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# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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**NOVEMBER 14TH, 2021 — 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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## **Tone 4 — Holy and All-praised Apostle**

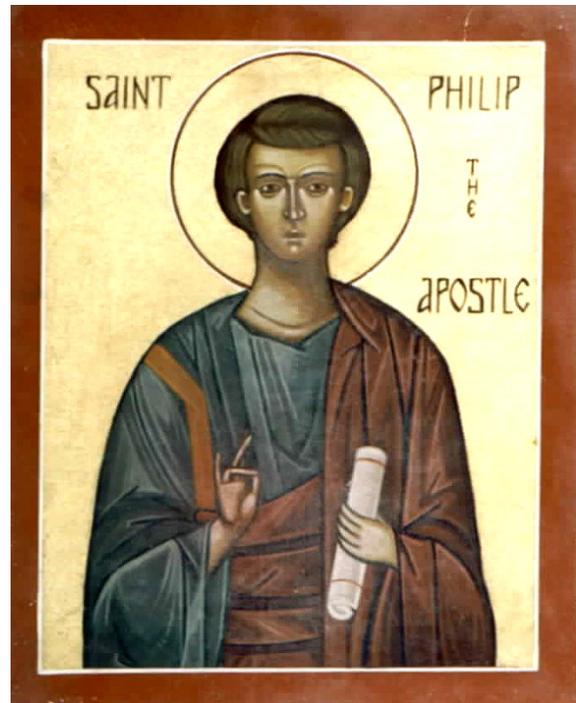
**Philip (1st c.).** St. Theodora (548) and her husband, St. Justinian the Emperor (565).  
St. Gregory Palamas, Archbp. of Thessalonica (ca. 1360). Ven. Philip, Hermit of Irap near Novgorod (1527).

**Epistle:** Gal. 2:16-20

1 Cor. 4:9-16

**Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37

John 1:43-51



## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES**

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, November 14h:</b>     | Hours and Divine Liturgy — 9:10 AM. Coffee hour, church school & choir rehearsal. |
| <b>Wednesday, November 17th:</b> | Akathist with Litya — 9:30 AM<br>Book Discussion Group — 7:00 PM                  |
| <b>Thursday, November 18th:</b>  | Preschool Church School — 12:30 PM<br>Parish Council Meeting — 7:00 PM            |
| <b>Saturday, November 20th:</b>  | Great Vespers and Confessions — 6:00 PM   |

**His Beatitude Metropolitan +TIKHON** has designated November 14th as Steward Sunday and is asking each parish to take a special collection on that day for the support of the OCA. Please see His Beatitude's letter on the last page of this bulletin.



**The Wrightstown Food Cupboard** needs instant potatoes.

**Book Discussion Group:** Our next book discussion group will begin last Wednesday and will meet weekly through December 15th, with a week off for Thanksgiving. We will be reading *Types of Religious Life* by St. Maria of Paris (Mother Maria Skobtsova). Participation may be in person or via Zoom. Please email Father Martin at [stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksorthodoxchurch@gmail.com) to sign up and receive the PDF.

**The Nativity Fast begins Monday**, November 15th; it lasts for 40 days, until we celebrate our Lord's Nativity according to the Flesh. Take this week to prepare and consider how you will fast more, pray more, and give alms. One way to give all is through regular donation of any food items when you attend Church services.

**Birthdays:** Jamie Bendas,

**Name Days:** Heidi Browne, Pdn. Gregory Moser, Matthew Vatov

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Carol and John Wanko



## **VIGIL LIGHTS**

**FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** EDITH, GWEN, VALERIE, DONNA

**IN MEMORY OF:** GEORGE, ROBERT

## **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, Miichael, 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:** Matthew

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

# **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

## **SUNDAY COLLECTION (10/24)**

**Total:** \$1,442  
**General:** \$1,344  
**Coffee Hour:** \$20  
**Candles:** \$78

## **ONLINE GIVING (10/25-10/28)**

**Weekly total:** \$2,544  
**General:** \$2,019  
**Parish development:** \$525

## **COMBINED TOTALS**

**Grand total:** \$4,054  
**General:** \$3,431  
**Parish development:** \$525  
**Candles:** \$78  
**Coffee Hour:** \$20

*Lay up your treasure according to the commandments of the Most High,  
for this will profit you more than gold. Store alms in your storehouses, and  
they will deliver you from all affliction. More than a mighty shield and  
better than a strong spear, almsgiving will fight for you against your enemy.*

