

**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 Sremanak**



**SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2017**

**12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Ven. Pøemen the Great (ca. 450).** Hieromartyr Kuksha and Ven. Pimen (Pøemen), of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). St. Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Cordova (359). St. Liberius, Pope of Rome (366). Ven. Pøemen of Palestine (ca. 602). Martyr Anthusa. Ven. Sabbas of Benephali. St. Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles (543).

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 19:16-26

**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 9:30a

**UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:**

**Sun, Aug 27:** Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am; Coffee Hour.  
**Mon, Aug 28:** Great Vespers for Beheading of St. John the Forerunner -7pm.  
**Tues, Aug 29:** Hours and Divine Liturgy for Feast of Beheading – 9:10am. Mirrors of Truth – 7pm.  
**Wed, Aug 30:** Moleben for New Church Year – 9:15am followed by discussion of On Prayer.  
**Thurs, Aug 31:** Parish Council Meeting – 7pm.  
**Sat, Sept. 2:** Great Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.

**Beheading of the Forerunner:** As noted in the schedule, Tuesday is the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner. It is a strict Fast Day and it is an Orthodox custom not to eat from plates or platters that day, but rather from bowls. It is a Feast Day since it marks the fulfillment of the mission of St. John to go before the Lord to announce His Coming, even to the dead. Please join us for the services of the feast on either Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

**Church Cleaning:** Thank you to those who have volunteered. Additional assistance is always welcome.

**Church New Year:** September 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the a New Church Year. Unlike Western Christians who begin their Church Year on the First Sunday of Advent, the Eastern Church continues to follow the custom of the Roman-Byzantine Empire. Within the first two weeks we celebrate two of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church Year, the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8 and the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14. This calendar reminds us of a time when civil and ecclesiastical time were kept in synchronicity. It is also a reminder to us that we no longer live in such a society. Civil time is measured apart from the time of salvation history, which is another way of saying God's time. No doubt, this creates challenges for all of us. But rather than look on this as something quaint, or a detail we can ignore, this annual event poses a serious question to each of us: whose time are we on? God's or the world's? Does the church "interrupt" our daily schedule of civil expectations or do those "interrupt" our daily schedule formed according to God's perspective? It need not be an either/or. God became human so we might become God. It is a matter of integration, of separating wheat from the chaff, and so much of our daily lives is chaff, or as a famous song of our youth put it, "dust in the wind." We have no problem recognizing this when celebrities or secular experts in psychology or "time management" or other religious traditions point this out. Why not begin this new year with a fresh perspective on our own Sacred Tradition – What if it is true? What difference should that make in my life, daily, here and now? A Blessed Church New Year to you all. May we end it wiser and holier than we begin it!

**Coffee Hour: Sponsors?**

**Mirrors of Truth:** Monthly meeting of this discussion group on the intersection of Orthodox Christian Faith and the scientific world view resumes on Tuesday evening at 7pm. This will focus on the role of the imagination. Imaginative and unimaginative people alike are invited to join us.

**Scrip:** Profit \$89.07, YTD\$770.77 . Thank you for your participation. Next opportunity to participate, next Sunday!

**Women's Retreat:** At St. Tikhon's Monastery on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Religious Education. Mat. Valerie Zahirsky will speak on the topic of "Sisters on a Journey: Saints Lives and Our Lives." Registration forms available in the vestibule and on the bulletin boards by the Candle Stand and in the Hall.

**Wrightstown Food Cupboard:** Thank you to those who have been so generously contributing to our collection. Please keep up the good work and if you haven't joined those who regularly donate, please do. The need is great and there is never enough. If we need to make weekly deliveries, we will do so. Please make it a necessity.

**Birthdays**

Mat. Heidi Browne  
Nancy Letzo  
Irene Crosby

**Vigil Lights**

*From Tatyana*

For the Health of: Michael,