

ST. MARK'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org)

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

452 Durham Road

Wrightstown, PA 18940

215 860-9640

January 12, 2020

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

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

Choir Directors:

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

Church School

Director

- ❖ Jennifer Sremanak



Divine Liturgy

Confessions:

Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment.

Akathist Service

Wednesdays at 9:15am.

Memorial Services (Panikhida/Litya): as

requested



30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday After the Theophany. Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those who suffered with her (226- 235). Martyr Mertius of Mauretania (284-305). Martyr Peter Apselamus of Palestine (309-310). Ven. Eupraxia of Tabenna, in Egypt (393). < St. Sava I, first Archbishop of Serbia (1237). Ven. Martinian, Abbot of Belozérsk (1483). The “Akathist” and “Milk-giver” Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos

ΕΠΙΣΤΛΗ: **Ephesians 4: 7-13**

ΓΟСПΕΛ: **MATT. 4: 12-17**

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.

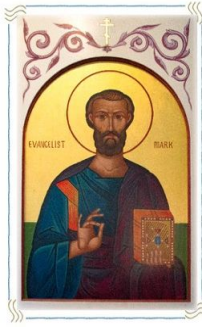
Please do not make arrangements for receptions without speaking with the Rector first.

Weekly SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS:

Sun. January 12: Hours and Divine Liturgy - 9:10am. Coffee Hour and Church School.

Tues. Jan 14: Service at Gloria Dei - 3pm.

Wed. Jan 15: Akathist and Psalms Class- 9:15am. The Birches - 11am. Prison Ministry-7:30pm.



Thurs. Jan 16: Parish Council Meeting- 7pm
Sat. January 18: Vespers and Confessions-6pm.

Annual Parish Meeting: Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26 following the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour, during which we will recognize and honor Sergei Arhipov for his many years as our Principal Choir Director. The meeting will include the usual reports, election of the Parish Council, and updates on the parish development project. All eligible, i.e. registered, sacramentally communed, regularly attending, materially supporting, members are may vote. All members are eligible to attend. Please join us to honor Sergei and to set the course for the coming

year.

Artophorion: Today we bless the newly donated Artophorion given in memory of Nota and Carole Henderson by their husband Charles and Dimitri and Katherine Arhipov (Archie) and Ivan and Maria Redko by Sergei and Irene Arhipov.

House Blessing: With Theophany we begin house blessing season, which runs through the beginning of Great Lent, the end of February this year. No need to feed or pay priest, as usual. January is not terribly flexible in the schedule. Give me a day and a preference for morning, afternoon or evening and I can let you know available times. Please consult the online calendar and/or sheet in the vestibule.

Scrip: Scrip orders will be taken on the first and third Sundays of the month by Martha Moser and Jan Ruano. Please use this program for your shopping. It costs you nothing except some time and planning and can benefit St. Mark's greatly the more it is used by more people.

Financial Update for Sunday 1/5:

Collection: General: \$2919,
 Notable Expenses: \$8100 Tree Removal.

Wrightstown Food Cupboard: Need jelly and cereal.

VIGIL LIGHTS

FROM: PERDIKIS

FOR THE HEALTH OF: PATRICIA, DEMOSTHENES, CARMEN, OLIVIA, SAMANTHA, WALTER, MOHAMED, JOHN
IN MEMORY OF: ANGELO, EVANGELIA, ANGELA, COLLEEN, ARTHUR, EKATERINI



FROM RISTVEY

FOR THE HEALTH OF: GEORGE, MARGARET, ANDREW, STEPHANIE, MARGARET, LORELLY, MICHAEL, PETER, JIM

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. Vitaly Good estate of Krastyo, Tom, Michael, Martin, Matthew, Nicoletta, Carmen and Nathan, Ferne.



