

# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA ([www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org))

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## Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

Rector

Cell: 570-906-1388

Email: [frraymondmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:frraymondmartin@hotmail.com)

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*

V. Rev. Michael Sekela, *Retired. Attached*

## Readers:

- ❖ G. Peter Bohlender
- ❖ Dustin Joseph Crosby

## Choir Directors:

- ❖ Sergei Arhipov
- ❖ Mat. Martha Moser
- ❖ Daria Cortese

## Church School Director

- ❖ Jennifer Sremanak

December 9, 2018

## Service Schedule

Great Vespers/Vigil

*Saturdays 6pm*

*Eve of Feast 7pm*

*(6pm on Sundays).*

Hours

*Sundays and Feast*

*Days 9:10am*

**Divine Liturgy**

*Sundays and Feast Days 9:30am*

**Confessions:**

*Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.*

**Akathist Service**

*Wednesdays at 9:15am*

**Memorial Services (Panikhida/Litya):** as

requested.



## 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos.

Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel (ca. 1100 B.C.). St. Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6th c.). St. Stephen the “New Light” of Constantinople (10th c.). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “UNEXPECTED JOY”.

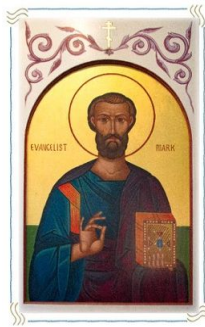
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ: Galatians 4:22-31; Colossians 1:12-18

ΓΕΓΟΝΟΣ: Luke: 8:16-21; 17:12-19

**Baptisms:** Children must have Orthodox Godparents who provide a letter from their parish priest. Parents and Godparents are required to attend two preparatory classes. Scheduling arrangements should be made with the Rector by contacting him directly.

**Weddings:** Arrangements should be made **at least** six months prior to the wedding and scheduling is subject to the liturgical calendar of the church.

**Please do not** make arrangements for receptions without speaking with the Rector first.



## Weekly Schedule of Services and Events

- Sun.** Dec 9: Hours and Divine Liturgy 9:10am. Coffee Hour.  
**Mon.** Dec 10: Reading Revelation 7-8pm.  
**Wed.** Dec 12: Akathist followed by Psalms Class - 9:15am Great Vespers for St. Herman of Alaska-7pm.  
**Thurs.** Dec 13: Hours and Divine Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska- 9:15am.

**Sat.** Dec 15: Christmas Food Sale 9am-1pm. Vespers and Confessions - 6pm.

**Advent Outreach Project:** This year we are offering financial and other support to A Woman's Place in Doylestown which assists women and children escape domestic violence. They have many needs, some of which they have shared with us and which we wish to meet with specific donations. Additionally, we will have a second collection TODAY for them and there will be a speaker from A Woman's Place who will provide us with greater insight into the problem and their role in responding to it and how we are able to help.

**Food Sale:** Our annual Christmas Food Sale will be on Saturday December 15th from 9am to 1pm. .

**Nativity Fast:** As we draw closer to the end of this Fast period, you are strongly encouraged to prepare your hearts and minds as well as homes and families. Take the time to sit quietly and examine your conscience (Fr. Hopko's If We Confess our Sins is highly recommended for preparation. Copies available in the church store and upstairs). Please do not wait until the end. Set the tone for a joyful rather than a stressful Nativity.

**82nd Novogodny Ball** will take place on Sunday 1/20/19 for the benefit of Orthodox Christian & other deserving charities. For info & reservations email [novogodnyball@gmail.com](mailto:novogodnyball@gmail.com) or call Andre Cox at 215-290-4542.

**Scrip:** Easy opportunity for Christmas shopping that offers hundreds of choices, convenience and the ability to benefit the parish in the process. Please make use of the program this Christmas season, not only for presents but for purchases related to celebrations, i.e. food, clothing, entertainment. Profit \$28. YTD \$826.86 Thank you for your continued support.

### **Wrightstown Food Cupboard:**

Thank you for your contributions. They made a big difference in our ability to help 140 families have a truly Happy Thanksgiving. The need continues. Please continue to bring your offerings.

### VIGIL LIGHTS

#### **FROM: PERDIKIS**

FOR THE HEALTH OF: PATRICIA, BRUCE, ANTHONY, JUSTIN, NIKOLAS, JACQUE, NATALIA, DEMOSTHENES, NIKKI, SAMANTHA, OLIVIA, DEMETRA, ARTHUR

IN MEMORY OF: ANGELO, EVANGELIA, ANGELA, ARTHUR, COLLEEN, EKATERINI, SPYRIDON, CHRISTOPHER, ANNA, KLEO, ZOGRAFIA, DEMETRIOS, NIKOLAS

#### **FROM: IRENE ARHIPOV**

FOR THE HEALTH OF: ALEXANDRA, SERGEI, STEPHANIE, PETER, ANTHONY, PATRICIA, DANIEL, ALAN, LUDMILLA, DEACON MICHAEL, MARY

IN MEMORY OF: MARIA, MARIA, IVAN, ANNA, KATHERINE, DMITRI, BORIS, ANTONY, SUZANNE

#### **FROM BUDDY RYBNY**

FOR THE HEALTH OF: JUDI, JOE, SCOTT, ALEXIS, KERRI, CHARLIE, ANNA, CAITLYN, MAX, STELLA, SOPHIA RYBNY

IN MEMORY OF: MARIE AND CHARLES RYBNY, ANNA AND METRO EHNATISHIN, PETER AND HELEN MUHA.

