EST. 1974

St. Mark's Orthodox Church

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

452 Durham Road, Wrightstown, PA, 18940

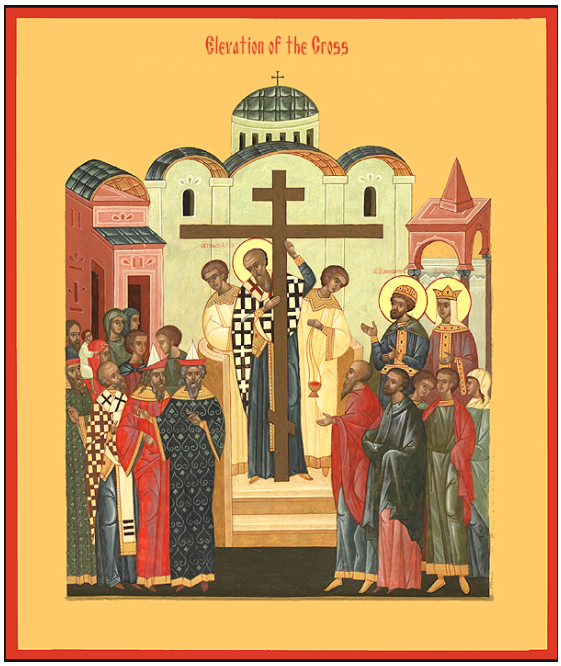
(215) 860-9640

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

Twitter: @stmarksoca
Instagram: @st.marksorthodox

September 13th, 2026 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 6—Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Sunday Before the Exaltation. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem (335). Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.) Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria (237). Martyrs Seleucus in Scythia, and Stratonicus (3rd c.). Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania (4th c.). Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia (4th c.). Martyrs Elias, Zoticus, Lucian and Valerian (4th c.). St. Peter of Atroë (9th c.). Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia (1624). Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron (Mt. Athos — 1745).



Epistles: Gal. 6:11-18; 2 Cor. 4:6-15; Heb. 3:1-4
Gospels: John 3:13-17, Matt. 22:35-46; Matt. 16:13-18

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept. 13th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal, Coffee Hour & Catechesis Class Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross — 4 PM
Monday, Sept. 14th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation — 9:10 AM
Tuesday, Sept. 15th:	Stewardship Committee Meeting — 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 16th:	Akathist w/ Litya — 9:15 AM
Friday, Sept. 18th:	St. George Brotherhood — 6 PM
Saturday, Sept. 19th:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Sept. 20th:	Hours, Divine Liturgy & Service of Thanksgiving — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour & Catechesis Class

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.

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.

All Saints Cemetery is offering 25% off all first-time cemetery purchases during the month of September. If you are interested, contact Adriana Guerra, Family Services Counselor, at 215-504-1930.

Birthdays: Melissa Ciatto, Elaine Schmidt, Chris Sremenak
Name Days: Nadya Breno, Faith Karaffa, Lucy Znak
Wedding Anniversaries: Kevin & Mary Anne Swan

The next series of Sound & Silence will begin on **Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 7PM** on Zoom. The topic is *The Octoëchos: The Development and Significance of the Orthodox Eight Tones.* The first session will cover music and hymnography in the Old Testament, the development of Jewish tonal chanting (cantillation) during the Babylonian Captivity, and the concurrent development of modal musical thinking in Greece. The subsequent sessions will cover the codification of the Eight-Tone system by St. John of Damascus, music in the Byzantine Church, the evolution of our liturgical music after the Baptism of Rus', and (if we have time!) modern musical trends in anglophone Orthodoxy. **You do not need to read music to understand this material, so please join us!**
The Zoom link for all 3 sessions is: https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/84407690653
MEETING ID: 844 0769 0653 PASSCODE: 053096

To all parishioners, catechumens and inquirers: an invitation to join the rector in memorizing the Psalter during the coming Church year. There are the Psalms we already know from repeated exposure, praying them ourselves or listening to them in Church. Why do this? 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 in our minds, hearts and hopefully our lives. It is an ascetic 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). If you want to try this, let me know so we can pray for and encourage one another. 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.

