

# ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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Orthodox Church in America ([www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org))

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

452 Durham Road  
Wrightstown, PA 18940  
215 860-9640

January 17, 2021

## Clergy

V. Rev. Raymond M. Browne,

*Rector*

Cell: 570-906-1388

Email: [fraymondmartin@hotmail.com](mailto: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

❖ 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



**32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. & Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (356).** Ven. Anthony of Dymsk (Novgorod—ca. 1224). Ven. Anthony of Chernoezersk (16<sup>th</sup> c.)

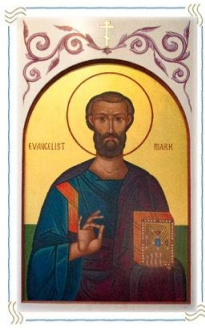
**Epistle:** Colossians 1:12-18; Hebrews 13:17-21

**Gospel:** Lk 18:18-27; Lk 6:17-23

**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, January 17:** Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am.

**Wednesday, January 20:** Akathist, with Litya for Departed - 9:30am

**Saturday, January 23:** Vespers and Confessions - 6pm

**Sunday, January 24:** Hours and Divine Liturgy-9:10am

**Parish Meeting:** Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31 following Divine Liturgy. All registered parishioners should have received an email or regular mail letter informing

them of the format and the agenda of the meeting. If you have not received one, you may contact us at [stmarksoca@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksoca@gmail.com)

**Calendars:** Are available courtesy of Fletcher-Nasevich Funeral Home. The St. Tikhon's were ordered a couple of months ago, but a new ordering system and the pervasive shipping delays have prevented us from having them in a timely fashion. Once received, they will be available.

**House Blessing:** Though less than 50% of the parish had their homes blessed last year, and this year being what it is, I don't expect much demand at this time, but if you wish me to come bless, I am willing. Schedule a time with me. As usual I require neither food nor payment. I do urge all to have their homes blessed later this year as an essential dimension of our recovery from the stress of the past year.

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

**Birthdays**  
None this week

**Wedding Anniversary**  
None this week

**Vigil Lights**

From: Irene

For the Health of: Sergei, Stephanie, Peter, Vera, Raymonde, Met. Herman, Fr. Alexander

In Memory of: James, Mary, George, newly departed George

From: **Sandra & Colin Miller**

For the Health of: Colin, Sandra, Philip, Bailey, Stephen

In Memory of: John Basara (Jan 9, 2021)

From: **Ristveys**

In Memory of: George

**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, Sydney, Susan

**Departed:** Newly departed Archpriests Joseph, Eugene, Ernesto, Pr. James, Pr. James, Nina George, Mary Departed Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir & Mat. Mary, Priest George, Archpriest Paul & Kh. Shirley.

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

### **HOW MUCH DO I OWE? (Part 1)**

By Bill Marianes<sup>1</sup>

*“How much do I owe”* asked the parishioner. *“For what?”* I asked. *“You know, for my church dues.”* I truly did not know what to say next, so I asked a simple question: *“How much have you been blessed?”* *“A lot”* they said, *“but what has that got to do with anything? I just want to know how much of my money I have to give to the church as dues to be a member?”*

And that was when I finally realized that, among other things, they got the pronoun wrong. They weren't really dealing with “their” assets. They are all “His” (i.e., God's). They failed to understand that Christ's church does not sell “memberships” or charge “dues” and that everything “they” had was really a gift from God, their Father. Everything! Their life, their talents, their genetic composition, their life experiences, the people who loved them, the opportunities presented them for greatness, the chances to make a difference in the world, their stuff and even their money. None of it was really theirs. They were merely a temporary steward (caretaker) of God's gifts. They didn't get it and just wanted me to give them a magic number as if it were written in some golden tablets.

So I replied with what Christ taught us on the subject: ***“Give it all, I said.”*** In Matthew 19:16-21 we are presented with parable of the young man who asked Christ: *“What good deed must I do to have eternal life?”* The young man was focused on the right thing, namely eternal life, and not some temporary success, job promotion or nice lifestyle. Christ responded by essentially first reviewing the 10 Commandments and then gave the following clear guidance: ***“If you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”***

Notice what Christ said. *“If you would be perfect...”* Perfect, he said, not average, or in the 2nd quartile. The roadmap to perfection is to give back everything we have been given. How many of us are ready to go “all in” and take the journey down that path toward an ultimate goal that is more rich and fulfilling than anything we could imagine? The young man was not ready, and *“...he went away sad.”*

<sup>1</sup> Bill Marianes is the Chief Evangelist Officer of the Stewardship Calling ministry focused on helping people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ. The always free [www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com) website contains many resources to help churches and parishioners with stewardship, strategic planning, engaged discipleship, discovering your WHY, servant leadership, effective communications and church operational excellence. Bill is also a member of the Orthodox Ministry Services Team <https://orthodoxministry.org/> and can be reached at [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com).