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 27th, 2026 — 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8—Martyrs Callistratus and his 49 Martyred Companions (ca. 304). Ven. Savvatii, Wonderworker of Solovetsky Monastery (1435). Apostles Mark, Aristarchus and Zenas, of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Epicharis of Rome (3rd c.). Ven. Ignatius, Abbot in Asia Minor (963-75).

Epistles: 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1
Gospels: Luke 5:1-11

Upcoming events

Sunday, Sept. 27th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour & Catechesis Class
Wednesday, Sept. 30th:	Sound & Silence — 7:00 PM
Friday, Oct. 2nd:	St. George Brotherhood — 6 PM
Saturday, Oct. 3rd:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Oct. 4th:	Hours, Divine Liturgy— 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.

Father will be at the National Clergy Retreat from Monday-Friday. For emergencies, please contact Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk at 215-756-2289 or 215-745-3232.

Birthdays: Joe Durshaw, Markella Hadgimallis, Eileen McKeown
Wedding Anniversaries: Michael Bitny & Erin Lennon, Denis & Angela Streltsov

Sound & Silence continues **this Wednesday, Sept. 30th at 7PM** on Zoom. The topic is *The Octoëchos: The Development and Significance of the Orthodox Eight Tones.* This session will cover music and hymnography in the New Testament, the codification of the Eight-Tone system by St. John of Damascus, music in the Byzantine Church, and early Slavic liturgical music. **Come learn why our music is the way it is! You do not need to read music, 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

On October 9th from 1-3 PM, let's pop garlic to get it ready to be planted at the Carversville Farm Foundation, which grows organic food for community kitchens and food pantries. "People in poverty disproportionately suffer diet-related disease. We know that processed, packaged foods — often the only affordable option — have negative health consequences. That's why we provide the delicious, fresh ingredients that soup kitchens want and all bodies need." **To sign up, please use this link:** https://vhub.at/1JK6EOQ. To touch base with Melissa Ciatto about carpooling, please call 610-780-5777.

Church school is now in session every Sunday from the beginning of the Divine Liturgy until after the homily. Preschool, elementary and middle school students are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have questions, see Ruth Pavlik or Riley Tanner.

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.

In support of Father's 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. *Aorist Press is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.*

Church Etiquette

Cosmetics: Women who wear lipstick to church should blot their lips well before venerating an icon, receiving Communion, or kissing the cross or the priest's or bishop's hand.

Handling antidoron: After receiving Holy Communion and at the end of the Divine Liturgy, it is customary to receive a piece of holy bread or *antidoron* — the bread that was left over after Holy Communion was prepared. While antidoron is *not* Holy Communion, it is blessed bread, and as such should be eaten carefully so that crumbs do not fall. Both adults and children should always remember to treat and consume the antidoron with respect.

— From Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Hills, IL

VIGIL LIGHTS

From the Swan Family
For the health of: Thomas S. III, Michelle G., Peter M., Robert G.
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, Margaret, Stephanie, Andrew, Lorelly, Eileen, Helen, Delores, Jennifer, Joseph, Jeffrey, Michael, Nancy, Those suffering in war-torn Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, Sudan and the Middle East; Those suffering in American internment camps
In memory of: George, Edith, 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
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 (9/20)
Burnt Offering — $879.50
Restricted Donations — $1,088.50

Total — $1,968

Online Giving (9/14-9/20)
Burnt Offering — $1,300.25
Restricted Donations — $1,221.50

Total — $2,521.75

GRAND TOTAL: $4,489.75

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

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.

ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIAN SUNDAY

With the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, our parishes of the Orthodox Church in America recognize - on this first Sunday in October - our many church singers, music directors, composers, arrangers of music, and bell-ringers. May God grant you Many Years!

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4

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.**