Departed: *Newly departed* Archpriests John, Stephen, Elder Ephraim, Dns. Hennok, Gregory, *Departed* Archpriests Stephen and Vladimir & Mat. Mary, Priest George

Birthday

Sam Regen -14th



**Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
Sanctity of Life Sunday
Sunday, January 19, 2020**

To the honorable Clergy, venerable Monastics, and pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

From ancient times, all who have believed in the One God have believed that He takes special care in the formation of each human being. As God Himself expressed to Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jeremiah 1:5).

In the moment of conception in the mother’s womb, a human being comes into existence. Yet even before being conceived and formed, this human being is known by God. God exists outside of time, and already knows and loves each one of us personally, knowing what we will do and who we will become both in this life and in eternity. As Solomon proclaims, “God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. *For he created all things that they might exist*” (Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-14). God wants us to be alive, and certainly, this is why we must speak against abortion and its legalization in our country: it is in opposition to God’s loving plan to bring a human being into the world to live.

For just as He consecrated Jeremiah a prophet so that he might speak God’s word, God brings each human being into the world with a unique purpose of speaking a unique word to the world, to reveal something to the world that will bring it closer to Him. Our lives are intended to be a period of sanctification, each one of us helping in the salvation and sanctification of our neighbor, and in this way being sanctified ourselves. Whatever occupations we have, together with the universal human callings to be loving children, siblings, parents or friends, can thus be holy and life-giving. For the purpose of all of our lives’ activities is ultimately to become sanctified images of God by imitating God in caring for others. Because of this, we must give every human being the opportunity to live their life and work toward sanctification, just as we have been given that opportunity.

And what does this work of sanctification look like? Keeping in mind that David instructs us to “turn away from evil, and do good” (Psalm 33:15), we must begin to sanctify ourselves and the world by preaching the truth about evil, just as Jeremiah did. Above all, we reject Cain’s first sin of murder, in all of its loathsome forms: murder against the unborn, murder through violence, murder by starvation or deprivation, and murder of the ill and elderly. We also reject greed, lust, and selfishness, and we reject harming others, being dismissive of others, and hating others. We then “do good” by being imitators of God in caring for one another, by speaking the truth in love, and by emptying ourselves for the sake of others. Remembering that “this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life” (John 6:40), we couple our efforts of care for humanity with a call to the world to believe in the Son of God, Jesus the Savior of the human race, who was “given as a ransom for all,” because His Father “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:6, 4).

Yet we know that despite our efforts to do good, each of us falls at times and does evil. But with incredible compassion, our God who knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb still loves and respects us. He still loves each and every human being, despite our faults and mistakes, even those who have made terrible mistakes and have worked evil.

Thus, if we recognize that our purpose in this life is to become images of God, we must also forgive, help, pray for, and love all those who have committed wrong. In imitation of our loving God, whose mercy is immeasurable, we too must love those who have been involved in the evil of abortion, showing mercy and compassion to the poor, desperate, and confused parents who have committed abortions, and praying fervently for the repentance of abortion doctors and advocates everywhere. We must love them and forgive them their sins, knowing that God loves all of humanity and is willing to forgive all sins.

At the same time, we cannot allow any excuse for abortion. We firmly believe that a new person comes into being in the moment of conception, and because of this, we must ever strive to prevent abortions from happening, making sure our local communities know of the many Christian-supported pregnancy crisis services available to unprepared and confused young parents. In turn, our churches must ever be willing to love and help such parents and their unborn children.

Thus, this year, as we mark the sorrowful 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, we remember to hate the sin of abortion, and to make ever effort we can to stop it from happening, while loving the misguided and confused ones who have been involved in abortions, knowing that God is willing to forgive all transgressions. In this way, we fulfill the purpose that God has given us in this life to become His images and presence in the world, while helping others – unborn and born alike – to have that same opportunity to come to “the knowledge of the truth” and fulfill their own lives’ God-intended purposes. For this “truth,” as we all should be reminded of again and again, is that:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. *For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.* - John 3:16-17

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cross symbol followed by a stylized cursive name, likely 'Tikhon'.

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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