

# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.stmarksoca.org](http://www.stmarksoca.org)

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

452 Durham Road

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NOVEMBER 24, 2019

## Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

*Rector*

Cell: 570-906-1388

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Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*

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

## Readers:

- ❖ G. Peter Bohlender
- ❖ Dustin Joseph Crosby

## Service Schedule

Great Vespers/Vigil

*Saturdays 6pm*

*Eve of Feast 7pm (6pm on Sundays).*

Hours

*Sundays and Feast Days 9:10am.*

## Choir Directors:

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

## Church School

### Director

- ❖ Jennifer Sremanak



## Divine Liturgy

*Sundays and Feast Days 9:30 am*

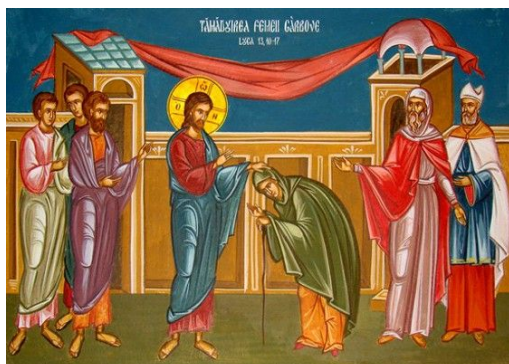
## Confessions:

*Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.*

## Akathist Service

*Wednesdays at 9:15am.*

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



**23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313). Great Martyr Mercurius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (3rd c.). Martyr Merkúry of Smolensk (1238). Ven. Mercurius, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Empress Augusta, Porphyrius the General, the 50 philosophers and the 200 Soldiers martyred with the Great Martyr Catherine (305-313). Virgin Mastridia of Alexandria. Ven. Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery (Vologdá—1562).**

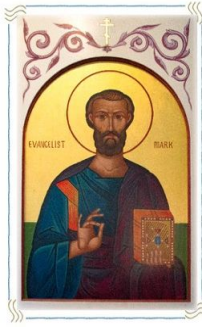
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ: **Ephesians 2:4-10**

ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ: **Luke 13: 10-17**

**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. Nov 24: Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am. Church School. Coffee Hour.**

**Mon. Nov 25: Book Group On the Incarnation - 7pm**

**Tues. Nov 26: Mirrors of Truth - 7pm.**

**Wed. Nov 27: Akathist of Thanksgiving & Psalms Class 9:15am; The Birches - 12:15am. Prison Ministry 7:30pm..**

**Sat. Nov 30: Vespers and Confessions - 6pm.**

**Donations:** We are grateful to all those who have donated for the new Communion Kit, Artophorion and a new candle stand. These items are essential to the proper worship of God, which is our primary privilege and duty, and deserve to be the best we can offer.

**Nativity Fast:** It is a time of **spiritual preparation** for a **spiritual feast**. **Fasting from meat, dairy is part of this observance, but by no means all of it.** Making room at the Inn of our heart and home for Christ should be the focus of this time through prayer and almsgiving as well as fasting. Donations for the Food Cupboard Christmas baskets, donations to the Philadelphia Breakfast Mission, International Orthodox Christian Charities. Set aside the money you save by your fast and at the end donate it at Christmas.

Starting on December 1, read one chapter of St. Luke's Gospel each day. By Christmas Eve you will be on the final chapter. A beautiful way to prepare for the Nativity.

**Attend the festal services** during the period, this week the Thanksgiving Service, followed in December by St. Nicholas (6th) and St. Herman (13th).

**Parish Book Study for Nativity Fast:** Meeting Mondays at 7pm 11/25, 12/2, 12/16. **On the Incarnation** by St. Athanasius of Alexandria.

**Scrip:** YTD \$257.65.

**Wrightstown Food Cupboard:** Thank you for the donations. 145 baskets were packed and delivered last Saturday. The same number are needed for Christmas, which will be packed on December 14th.

