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

October 4th, 2026 — 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 1 — Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bp. of Athens (1st c.). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Gurias, 1st Abp. of Kazan', & St. Varsonúphy, Bp. of Tver' (1595). Synaxis of the Hierarchs of Kazan' (1976). Rt. Blv. Prince Vladimir Yaroslavich, Prince of Novgorod (1052). Ven. Helladius & Onísim of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves — 12th-13th c.). Ven. Ammon, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves — 13th c.). Martyrs Gaius, Faustus, Eusebius, & Chæremon, of Alexandria (3rd c.). Martyr Peter of Capetolis (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Domnina & her daughters Berenice (Veronica) & Prosdoce, of Syria (305-6). Ven. Ammon (ca. 350) & Paul the Simple (4th c.), of Egypt. Martyr Adauctus and his daughter, St. Callisthene, of Ephesus (4th c.). St. Stephen Stiljianovich of Serbia (1515).

Epistles: 2 Cor. 9:6-11
Gospels: Luke 6:31-36

Upcoming events

Sunday, Oct. 4th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM Coffee Hour & Catechesis Class
Wednesday, Oct. 7th:	Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer — 9:15 AM Sound & Silence — 7:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 10th:	Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 PM
Sunday, Oct. 11th:	Hours, Divine Liturgy— 9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal 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.

Sound & Silence continues **this Wednesday, Oct.4th at 7PM** on Zoom. The topic is *The Octoëchos: The Development and Significance of the Orthodox Eight Tones.* This session will cover Slavic chant systems and, time permitting, emerging trends in Anglophone Orthodox 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

Birthdays: Peter Hadgimallis, Matthew Vatov
Name Days: Grace Browne, James Browne, Denis Streltsov
Wedding Anniversaries: Sharon & Doug Yates

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.

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

Leaving before dismissal: Leaving church before the dismissal deprives us of a blessing. Worship has a beginning: "Blessèd is the kingdom…", and an end: "Let us depart in peace…". To leave immediately after Communion is to treat the church like a restaurant where we come and go as we please.

Venerating icons: When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate the icons. Usually, there are icons at the entrance to the church, and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. When venerating (kissing) an icon, please be aware that it is improper to kiss an icon on the face.

— 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: Mat. Helen (Psinka), Archpriest Peter Bodnar, 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 (9/27)
$1,409.50 — General
$221.00 — Candles
$511.00 — Pledge Payments

$2,141.50 — Total

Online Giving (9/21-9/27)
$1,996.00 — General
$31.50 — Parish Development
$125.00 — Pledge Payments

$2,152.50 — Total

GRAND TOTAL: $4,294

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.

October 4, 2026

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved children in the Lord,

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

In these words, the holy Apostle Paul makes an important connection between the word of Christ, the teaching of the faith, and the singing of sacred music. This should not surprise us. From generation to generation, Christians have learned the faith not only by hearing it preached or reading it in books, but by singing it.

The hymns of the Church give special voice to her theology. They proclaim Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection; they teach us how to speak of the most holy Theotokos and the saints; they teach us the meaning of the feasts and fasts; they give us words of repentance, thanksgiving, supplication, and praise. Often, words first encountered in worship remain with us long afterward, deep impressed into our memory, because they have been joined to melody and repeated in prayer.

For this reason, the ministry of our church musicians is also a ministry of teaching. Choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, translators, hymnographers, and all those who labor in the musical life of the Church do more than beautify our services. Through their work, they help the word of Christ to dwell richly among us.

This responsibility is especially important as we hand on the Orthodox faith to others. A child learning to sing the responses, a new singer finding his or her place in the choir, or someone entering an Orthodox church for the first time may know little of our musical traditions. Patient instruction, good examples, and the welcoming of new voices are therefore not merely musical concerns. They are part of the work of transmitting the life and tradition of the Church.

Our pursuit of beauty and excellence in worship should never become a barrier to participation. Rather, those who have received musical gifts, knowledge, and experience should generously share them with others. I encourage our parishes and missions to teach their people to sing, to give children

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opportunities to learn the hymns of the Church, to welcome and form new choristers, and to support those musicians who devote themselves to preserving and handing on this part of our liturgical inheritance.

On this Church Musician Sunday, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all those who give their voices, their skill, their time, and their prayer to the musical service of the Church. Through your efforts, words proclaimed by prophets, apostles, fathers, and saints continue to be placed upon the lips and within the hearts of the faithful.

May the Lord strengthen you in this ministry, and may he grant that, through our common song, his word may dwell ever more richly within us.

With my primatial prayers and blessing,

+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.**