Church Etiquette

Lighting candles is an important part of Orthodox worship. We light them as we pray, making an offering to accompany our prayers. Orthodox typically light candles when coming into the church. There are times, though, when candles should not be list. It is not proper to light candles during the Epistle and Gospel readings, during the Little or Great Entrances, the sermon, and most of the time when the faithful are standing.

The importance of punctuality: The time to arrive at church is before the service starts. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins, try to enter the temple quietly and observe what is happening. If the Epistle and Gospel is being read, or the Little or Great Entrance is taking place, wait until it is finished to quickly find a seat. If Father is giving the sermon, stay in the back until he has concluded. Try not to interrupt the Liturgy by your entrance. The best way to avoid this situation is to arrive on time.
— From Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Hills, IL

VIGIL LIGHTS

From Marina
For the health of: Alexei, Marina, Ilia

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, Those suffering in war-torn Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, Sudan and the Middle East; Those suffering in American internment camps
In memory of: George, Those who have lost their lives in the current wars and disasters

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: Pdn. Alexei, Judy, Liliana, Pavel, Anatoly, Michael
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 (9/6)
General— $2,617
Candles — $181
Pledge Payments — $2,105
Parish Dev. — $150
Total — $5,053

Online Giving (8/31-9/6)
General — $2,492
Candles — $10
Parish Dev. — $52
Pledge Payments — $186.25

Total — $2,740.25

GRAND TOTAL: $7,793.25

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

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	YTD
2026 Total General Contribution	$13,517.75	$27,020.00	$25,257.00	$21,855.00	$20,688.00	$16,054.00	$13,293.50	$21,133.00	$158,818.25
2026 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	$43.89	$87.73	$65.60	$70.96	$53.74	$52.12	$43.16	$54.89	$59.97
Change from 2025 (Goal >$8)	-$41.35	$9.12	-$11.44	-$5.63	-$15.94	-$6.61	-$29.57	-$13.16	-$9.89
2025 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	*$85.24*	*$78.60*	*$77.04*	*$76.59*	*$69.67*	*$58.73*	*$72.73*	*$68.05*	*$69.86*

	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	YTD
Building Fund Contributions*	$4,306.00	$205,932.00	$4,358.00	$4,410.00	$4,234.00	$4,102.70	$4,238.50	$3,921.50	$235,502.70
% of Goal Obtained ($100k)	4.31%	205.93%	4.36%	4.41%	4.23%	4.10%	4.24%	3.92%	235.50%

** Does not include Capital Campaign Pledge Payments*

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

We invite you to join the fundraising efforts of the **Greater Philadelphia Committee of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** by donating an item or gift certificate to our **Silent Auction**, to be held on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.,** during our **Fifteenth Annual Benefit Banquet for IOCC.** Your support is crucial for IOCC to continue its global lifesaving and life changing missions to help people in crisis. Please read on to learn the IOCC story:

Founded in 1992, IOCC is a humanitarian organization that ministers to those suffering the effects of political upheaval and war, famine, natural disasters, and community tragedies by sharing with them God's gifts of food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope. Assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, and benefits orphans, refugees and displaced people, the elderly, schoolchildren, families and people with disabilities, without regards to race, religion, or ethnic identity. Through the generosity of caring donors like you, over **$887 million** in humanitarian aid and disaster relief has been distributed worldwide over the past 34 years following events such as: the war in **Ukraine;** the devastating earthquakes in **Turkey** and **Syria**; **Beirut** explosions; spring/summer floods in **the U.S.**; wildfires in **Greece** and **California**; and destructive hurricanes **(Louisiana/ U.S. Gulf Coast, the Carolinas**) and earthquakes **(Haiti).**

Thanks to the incredible efforts and generosity of our donors **last year**, IOCC was able to support projects around the world including:

