

**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**

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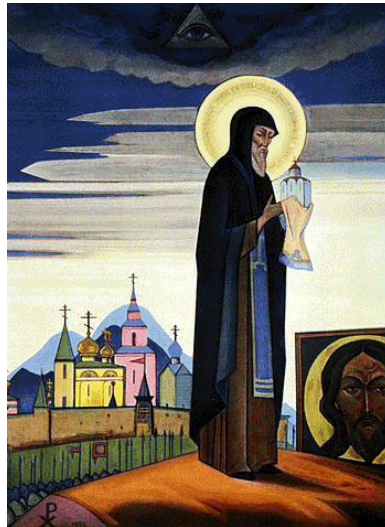
**Archpriest Michael Sekela, Attached**

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



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2016**

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.

Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii), Abbot and  
Wonderworker of Rádonezh (1392). Ven.

Euphrosyne of Alexandria (5th c.). Ven. Euphrosyne  
of Suzdal' (1250). Translation of the Relics of St.

Herman, Archbishop of Kazan' (1595). Martyr  
Paphnutius and 546 companions in Egypt (3rd c.).

**Epistle:** Galatians 5:22-6:2; 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23; Luke 5:1-11

**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. 25:** Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:10am. Litya for Archpriest Paul & Khouria Shirley Schnierla; Coffee Hour. Church School.
- Tues, Sept. 27:** Mirrors of Truth – 7pm.
- Wed, Sept. 28:** Akathist – 9:15am; Prison Ministry – 7pm.
- Fri, Sept. 30:** Preschool Church School – 12:30pm – 2pm.
- Sat, October 1:** Great Vespers and Confessions – 6pm.

**Names Day**  
*Sergei Arhipov*

**Church Cleaning:** Calendar for next year will soon be out. Consider signing up for a week or two or a month.

**Church School: Will meet from Noon to 12:30pm.**

**Coffee Hour: The Sisterhood has decided to sponsor the first Sunday of the month as a potluck, that leaves three Sundays a month for others to pick from.**

**Mirrors of Truth:** We will meet again on Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.

**Parish Development Committee:** Five parishioners attended the meeting to hear a preliminary report on possible options for meeting our increasing need for more space. A final report should be presented soon, at which time another meeting will be called to discuss/consider concrete options to pursue in both the immediate and longer future.

In the meantime the members heard about our initiative to improve the quality of the sacred objects and vestments for the altar. We are waiting for a quote for re-gilding of the fans, cross and gospel book. Additionally we will be ordering new vestments for our altar servers. Donations have already been made for the vestments, though more will be necessary. And as soon as St. Tikhon's press publishes them, we will have new copies of the Liturgy Book to replace the ones we have which are disintegrating. The new books will include the texts for the St. Basil and Presanctified Liturgy as well as St. John Chrysostom.

Finally, this past week saw the completion of a new set of steps and walkway for the rectory. The previous entrance was structurally unsound and dangerous, especially during rain or snow.

**Script: Thank you to all who participated. Profit \$87.75. YTD \$1030.97.**

**Sister Vassa:** Thursday October 20 at 7pm Sister Vassa (Larin) an Orthodox nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, born and raised in New York though currently resident in Vienna, Austria, will offer a lecture at St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) on the topic of "Keeping Christ in Orthodoxy." She has a multifaceted teaching ministry, including her well known and highly recommended "Coffee with Sister Vassa" videos on saints, Christian living, liturgy, prayer and everything in between. This event is co-sponsored by St. Mark's and is the final lecture in our diocese that week. All are strongly encouraged to attend. If you are in need of transport, the sisterhood is helping with transport for those in need of a ride.

