

EST.



1974

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

452 DURHAM ROAD, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA, 18940

(215) 860-9640

www.stmarksoca.org

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APRIL 20TH, 2025 — GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

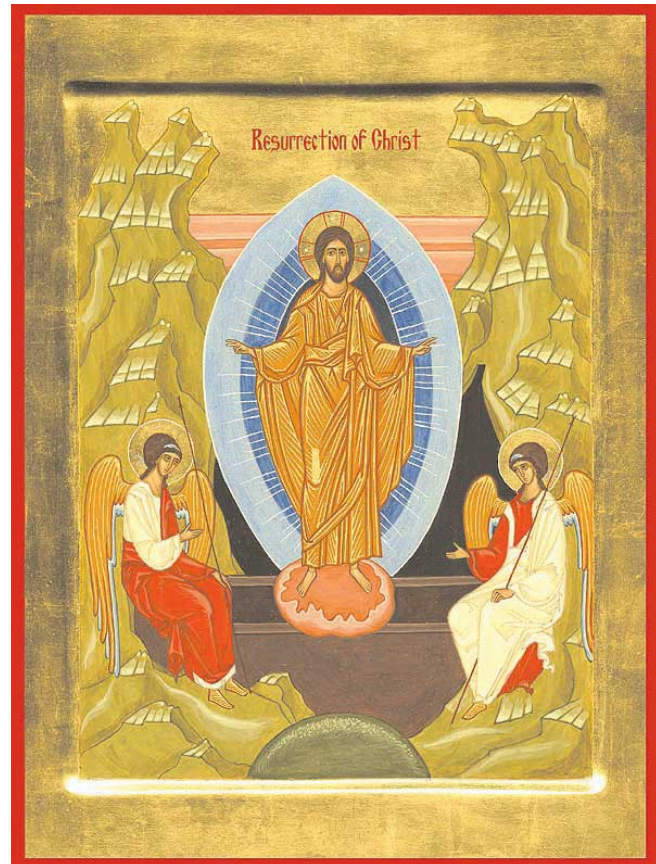
The Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Beginning of the

Pentecostarion. Ven. Theodore Trichinas ("the hair-shirt wearer"), Hermit, near Constantinople. Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Oshvensk (1479). Child Martyr Gabriel of Bialystok (1690). Ss. Gregory (593) & Anastasius the Sinaite (599), Patriarchs of Antioch. Ven. Anastasius, Abbot of Sinai (695).

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 20th: Paschal Vespers — 12 PM

Monday, April 21st: Hours & Divine Liturgy of Bright Monday — 9:15 AM

Saturday, April 26th: Great Vespers & Confessions — 6 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.



Many thanks to everyone who labored and served during Holy Week

and on Pascha: Sandy Bohlender, Linette Sedor, Melissa Bennett, Melissa Ciatto, Colin Miller, Charla Bendas, Rdr. Samuel Regen, Jacob Hawthorne, Sbn. Dustin, Ellie, Peggy, Anna and Jack Crosby, Pdn. Gregory & Mat. Martha Moser, Benjamin Snyder, Sbn. Marek & Renee Szeliga, Riley Tanner, Josef Thorne & Delaney Lacey. **Thanks also to the choir and directors:** Daria Cortése, Sbn. Sergei Arhipov, Mat. Martha Moser, Sandy Bohlender, Veronica Gula, Kristen Chocheli, Sandra Miller, Grace Ramus, Ellie Crosby, Josef Thorne, Renee Szeliga. *Thanks also to any others whose names have been inadvertently omitted.*

Birthdays: Sandy Bohlender, Vasiliki Hadgimallis, Mara Elizabeth Killough, Gregory Swan, Riley Tanner

Name Days: Dean Kardas, Sbn. Marek Szeliga

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos anesti!
Christos a inviat! Adevărat a inviat!
Kriste aghsda! Cheshmaritad aghsda!
Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!
Le Christ est réssuscité! En vérité il est réssuscité!
Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich Er is auferstanden!
Cristo ha resuscitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

VIGIL LIGHTS

NOTE: Slips submitted from Wednesday onward will be included in next week's bulletin.