*- Wisdom of Sirach, 29:11-13*

**The annual pledge letters for 2022 have been mailed out. The parish council would like to have responses back by no later than November 15th, to support the budgeting process for 2022. Please consider continuing or making a pledge to support the continued growth of the parish as we prepare for our future. If you do not receive a letter and would like to make a pledge, please contact any member of the council to obtain a pledge form.**



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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

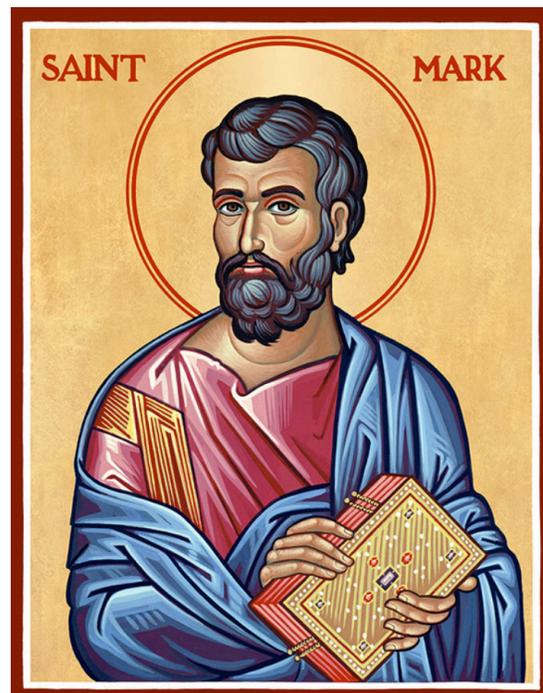
### CLERGY

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



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#### DIRECTORS:

**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 made 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 Steward Sunday**  
**October 27, 2019**

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

Christ is in our midst!

I greet you, my coworkers and stewards, in the joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and I offer my prayerful gratitude to God for the love, courage, and generosity you have shown for the Orthodox Church in America. Today in the Orthodox Church in America we commemorate Steward Sunday, a day where I invite you to join me, and the members of the Holy Synod, in supporting our Orthodox Church in America, by prayerfully contributing to the great work we are called to do here in North America.

We have much work to do, but we must first give thanksgiving to Almighty God for the very fact that we, you and I, are here, 225 years after the arrival of Saint Herman, 195 years after the arrival of Saint Innocent, and 125 years after the arrival of Saint Tikhon on these shores. We are here, as a faithful community of bishops, clergy, monastics, and faithful Christians, to receive the blessing of these saints and to strive to emulate their example, so as to offer an Orthodox presence as a genuine local church here in North America.

Next year, we will celebrate fifty years of autocephaly. To be sure, this is a tremendous milestone for us, and in those fifty years we have accomplished much. But as we begin to plan our celebrations I note that the granting of autocephaly was not a reward or a recognition but rather a call to service: service to Holy Orthodoxy on this continent and to the sharing of the refreshment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a dry and thirsty land. Today, on this Steward Sunday, I am asking each of you to express your love for the Orthodox Church in America and for our Lord in a tangible way - through a sacrificial gift to the Stewards.

May the Lord continue to grant you every blessing for your salvation and for the growth of His Body, the Church.

With love in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



November 12, 2021

### *The Nativity Fast*

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! The Church in her wisdom gives us various periods of fasting for us to get back on the proper path. We drift away so easily from Christ and His teaching and consequently take on attitudes of the world around us. As we enter into the Nativity Fast let us, fast with our eyes by refraining from frivolous entertainment. Let us fast with our ears by turning away from coarse jesting, idle talk and gossip. Let us fast with our tongues by not talking about others but seeking to be reconciled.

St. John Chrysostom was asked why do we not see miracles in the Church today, like the early Church saw? He responded, ‘When we train our feet not to go to the theater, which was quite immoral in his day, but to bring us to Church, visit the sick or the prisoner, we healed the legs that were lame. I am certain he would say the same about refraining from casinos. When we taught the eyes not to look upon impure things, but to read the Holy Scriptures, we healed the eyes that were blind. When we train the hands not to be grasping and greedy, but generous with the poor, we healed the withered arm. When we train the tongue not to gossip and criticize, but to encourage, build up and give praise to God, we healed the tongue that was mute.’

The Nativity Fast is an opportunity to turn more fully to Christ by fasting not only from particular foods, but from sinful behaviors. As the prophet Isaiah says “cease to do evil and learn to do good.” As Christians, we are not simply called to abstain from sinful behavior, but to cultivate virtuous behavior. Let us use the time of the fast to visit the sick, the shut-ins, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and pray for our enemies.

I pray that our embracing the fast will help us to draw closer to the Lord and consequently closer to one another. Have a Blessed Nativity Fast! Be at peace within yourself and with one another.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