#### **FROM MIHAELA**

FOR THE HEALTH OF: SOPHIA, CRISTINA, DUMITRA

IN MEMORY OF: ION

#### **FROM SWAN FAMILY**

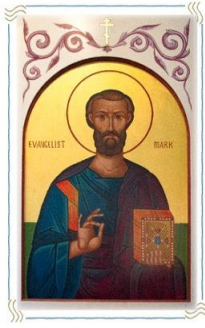
FOR THE HEALTH OF: HELEN, VENUS.

IN MEMORY OF: THOMAS, NEVILLE

#### **FROM: KASMER**

FOR THE HEALTH OF: KYRA, NADINE, HAROLD, CHARISSA





**Please remember in your prayers**

**Living:** Captives Hierarchs Paul and John, orphans of St. Thekla's, **Ill afflicted** *Matushki* Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra; *Servants of God* Peter, Stephanie, Anthony, Samuel, Sergei, Michael, Tatyana, Vera, Anna, Scott, Dennis, David, Garry, Vincent, Anthony, Helen, Stephen, Raymond, Darrell, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda and Michael, Catherine, Laura, Stephen. **Good estate** of Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Carmen and Nathan.

**Departed:** *Newly departed* Archimandrite Robert, Archpriest Joseph, Priest Athanasius, Protodeacon Dennis and Mat. Helen, Protodeacon Paul, Mat. Susan, Josephine *Departed* Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir.

### Birthdays, Names Day and Anniversaries

**Birthdays:** Protodeacon Gregory Moser and Maria Milosav, 12/13, Elliot Hamerstone, 12/14, Sharon Burkett 12/15

### **A Woman's Place Wishlist, from their website [www.awomansplace.org](http://www.awomansplace.org)**

To purchase items at your local Target retailer, you can use our handy Target Registry version of our Wish List:

[https://www.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=2d8a51dc1e8946078a2ab465724148d2&Ink=registry\\_custom\\_url](https://www.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=2d8a51dc1e8946078a2ab465724148d2&Ink=registry_custom_url)

### **Wish List**

- **Gift cards** (especially for stores where clients can buy staple items such as clothing, groceries, etc...) Next to financial contributions, gift cards are one of the most useful donations for our clients!
- New female adult underwear and bras.
- New children's (boys) underwear.
- New boy's pajamas
- Disinfecting Wipes (e.g. clorox cleaning wipes)
- Paper Towels
- Bedbug covers
- Canned tomato products
- Canned fruit
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Rice
- Boxed Mash potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Jello
- Cereal
- Canned potatoes
- Kids snacks/juice boxes

# The "Winter Pascha"

Introduction by Father Thomas Hopko

Taken from the book: *The Winter Pascha* (SVS Press)

The liturgical services for Christmas, officially called The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, are consciously patterned after the services for the festival of the Pascha of the Lord, the holy Resurrection. There is a forty-day fast. There are prefeast preparations. There are the special royal hours with their prophecies, epistles, gospels, and hymns on the eve of the feast, followed by the vespereal liturgy of St. Basil the Great. There is the solemn all-night vigil, crowned by the matin's canon and hymns. And finally, after the Eucharistic Celebration of St. John Chrysostom on the day of the feast itself, the celebration continues to its completion in the festival of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple forty days later. At the center of the festal season remains the original "Festival of Light," the holy Epiphany, officially called in the Orthodox Church: The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The liturgical verses and hymns for Christmas and Epiphany, the Pascha of Christ's incarnation and manifestation in the flesh, repeat those of Easter, the Pascha of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lord's birth and baptism are directly connected to His dying and rising. He was born in order to die. He was baptized in order to be raised.

## Nativity/Theophany

Today, He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin.

He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-clothes as a mortal man.

God who in the beginning fashioned the heavens lies in a manger.

He who rained manna on His people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His mother's breast.

The Bridegroom of the Church summons the wise men.

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts.

We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Theophany!

## Pascha

Today, He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the tree.

The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns.

He who wraps the heavens in a cloud is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped in the face.

The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Resurrection!

Jesus lay as an infant in the cavern in the reign of Caesar Augustus that He might lay in the tomb under Pontius Pilate. He was hounded by Herod that He might be caught by Caiaphas. He was buried in baptism that He might descend into death through the Cross. He was worshipped by wise men that the whole of creation might adore Him in His triumph over death.

The Pascha of His Cross was prepared by the Pascha of His Coming. The Pascha of His Resurrection was begun by the Pascha of His Incarnation. The Pascha of His Glorification was foretold by the Pascha of His Baptism. This is what Christians celebrate each year in what Father Alexander Schmemmann was the first to call "the Winter Pascha."