

Saint Mark Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America Archdiocese of Washington 7124 River Road Bethesda, MD 20817 Church Office: 301-229-6300 www.stmarkoca.org	Rector V. Rev. Gregory Safchuk Office: 301-229-6300 Home: 301-320-0739 gsafchuk@hotmail.com admin@stmarkoca.org	Parish Council President: Michael Thompson Home: 703-204-9092 dunaad@msn.com
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DECEMBER 3, 2017

EPISTLE Eph. 5:9 – 19	GOSPEL Luke 18:18 – 27	Tone 1
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (11th of Luke) Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635 – 605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monk Martyr Cosmos of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos). St. Gheorghe (George) of Cernica (Romania)

Sunday	Dec	3	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
			11:30a	St. Nicholas Workshop!
Tuesday	Dec	5	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group – Int. Prayer
Wednesday	Dec	6	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – St. Nicholas
Saturday	Dec	9	10:00a	Baptism of Liam Church
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	Dec	10	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Wednesday	Dec	13	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – St. Herman

The **Sanctuary Candle** is donated by **Tina Parrish** on the occasion of **Anna Mayberry's** 99th birthday and **Tina Parrish's** 75th birthday! May God Grant Them Many Years

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses			Donuts/Bagels
Dec. 3	Baxtresser-Chow	Borger	Phinney	Hydock
Dec. 10	E. Barber	J&K Barber	Masick	Freimann

Choir Directors, Readers, Preparers, Greeters, & Altar Servers

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec. 3	W. Tatusko	M. Mihailov	V. Bumbak	M. Hydock & C. Williamson	A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch J. Sedor M. Sedor
Dec. 10	J. Sokich	Mka. A. Prentice	V. Lutes	G. Freimann & K. Phinney	

Classes

Bible Study

Bible Study is finished for the rest of the year. We will meet again in the New Year 2018!

TO OUR VISITORS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: If you are seeking a quiet place to nurse or calm a rambunctious child, there are two rooms off of the main hallway on this floor to serve you. Our library is the second door on the left as well as our teen classroom, the last door on the left, at the end of the hallway. The library has rocking chairs, and both rooms offer comfortable couches and moderate privacy. Changing tables are located in the Ladies room on the upper level and in the Men's room on the lower level.

PRAYER REQUEST – O Christ, You alone are our Defender: Visit and help Thy servants who are in need of your help, protection and healing. Among them: Christina Berencz, Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret & Bill Dove; Julie Flick; Marge German; Jurretta Heckscher; Mark Helba; Evelyn Leleck; Larisa Looby; Marina McKee; Catherine Mikuluk; Karen Nichols; Timothy Parrish; Mark Phinney; Helen & Francisco Salas; Alexandra Sedor; Peter Sielinski; Olga Skenderska; Don & Peter Truitt; Beth Tucker.

Please pray for **Margaret**, Mary Carol Ashley's mother; Ellen Barber's friends **Bruce** and **Pamela**; Tina Burpee's mother **Margaret**, brother-in-law **James**, cousin **Andrew** and friend, **Edward**; Christine Cacic's friend, **Carmen**; **John & Suzette** Eremin; Julia Flick's son, **James** Shimer, and her stepdaughter, **Jeanie** Folton; Karina Fortuny's god-daughter infant **Maria**, Maria's parents **Tzvetelina** and **Lyubomir**, and brother **Ioan**; Marge German's sister, **Elaine**, grandson, **Joshua** and friend **Louise**, who is recovering from triple by-pass surgery; **Jeff** Jordan, friend of the Hardy family; Jurretta Heckscher's father, **Stevens**; **Will & Janie** McNamara, friends of Christina Kalavritinos; **Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; Mat. Jan and Fr. Mark Koczak's friend, **Metropolitan Isaiah** (Georgian Patriarchate); **Mary** Everhart, mother of Ted Koopersmith; Michael Lungociu's brother-in-law, **Douglas**, and a friend's mother, **Gitta** Finch; Marilyn Macht's friend, **Priscilla** Colby and Marilyn's cousins **Evelyn**, **Helen** and **Linda**. Anelia Rotunda's father, **Ivan**; Friend of Debbie Sieff, **Fr. Taras** Chubenko, of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Carteret, NJ, who is recovering from esophageal surgery; Peter Sielinski's friends **Brenda & Jim** Hall, **Kelly**, **Samuel**, **Ron**, **Pat**, **Bailey**, **Jenn** and **Matt**; Sharon Sielinski's Mother, **Marjorie**, her niece **Taylor**, and her friend **Laura**, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer; Olga & Slavina Skenderska's cousins, **Desi & Stanislav**, and friends **Catherine & Justin**; Ellen Thompson's daughter, **Sonya**; **Don Truitt's** parents; friends of St. Mark, **Tanya & James** Twyman; Friend of St. Mark **Linda** Weir; **Christen** and infant **Alexander**

Deliver them from sickness and grievous pains. Raise them up that they may sing to Thee and praise Thee without ceasing, through the prayers of the Theotokos and all your Saints!

