



# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

452 Durham Road  
Wrightstown, PA 18940  
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NOVEMBER 18, 2018

## 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

## 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.



**25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8.** Martyr Plato of Ancyra (ca. 306). Martyr Romanus the Deacon, of Caesarea, and the youth Barulas (303). Martyrs Zacchæus the Deacon, and Alphæus, of Cæsarea in Palestine (303).

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ: *Ephesians 4:1-6*

ΓΕΝΕΑΛΟΓΙΑ: **Luke:** 12:16-21

**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.



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## Weekly Schedule of Services and Events

- Sun.** Nov 18: Hours and Divine Liturgy 9:10am. Coffee Hour and Church School
- Tues.** Nov 20: Vigil for the Entrance of the Theotokos 7pm.
- Wed.** Nov 21: Hours and Divine Liturgy for Entrance of the Theotokos. 9:10am. Prison Ministry 7:30pm.
- Sat.** Nov 24: Vespers and Confessions - 6pm.

**Food Sale:** Our annual Christmas Food Sale will be on Saturday December 15th from 9am to 1pm. Order forms have been sent out to those on the email list. Copies are found on our website and Facebook page and in the vestibule of the church. Deadline for orders is November 30th.

**Grounds Cleanup:** There are tasks in need of completion internally and externally in the Church and on the property. Gutters need cleaning, basement window sills also need cleaning out on the south side, wax removal on carpets in the Altar especially, but also elsewhere in the church, items need polishing again, as the candle stands need to be cleaned. Volunteers are welcome to do any tasks on the times convenient to them. Please speak with Fr. Martin if and when you can help with any of these, partially or completely.

**Nativity Fast:** This week, (on the 15th) we begin the annual Nativity Fast, a.k.a Philips Fast or Advent. Whatever you call it, keep it, please. It is a forty day devoted to preparing to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh. It should be a time of attentive prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Attend the various festal services that occur during this time. Educate yourself in the faith by attending the lectures/presentations but especially the Advent Retreat. And give alms - that is share your time with those in need, whatever those needs are, as God makes them known to you. Not only for those we love, but those we don't. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned (not all those imprisoned are in government jails - hospitals, nursing homes, one's own home can be a prison for those suffering physically, psychologically and spiritually). And be generous, again, especially with those from whom there is nothing you can gain, nor anything you need to prove. If we do this, we will be ready to greet Our Lord when He comes, this time in glory. SEE ARCHBISHOP MARK'S GUIDELINES BELOW.

**Save the Date:** Please take note of the following upcoming events

- ❖ **Saturday, December 1**, our annual Nativity Fast/Advent Retreat with Archpriest Alexander Golubov on *Incarnating the Orthodox Christian Faith*.
- ❖ **Monday, December 3:** Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk will present part 2 of his presentation on the relationship of science to the biblical text of Genesis. This will focus on the scriptural text. It promises to be an especially informative and enlightening event. Please come and bring a friend who may have interest in the question, non-Orthodox are very welcome.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 15**, our annual Christmas Food Sale. NOTE order forms have been emailed and are posted on the parish website. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS NOVEMBER 30!

**Supporting the Church Financially in addition to regular sacrificial giving.** As we approach the largest gift giving season of the year, please investigate our Scrip program as a way to support the parish as you generously gift your family and friends beyond the parish. Additionally, if you shop Amazon, consider using Amazon Smile with St. Mark's as the beneficiary.

**Veterans Day:** Thank you to our Church School for the program and gifts for our parish veterans and to those who provided the food, set up and cleaned up. **Several good ideas were offered for how we might move forward with a ministry to vets in need. Other suggestions welcome too.**



**Scrip:** Profit \$40.25. YTD \$721.89 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.

VIGIL LIGHTS

FROM: THE SWAN FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: HELEN, VENUS, MICHAEL

FROM: TATYANA

FOR THE HEALTH OF: MICHAEL, TATYANA, IRENE, ANNA, LUCY, JOEL, DAVID,

OLGA, MASHA, PAVEL, SVETLANA, VOLODOYA, OLEG.

IN MEMORY OF: NICOLAY, ANNA, OLA, RITA, VASILY



**Please remember in your prayers**



**Living:** Captives Hierarchs Paul and John, orphans of St. Thekla's, Ill afflicted *Pcdn*

Joseph, *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, Barbara, Daniel, Amanda and Michael, Catherine, Laura, Stephen. **Good estate of** Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Carmen and Nathan.

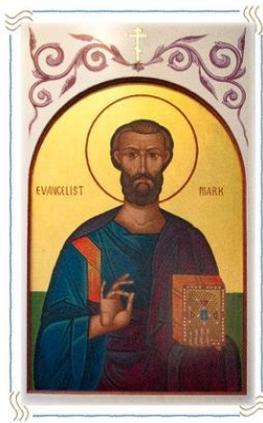
**Departed:** *Newly departed* Archimandrite Robert, Archpriest Joseph, Protodeacon Dennis and Mat. Helen, Protodeacon Paul, Mat. Susan, Virginia *Departed* Archpriests

Stephen and Vladimir.

**Birthdays, Names Day and Anniversaries**

*Birthday: Andrew Cortese 11/22*

*Names Day: Katerina Moser, Katerina Sremenak 11/24*



**From Archbishop Mark**  
**Guidelines for the Nativity Fast**  
**The Nativity Fast**  
**(November 15 through December 24)**

The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a *joyous* fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on

Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period.

Abstinence includes refraining from the food and drink mentioned above, as well as from smoking. The Eucharistic Fast means abstaining from at least the previous midnight for communing at a morning Liturgy.

**The Purpose of Fasting**

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

- Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.
- We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.
- We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.
- Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.
- Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

**Do Not Fast**

- between December 25 and January 5 (even on Wednesdays and Fridays);
- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
- during serious illness;
- without prayer;
- without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.