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# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

452 DURHAM ROAD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA, 18940

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## JUNE 4TH, 2023 — HOLY PENTECOST

**Holy Pentecost. Feast of the Holy Trinity.** St. Metrophanes, First Patriarch of Constantinople (325-326). Righteous Martha and Mary of Bethany (1st c.). Martyrs Frontasius, Severinus, Severian, and Silanus, of Gaul (1st c.). Martyr Concordius of Spoleto (ca. 175 AD). Hieromartyr Astius, Bishop of Dyrrachium in Macedonia (ca. 110 AD). St. Zosimas of Cilicia, Bishop of Babylon in Egypt (6th c.). Ven. Methodius "Peshnósha", disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1392).

**Epistle:** Acts 2:1-11**Gospel:** John 7:37-52; 8:12

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Sunday, June 4th:</b>	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:15 AM Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost Coffee Hour
<b>Monday, June 5th:</b>	Hours & Divine Liturgy (Day of the Holy Spirit) — 9:15 AM
<b>Tuesday, June 6th:</b>	Jubilee Committee Meeting (in-person and Zoom) — 7:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, June 7th</b>	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
<b>Saturday, June 10th:</b>	Reception of Benjamin Snyder into the Catechumenate — 5:30 PM Great Vespers & Confessions — 6:00 PM

**The Wrightstown Food Cupboard** needs **paper towels, cleaning supplies, peanut butter and jelly.** The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.



**From the Wrightstown Food Cupboard:** *The generosity shown to the pantry by St. Mark's parishioners during the holiday season is truly remarkable, **but did you know the period of greatest stress is now — the summer months?** When schools let out for the summer, students no longer have daily access to school lunches. This need must be filled by their families, and for many this means relying heavily on the food cupboard. Also, when schools are in session, many of our local high schools sponsor food drives, particularly around the holidays. This is also true for many civic organizations. During the summer months, the cupboard loses these sources of donations. If you can only donate once or twice per year, please consider donating now instead of around Thanksgiving or Christmas. If you can donate regularly, please continue to do so during this critical time. Many families in our community will thank you.*

**Birthdays:** James Browne, Faith Karaffa, Olga Rosik

**Name Days:** Mat. Martha Moser, Dulany (Martha) Gibson

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Peter & Christina Hadgimallis

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

### **LIVING**

**Captive Hierarchs** PAUL and JOHN

**All those, everywhere, who care for the sick, the suffering and the vulnerable.**

**Ill-afflicted Clergy Archpriests** Stephen, Daniel and Michael

**Matushki** Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne, and Jennifer

**Servants of God** Suzanne, Edward, Monk Nicodemos, Karen, Rosemary, Charlotte, infant Luke, Larissa, Nicholas, Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Margaret, Elena, Ayla, Sandra, Maria, Julia, child Jacob, Michael, Nancy, Eileen, Steven, Constance, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis, Shirley, Ned

### **DEPARTED**

**Newly departed:** Mat. Helen, Lila, Paul

**Departed:** Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Shirley (Stewart), Jonathan, Mat. Emily, 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

## **VIGIL LIGHTS**

### **FROM IRENE ARHIPOV**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** SERGEI, PETER, STEPHANIE, ALEXANDRA, ANNA, HENRY, FR. ALEXANDER, KATHERINE, ALEXANDRA, SANDRA

**IN MEMORY OF:** KATHERINE, MARIA, MARIA, GEORGE, NEWLY-DEPARTED IRINA, IRINA, NATALIE, NIKOLAI

### **FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** MARGARET, STEPHANIE, ANDREW, LORELLY, MARGARET

**IN MEMORY OF:** GEORGE, DEPARTED MEMBERS OF THE TATUSKO, RISTVEY AND GAYDOS FAMILIES; THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN WAR

## **CHORAL CORNER**

### **Q: What is the Kneeling Vespers?**

**A:** The Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost is a unique form of Vespers served directly after the Divine Liturgy on Holy Pentecost. As Vespers is the first service of the liturgical day, this service properly belongs to Monday, the second day of the Feast of Pentecost, called the Day of the Holy Spirit. The most distinctive feature of the Kneeling Vespers is the inclusion of three long prayers said by the priest while he and all the faithful kneel — hence the term “Kneeling Vespers”. Kneeling is not a common Orthodox posture for prayer, and we do not kneel at all during the 50 days between Pascha and Pentecost. In the words of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann: *We are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these 50 days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who will now help us in our effort toward fulfillment and salvation.* (Schmemmann, “Holy Pentecost”, 1974)

We also decorate our churches and homes with greenery and flowers, which is an offering to God of the first-fruits of summer, and a reminder (to us) that all renovation and rejuvenation, both of the earth and of our souls, is a gift from God through the action of His Holy Spirit. Due to the magnitude of this feast, there is a general dispensation from the typical Wednesday/Friday fasting discipline.

The first Kneeling Prayer is addressed to God the Father: the Source of all life, to whom alone belongs the generative principle of the Holy Trinity. In this prayer, we also thank God for His goodness and for our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. The second Kneeling Prayer is addressed to Christ, with many references to the role of the Holy Spirit in our communion with Christ. This prayer emphasizes that all true wisdom and understanding comes from the Spirit. The third Kneeling Prayer is a treasury of theological statements about Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation history, bodily death and eternal salvation.

