures, slowly and attentively. Use the calendar to guide you. **Follow the fasting discipline as you are best able to do so.** Remember fasting is not only about not eating certain foods, but about eating less. Eat good food rather than junk food. Fast from sounds and images that stir up passions and plant unhealthy seeds in our memory. (Not just TV, movies or music, but especially gossip, criticism of others, judgment)

Give alms - give of your time and your talent and your treasure. Give to our parish community but also to the community where you live. Find ways to serve, without expectation or reward. Do it because it is needed and Christ asks us to.