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# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**452 DURHAM ROAD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA, 18940**

**(215) 860-9640**

[www.stmarksoca.org](http://www.stmarksoca.org)

Facebook: St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Wrightstown

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**SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2021 — 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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**Tone 2 — Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Baptist.** Martyr Tathuli and his sister Bebaia (98-138). Martyr Sarbelus of Edessa. Virgin-Martyr Iraïs (Rhais, Raïssa) of Alexandra (ca. 308). Martyrs Juventinus and Maximus the soldiers at Antioch (361-363). Martyrs Urban, Theodore, Medimnus and 77 companions at Nicomedia (370). Martyr Abdias (Obadiah) of Persia (5th c.). Martyrdom of the Holy Passionbearer Gleb, in holy Baptism David (1015). Martyrdom of Ven. Athanasius, Abbot of Brest (1648).

**Epistle:** 1 Cor. 9:2-12

**Gospel:** Matt. 18:23-35



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

**Sunday, Sept. 5th:** Hours and Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM, followed by Coffee Hour.

**Tuesday, Sept. 7th:** Vigil for the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos — 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Sept. 8th:** Hours and Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos— 9:15 AM  
Book Group — 7:00 PM

**Saturday, Sept. 11th:** Great Vespers and Confessions — 6:00 PM

**Financial Presentation:** Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend **Coffee Hour on Sept. 19th**. We will have a 30-minute presentation by Mr. Mark Fried, a financial expert with TFG Wealth Management, on four ways the fulfill stewardship to the Church to the mutual benefit of the parish and donors. **Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Church; we are living stones, but the floor is good stewardship, upon which all of the other work of the Church is done.** As one way to help us all be better stewards of the gifts God has given us, our Stewardship Committee and Parish Council are making this presentation possible. **Please make every effort to attend.** Mr. Fried will also be happy to answer questions after the presentation.



**Afghan Refugee Collection:** Thank you to those who contributed to last week's collection; you will be able to do so today, as well. If you would rather send a direct donation to Church World Services, you may do so at [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org), or mail it to Church World Svcs., PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. **Our Lord tells us, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."** As a parish that has former refugee family members, we have a personal reason for doing this. May the Lord bless us to do what we can.

**Church Directory:** Everyone on our parish email list will soon receive an updated parish directory; paper copies will be available for those who need them. Only those who have indicated their willingness to be included are so, and newer members have been asked for consent. Please send an email to the church or contact any Parish Council member regarding any errors or omissions.

**Birthdays:** Laura Sedor, Dorothy Martiak

Names Day: Renee Elizabeth Szeliga, Sharon Elizabeth Burkett

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Dmitrii and Rebecca Sosodov; David and Dulany Gibson

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### LIVING

**Captive Hierarchs** PAUL and JOHN

**All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends:** Charles and Erin, Ann Marie, Joseph, Alexis, Aphrodite, Charla, Sandy

**Ill-afflicted Archpriests** Daniel and Michael

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

**Servants of God** Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Scott, Dennis, David, Garry, Vincent, Stephen, Raymond, Darrell, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda, Michael, Laura, Jason, Katina, Donna, Rebekah, Anthony, Alexander, Grover, Valerie, Raymonde, Anita, Jim, Peter, Jonathan, Gregory, Charles, Kyra, Margaret, Arlene, Vaughn, Helen, Nicholas, Elena, Nicholas, John, Alice, Edward, Sydney, Susan, John, Patricia, Ayla, Elizabeth, Sandra, Paul, Anatole, Maria, Julia and Charla.

### DEPARTED

**Newly departed** Protopresbyter Leonid, Mitered Archpriests Michael and Sergei, Archpriest Stephen, Matuskhi Bonnie, Tresja, Anisia, Aaron, Karl

**Departed** Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir, Mat. Mary, Priest George, Archpriest Paul, Kh. Shirley.

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### VIGILS

#### FROM ALAN LEE LITVIN:

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:**

All those wounded.

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Our 13 soldiers lost. May God have mercy and admit them into His heavenly kingdom.

#### FROM THE PITRA FAMILY:

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:**

The soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan; Lucas, Richard, Leonid, Sarah (traveling internationally).