ST. NICHOLAS WORKSHOP TODAY: Sunday School students, please join us TODAY after church for our annual St. Nicholas Day craft workshop! Instead of church school we will gather in the double classroom downstairs to assemble health and hygiene kits for the IOCC as well as have our usual holiday crafts and cookie decorating. St. Nicholas may even pay us a visit! Please enjoy a quick snack in the coffee hour room and then join us for crafts and fun. **Parents, please plan to attend with children Kindergarten age or younger.** We could also use a couple volunteers to assist at the craft tables. See Kathy Rudin or Alexandra Sedor if you can help.

DIVINE LITURGY for St. Nicholas will take place Wednesday, December 6th, at 10:00 am.

STUDY BIBLES FOR KENYA: I was notified by email yesterday that the new OCMC volunteers to Kenya will arrive in Nairobi today. The study Bibles are being hand carried by one of the OCMC leaders as an "extra bag." Bishop Athanasius of the Diocese of Western Kenya has made arrangements for the Bibles to arrive at his office in Kisumu. Thanks to everyone who participated in the fundraiser "Ireland in September" so that the Bibles could be purchased and delivered. Thanks! Marsha

CONGRATULATIONS to your new FOCA Officers for 2018, President - Marcella Hydock; Vice-President - Paul Dean; Secretary - Barbara Freimann; Treasurer - Michael Thompson; and District Representative - Michael Hydock. Installation will take place in January.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please keep Beka Badila and the Badila family in your prayers. Beka will have a new heart valve put in on December 6th. She will be having a new procedure that is part of an FDA study and it means she will not have open heart surgery. She will only be in the hospital one night and most people can return to work the next day. Since her job is a little different than most she may be out an extra day or two. Marti will fly to LA on Dec. 2nd and will be with her for a week.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY SUPPER & NATIVITY VIGIL: Come spend Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th with St. Mark! The evening starts at 5:00 PM with children leaving bread for the animals outside and seeking out the first star of the evening. A potluck, candlelight Lenten buffet, a Christmas story or two, and the remembrance of the living and departed of our community take us to the 7:00 PM start time for the Christmas Eve Vigil service. Please bring a Lenten dish to share! Sign-up today on the list posted outside the kitchen to be part of this St. Mark tradition. Please include the number of people attending and what Lenten dish you can bring to share. Questions? Please see Mka. Sasha.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT: The youth group is hosting an advent retreat on December 9th at 2:00pm in the church hall. We will be cooking meals for Stepping Stones, Father Tim will give a lecture about confession, we will eat holiday cookies, and more! Anyone in 5-12th grade is welcome! Email Sonya LeFors at leforss@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to the email list.

FOCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: It's that time of year to join our fellowship at St. Mark. We need you to continue our good works. If you enjoyed Irish Night or the Chili Cook-Off, consider becoming a member of St. Mark FOCA and participate. Dues are: Adults 18+ \$40, College students regardless of age is \$10, and we will accept any High School Student who wishes to become a member of our Senior Chapter for only \$10. Make checks out to St. Mark FOCA and give them to George Freimann (Membership Chair) or Marcella Hydock (Chapter President).

ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: If you enjoy a good read followed by a worthy discussion, please consider attending the St. Mark Woman's Book Club. We choose books well in advance and then meet on the last Sunday of every month to discuss the merits of our choices. December 31st—a story from Chicken Soup for the Soul and a snack to share! <http://www.chickensoup.com>. Book suggestions are always welcome. See Mat. Sasha for more details.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS! MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Tatyana Gleason
Nino Japaridze Henning</p> | <p>18 Jenifer Calomiris
Darren Tucker</p> |
| <p>2 John Badila</p> | <p>19 Elizabeth Sedor
Marsha Zellem</p> |
| <p>3 Daniel Nakshin
Tina Parrish</p> | <p>20 Anne Tucker</p> |
| <p>4 Karen Nichols</p> | <p>21 Nicholas Masick
Steven Sekellick</p> |
| <p>5 Theresa Sekellick</p> | <p>22 Caroline German</p> |
| <p>6 Rebekah Barber
Victor Lutes</p> | <p>Elaine (Petro) O'Hal-
Mat. Christina Perry
Mary Williams</p> |
| <p>7 David Burpee
Lucas Lindsay</p> | <p>23 Eugene Borissow
Audrey Henning
Alexander Landsburg
Matthew Tatusko
Andrew Tucker</p> |
| <p>8 Kyla Prentice
Marie Wickard</p> | <p>24 Sophie Christine Balan</p> |
| <p>9 Linda Marie Jackson
Konstantin Lyubimov
Gale Rutan</p> | <p>25 Mat. Janet Koczak
Margaret McCamant</p> |
| <p>10 Ransom Berry</p> | <p>26 Inna Lyubimova
Marina McKee</p> |
| <p>13 Ivan Borissow
Micah Needham</p> | <p>28 Cristian Ciubotaru</p> |
| <p>14 Mat. Helen Kuchta
David Markovich
Timothy Petro</p> | <p>29 Alexander Sokich</p> |
| <p>15 Howard Guba</p> | <p>30 Mat. Catherine Arnold
Ezanna Bezuneh</p> |
| <p>16 Patricia Koopersmith
Evelyn Leleck</p> | <p>31 Wayne Cessna
Charles Datch</p> |
| <p>17 Christopher German
Jesse Japaridze Henning
Catherine Steger</p> | |



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will take place Saturday, December 9th, following Vespers. Observers welcome!

CHOIR REMINDERS: The baptism of Liam Church will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 am. Choir members, please mark your calendars and come sing if you are able! Also, we have two more rehearsals until Christmas: TODAY and December 10th, both following Liturgy!

Happy Birthday To You!
May God Grant You Many Years!

3 Daniel Nakshin
Tina Parrish
4 Karen Nichols
5 Therese Sekellick
6 Rebekah Barber
Victor Lutes

7 David Burpee
Lucas Lindsay
8 Kyla Prentice
Marie Wickard
9 Linda Marie Jackson
Konstantin Lyubimov
Gale Rutan

ST. LUKE SISTERHOOD HOLIDAY BAKE SALE will take place Saturday, December 9th, 9:00am—3:00pm. Featuring lots of homemade specialties including nut rolls, poppyseed rolls, stuffed cabbage (sarma), double smoked sausages and much more. You can find a more complete listing of the goodies below and on their website at <http://stlukemclean.org/bakesale.html>. You may pre-order from the website up through Nov. 26.

EVANGELIZER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: To get a little ahead of the season, please start thinking of articles to write, collecting photos or seeking out your favorite Christmas cookie recipe to share! Deadline for submissions is December 20th!

OUTREACH UPDATES:

We will continue to collect Angel Tree gifts through Sunday, December 17th. Thank you to all who have already deposited your gift in the "Big Red Box" outside of the sanctuary.

We will resume our collection of grocery cards for the needy, as well as Highland Elementary School. We will continue this collection through Sunday, December 17th.

Finally, In case you missed the announcement on Sunday, we want to give our thanks to those hearty cooking souls who signed up to serve on the 17th of this month. But as wonderful as you are for this, we hope you will be encouraged that this month, our Youth/Teen Group will be substituting for our labors, and push this shared ministry into broader participation. We will welcome your efforts again in January... but this round... we get a pass. That said, we'll still need help with the delivery. All hands are welcome.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE! The bookstore is closing. There will still be a few things, Bibles, prayer books, and materials that Father uses with catechumens, on the top shelf. Everything else is at close out prices. You determine the sale price. We bought these materials at a small discount, but often the shipping fees had us breaking even. We would like to recoup some of these expenses. Please buy what you want and leave a check for a fair price. Please give cash to Joan Mitchum, Pat Ihnat, or Father Gregory. This is a great time to buy for Christmas.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: A concert of Orthodox Sacred Chant in English from Christmas to Epiphany. The Boston Byzantine Choir under the direction of Charles R. Marge will perform on Saturday, December 9th, 2017 at 6:30pm at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD. Vespers will precede the concert at 5:30pm. There will be a reception following the concert in the parish hall. For more information see the flier on the candle stand in the vestibule.

2018 PLEDGE PACKETS are ready to be picked up and are located in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Please have them filled out and returned to Fr. Gregory or Gene Jacobsen no later than January 1st, 2018.