

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (DOEPA.ORG)



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SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2013

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. Forefeast of the Annunciation. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemius (Artemon), Bishop of Seleucia (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan' (1552). St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th-9th c.).

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

Gospel: John 1:43-51



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:



Confessions:

Following Vespers on Saturdays
Also by appointment

**Vespers:
Vigil**

Saturdays at 6pm
Eve of the Feasts at 7pm

Divine Liturgy:

Sundays at 9:30am
Feast Days at 9am

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- Sun, Mar 24: Sunday of Orthodoxy.** Hours – 9:10am, Divine Liturgy – 9:30am, Easter Bake Sale – 11am (*approximately*), Pysanky Egg Sale - 12pm-3pm, Deanery Lenten Mission Service with His Grace, Bishop Mark at St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia – 4pm
- Mon, Mar 25: Annunciation.** Vespertal Divine Liturgy – 7pm
- Tue, Mar 26: *Becoming Sane*:** Adult Education. The Meaning of Great Lent. – 10am. No Thursday class due to Parish Council meeting.
- Wed, Mar 27:** Presanctified Liturgy – 7pm – *For those communing. Fast from Noon. Starting Apr 3, at 9:15am.*
- Thu, Mar 28:** Parish Council Meeting – 7:15pm
- Fri, Mar 29:** Presanctified Liturgy – 7pm – *For those communing. Fast from Noon.*
- Sat, Mar 30: Memorial Saturday.** Hours, Divine Liturgy for the Departed – 9am, Great Vespers and Confessions – 6pm
- Sun, Mar 31: St. Gregory Palamas.** Hours – 9:10am, Divine Liturgy – 9:30am, **Parish Health Inventory Session with Parish Council and all those interested in Parish Renewal – 12pm**, Deanery Lenten Mission Service at Holy Trinity Romanian Church, Philadelphia – 4pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Celebrations: All parishioners are strongly encouraged to submit their birthdays and name's days so we can celebrate throughout the year. Let us do this in obedience to Apostle Paul who reminds us to rejoice with those who rejoice as well as weep with those who weep and that we are members of one another. The Church is God's Family, we are part of God's Family, really and truly. Let's live like in this small way.

Cleanup: Liberty Tree Service came and took care of much of what was left from Hurricane Sandy in October. This is a huge project which we are fortunate to have done at the extremely reasonable price of \$3,000. If you would like to donate to defray this expense, please feel free to do so. We already have \$1500 donated. Thank you to those who have donated.

Food Donation: Please bring a non-perishable item of food when you come to Lenten services. All items will be donated to a local food pantry.

The Scrip Program: Last month our program provided \$136.21 due to parish participation. Our total for the year so far is \$296.48. In two months we have raised 1/3 of what we raised for all of last year. Please continue to use this program and encourage others to try it. If you have any ideas to make it easier/more efficient, constructive suggestions are always welcome. Please take a list of vendors, see who you patronize and place and order with Larissa Ravetto. **Phone 215-860-9640 or Email ravetto2001@gmail.com.**

Facebook Page: Our new Facebook Page is up at facebook.com/stmarksoca. Like our page and tell your friends.

Lenten Mission Schedule: The Lenten Mission Schedule for the Philadelphia Deanery is available. All Services are at 4pm.

- o 03/24 – St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia (His Grace, Bishop Mark will preside)
- o 03/31 – Holy Trinity Romanian Church, Philadelphia
- o 04/07 – St. Herman Church, Gradyville
- o 04/14 – Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown (His Grace, Bishop Mark will preside)
- o 04/21 – St. Michael the Archangel Russian Church, Philadelphia
- o 04/28 – Bridegroom Matins • St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia

Parish Lenten Retreat: Saturday, April 20 following the Akathist to the Theotokos. A Guide on The Way: St. Nikolai of Zhica. The Retreat will offer the life and teaching of this 20th Century saint as a guide for living the Orthodox Faith in the 21st Century, focusing on Lenten and Paschal Themes from his writings. Schedule to follow.

Parish Revitalization: As mandated by our Diocesan Assembly in 2011, we will begin our parish revitalization by using the Parish Health Inventory Model adapted by the Diocesan Revitalization Committee. This will be an ongoing process of parish self-assessment, discernment, planning and renewal of our parish life in deeper fulfillment of our mission to evangelize and sanctify as the Body of Christ, bringing light, healing, and peace to all. The PHIM will be reviewed, chapter by chapter (8 in all) on the last Sunday of each month, beginning NEXT SUNDAY at Noon for one hour. This will be done by the Parish Council, but all are encouraged to participate. You can review the PHIM here: <http://www.doepa.org/files/Revitalization%20Committee/PHIM-with-revisions-ver1.5.pdf>

THE GREAT FAST

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann on Fasting

*Quite different are the spiritual connotations of the second type of fasting which we defined as ascetical. Here the purpose for fasting is to **liberate man from the unlawful tyranny of the flesh**, of that surrender of the spirit to the body and its appetites which is the tragic result of sin and the original fall of man. It is only **by the slow and patient effort** that man discovers that "he does not live by bread alone" – that he restores in himself the primacy of the spirit. It is of necessity and by its very nature a long and sustained effort. **The time factor is essential for it takes time to uproot and to heal the common and universal disease which men have come to consider as their "normal" state.** The art of ascetical fasting had been refined and perfected within the monastic tradition and then was accepted by the entire Church.*

Great Lent. 50-51

YOUTH INFORMATION:

- ❖ We look forward to a visit from the Office of Young Adult Activities of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania to discuss opportunities for activities for young people in our diocese. They also want to hear from us, young people, parents, grandparents alike.

VIGIL LIGHTS:

From the Pitra Family:

In Memory of

Michael Bodulow, Michael Smirniw, Dunia Olhovsky

BIRTHDAYS:

Douglas Yates, March 30

NAMES DAY:

Larissa Moser: March 26, St. Larissa

Larissa Ravetto <http://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/03/26/100903-martyr-larissa-the-laywoman-in-the-crimea>

Douglas Yates: March 30, St. John Climacus

<http://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/03/30/100943-venerable-john-climacus-of-sinai-author-of-ladder>

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS,
THE NEWLY DEPARTED MILDRED**