**FOR THE DEPARTED:**

The fallen soldiers in Afghanistan. George P. and G. Coombs (Vietnam).

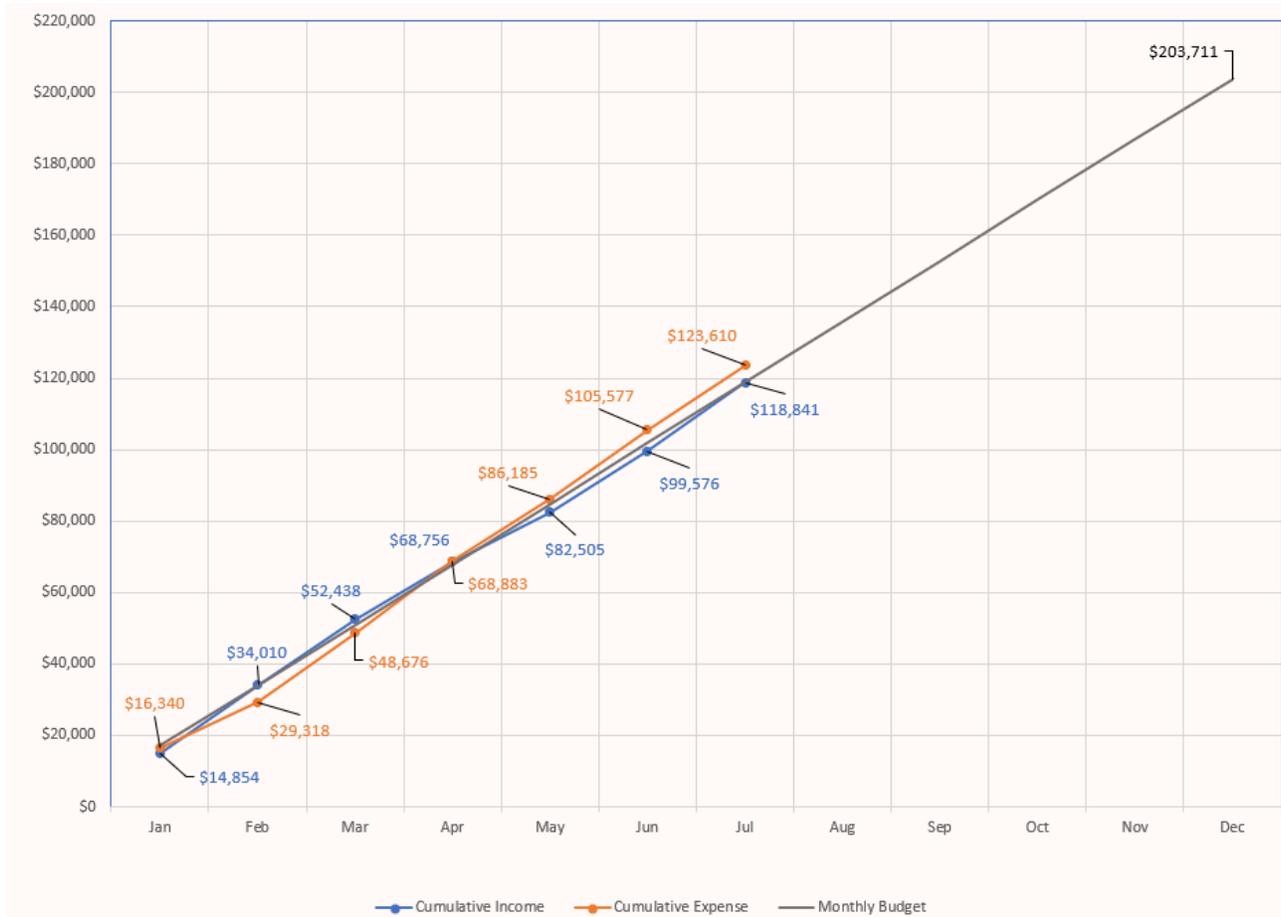
# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## MID-YEAR+ FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Below is a chart showing our income vs. its expenses through the end of July. Expenses are now running slightly above the budget; income is consistently tracking to the budget. Many thanks to all who have contributed. We encourage those of you have not already done so to consider setting up a recurring donation using the online giving portal: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarksdonate>. Currently there are 14 active recurring donors. We would like to see that number increase as this provides a steady income stream to support the parish. Of the non-binding pledges (totaling \$113,116 for 2021), 48% (\$53,744) has been received through June 2021. Again, the council is very grateful to those of you who made, and are fulfilling, a pledge.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any member of the Parish Council.

