

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 Sremenak

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2016

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday
before Elevation. Ven. Theodora of Alexandria (474-
491). Translation of the Relics of

Ven. Sergius and Herman,
Wonderworkers of Valaam. St.
Euphrosynus the Cook, of
Alexandria (9th c.).

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-16; 1
Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: John 3: 13-17; Matthew
19: 16-26

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, Sept. 11:** Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am. Coffee Hour. Beginning of Church School.
Mon, Sept. 12: Orthodoxy in the Public Square – 7pm.
Tues, Sept. 13: Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross – 7pm
Wed, Sept. 14: Hours and Divine Liturgy for Exaltation of the Cross- 9:10am. Prison Ministry –
7pm.
Fri, Sept. 16: Preschool Church School – 12:30pm – 2pm.
Sat, Sept. 17: Great Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.

Church Cleaning: We are in need of cleaners for September due to unforeseen circumstances. If you can help, please put your name on the signup sheet in the Vestibule.

Church School: The first day of Church School is today! We will have two classes on Sundays. Parents interested in registering should speak with Jennifer Sremenak or Fr. Martin. We will have the Pre School Church School again this year meeting on Fridays, except for the first Friday of the month. First Preschool Church School is next Friday.

Congratulations and Many Years to newly weds Dmitri and Rebecca Freeman Sosedov who were married here last Sunday. Rebecca was also chrismated into the Orthodox Church on the prior Thursday.

Coffee Hour: Thank you to those who have volunteered throughout the summer to provide the coffee hour. **We are in need of volunteers again. Please look at the calendar in the church hall and sign up for a Sunday.**

Holy Myrrh bearers Sisterhood Meeting: Sunday September 18 at noon. All members and interested women of the parish are invited to attend. Discussion of the fall calendar and other items.

Mirrors of Truth: We will meet again on Tuesday September 27th, at 7pm.

Orthodoxy in the Public Square: We will resume our monthly meetings on September 12 at 7pm. We will begin a review of Orthodox Christian understanding of human gender and the implications of that for our lives in the public square.

Parish Development Committee: Will resume meeting with a full committee meeting next Monday, September 19th, at 7pm. We intend to review building documentation as well as discuss improving the furnishings in the Holy Altar. We need to replace altar server vestments, acquire some altar coverings, re-gild the Gospel Book, fans and cross, along with other items. These initiatives have already been approved by the Parish Council. As recent attendance indicates, we need to focus on having sufficient space for the congregation we already have, and the one we will have with continued growth. Each month brings new families. Last Sunday's attendance was 50 adults and 22 children. This is a wonderful blessing and, as such, a challenge and promise. What will be our response?

Read the Bible in One Year: The **ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE** has a one year reading plan. If you are interested in joining Fr. Martin in doing so, ask for a copy of the reading plan or find it online at <https://michaelhyatt.com/myresources/osb-bible-reading-plan.pdf>

Schedule Changes: This past week it was necessary to change the Festal Schedule due to an unforeseen event. Emails were sent to all those we have email addresses for and an announcement was posted on Facebook. Unfortunately, some did not receive notice. I apologize for the confusion. Please give us an email address if we do not have one, and if you are on Facebook and have not friended the church page, please do so.



Scrip: Thank you to all who participated. Profit \$23.02. YTD \$949.22.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: Needs include pasta, tea, coffee, peanut butter, juices. **Please help!**

Birthdays

Christopher Sremenak

Names Day

Lucy Ludmila Znak

VIGIL LIGHTS

From the Ristveys

For the Health of: George and Margaret

From the Arhipovs

For the Health of: Sergei, Stephanie

In Memory of: Ivan, Maria, Maria, Anna, Dimitri, Katherine

From a Friend

For the Health of: Martha

The Old Testament - Continued

Deuteronomy.

The basic theme of Deuteronomy which means Second Law, is the renewal of the Covenant. At the end of the book of Numbers, Israel is encamped in the Plains of Moab, preparing for an attack upon Canaan from the East. Deuteronomy is essentially Moses' farewell address to the people in which he rehearses the mighty acts of the Lord, solemnly warns of the temptations of the new ways of Canaan, and pleads for loyalty to and love of God as the condition for life in the Promised Land. A distinctive teaching of Deuteronomy is that the worship of the Lord is to be centralized in one place, so that the paganism of the local shrines may be eliminated.

This book can be divided into four parts: 1) God's care for Israel from Sinai to Moab (Ch. 1-4); 2) The Covenant Proof of God's love (Ch. 5-11); 3) Moses' explanation of the Law (Ch. 12-26); and 4) Moses' last words and death (Ch. 27-34).

Joshua.

The book of Joshua is the story of the Conquest of the Promised Land. The story opens with the passage of the Jordan River and the sack of Jericho (Ch. 1-6); it then tells how the Hebrew armies moved from the Jordan Valley up into the highlands to conquer Ai (Ch. 7-8) and, through a humorous deception, to become unwilling allies of the Gibeonites (Ch. 9). This led to a great battle with the chieftains of five other Canaanite cities and the conquest of the South (Ch. 10). A final engagement in the North resulted in the complete destruction of Canaanite power in Palestine (Ch. 11). Following a brief summary of Joshua's triumphs (Ch. 12), the book describes the division of the land among the several tribes (Ch. 13-23) and how Israel entered into a Covenant to serve forever the God Whose might had been so awesomely demonstrated (Ch. 24).

Judges.

Despite the initial conquest of Palestine, the process of subjugation continued and, in fact,

some parts of the country were never conquered. Heroes (Judges) rose up amongst the people in times of crisis, and this book is primarily an account of their exploits.

The book opens with an account of the conquest of Canaan which is roughly parallel to that in the book of Joshua (Ch. 1-2:5); then follows the main body of the book, which, after a moralizing introduction (Ch. 2:6-3:6), relates the adventures of the individual Judges: Othniel (Ch. 3:7-11), Ehud (Ch. 3:12-30), Shamgar (Ch. 3:31), Deborah (Ch. 4-5), Gideon (Ch. 6-8) and his infamous son, Abimelech (Ch. 9), two minor Judges (Ch. 10:1-5); Jephthah (Ch. 10:6-12:7), three more minor Judges (Ch. 12:8-15) and Samson (Ch. 13-16). The book concludes with an appendix containing tales about the migration of the Tribe of Dan (Ch. 17-18) and the sins of the Benjaminites (Ch. 19-21). In all this, one clear lesson stands out: Loyalty to God is the first requisite for national success and disloyalty a guarantee of disaster.

Ruth.

The book of Ruth speaks of the marriage of Ruth (a Moabitess a foreigner) to a Hebrew man and how, on his death, she chose to return to Judah with her mother-in-law, Naomi, to share the fortunes of her husband's people, rather than remain in the security of her native land (Ch. 1). There, her loyalty and kindness won her the love of Boaz (Ch. 2-4:12), and, through her marriage to him, she became the great-grandmother of David the King (Ch. 4:13-22).

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