



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)

452 Durham Road
Wrightstown, PA 18940
215 860-9640

Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

Rector

Cell: 570-906-1388

Email: fraymondmartin@hotmail.com

Protodeacon Gregory Moser, *Attached*

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

Readers:

- ❖ G. Peter Bohlender
- ❖ Dustin Joseph Crosby

Choir Directors:

- ❖ Daria Cortese

Service Schedule

Great Vespers/Vigil

Saturdays 6pm

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

Hours

Sundays and Feast Days 9:10am.

Sundays and Feast Days 9:30 am

December 27, 2020

❖ Mat. Martha

Moser

❖ Sergei

Arhipov,

Emeritus

Church School

Director

❖ Jennifer

Sremanak



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



**29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (14th of Luke) —
Tone 4. THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY. Sunday After the Nativity. Holy
Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the
King, and James (*Jacob*) the Brother of the Lord. *
Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34
A.D.). Ven. Theodore Graptus ("the Branded"),
Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the
Hymnographer (ca. 840). St. Theodore, Archbishop
of Constantinople (ca. 686).**

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Mt. 2:13-23

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:

Sunday, December 27: Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am.

Thursday, December 31: Vespers and Confessions for St. Basil, Circumcision of the Lord - 7pm

Saturday, January 2: Vespers and Confessions - 6pm

Sunday, January 3: Hours and Divine Liturgy-9:10am

Charitable Giving. We have received solicitations from **A Woman's Place** in Doylestown whose needs have significantly increased this year, as well as the **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**. You can support **A Woman's Place** by sending a contribution to them at P.O. Box 299, Doylestown, PA 18901. **T.A.S.K** can be reached here: 72 Escher St, Trenton, NJ 08609.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: At this time the needs are great. Pasta sauce, tea, coffee, juice are particular needs.

Birthdays

Irene Arhipov - 31

Names Day

Stephanie Ristvey

Stephen Sedor

David Gibson

James Pitra

James Browne

Wedding Anniversary

Fr. Martin & Mat. Heidi - 27

Vigil Lights

❖ From: Irene Arhipov

For the Health of: Sergei, Stephanie, Peter, Vera, Raymonde ,Anatole, M, Herman, Fr. Alexander, Bradley, Ludmilla, Alan

In Memory of: George, Robert, Abp. David, Mary

From: The Swan Family

For the Health of: Kate, Rachele, Connie.

In Memory of: Michael, Venus, Helen, Thomas, Neville, John

From Lucy Znak

For the Health of: Michael, Michelle, John, Amanda, Lucas, Baby Lucy

Please remember in your prayers



Living: Captives Hierarchs Paul and John All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our family and friends Charles and Erin, Ann Marie, Joseph, Alexis, Aphrodite, Charla, Sandy. III afflicted Archpriests Daniel, Emilian *Matushki Elena, Laryssa, Lisa, Priscilla, Myra, Suzanne, Anne, Jennifer, Emilia, Servants of God* Peter, Stephanie, Samuel, Sergei, Vera, Anna, Scott, Dennis, David, Garry, Vincent, Stephen, Raymond, Darrell, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda, Michael, Laura, Jason, Katina, Donna, Rebekah, Anthony, Alexander, Grover, Valerie, Raymonde, Anita, Jim, Peter, Jonathan, Gregory, Charles, Kyra. Margaret, Arlene, Vaughn, Helen, Nicholas, Elena, Nicholas, John, Alice, Edward

Departed: Newly departed Abp. David, Archpriest Ernesto, Archpriest John, Pr. Demetrios, Mat. Elizabeth, Eloise, Laura, George, Henrietta, Mary Departed Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir & Mat. Mary, Priest George, Archpriest Paul & Kh. Shirley.



December 20, 2020
Protocol 12/106



To the Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord, on this the glorious and light-filled Feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, I greet you with the words that resound throughout our Churches and homes during this season: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

By the grace of God, we have come through an extraordinary year fraught with challenges and trials that none of us could have expected. We have found ourselves confused, scared, and anxious. As we realized the frailty of our earthly life and the many fleeting things of this world to which we so often cling, more than anything, we have found ourselves in need of a Savior.