FROM ANGELO

FOR THE LIVING: MARIA, JOHN, PAUL, IRENE, JOSEPHINE, HELEN, MIRIAM, STEPHEN, JULIA, ELENI, PENNY, MARIN, ANGELO, DIMITRIOS
IN MEMORY OF: BISHOP AUGUSTINE, FR. NICHOLAS, AMBROSE, ANASTASIA, JOHN, DIMITRA, MICHAEL, DIMITRIOS, ALEXANDER, PAULA, MARIA

FROM ANONYMOUS

FOR THE LIVING: SERGEI, OLGA, VLADIMIR, JULIE
IN MEMORY OF: VERA, VALENTINA, ARKADIY, VLADIMIR

FROM ANONYMOUS

FOR THE LIVING: PETER, SOFIYA, IRINA, ELENA, GALINA, ELENA, LUBOV
IN MEMORY OF: PETER, EKATERINA, BORIS, PETER

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 RISTVEY FAMILY

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

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

FROM RDR. SAMUEL REGEN

FOR THE LIVING: CHARLOTTE, ADAM, SYDNEY, DN. ALEXANDER, MAT. JULIANA, GABRIEL, ELIZABETH, FR. JOSEPH, MAT. CHARLOTTE, ALICE, ABP. MARK, RDR. NICHOLAS, FR. MARTIN, PDN. GREGORY, SBN. MAREK, SBN. DUSTIN, JACK, JACOB, CONSTANTINE, JESSE, RDR. VICTOR, ROMAN, RAYMOND, DARIA, SBN. SERGEI, MAT. MARTHA, DAVID, STEPHANIE, VALERIE, MARGARET, FR. ALLESANDRO, MAT. ANNA, LUCA, NICO, JOHN

IN MEMORY OF: RAYMONDE, SARA LEE, TOM, FR. DAN, MAT. MARY

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.

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. Evangeline, 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 (4/13/25)

General — \$1,866.95

Candles — \$182

Pascha — \$50

Prayer Books — \$80

Church Store — \$20

Parish Dev. — \$25

Subtotal — \$2,223.95

Online Collection (4/7-4/13/25)

General — \$1,575

Subtotal — \$1,575

GRAND TOTAL — \$3,799.89

YTD CONTRIBUTION TRACKER

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	YTD
2025 Total General Contribution	\$21,821.59	\$20,122.19	\$24,652.69	\$66,596.47
2025 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	\$99.19	\$91.46	\$89.65	\$87.99
Change from 2024 (Goal >\$8)	\$3.41	\$5.51	-\$10.32	\$5.54
2024 Avg. Per Week Per Unit	\$95.78	\$85.96	\$99.96	\$82.45

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	YTD
Building Fund Contributions	\$13,865.00	\$4,490.00	\$5,170.00	\$23,525.00
% of Goal Obtained (\$100k)	13.87%	4.49%	5.17%	23.53%



Christ Is Risen!

April 20, 2025
Protocol 04/001

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

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

"This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore."

So we sang at Matins, at the eighth ode of the Paschal canon. St. John of Damascus, the author of that canon, calls today "the feast of feasts," and as we celebrate this feast of feasts, this first and greatest of feasts, we might ask a seemingly simple question: what are feasts, and why do we celebrate them? This question seems particularly appropriate as the world around us grows ever more chaotic and complex. In the midst of all the change and busy-ness, how can we spare the time just to celebrate and do nothing of use?

Many of us are familiar with the Russian festal greeting, *s prazdnikom*. The key word here is *prazdnik*, the Russian word for feast or holiday, which derives in turn from the adjective *prazdny*, meaning "empty," and hence "idle." But this emptiness, or idleness, is not merely an expression of absence. The feast has positive content, but this content is not man-made: it is something made by God, something that our inaction allows us encounter and appreciate. Feasts are days on which we remain idle so that God can act; they are days that we empty of our own works so that we can fill them with the remembrance of the things of God: his deeds, his presence, his glory.

After all, as the Lord says, the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath (Mk. 2:27). We abused our freewill, sinned, and lost the continual enjoyment of God, instead being cursed to eat by the sweat of our brow (Gen. 3:19). But God, in his mercy, has given us the feast day, a day on which we are able to return to our Edenic state. We set aside the labor that is the result of our sin and, for a day at

least, devote ourselves to true rest, to the one thing needful: worship in spirit and truth, whose hour is coming and now is (Lk. 10:42, Jn. 4:23). As we sang at the canon, the feast is the day on which we bless Christ forevermore.

