EST. 1974

St. Mark's Orthodox Church

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

452 Durham Road, Wrightstown, PA, 18940

(215) 860-9640

www.stmarksoca.org
Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown
Livestream link: www.youtube.com/@stmarksoca/live

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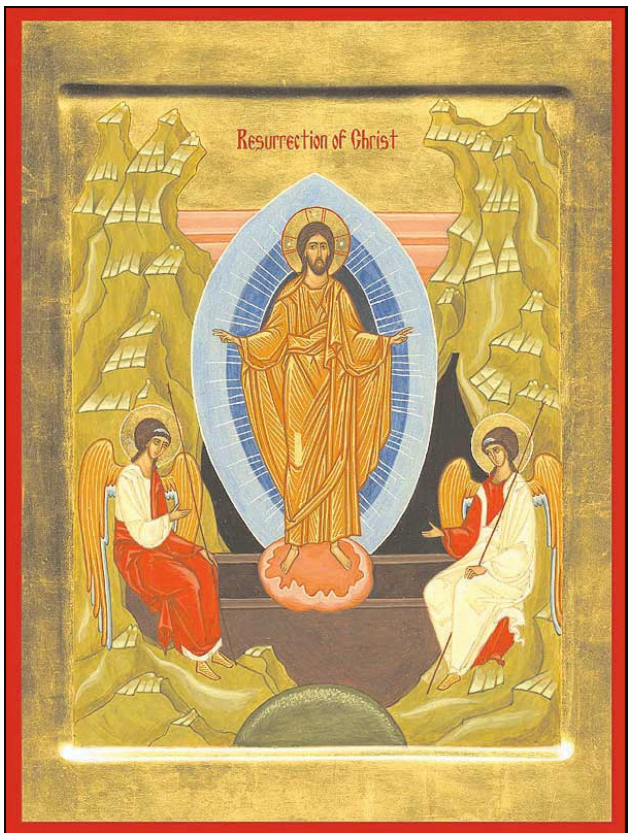
April 12th 2026 — Holy Pascha

HOLY PASCHA. The Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Beginning of the *Pentecostarion.* St. Basil of Barium (8th c.). Hieromartyr Zeno, Bishop of Verona (ca. 260). Ven. Isaac the Syrian, Abbot of Spoleto (550). Monk-martyrs Menas, David and John, of Palestine (7th c.). Ven. Anthusa the Virgin, of Constantinople (801). Ven. Athanasia, Abbess, of Aegina (860). Ven. Acacius the Younger, of Kavsokalyvia (Mt. Athos — 1730).



Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: John 1:1-17

Upcoming events

Sun., April 12th:	Vespers of Pascha — 12 PM
Mon., April 13th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy for Bright Monday — 9:10 AM
Fri., April 17th:	St. George Brotherhood Meeting — 6 PM
Saturday, April 18th:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM

From the Wrightstown Food Cupboard: The Cupboard currently needs **coffee, cake mixes, pie crusts** and **feminine hygiene products.**

Thank you! To all who sang, served, read, cooked, cleaned, organized, participated in the preparation and celebration of all the services of Lazarus Saturday to Bright Monday. This included inquirers, catechumens, children and adults, St. Mark's veterans and the most recent attendees. We are grateful to all without whom the week would have been impossible.

Birthdays: Valerie Ristvey, Stephanie Ristvey

PLEDGE REMINDER from the Stewardship Committee: For those members of the parish that have made pledges to be paid periodically each year, it would be greatly appreciated that you make your 2026 payment as soon as possible to maximize the amount of money we have "in the bank" before we begin negotiating financing for construction. Thank you!

The Paschal beginning of Morning and Evening Prayers:

From Bright Monday through the Leavetaking of Pascha, after making the Sign of the Cross, we say:

- *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)*
- *Holy God…*and the rest of the Trisagion Prayers.

From the Leavetaking of Pascha until Holy Pentecost, we begin with *Holy God* .The prayer *O heavenly King* is not said again until Pentecost.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos anesti!
Christos a inviiat! Adevărat a inviat!
Kriste aghsda! Cheshmaritad aghsda!
Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!
Le Christ est réssuscité! En vérité il est réssuscité!
Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich Er is auferstanden!
Cristo ha resuscitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Irene Arhipov
For the health of: Kathi, Norman, Mary Anne, Sergei, Anna Alexandra, Fr. Alexander
In Memory of: Stanley, Peter, Peter, Victor, Boris, Fr. Michael, Fr. Nilus

From Peter
For the health of: Sofiya, Peter, Elena, Irina, Lubov, Galina, Elena, Lincoln

From the Ristvey Family
For the health of: Margaret, Stephanie, Andrew, Margaret, Lorelly, Melissa, Eileen, Delores, Helen, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Joseph, Nancy, those in internment camps, America
In Memory of: George, Donald, Those who have lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Africa and the Middle East

From the Swan Family
For the health of: Thomas S. III, Michelle S., Peter M. Melissa S.
In Memory of: Thomas S. Jr., Venus L., Helen L., Michael L., Constance S., Neville N., Michael V., Francis M.