**Wrightstown Food Cupboard:** Needs include pasta, tea, coffee, peanut butter, juices. Canned vegetables are especially needed at this time. **Please help!**

## VIGIL LIGHTS

### From Dina Londar

*For the Health of:* Lilia and  
Micah



### From the Perdikis Family

*For the Health of:* Evangelia,  
Shane, Kathryn, Demetrios,  
Patricia, Donna, Mohammed, John, Colleen,  
Patrick, Mohamed, Donna, Tom, Debra,  
Olivia, Samantha, Jessica, Arthur, Joel, George,  
Demetra, Raymond, Zografia, Demetra, George,  
Evanathia, John, Angela, George

*In Memory of:* Angelo, Arthur, Evangelia,  
Ekaterinie, Christopher, Spryridon, Anna, Kleo,  
Nikolas, Demetrios, Zografia

## The Old Testament Continued

### **First and Second Samuel.**

The two books of the Samuel (1st and 2nd Kings in the Orthodox Bible) are concerned primarily with the history of Israel during the times of the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David. Originally one unified work, Samuel was early divided into two parts (1st and 2nd Samuel).

The books can be divided as follows: 1) The last Judges, Eli and Samuel, and the Philistine oppression (1 Sam. 1-7); 2) Samuel and Saul, the institution of the Monarchy, and Saul's rejection (1 Sam. 8-15); 3) Saul and David; David befriended at first by Saul, but later persecuted (1 Sam. 16-31); 4) David, King over Judah after the death of Saul (2 Sam. 1-4); 5) David, King over all Israel and nearby conquered nations (2 Sam. 5-20); and 6) Appendices (2 Sam. 21-24).

The theme of this work is the institution of the Israelite Monarchy and its perpetuity in the dynasty of David, from which one day will be born the Messiah. The last days of Eli are described because they introduce Samuel. Samuel is described because he institutes the Monarchy in Israel. Saul is described because he demonstrates for all time what the Israelite King must not be. David is described because like him and from him will come the desire of the everlasting hills the Messiah.

### **First and Second Kings.**

Like the two books of Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings (in the Orthodox Bibles, 3rd and 4th Kings) were originally one. First Kings begins with the enthronement of Solomon and the death of David (Ch. 1-2) and recounts the history of Solomon's reign (Ch. 3-11). It then continues with the history of the Kings of the Divided Monarchy (Southern Kingdom of Judah, with its capital at Jerusalem, and the Northern Kingdom of Israel, with its capital at Samaria) through the reigns of Ahab of Israel and Jehoshaphat of Judah (Ch. 12-22). Here also we encounter the dramatic story of Elijah the Prophet (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2).

Second Kings continues the story of the Hebrew Monarchies. Chapters 1-17 describe the period from the reigns of Ahaziah of Israel

and Jehoshaphat of Judah until the Fall of Samaria and the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria in 721 B.C. Included here are the stories of the Prophet Elisha, heir to Elijah. Chapters 18-25 continue the history of the Kingdom of Judah from the Fall of Samaria until the Fall of the Kingdom and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587 B.C., with the subsequent Deportation to Babylon.

The purpose of the two books of Kings is to show the causes of the Fall of the Kingdom. The catastrophes of 721 (Fall of Samaria) and 587 (Fall of Jerusalem) are seen as a just punishment for the failure of the majority of the Kings of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms to practice monotheism and observe the unity of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem as demanded by the Law. Israel, not God, had been unfaithful to the Sinai Covenant. If Israel is to resume her God-given mission, she must repent and leave the future to God's unswerving faithfulness and to His steadfast love.

### **First and Second Chronicles.**

First and Second Chronicles (1st and 2nd Paralipomenen in the Orthodox Bibles) were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible and can be seen as part of a larger history including the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. These books are a theological history of the dynasty of David and of the Temple until the Fall of Jerusalem. The purpose of these books were to focus attention on Israel's hope the dynasty of David, and on Israel's glory the Temple of the True God on earth, in Jerusalem.

These books can be divided into four basic parts: 1) (1 Chr. 1-9) a summary of Israel's history from Adam to David, presented by a series of genealogies; 2) (1 Chr. 10-29) David as a great Monarch and the Founder of the Temple and its ritual; 3) (2 Chr. 1-9) King Solomon and the building of the Temple; and 4) (2 Chr. 10-36) the history of the Davidic Kings and their association with the Temple.