The feast day, in this way, becomes an icon of the deified person, filled with the divine energies—God's activity, rather than his own. The saints empty their hearts, their lives, their being, of everything worldly and passionate so that God can dwell there as his holy temple. The feast is also thus an icon of the life to come, in which the elect will no longer know toil or care, but only the never-ending banquet of the kingdom, the ceaseless heavenly worship of the one God in Trinity.

Thus, on this first of sabbaths, I pray that we might all set aside our Lenten labors and rejoice in the day which the Lord has made, Bright Sunday, his great and holy Pascha (Ps. 117:24). Following in the footsteps of our self-emptying Master, we worked for six weeks to cleanse our hearts and lives of everything unbecoming, not so that we could be empty, but so we could be filled, according to our own measure and capacity, with the grace that Christ brings into the world through his life-creating Resurrection. Christ rested after his six days of labor, and now after our six weeks of Lenten work, he calls us to enter into his rest, to find our peace in him and the great salvation that he has wrought for us upon the Wood.

Christ is risen, the Peace of God, the divine Peace himself, and so, in the midst of a busy and whirling world, we find everlasting peace on his feast of feasts. May the grace, peace, and joy of his Resurrection abide with all of you, always, now and throughout the ages to come.

Greeting you with festal cheer and Paschal rejoicing, and assuring you of my primatial prayers and blessing, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tikhon', written in a cursive style.

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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

April 20, 2025

*Christ is risen from the dead trampling down
death by death
And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.
We celebrate the abolition of death,
The destruction of Hades and the first fruit
of everlasting life.
And as we leap with joy, we praise the
Cause of these good gifts,
The God of our fathers who alone is blessed
and most glorified.*



Beloved of God,

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen! El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm! Khristos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

Let God, arise and let His enemies be scattered! As smoke vanishes so let them vanish! So the sinner will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad! This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Let us embrace one another and forgive all things for the sake of Christ's Holy Resurrection.

Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! Cristos vaskres! Vaistinu vaskres! Cristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat! Blessed Feast!

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark +

Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Pray
Fast
Give alms

Veteran Drive List

All Sizes (clothing):

Leisure Pants

Sweat Shirts

T-Shirts

Sweaters

Pajamas & Slippers

Gloves & Hats

Towels

Twin Sheet & Blankets

Washcloths & Pillows

Shampoo & Body Soap

Canned Goods

Ground Regular (caffinated) coffee :)

*Monetary Donations:

Accept cash or check. Please
address check to "**St. Francis
of Assisi Commons**".

veronica@mycollegeaid.org

(484) 201 - 4368



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*

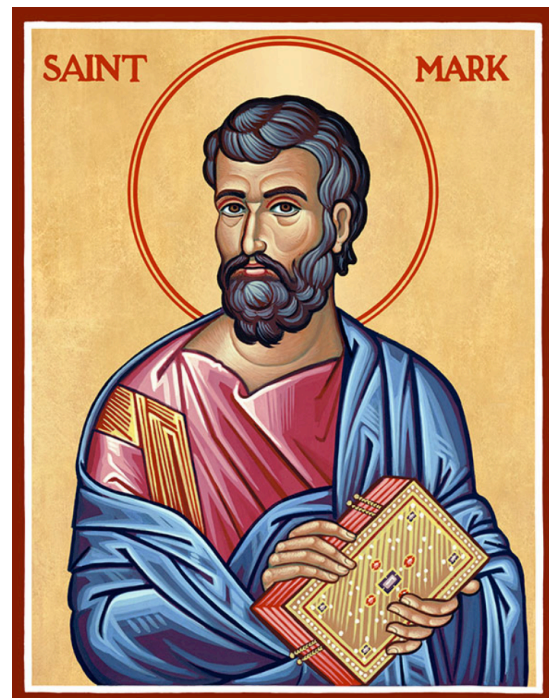
Subdeacons: Dustin Joseph Crosby
Sergei Arhipov
Marek Szeliga

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.**