Interestingly, none of the Kneeling Prayers directly addresses the Holy Spirit. However, the most widely known hymn of Pentecost does, and we pray it daily until the following Pascha: *O heavenly King, O Comforter, O Spirit of Truth: Thou art everywhere present, filling all things. O Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.*

Previous entries can be found at [www.dariacortese.com/my-blog](http://www.dariacortese.com/my-blog)

## **Burnt Offering Sundays FAQ**

### **What is a Whole Burnt Offering, and why are we making one here at St. Mark's?**

In the Scriptures, the Lord commands that various offerings be made, one of which is a whole burnt offering. This is as it sounds: an offering of a valuable animal is made to God by being consumed in a fire so that nothing is left. All is given to God. It is marked by the fact that it involves a significant sacrifice, it is total, and it is not offered in expectation of any return. It is an act of, to some, seemingly reckless generosity which has only one purpose: to imitate in our own way the unconditional and abundant generosity of God toward us (“Thine own of Thine own...”).

Rather than taking up the collection and burning it on the altar, we have decided to make such generous offerings of our weekly collection, up to five (5) times a year, to God as He is present in members of our local communities who are in need.

### **What are the dates of the Burnt Offering Sundays?**

The first five Burnt Offering Sundays are: April 2nd, 2023; June 11th, 2023; August 20th, 2023; October 29th, 2023 and January 7th, 2024.

*(Cont. on next page...)*

### **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

#### **Sunday Collection (6/4)**

Weekly general: \$1,398

Candles: \$243

**Total: \$1,641**

#### **Online Giving (5/22-28)**

General: \$2,952

Candles: \$20

**Total: \$2,972**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$4,613**

**How will we select charities to be recipients of the Burnt Offering?**

We made our first Burnt Offering to Legacy of Life, which will assist in saving the lives of unborn human beings who, whatever the circumstances of their conception, would not exist had the Lord not created them. Our offering to God is to cooperate with Him in bringing these men and women of the future to life, as He wills. This charity was selected by the Parish Council.

Going forward, the Parish Council will continue to select the charitable organization, taking into consideration suggestions received from the parish. To suggest a charity, you can contact any Parish Council member.

**How will the Parish Council communicate the selection of the charitable organization to the parish?**

This information will appear in the bulletin and during post-Liturgy announcements at least two (2) weeks prior to each Burnt Offering Sunday. In addition, when possible, there will be a short presentation on each organization given after the Divine Liturgy two (2) weeks before each Burnt Offering Sunday.

**How will the accounting for the Burnt Offering Sundays work?**

We will not take up a second collection on Burnt Offering Sunday. We will donate everything we collect from our normal weekly income (see the exceptions below), with the intent that we will not have any (or only very little) income for that week.

**What donations will be excluded from the Burnt Offering?**

Examples of donations that will not be included as part of the Burnt Offering would be those made to the Parish Development or Cupola funds.

**What time period is considered to be part of the Burnt Offering?**

We will include all funds received *that are not earmarked for specific purposes* starting on the Monday prior to a given Burnt Offering Sunday through that Sunday. That way, we will capture both online and in-church offerings. This process matches the way we have been reporting weekly income in the bulletin.

**How will online donations that are scheduled for other than weekly (e.g., bi-weekly or monthly) be handled?**

If, during the week prior to the Burnt Offering Sunday, we receive donations that are bi-weekly or monthly, we will prorate them accordingly (50% for biweekly; 25% for monthly).

**Will an accounting of the total Burnt Offering amount be published?**

Once we determine the final amount (weekly collection, checks made out to the recipient charity, online donations, cash received, etc.), we will publish the accounting in the weekly bulletin.

**What if I do not want my Sunday offering included in the Burnt Offering, and would prefer to make a separate donation?**

If any parishioner would prefer that their normal offering, whether online or via in the collection basket, not be used for the Burnt Offering, please let the Treasurer (Deb Vivirito) or Financial Secretary (Andy Skordinski) know.

**Can I make a separate check or online donation to the designated charitable organization?**

Parishioners can make a separate check offering to the designated charity if they wish. If you do that, please make the donation out to the charity and we will forward it to them along with the parish's contribution. The online form on our parish website has a Burnt Offering choice in the Fund field. If you want to make either of these separate donations and not have your weekly donation included in the Burnt Offering, then please make that known to the Treasurer or Financial Secretary as noted above.





## SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

### CLERGY

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

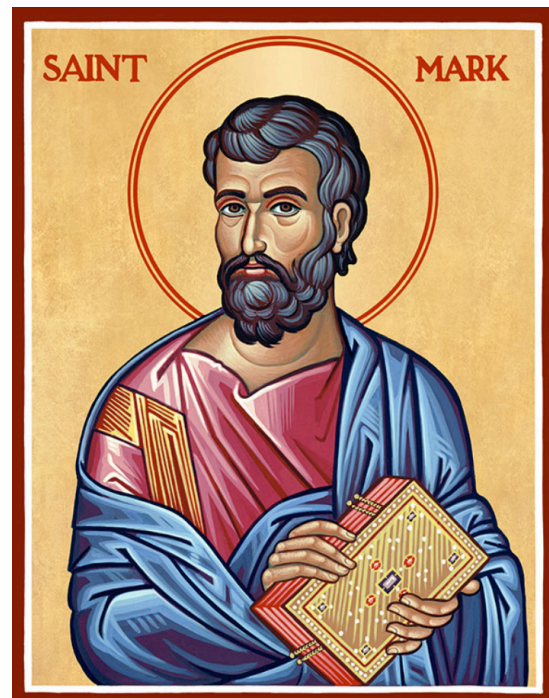
Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*  
V. Rev. Michael Sekela (Retired), *Attached*  
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby  
Sergei Arhipov  
Marek Szeliga  
Readers: G. Peter Bohlender  
Samuel Regen

### LAY LEADERSHIP

**CHOIR DIRECTORS:** Daria Cortése  
Mat. Martha Moser  
Sbn. Sergei Arhipov (Emeritus)

**CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATORS:** Mat. Martha Moser  
Julie Stell

**SISTERHOOD OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS:** Julie Stell, President



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**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.**