From Suzanne Patterson Chase
For the health of: V. Rev. Jehad Michael, Kh. Salwa Michael, Mrs. Michael, Rawa Michael, Ella Michael, Mia Michael, Aymen Michael, Ryland Walker Patterson, Pat Patterson, Linda Cohen, Betu Cohen, Mrs. Michael Naddour, Smen, Suzanne Patterson Chase

From Rdr. Samuel Regen
For the health of: HB Met. Tikhon, HE Abp. Mark, Fr. Martin, Mat. Heidi and Family; Fr. Joseph, Mat. Charlotte, Dn. Alexander, Mat. Juliana, Gabriel, Elizabeth, Alice, Fr. Tim, Mat. Anastasia, Rdr. Nicholas, Ella, Kyra, Joachim, Elijah, Joachim, Charlotte, Sofia, Anna, Amy, Agape, Vladislav, Jacob, Alex, Pdn. Gregory, Mat. Martha, Stephanie, Valerie, Margret
In Memory of: HB Met. Leonty, HE Abp. David, HG Bp. Serafim, Archimandrite Roman, Sara Lee, Tom, Rdr. Peter, Stephanie, Raymonde, Fr. Alexander, Fr. Tom

Please remember in your prayers

LIVING

All those, everywhere, who care for the sick, the suffering and the vulnerable.
Ill-afflicted Clergy Archbishops Alexander & Benjamin; Archpriests Alexander & James
Matushki Mary Sedor, Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Myra, Suzanne, and Jennifer
Inquirers Adam, Chris, Quin, Tyler, Karsyn, Vigo, Kristen, Wes
Catechumens Angie, Timothy
Servants of God Paul, Elaine, Richard, Jon Thoenebe, Jeanette Ruano, Amanda, Thomas, Zina, William, Margaret, Ayla, Stephen, Deborah, Charlotte, Delores, Joseph, Margie, Michael, Eileen, Emily, John, Lucy, Karen, Rosemary, Sophia, Joyce, Rachael, Thomas, Julianna, Carmen, Sharon, Tovi, John, Anastasia, Shelby, Suzanne, Ned, Larissa, Nicholas, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Elena, Sandra, Maria, Julia, child Jacob, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis, Katrina, Aidan, Aaron, Gloria, Margaret, Dennis, Shane, Charla, Daria

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Patriarch Ilia of Georgia, Archpriest John, Archpriest Joseph, Archpriest Theodore (Mozes), Monk Kirill (Yefimov), Larissa
Departed: Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Peter, Jonathan, Mat. Mary, Met. +HERMAN, Louis, Ruth, Nicholai, Thomas, Michael, Venus, Helen, Anthony, Robert, Michael, All those who have died in service to their country, Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir, Mat. Mary, Priest George, Archpriest Paul, Kh. Shirley, Susan, Maria, George, Natalie, Louis, Dorothy, Katherine, Alexander, Anthony

Weekly Contribution Information

Sunday Collection — 4/5/26
General — $2,817
Candles — $184
Pledge Pmts. — $1,080
Pascha — $550
Parish Dev. — $150

Total: $4,781

Online Collection — 3/39 - 4/5/26
General — $3,050
Parish Dev. — $31
Pledge Payments — $185

Total: $3,266
GRAND TOTAL: $8,047

Online Donation Guidelines: If you regularly use our online giving portal, please keep in mind that we are charged a fee for those donations, so not all of your donation is actually received as income. Below is a table showing suggested amounts that will ensure that your intentions are met. For larger amounts, we suggest a check provided directly to St. Mark's.

Target Donation	Suggested Donation - ACH/Direct	Suggested Donation - Credit/Debit
$25.00	$26.00	$27.00
$50.00	$52.00	$53.00
$75.00	$77.00	$79.00
$100.00	$102.00	$105.00
$150.00	$153.00	$157.00
$200.00	$204.00	$209.00
$250.00	$254.00	$261.00
$300.00	$305.00	$314.00
$350.00	$356.00	$366.00
$400.00	$406.00	$418.00
$450.00	$457.00	$470.00
$500.00	$508.00	$522.00
$1,000.00	$1,014.00	$1,042.00
$1,500.00	$1,520.00	$1,563.00
$2,000.00	$2,027.00	$2,084.00

CHRIST IS RISEN!

April 12, 2026
04/001

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved in the Lord:

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

A week ago, we heard the holy Martha express her faith in the resurrection of the dead when she said: "I know that my brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (Jn. 11:24). But our Lord replied to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and that very day he called Lazarus forth from the tomb (Jn. 11:25, 43–44).

He did this by the power of his third-day Resurrection, a power that cannot be contained by time or place. The Pascha of the Lord is not an event like other events, one more link in a chain of causality or knot in a string of happenstance. Through Christ's Passion and Resurrection, divine eternity breaks into time; mortality encounters life everlasting. Christ's Pascha is not just the resurrection of the dead at the end; it is the end of time itself. In the light of Pascha, all other events are bathed in the endless radiance of the unceasing and immeasurable age to come.