- In **Greece**, IOCC is supporting monthly food assistance to struggling households, tutoring for high school students preparing for university entrance exams, and vocational training and small business support.
- In the **Holy Land**, IOCC expanded emergency relief efforts, providing food, clean water, hygiene items, infant care supplies, and critical medical assistance to families affected by ongoing conflict.
- In the **United States**, IOCC offered emotional and spiritual care to victims of the Los Angeles County wildfires, and continued long-term recovery efforts in Tennessee and Florida, helping rebuild in communities devastated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- In **Lebanon**, IOCC continued providing essential nutrition and health services to vulnerable families amid conflict and socioeconomic crisis, helping communities meet urgent daily needs.
- In **Ukraine**, IOCC is providing safe shelter and specialized support to displaced families and people with disabilities, as well as vocational training and business grants to build sustainable livelihoods.

Finally, IOCC continues to support: **Syrian** war refugees living in the **Middle East** and throughout **the Mediterranean**; suffering families in the **West Bank and Gaza**, in post-war **Lebanon** and **the Balkans**, and in drought-stricken **Ethiopia** and other clean water deprived countries throughout **Africa**; and literacy and education in impoverished communities in American big cities. **IOCC's work is tireless, lifesaving, and life-changing,** both here in the U.S. and throughout the world. **The Greater Philadelphia Committee is honored to support IOCC's ongoing humanitarian programs.**

Therefore, the Fifteenth Annual Benefit Banquet will take place at **Adelphia Restaurant, 1750 Clements Bridge Road, Deptford Township, NJ** on **October 25, 2026,** and is expected to draw over 300 people from throughout the Delaware Valley. Anything you wish to donate to the **Silent Auction** will be graciously displayed and your business will be acknowledged. We respectfully ask that the fair market value of your donation be a minimum of $100.

Suggested donations include ***gift baskets, weekend getaways, jewelry, restaurant or store gift certificates, housewares, sports tickets, and symphony/theater tickets.*** Your donation is tax deductible and will be recognized in our program book, if received, along with the Gift-in-Kind form that accompanies this letter, by **October 16, 2026.**

Please contact **Rania Pappas at (856) 316-8914 (cell) or Pappasrania@aol.com with questions, or to offer or confirm a donation.**

Your generosity will ensure that IOCC's ministry to the needy continues effectively and efficiently - 90% of all funds raised goes directly towards emergency relief and development programs.

We thank you for considering our request for a donation and for your support of IOCC's mission to bring dignity, respect and hope to communities around the world.

Sincerely,

Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Committee of IOCC,

Tony Pantazopoulos & Deacon Michael Sandilos, Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Committee Co-Chairs
Rania Pappas, Silent Auction Chair

The Greater Philadelphia Committee of IOCC invites you to the

15TH ANNUAL BANQUET TO BENEFIT IOCC

Sunday, October 25, 2026

3:30pm Hors d'Oeuvres & Silent Auction • 5:00pm Dinner & Program

Adelphia Restaurant, Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom
1750 Clements Bridge Rd., Deptford, NJ 08096

Come and learn about IOCC's programs around the world and how your support makes a difference in places like Ethiopia, Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and the US.

For tickets and sponsorships, contact your parish rep or visit:

iocc.org/philadelphia

Or make checks out to IOCC **(Memo: Philadelphia chapter)** and mail to IOCC | 110 West Road, Suite 360 | Baltimore, MD 21204

Tickets: $85 per person

Questions? E-mail Theodora Veronis at TVeronis@iocc.org

The following sponsorship opportunities are available:

- ☐ Grand Benefactor ($5,000+) – 10 total reserved seats
- ☐ Great Benefactor ($2,500+) – 8 total reserved seats
- ☐ Benefactor ($1,000+) – 6 total reserved seats
- ☐ Sponsor ($500+) – 4 total reserved seats
- ☐ Friend ($250+) – 2 total reserved seats

Sponsorships received by Oct. 16 will be recognized in the program.

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.**