

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](#)

APRIL 13TH, 2025 — PALM SUNDAY

The Entry of Our Lord into

Jerusalem. Hieromartyr Artemon,
Presbyter, of Laodicea in Syria (303).

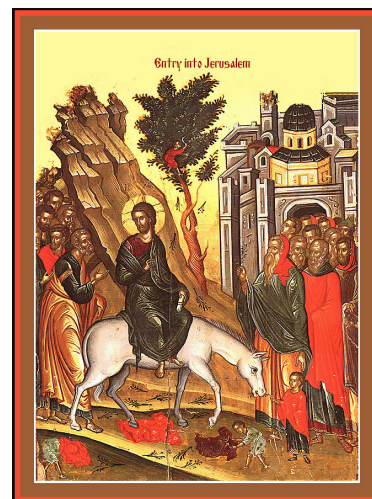
Martyr Crescens, of Myra in Lycia.

Woman Martyr Thomaïs, of Alexandria

(5th c.).

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 13th:	Hours & Divine Liturgy — 9:15 AM Coffee Hour & Choir Rehearsal Bridegroom Matins — 4PM (St. Stephen's)
Monday, April 14th:	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts — 9:15 AM Bridegroom Matins — 7 PM
Tuesday, April 15th:	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts — 9:15 AM Bridegroom Matins — 7 PM
Wednesday, April 16th:	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts — 9:15 AM Bridegroom Matins & Unction — 5:30 PM (St. Stephen's)
Thursday, April 17th:	Vesperal Liturgy — 9:15 AM Matins of Holy Friday — 7 PM
Friday, April 18th:	Royal Hours — 9:15 AM Vespers — 3 PM Matins of Holy Saturday — 7 PM
Saturday, April 19th:	Vesperal Liturgy — 9:15 AM Paschal Nocturns, Matins, Hours & Divine Liturgy — 11:30 PM
Sunday, April 20th:	Vespers of Pascha — 12 PM

The Wrightstown Food Cupboard needs **toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, canned fruit, canned meat, pancake syrup, rice/pasta side dishes, cookies and crackers.** The Cupboard is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.



Birthdays: Valerie Ristvey,
Stephanie Ristvey

We joyfully welcome David Philippi into the Holy Orthodox Church. David was received Friday night through the sacrament of Chrismation, and received the Holy Mysteries at the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday Morning. May God grant the newly-illuminated David many blessed years!

Please see the attached article on how to prepare a Pascha basket, courtesy of stphillip.net.

The Stewardship Committee will be kicking off the capital campaign for the building project shortly after Pascha. We are doing this before final approval of the project by the parish to establish our financing levels for the project. Our plan is to solicit pledges to help determine what, if any, outside financing could be needed. The Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in the drive. You will receive training and materials before it begins. We have been fortunate to receive a donation of assistance for this from a close relative of one of our parishioners, who lives in this area. If you are interesting in assisting the Committee, please contact any of its members: Fr. Martin, Pdn. Gregory, Kevin Swan, Andy Skordinski, Joe Durshaw or Michael Bitny. Thank you!

It is possible to grieve for our own sins and yet to rejoice in Christ. Or when your communion with God is not hindered, rejoice...is it best to envy, or to rejoice with another? Let us search out all these things, and we will find that virtue, like a truly kind mother, places us in safety, while vice is a treacherous thing and full of danger. That which is honorable belongs to external virtue, and that which is pure, to the soul. If we will be at peace with each other, God will be with us. Therefore we must make a beginning on our part, and then we will draw God toward us. For he "who digs a pit for his neighbor, falls into it himself" (Proverbs 26:27)". As we injure ourselves when we injure our neighbors, so by benefitting them, we benefit ourselves.

— St. John Chrysostom, Homily XIV on Philippians 4

*Passing from one divine feast to another;
From palms and branches, let us now make haste, ye faithful,
To the fulfillment of the solemn and saving celebration of the Passion of Christ.
Let us behold Him, voluntarily suffering for our sake,
And let us sing unto Him, in thankfulness, a fitting hymn:
Crying, "O Fountain of mercy, tender Haven of salvation, glory to Thee!"*

