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

Twitter: @stmarksoca
Instagram: @st.marksorthodox

May 31st, 2026 — Holy Pentecost

The 8th Sunday of Pascha.
Holy Pentecost. Tone 7.
Apostle Hermes of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Hermias at Comana (2nd c.). Martyr Philosophus at Alexandria (3rd c.).

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: John 17:37-52; 8:12

Upcoming events

Sun., May 31st:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:15 AM Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost
Wed., June 3rd:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
Fri., June 5th:	St. George Brotherhood Meeting — 6 PM
Sat., June 6th:	A Christian End to our Life — 10 AM Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM

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

The Apostles' Fast begins on June 8th and continues through June 29th. All are encouraged to enter into this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Among the opportunities offered to us this year is the Baby Bottle Drive for Legacy of Life. We will hear from a representative from Legacy of Life at the end of the Divine Liturgy on June 7th.

Archbishop Mark will visit St. Mark's on June 13th-14th. On Sunday the 14th, we will have a Hierarchical Liturgy, although His Eminence will vest in the altar, not in the center of the nave. At the conclusion of the Liturgy we will recognize those parishioners who have submitted names for major wedding anniversaries — we have 4. Following that, we will process outside to bless the cross which will be planted at the site of the new altar in the expanded church. Lunch will follow. During the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence will ordain Marek Szeliga to the Holy Diaconate. AXIOS!

Our quarterly Whole Burnt Offering will be made next Sunday, June 7th, and will benefit the Abingdon Hospital Food Cupboard, which provides food for patients and families who are in need. This is one way for us as a parish to visit the sick and feed the hungry. May our offering be blessed!

Birthdays: Veronica Gula, Ray Killough, Niko Chochelli, Charles Henderson, Erin Lennon, Olga Rosik, Alexander Choti

Name Days: Kevin Swan, Kevin McCullough, Mat. Martha Moser, Dulany Gibson

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Irene Arhipov
For the health of: Sergei, Anna, Alexandra, Mary Anne, Fr. Alexander
In Memory of: Katherine, Nadezhda, Maria, George, Maria, Maria, Natalia, Sally, Peter, Alla

From Marina
For the health of: Leonid, Marina

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

From Valeriia
In Memory of: Alexander

From the Ristvey Family
For the health of: Margaret, Valerie, Andrew, Stephanie, Margaret, Lorelly, Delores, Jeffrey, Helen, Joseph, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Andrew, Eileen, America, Those suffering in war-torn Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Iran and Israel; those in internment camps in America
In Memory Of: George, Those who lost their lives in the wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Africa, Syria, Lebanon, Iran

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 Natalia, 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: Priest Seraphim, Protodeacon John, Lorraine
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 — 5/24/26
General — $663
Candles — $140
Pledge Pmts. — $30
Church Store — $27
Parish Dev. — $50

Total: $910

Online Collection — 5/18-24/26
General — $3,958
Candles — $9
Parish Dev. — $72
Pledge Payments — $166.25

Total: $4,205.25
GRAND TOTAL: $5,115.25

Choral Corner: The Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost

Immediately after this morning's Divine Liturgy, we served the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost, a unique service that involves extended kneeling, whereas standing is the traditional Orthodox posture of prayer. The origin of the Kneeling Vespers is the celebration of what was, in the earliest centuries of Orthodoxy, the combined feast of Ascension/Pentecost. After a service at the Church of the Anastasis in Jerusalem, the faithful made a pilgrimage to Mount Sion, arriving there around the third hour to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire. Then the congregation traveled to the Mount of Olives to commemorate the Ascension of Christ with a series of readings and a thrice-repeated prayer said while the congregation kneeled. Interestingly, by the early 5th century Ascension and Pentecost were celebrated as separate feasts, and the prayer service originally used on the Mount of Olives to commemorate Ascension developed into what we now call the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost. It was refined in Palestine, where additional prayers were added, and it underwent further revision in Constantinople, where it remained an unofficial devotional practice for several centuries before the lengthy kneeling prayers — now codified at 7, divided into 3 groups — were officially incorporated into Vespers in the 11th century.
As in the ancient Church, the Kneeling Vespers mark the first occasion since Pascha on which kneeling is permitted in the temple, as this penitential posture is not in keeping with the overwhelming joy of the Resurrection (this is the same reason we rarely kneel or make prostrations on Sundays throughout the liturgical year, as Sunday is the Day of the Resurrection). Except for the kneeling prayers, the structure of this service follows the ordo of Great Vespers, with several petitions added to the Great Litany, and the inclusion of the triumphant festal Great Prokeimenon "Who is so great a God as our God?" before the kneeling prayers begin.

For a much more thorough discussion of this and other festal services, see The Typikon Decoded by Archbishop Job (Getcha), St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012.

CELEBRATING *Over 5,000* LIVES SAVED!

Legacy of Life FOUNDATION

For over 15 years, we have been reaching women who are seeking abortions and helping them choose life through our three women's centers in Bucks County and Philadelphia.

Our Services:

- Free pregnancy testing & ultrasounds
- Compassionate information session & advocacy for women who feel abortion is their only option
- Comprehensive aftercare program that provides ongoing support for at least 3 years

Together, we can save lives!

June 7 - 28, 2026

Please make a gift to support women, children & families during our annual baby bottle drive at St. Mark's Orthodox Church.

215-788-4051 | legacyoflifefoundation.org

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

The St. Joseph & Holy Myrrbearers Society

(A ministry of charitable service and social interaction)

Clergy contact: Pdn. Gregory Moser
Lay contact: Melissa Ciatto

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.**