It is especially in these challenging moments that we are strengthened by God's promise, spoken in the book of Deuteronomy, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you (Dt 31:6)." As children of God, as children of the promise, we should remain steadfast in hope. We should never let our hope waiver, because, as the present feast reminds us, we are strengthened continually by the presence of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus, who saves us from our sins and weaknesses, and reconciles us with our heavenly Father. The scripture, hymns, and rites of the feast testify that Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, is He who has also died on the Cross, and become the first-born of the dead, raised us all by the Power of God, and opened the gates of the kingdom to us.

The great Prophet Isaiah, speaking of this kingdom, tells us:

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever (Is 9:7).

Beloved hierarchs, clergy, monastics, and faithful, let your hope be renewed at the Nativity of Christ! Be assured that God is with us! Perceiving the mystery of this feast, difficulties and trials in this life will become bearable, as your faith is strengthened, and your hope remains firm.

With all the blessings of the feast, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

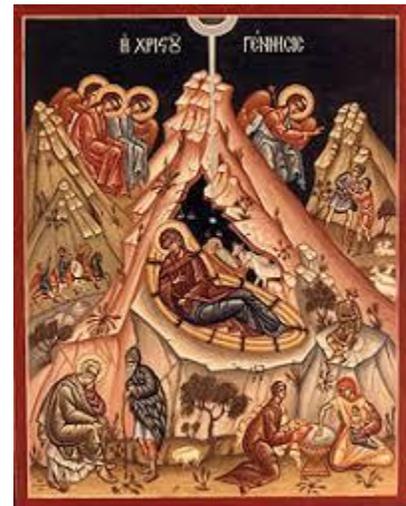


December 8, 2020

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Beloved Clergy, Matushki, and Faithful,

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [6] 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [c] 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born [d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her (Luke 1:26ff).



As the Archangel Gabriel reminds us, "For nothing will be impossible with God!" Let us earnestly seek to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies and souls to fully receive His Life Giving Presence. He is our peace and our hope. He is the source of Life!

Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful new year! Thank you for your hospitality over the last year as well as your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

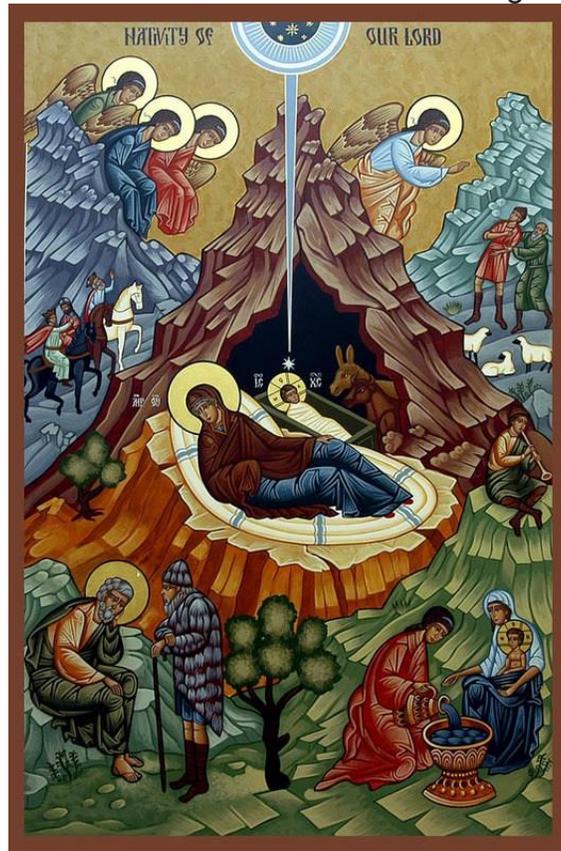
+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

What Shall I Give unto the Lord for All He has given unto Me?



Kontakion of the Nativity (Tone 3): Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the **earth offers a cave** to the Unapproachable One! **Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him!** The **wise men journey with the star!** Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

Earth offers what it has, Angels and Shepherds what they can, the Magi follow the way shown to them in faith.

This season so focused on gift too often loses sight of The Gift, the immensity of whose generosity explodes our comprehension, but should inspire our generosity.

Give what you have, what you can, following the Way that has been revealed.

Christmas can be everyday if we generously give in response to what we have been given.