—Sticheron at the Aposticha, Vespers on the Evening of Palm Sunday, Tone 2

VIGIL LIGHTS

FROM IRENE ARHIPOV

FOR THE LIVING: JOHN, SERGEI, ELIZABETH, JOHN, ANNA, ALEXANDRA, ALEXANDRA, FR. ALEXANDER, NAN

IN MEMORY OF: NEWLY-DEPARTED JOHN, NEWLY-DEPARTED HENRY, NEWLY-DEPARTED FR. DANIEL, VERA, MARIA, TAMARA

FROM THE MOSER FAMILY

FOR THE LIVING: RAYMOND, ANASTASIA, MARA, SHARON

IN MEMORY OF: DN. JOHN, VERONICA, REBECCA, CHARLES, PETER, STEPHANIE, STEPHEN, SOPHIA, RODY

FROM THE SWAN FAMILY

FOR THE LIVING: THEODORE, HUNTER, THOMAS III, DANIEL B.

IN MEMORY OF: THOMAS JR., VENUS L., HELEN L., MICHAEL L., CONSTANCE S., NEVILLE N., MICHAEL V., FRANCIS M., DARYL M., EDWARD H.

FROM THE RISTVEY FAMILY

FOR THE LIVING: MARGARET, STEPHANIE, ANDREW, MARGARET, LORELLY, DELORES, JENNIFER, HELEN, JOSEPH, EILEEN, AMERICA

IN MEMORY OF: GEORGE; ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE WARS IN UKRAINE, GAZA & AFRICA

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

LIVING

Captive Hierarchs PAUL and JOHN

All those, everywhere, who care for the sick, the suffering and the vulnerable.

Ill-afflicted Clergy Archbishop Nathaniel, Archpriests Alexander (Golubov), Stephen & Daniel

Matushki Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Myra, Suzanne, and Jennifer

Newly-illuminated David

Servants of God John Rumsey, Jon Thoenebe, Jeanette Ruano, Amanda, Thomas, Zina, William, Margaret, Ayla, Stephen, Deborah, Charlotte, Delores, Joseph, Margie, Michael, Eileen, Emily, John, Lucy, Karen, Rosemary, Sophia, Joyce, Rachael, Thomas, Julianna, Carmen, Sharon, Tovi, John, Anastasia, Shelby, Suzanne, Ned, Larissa, Nicholas, Samuel, Sergei, Anna, Raymond, Andrew, Valerie, Charles, Elena, Sandra, Maria, Julia, child Jacob, Constance, Angela, Hunter, Jon Smith, Anselmo Pappas Scandalis, Katrina, Aidan, Aaron

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Archpriest Daniel (Skvir), Archpriest Paul (Harrilchak), Hieromonk Pedro, Priest Jonas (Worsham), Mat. Mary, Mat. Sophia, Douglas (Robinson), Paul (Bihuniak)

Departed: Archpriest Daniel, Archpriest Theodore, Peter, Shirley (Stewart), 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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Sunday Collection (4/6/25)

General — \$2,221.73

Candles — \$98.50

Parish Dev. — \$400

Subtotal — \$2,720.23

Online Collection (3/31-4/6/25)

General — \$2,531

Parish Dev. — \$500

Subtotal — \$3,031

GRAND TOTAL — \$5,751.23

How to Prepare a Traditional Pascha Basket



In many Orthodox countries, it is the custom to bring foods in a basket to be blessed at Pascha. The foods traditionally brought in the basket have special significance, but many people will add the foods they've missed the most during the Fast. The basket is usually covered with a white cloth embroidered with the words, "Christ is Risen." It is also customary to have a blessed candle in it to light at the Blessing, which takes place at church following the Resurrection services.

At St Philip's, it is our custom for parishioners to prepare a table in the Great Room on Holy Saturday where we place our baskets in preparation for the Blessing and our Paschal Meal together following the services. If there are visitors, please invite them to join you.

What goes into the Pascha basket?



SWEET BREAD—Called Kulich or Paska by some, many "old country" traditions and recipes exist. This is a sweet yeast bread, rich in eggs, butter, milk, etc., sometimes with raisins, and perhaps baked with a red egg or decorated with Christian symbols. The Pascha bread is symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our Living Bread, and who has come down from heaven to give eternal life in the Eucharist. Just as bread is the "staff of life," Christ is our spiritual nourishment for eternal life.



EGGS—Hardboiled & decorated, eggs are always considered a symbol of the resurrection, the emergence of new life. At Pascha, our Savior came forth from the tomb as a chick breaks forth from its shell.