The uncontainable, all-encompassing power of the Lord's Resurrection is reflected in the way that we celebrate the Paschal event. There is one day a year we call Pascha. And yet, all of Bright Week is also considered one day, a single celebration of Pascha. Then again, the feast actually continues until its Leavetaking on the eve of the Ascension. And even after that, we renew our Paschal celebration each Sunday, adorning our weekly observance of the Lord's Day with a grand cycle of hymns in honor of the Resurrection.

Liturgically, then, we see that Pascha cannot be contained; its power cannot be circumscribed by a single day or even a whole season. This is also true in each of our lives. Christ is risen, and therefore

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each and every moment offers us the possibility of a new beginning. By the power of Christ's Pascha, our entire life becomes a continuous opportunity to renew ourselves, to start again.

This means that the joy of this Paschal morning, the rejoicing we experience when we discover the empty tomb in the deep dawn, need never cease. Yes, Martha was right: the Lord will raise us up on the last day. But he is also ready to raise us up today, tomorrow, and every day of our lives. He suffered the consequences of our sin on the Cross so that he might free us from our bondage to its power. The joy of liberation need not come only at the end, or only once a year: Christ's Pascha is with us always, in our hearts and in our lives.

It is my prayer that this experience of Pascha remain with each of you throughout this week, throughout these forty joyous days of celebration, and throughout all the days of your life. I pray that, finding joy in his victory, you may experience that victory again and again each time you turn back to him and start anew. If we remain faithful to him—not by our instant moral perfection, but by our steadfast repentance and willingness always to begin again—he who is called Faithful and True will surely remain faithful to us, and we will know the happiness and power of his Pascha both now and throughout the age to come (Rev. 19:11; cf. 2 Tim 2:12–3).

To him who passed through the darkness of hell in order to lift us up to the unfading light of his heavenly kingdom, henceforth and always, Christ our true God, the Paschal Lamb who lives forever, be all glory and adoration, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

His Eminence, the Most Reverend
+ MARK
Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Orthodox Church in America

April 12, 2026
The Resurrection of our Lord, Great and Holy Pascha

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

As we began Great Lent, we asked one another for forgiveness and entered the Fast with joy. Now, standing at the radiant Feast of Feasts, we come before one another once again in that spirit of joy and reconciliation, exclaiming: *"This is the day of resurrection! Let us be illumined by the Feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call 'brothers' even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection!" (The Paschal Stikhiri).*

Having journeyed through Holy Week, we must be mindful of what we have beheld in the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem, where the crowds cried, *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"* and how quickly those same voices turned to cry, *"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"* Dear brothers and sisters, we must take care that this same change of heart does not occur within us. We must not allow our Paschal joy to become bitter or even overshadowed. Rather, we are called to preserve and cultivate the sweetness and beauty of the Resurrection in our lives. Do we receive Christ with steadfast faith, or do we, through our sins and negligence, deny Him? We are given the supreme gift of eternal life; let us guard this gift and not carelessly cast it aside. The tomb is found empty! The Cross is the weapon of peace! Death is overthrown! Life Reigns!

Saint John Chrysostom says, "*Let all partake of the feast of faith; let all receive the riches of goodness.*" No one is excluded from this joy, for Christ has trampled down death by death and bestowed life on those in the tombs! The joy of Pascha is not fleeting, nor is it confined to a single night. It is the very life of the Church, the foundation of our faith, and the promise of our salvation. Having been illumined by the light of the Resurrection, we are called to carry that light into the darkness of the world, bearing witness to Christ, of Whom it is written, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1).* Be assured of my prayers for all of you, and I humbly ask that you remember me in yours. As we stand before the empty tomb, may we proclaim with one voice:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK
Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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Service Schedule

Hours + Divine Liturgy:	9:10 AM (Sundays & feast days)
Great Vespers / Vigil:	6 PM (Saturdays)
	7PM (Eve of feast)
	6PM (Eve of feast – Sundays)
Confessions:	Saturdays after Vespers & by appointment
Akathist Service:	9:15 AM (Wednesdays)
Panikhidas/Lityas:	as requested

CLERGY

V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne, *Rector*
(570) 906-1388 (cell)
stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*

Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby
Sergei Arhipov
Marek Szeliga
Readers: Gregory Pavlik
Samuel Regen

LAY LEADERSHIP

Choir Directors: Daria Cortése
Mat. Martha Moser
Sbn. Sergei Arhipov (Emeritus)

Church School Coordinators: Ruth Pavlik & Riley Tanner

Baptisms: Children must have **Orthodox Godparents** who provide a letter from their parish priest. Parents and Godparents are required to attend two preparatory classes. Please make scheduling arrangements by contacting Fr. Martin directly.

Weddings: Arrangement should be made **at least six months** prior to the wedding; scheduling is subject to the Church's liturgical calendar. Please speak with Fr. Martin **before making reception arrangements.**