

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.stmarksoca.org

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Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org)

Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA (www.doepa.org)

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Wrightstown, PA 18940

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Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

Rector

Cell: 570-906-1388

Email: 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

NOVEMBER 25, 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.



26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1.

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple. Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians (916). Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (101). Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria (311). St. Peter Galata of Syria (ca. 429).

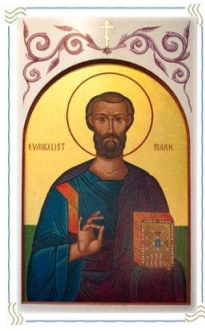
EPISTLE: *Ephesians 5:5-19; Hebrews 9: 1-7*

GOSPEL: **Luke:** 13:10-17; Luke 10-38-42, 11:27-28

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 25: Hours and Divine Liturgy 9:10am. Lotus for Pierre Djokic, Fifth Anniversary. Coffee Hour and Church School.
Mon. Nov 26: Of What Life Do We Speak? - 7pm
Wed. Nov 28: Akathist followed by Psalms Class - 9:15am Prison Ministry 7:30pm.
Thurs. Nov 29: Parish Council Meeting - 7pm.
Sat. Dec 1: Advent Retreat: Incarnating Orthodox Christianity - 10-3.

Vespers and Confessions - 4pm.

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.

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!

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 \$76.97. YTD \$798.86 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: THE SWAN FAMILY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: HELEN, VENUS, MICHAEL

FROM: PERDIKIS

FOR THE HEALTH OF: DEMOSTHENES, DONNA, MOHAMMED, SAMANTHA, OLIVIA, JUSTIN, NIKOLAS, ANTHONY, BRUCE, PATRICIA, GEORGE, WALTER.

IN MEMORY OF: ANGELO, EVANGELIA, EKATERINI, ARTHUR, COLLEEN, NIKOLAS, KLEO, DEMETRIOS, ZOGRAFIA

FROM: MOSERS

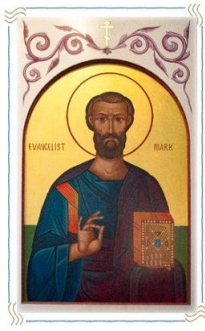
FOR THE HEALTH OF: ANDREW, PETER, STEPHANIE

FOR THE HEALTH OF: ANN

IN MEMORY OF: DN. JOHN, VERONICA, REBECCA, CHARLES, STEPHEN, FR. VINCENT

IN MEMORY OF: DN. JOHN, VERONICA, REBECCA, CHARLES, STEPHEN, RACHEL





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 Tyshko 11/28

Names Day: Andrew Tyshko, Andrew Cortese 11/30

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.

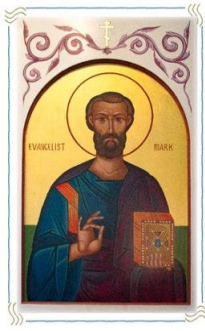
The Purpose of Fasting

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.



VERSES ON THANKSGIVING in the New Testament, compiled and published by
Fr. John Jillions on oca.org. Part 1.

1. Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus declared, "**I thank thee**, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes...
2. Matthew 15:36 He took the seven loaves and the fish, and **having given thanks** he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
3. Matthew 26:27 And he took a cup, and **when he had given thanks** he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you..."
4. Luke 17:16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, **giving him thanks**. Now he was a Samaritan.
5. Luke 22:17 And he took a cup, and **when he had given thanks** he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves;
6. Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and **when he had given thanks** he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
7. Romans 1:8 First, **I thank my God through Jesus Christ** for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.
8. 1 Corinthians 1:4 **I give thanks to God** always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus...
9. 1 Corinthians 10:30 **If I partake with thankfulness**, why am I denounced because of that **for which I give thanks?**
10. 1 Corinthians 11:24 and **when he had given thanks**, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
11. 1 Corinthians 14:16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how can any one in the position of an outsider say the "Amen" **to your thanksgiving** when he does not know what you are saying?
12. 1 Corinthians 15:57 **But thanks be to God**, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
13. 2 Corinthians 1:11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will **give thanks** on our behalf for the blessing granted us in answer to many prayers.
14. 2 Corinthians 2:14 **But thanks be to God**, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
15. 2 Corinthians 4:15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may **increase thanksgiving**, to the glory of God.
16. 2 Corinthians 9:11 You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will **produce thanksgiving to God;**
17. 2 Corinthians 9:12 for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in **many thanksgivings to God**.
18. 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
19. Ephesians 1:16 **I do not cease to give thanks** for you, remembering you in my prayers,

BECAUSE, FOR THE CHRISTIAN, THANKSGIVING IS EVERY DAY!