BUTTER—Traditionally shaped in the form of a lamb (can be just a stick), butter represents the Lamb of God who was offered on the altar of the cross for the life of the world.



MEATS—Lamb, Ham, Sausage, Veal, etc. A portion of any or all of these meats are put in the basket. The meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament, foreshadowing the true sacrifice of our Savior, who became for us "the Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world." As we learn from the prayer of blessing, the meat products also symbolize the fattened calf prepared for the Prodigal Son on his return to his Heavenly Father. Thus at Pascha we celebrate our return to God and our joyous participation in the blessings of our Savior, who promised to be our "true food."

SALT—Salt is necessary for flavor, and reminds the Christian of his duty to others. As salt preserves food, we are to be as salt in the world.



HORSERADISH—In some traditions mixed with grated red beets, this is symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds, but sweetened with sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.



CHEESE—A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also, creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and decorated with Christian symbols.

SPECIAL ITEMS—Chocolate, candy, wine, and other food items extend the joy of the Resurrection. The Church takes ordinary food and blesses it as an aid in making us holy. God's blessing changes us from children of natural descent into sons and daughters of the Kingdom of God.





DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

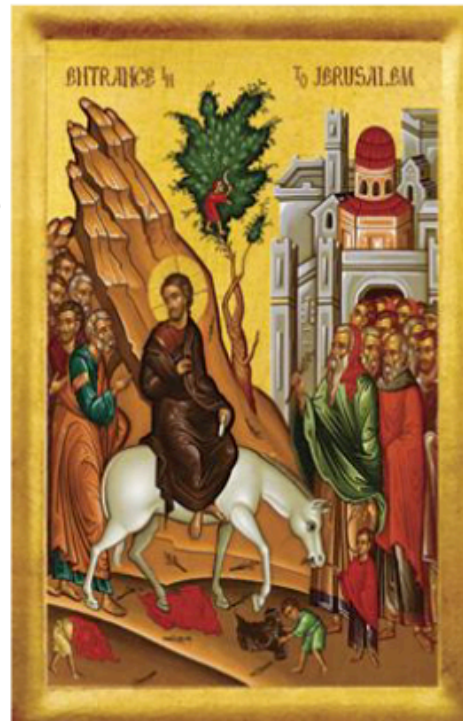
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia • Orthodox Church in America

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Dear to God,

Blessed Feast! Peace and blessings as we celebrate the glorious Feast of Palm Sunday. May the Lord bless and strengthen you day by day as we follow our Lord to His voluntary suffering, the Cross, the Grave and the Empty Tomb. As we gather for these blessed Services, we stand together before the Lord. I am reminded of the words of St Paul, that Christ endured the shame of the Cross for the joy that was set before Him. May we each look beyond the cross we have taken up and rejoice in Christ's Life Giving Passion and Holy Resurrection.



Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

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



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*

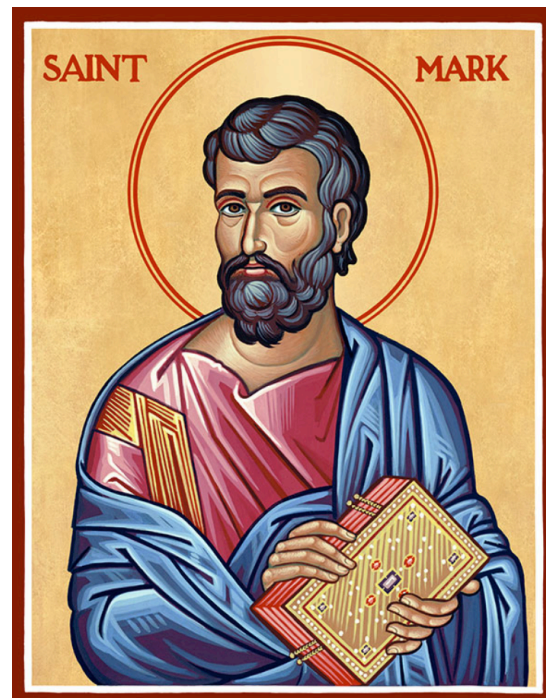
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby
Sergei Arhipov
Marek Szeliga

Reader : Samuel Regen

LAY LEADERSHIP

CHOIR DIRECTORS: Daria Cortése
Mat. Martha Moser
Sbn. Sergei Arhipov (Emeritus)

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Mat. Martha Moser



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.**