VIGIL LIGHTS

FROM: IRENE ARHIPOV

FOR THE HEALTH OF: SERGEI, STEPHANIE, PETER, VERA, ALAN, LUDMILLA, KATHERINE

IN MEMORY OF: ANNA, ANNA, MARIA, MARIA, MARIA, VICTOR, VICTOR, EUGENE, KATHERINE, DIMITRI, LYDIA

LYDIA, IVAN, PERESVET, LUDMILLA, ANGELINA

FROM: PERDIKIS

FOR THE HEALTH OF: GEORGE, DEMETRA, EVANGELIA, DEMETRIOS, KATHERINE, KEVIN, JOHN, ELSA, WALTER

IN MEMORY OF: ANGELA, EVANGELIA, EKATERINI, ARTHUR, COLLEEN

FROM: ALAN LEE LITVIN

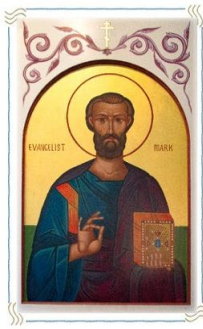
FOR THE HEALTH OF: IN GRATITUDE TO MY LORD JESUSS CHRIST WHO DOES SO MUCH FOR ME; FOR THE HEALTH OF ALL MY CHURCH FAMILY AND MY SISTER PHYLLIS.

IN MEMORY OF: SAMUEL, AMELIA AND SHANE LITVIN

FROM: MIHAELA

FOR THE HEALTH OF: CASSIDY, ALINA, CRISTINA, DUMITRA





**Please remember in your prayers**

**Living:** Captives Hierarchs Paul and John III afflicted *Matushki* Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne; *Servants of God* Peter, Stephanie, Anthony, Samuel, Sergei, Tatyana, Vera, Anna, Scott, Dennis, David, Garry, Vincent, Anthony, Helen, Stephen, Raymond, Darrell, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda, Michael, Laura, Stephen, Jason, Katina, Donna, Nina, Rebekah, Anthony, Alexander, Grover, Valerie, Raymonde, Anita, Jim, Peter, Jonathan, Gregory, Charles,



Kyra, Margaret, Arlene, Vaughn, Ruslan Good estate of Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Carmen and Nathan, Ferne.

**Departed:** *Newly departed* Mat. Anastasia, Helen, *Simeon* *Departed* Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir, Priest George

#### Names Day

Katerina Moser -24th

Katerina Sremanak - 24th

Catherine Petrascu - 24th

Ekaterine Tchumburidze -24th

Andrew Tyshko - 30th

Andrew Cortese - 30th

#### Birthday

Andrew Tyshko - 28th

### The Nativity Fast - Part 1

From <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2016/11/on-nativity-fast-when-why-how.html>, accessed 11/23/19

#### **By Metropolitan Symeon of New Smyrna**

1. The second longest fast after Great Lent is the Nativity Fast. It also consists of forty days, but it lacks the strictness of the fast of Great Lent. It begins on November 15th and ends on December 24th.
2. The feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the second biggest Despotic Feast of the Christian calendar. Until the middle of the fourth century the Eastern Church celebrated the feasts of the Nativity and Epiphany on the same day, which was January 6th. Christmas as a separate feast, celebrated on December 25th, was introduced to the East from the West at the end of the fourth century.

Saint John Chrysostom, who was the first to speak of the feast of Christmas, calls it "the metropolis of all feasts" (*PG* 48, 752), and informs us in 386 that "ten years ago this feast became known and familiar to us" (*PG* 49, 351).

By dividing the once united feast and the introduction of three separate feasts, the Nativity on December 25th, the Circumcision on January 1st, and the Baptism on January 6th, the so- called Twelve Days of Christmas was formed, which consists of the period from December 25th until January 6th. In this way the ancient unity of these two feasts of the Nativity and Baptism of our Lord survived.