## 2021 OPERATING BUDGET TRACKER



**WEEKLY COLLECTION — 8/29/21**

**WEEKLY: \$1,134**

**CANDLES: \$103**

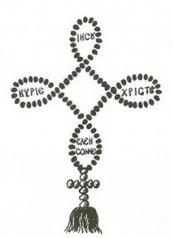
**TOTAL COLLECTION: \$1,237**

**ONLINE GIVING 8/15-8/31**

**WEEKLY \$1865; AFGHAN REF. \$600**

**CANDLES \$25; PARISH DEV. \$30**

**TOTAL ONLINE GIVING: \$2520**



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## 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>	9:30 AM (Wednesdays)
<b>Panikhidas/Lityas:</b>	as requested

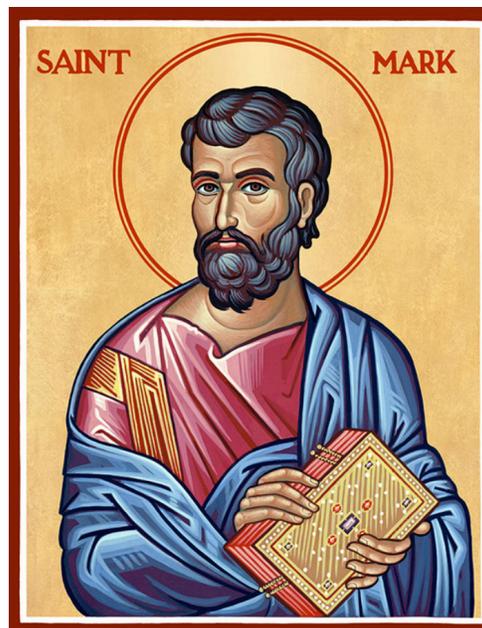
### CLERGY

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

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

### LAY LEADERSHIP

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



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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.**



**Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon  
For the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year  
September 1, 2021**

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved children in the Lord, and to all who read this encyclical at the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year, on the day when the Church also reflects on the created world: I greet you in the Name of the Lord, and pray that God bestows upon you “every good and perfect gift from above” (James 1:17). May the God who has revealed Himself to us as “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex 34:6) once again have mercy on us and upon His whole creation.

Just a few days ago, Hurricane Ida slammed into the Gulf Coast of the United States, and inflicted untold damage to property, and—to our great sadness—human life. This hurricane happened while at the same time unrelenting fires have likewise cut a swath of death and destruction throughout this same country, as well as in Canada, Europe, Russia, and Turkey. Even further, we hear that parts of our world have suffered from either extreme drought or unprecedented rainfall. We mourn those who have died in these tragedies, and ask that God keep them eternally in His memory. We grieve with their friends and families. We are also concerned for those who have been displaced, or lost property or homes; we have become saddened by what has befallen them. As always, as Christians, we should stand with them and seek ways to support any and all who have been afflicted by these natural disasters.

With these events that have taken place in just the past few days, we witness the awesome power of nature, and also the fragility and preciousness of human life. We should be reminded not only to fulfill our Christian vocation of love, of mourning, and of standing in solidarity with the weak and the vulnerable; but also that we should “number our days, so that we get a heart of wisdom” (Ps 90:12). When we learn the painful and heart-wrenching lessons that we are not invulnerable, we are not almighty, we are not immortal, we learn that we are men and women who are called to love one another as God has loved us, according to the teaching of the very Wisdom and Word of God, Jesus Christ (Jn 13:34; 15:12, 17).

At the beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year, on the day when we consider the created world, I call upon the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to remember those who have

died, and those suffering from these recent natural disasters, and to seek ways to support them. May the God of every consolation and compassion be with you!

With my archpastoral blessings and love in the Lord,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada