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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September 6th, 2026 — 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 5—Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ. Martyrs Eudoxius, Zeno & Macarius (311-312). St. Archippus of Herapolis, Martyr Romulus, and with him many others (107-115). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Cyriacus, Faustus the Presbyter, Abibas the Deacon, and 11 others, at Alexandria (ca. 250). St. David of Hermopolis in Egypt (4th c.). Hieromartyr Priest Maksym (Sandowicz) of Carpatho-Rus' (1914).

Epistle: 2 Cor. 1:21-2:4
Gospels: Matt. 22:1-14

Upcoming events

Sunday, Sept. 6th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour & Catechesis Class
Monday, Sept. 7th:	Vigil for the Nativity of the Theotokos — 6 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 8th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos — 9:10 AM
Wednesday, Sept. 9th:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
Saturday, Sept. 12th:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Sept. 13th:	Hours and Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour & Choir Rehearsal Catechesis Class — 12:15 PM Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross — 4 PM

The Wrightstown Food Cupboard needs **rice, dried beans, jelly** and **cleaning supplies** Also, monetary donations to fix a roof leak would be appreciated. The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Church School: Open to K-4 through grade 12, Sundays starting at 9:30 AM. The first class will be held **next Sunday,** September 13th. If you have any questions you can reach Ruth Pavlik at ruth.pavlik@gmail.com and/or Riley Tanner at Riley.r.tanner@gmail.com.

Catechumen class begins today, from 12:15 to 1 PM in the temple. Classes will be held weekly. Any interested adults are welcome; *catechumens are expected to attend*.

Birthdays: Laura Sedor
Name Days: Michael Browne, Leeanna Egnor, Colin Miller, Michael Vatov
Wedding Anniversaries: David & Dulany Gibson

The next Burnt Offering Sunday will be on September 20th, and will benefit the Salute to Mothers Scholarship Fund. The Fund was established in 2007 and provides financial assistance to students balancing their education with raising a family. These scholarships ease the financial burden on parents pursuing a college education, allowing them to invest in their future without sacrificing their family's stability. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than 265 scholarships, providing over $366,000 in financial aid.

To all parishioners, catechumens and inquirers: an invitation to join the rector in memorizing the Psalter during the coming Church year. If you can do all in one year, God bless you! That is not the expectation. There are the Psalms we already know from repeated exposure, praying them ourselves or listening to them in Church. Why do this? Because it is a practice that goes back to the beginning of the Church. It is the treasury of prayer, it is the summary of the story recorded in Scripture, it is a way of embedding, metabolizing the Scriptures not only in our mind but also our hearts and hopefully our life. It is an ascetical act that combines prayer (the Psalms), fasting (from frivolous or useless pastimes like scrolling), almsgiving (the time to memorize,) the talent of your memory is given to God through this, treasure (your very life, intellect and senses). Maybe at the end of the Church year you know 100/150, or 50/150, or 25/150 or 10/150. But that number, whatever it is, is more than you knew this year. If you want to try this, let me know so we can pray for one another and encourage one another throughout the year. Review the ones you already know, then start from the beginning. As for translation, I recommend **Aorist Press** as it is the translation we use for all our services here at St. Mark's.

In support of the Psalter-memorization initiative, Aorist Press is offering a 10% discount on the RLE Liturgical Psalter. Copies are $45/ea. To purchase one, please see Daria Cortése or Sergei Arhipov.

The Legacy of Life "Walk in Her Shoes" tour, will take place on September 18th at 5:45 PM. This is more than a traditional facility tour. During the tour, visitors will experience Legacy of Life's ministry through the eyes of one of their clients, walking through her journey from the moment she first contacts Legacy of Life through the support, resources, and hope she receives along the way. Please let Melissa Ciatto know if you will attend and are interested in car pooling.

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Anonymous
For the health of: Natalya, George
In Memory Of: Aleksey, Aleksey, Tatiana, Galina, Nikolay

From Irene Arhipov
For the health of: Sergei, Anna, Michelle, Kathi, MaryAnne, Alexandra, Alexandra, Fr. Alexander, Robert, Robert (Andrew)
In Memory Of: Ivan, Peter, Peter, Boris, Maria, Maria, Newly-departed Liliana

From the Moser Family
For the health of: Raymond, Ned, Rebecca, Dn. Gregory Hubiak
In Memory Of: Dn. John, Veronica, Rebecca, Charles, Sophia, Stephen, Stephanie, Peter

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

From the Ristvey Family
For the health of: Margaret, Stephanie, Andrew, Margaret, Lorelly, Delores, Helen, Joseph, Jennifer, Nancy, Eileen, Laverne, Those suffering in war-torn Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, Sudan and the Middle East; Those suffering in American internment camps
In memory of: George, Stephen, Those who have lost their lives in the current wars and disasters

From Judi & Buddy Rybny
For the health of: Scott, Keri, Anna, Charlie, Caitlin, Joe, Alexis, Mal, Stella, Sophia

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, Vigo, Kristen, Wes, Shannon, Jonah, Ruth, Bethany, William, Jeff
Catechumens Angie, Timothy
Servants of God Paul, Herman, Juliana, Tyler, Natalia, Paul, Elaine, Richard, Jon Thoenebe, Jeanette Ruano, Thomas, Zina, William, Margaret, Ayla, Stephen, Deborah, Charlotte, Delores, Joseph, Margie, Michael, Eileen, Emily, John, Lucy, Karen, Rosemary, Sophia, Joyce, Rachael, Thomas, Julianna, Carmen, 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, Charla, Daria, David

Departed

Newly departed: Hieromonk Basil (Castillo), Pdn. Alexei, Judy, Liliana
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 Collection

Sunday Collection (8/30)
General— $1,841
Candles — $200
Pledge Payments — $200
Church Store — $12
Parish Dev. — $50
Total — $2,303

Online Giving (8/24-8/30)
General — $1,286
Parish Dev. — $36.50
Pledge Payments — $625

Total — $1,947.50

GRAND TOTAL: $4,250.50

This QR code will take you directly to the online donation web form:

September 1, 2026

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

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Joyous feast!

The Gospel appointed for this day, the beginning of the ecclesiastical new year, sets before us a scene of remarkable simplicity. Our Lord returns to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, enters the synagogue on the Sabbath day "as His custom was" (Lk. 4:16), and stands up to read. He is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and He finds the place where it is written that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him, that He is anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind — "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closes the book, returns it to the attendant, sits down, and says: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:16–21).

As we enter this new year, let us consider what has taken place. The newest thing that has ever happened in the history of the world — God Himself present in the flesh, the year of His favor inaugurated — is announced by the reading of an ancient text, in a familiar building, according to an accustomed order, by a man doing on that Sabbath what He had always done on the Sabbath. The newness of Christ does not arrive by discarding what came before. It arrives clothed in continuity, and it fulfills the very things it renews.

The holy apostle Paul teaches us that we ourselves have been drawn into this newness, and that we entered it through the waters of the font: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). And again: "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Every one of us who has been baptized has already been made new. The question set before us at the beginning of each Church year is not whether we shall receive this newness, but whether we shall walk in it.

Here we must be watchful, for nothing is easier than to confuse this newness with the kind we are offered every day. We live in a world with an enormous appetite for the new, and an entire industry devoted to ensuring that this appetite is both always fed and yet never satisfied. Advertisement and marketing are built upon a real thirst in the human heart — the longing for something fresh,

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something unspoiled, something that will make us feel that our life has begun again. They arouse this thirst skillfully and they cannot quench it, because everything they offer begins to age at the moment it is acquired. This is why the world must keep producing more of it. Novelty is a debt that can only be paid with more debt.

The newness that is in Christ belongs to an altogether different order. The Scriptures are precise here: the word chosen to describe it is not the word for what is merely recent, but the word for what is fresh and undiminished — a new covenant, a new man, a new song, a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth. This newness does not grow stale, because its source is not a moment in time but the living God, who is Himself "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). What ages in us is our attention to Him. What must be renewed is not the gift, but our reception of it.

This calling belongs to all of us, without exception. Those recently baptized or chrismated, and those still inquiring at the door, have received or are approaching something they must now spend a lifetime entering more deeply; the first fervor is a grace, but it is a beginning and not an arrival. Those who were baptized as infants and have known the Church all their days carry a treasure of another kind — the faith woven into their memory, family, and the ordinary rhythm of years — and they face a different danger, which is that what is familiar can quietly cease to be seen. Neither the newcomer nor the lifelong faithful may rest. The Apostle exhorts us all to "be renewed in the spirit of your minds and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:23–24), and he addresses this to the whole assembly.

What is true of persons is true also of communities. Some among us are new missions, meeting in rented halls, praying for a permanent home. Others are parishes marking their hundredth year, their hundred and twenty-fifth, and more, built by immigrants and by converts whose names are recorded on the walls. The task is the same in both cases, and in both cases it requires a real spiritual labor: to hold fast to what has been handed down, and at the same time to keep growing, to keep stretching, to keep learning, and not to mistake a mere habit for faithfulness. It is a good and necessary thing to say that we do a thing because we have always done it, when what we have always done is the tradition of the Church. It is a different thing when we say it because the alternative would require effort, or conversation, or risk. Discerning between the two is among the most delicate pastoral works we are given, and it cannot be done well without prayer, without patience, and without one another.

The renewal to which we are called is anchored, always, in what we have received — "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received" (1 Cor. 15:3). The wisdom of our older parishes is not an obstacle to renewal but one of its chief instruments, for a community that has kept the faith through a century of hardship has already learned something about endurance that no new initiative can supply. And our newest missions, in their turn, remind the whole Church what it looks like when the Gospel is heard for the first time. We need each other precisely at this point.

Therefore, as we enter this new year of the Lord's goodness, I invite each parish, each monastic community, each household, and each of the faithful to ask a simple question before God: where, in this past year, have we merely repeated ourselves, and where have we truly grown? Ask it without

discouragement and without haste. Then take up again, with gratitude, the things that have been handed down to us, and let us walk in them as those who are being made new.

To Him who sits upon the throne and says, "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5), who crowns the year with His goodness, and who is glorified together with His Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year and many blessed years to come,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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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*
Deacon Marek Szeliga, *Attached*

Subdeacons: Sergei Arhipov
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

The St. George Brotherhood

Contacts: Dn. Marek Szeliga, Rdr. Gregory Pavlik, Denis Streltsov

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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.**