



ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

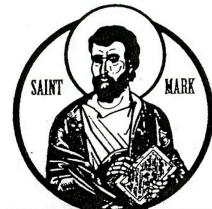
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA.ORG)

DIocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOEPA.ORG)

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity.

Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 50 men and 130 women (304). Repose of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1326). St. Juliana, Princess of Vyaz'ma (1406). Repose of Bl. Procopii (Procopius) of Vyatka, Fool-for-Christ (1628). Martyr Themistocles of Myra in Lycia (251).

Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10,17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Mt. 1:1-25

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Confessions:	Saturdays Following Vespers <i>Also by appointment</i>
Vespers: Vigil	Saturdays at 6pm Eve of Feasts at 7pm
Divine Liturgy:	Sundays at 9:30am Feast Days at 9:15am

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

Sunday, December 21:	Hours and Divine Liturgy— 9:10am. Coffee Hour. Church School.
Wednesday, December 24:	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil and Royal Hours – 9am, Holy Supper – 5pm, Vigil of the Nativity – 7pm.
Thursday, December 25:	Hours and Divine Liturgy for the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ— 9:10am
Friday, December 26:	Hours and Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Theotokos – 9:10am
Saturday, December 27:	Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen the Protomartyr – 9am at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia. Vespers and Confessions -6pm.

NAMES DAY

Nancy (Anastasia) Letzo - 12/22
Anastasia Killough - 12/22

BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Werner - 12/26

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Martin & Mat. Heidi – 12/27

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Services: As already noted on the December calendar, Royal Hours followed by Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil at 9am on December 24th, Vigil of the Nativity at 7pm. Holy Supper will precede the Vigil, starting at 5pm. Those interested in attending Holy Supper should sign up on the sheet outside the kitchen downstairs.

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed. Please sign up, as a family or combined with other families.

Orthodox Church in America Assessments: As the Fiscal Year draws to an end, please remit your annual O.C.A. assessment if you have not done so already. If you don't remember whether you have, speak with Doug Yates.

Scrip Program: Thank you to all who ordered. Our income for the month is \$217.70. Our total profit for the year is \$1143.94. Thanks for all the support. Next order will be taken on January 4th.

Stewardship:



Thank You: To all who supported and who worked at all stages of our Christmas Food Sale. Your support and sacrifice of time, treasure and talent made this another success!

Wrightstown Food Cupboard:

We are focusing on collecting items for Christmas Baskets. St. Mark's has responsibility for pasta, sauce and baby food. The goal is to prepare 130 baskets for each holiday. So we need **at least** 130 units of pasta and sauce. Thank you to all who have donated.

VIGIL LIGHTS:

FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY:

For the Health of:

Margaret and George

FROM THE PERDIKIS FAMILY:

For the Health of:

Angelo, Patricia, Stamatina, James, Mohamed, Mabel

In Memory of:

Evangelia, Arthur, Ekaterini, Kleo, Nikolas, Demetrios, Zografia

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*The Feast of the Lord's Nativity in the Flesh is a **sign**, immensely powerful though small and unnoticed by most of the world, then and now. It is a **sign of the love that the Lord has for each of us**, personally, and a reminder that it is **this love that we need above all else**, each of us, personally. It is **sign of hope, a light in the darkness**, not just the darkness of winter, but the spiritual darkness and bitter coldness of heart that tempt and threaten all men and women. It is a light of hope that the darkness cannot overcome, and indeed overcomes the darkness in the light that comes from the empty tomb, kindled at Bethlehem. No matter how cold our hearts may feel, how much the darkness may seem to envelope us, let each of us find, in the celebration of the Lord's Nativity in the Flesh, true Joy that unto us a child is given who is Christ the Lord, God with us, our Savior, who is also our brother. May the humility of God who draws so near, so vulnerable to each of us enable us to overcome our pride and draw near to him with the simple faith of the rough, profane shepherds. May this God who comes as a stranger find hospitality in our homes, in our hearts, in our lives as he reveals himself in the poor, the ignored, the suffering, homeless and hungry. May the mystery of this Holy Season inspire us to be still and know God, who is born for us, a little child.*

Wishing you a Joyous Feast, the Lord's Blessings in abundance and a peaceful New Year.

Fr. Martin and Family