

## ***Saint Mark Orthodox Church***

<b>Orthodox Church in America Archdiocese of Washington</b> 7124 River Road Bethesda, MD 20817 Church Office: 301-229-6300 www.stmarkoca.org	<b>Rector</b> V. Rev. Gregory Safchuk Office: 301-229-6300 Home: 301-320-0739 gsafchuk@hotmail.com admin@stmarkoca.org	<b>Parish Council President:</b>  Michael Thompson Home: 703-204-9092 dunaad@msn.com
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**DECEMBER 31, 2017**

<b>EPISTLE</b> Gal. 1:11 – 19	<b>GOSPEL</b> Matt. 2:13 – 23	Tone 5
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### DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Sunday After the Nativity of Christ. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the brother of the Lord. Leavetaking of the Nativity. Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome (439). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakos) of Bisericani (Romanian – 1600). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakos) of Tazlu (Romanian – 1660). New Hieromartyrs Thaddæus (Uspensky), Archbishop of Tver' and Nikolai (Klement'ev), Archbishop of Velikii Ustiüg (1937 – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> O.S.).

Sunday	Dec	31	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship – Pot Luck!
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Women's Book Club Meeting
Monday	Jan	1	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Circumcision of Our Lord
				Prayers for the New Year
Tuesday	Jan	2	10:00a	Funeral Service for Mark Helba
Friday	Jan	5	7:00p	Great Compline and Blessing of the Waters
Saturday	Jan	6	9:30a	Divine Liturgy - Theophany
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
Sunday	Jan	7	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School

The **Altar Candle** is donated by **Marsha Zellem** in memory of her parents **Nicholas and Martha**. May Their Memory be Eternal!

The **Sanctuary Candle** is donated by **Joan Mitchum** on the occasion of **Roberta & Mike McCunney's** Anniversary. May God Grant Them Many Years!

### Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses			Donuts/Bagels
Dec. 31	<b>POTLUCK</b>	<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>HOUR</b>	Tatusko
Jan 7	Masick	Stanton	Karas	Tatusko

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec. 31	C. Berencz	M. Phinney	C. German	Mka. G. Phelps & N. Stanton	A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch J. Sedor M. Sedor
Jan 7	S&D Hardy	M. Karas	Dn. D. Phelps	M. Nimmer & R. Zabela	

### Classes

#### Bible Study

Bible Study to resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following Vespers. "When you Die – The Most Important Thing" A look at the first Christian document to see what it has to say on this topic.

**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; Evelyn Leleck; Larisa Looby; Marina McKee; Catherine Mikuluk; Karen Nichols; Timothy Parrish; Clint Perdue; 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**; Margie Johnson's granddaughter **Nadia**. **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!**



Happy New Year!!



**POST-BAZAAR MEETING:** January 7 - all are welcome to attend this meeting at 11:30 am to contribute comments or suggestions.

**FREE-WILL OFFERING LUNCHEON:** Free-Will Offering Luncheon January 28 - please plan to stay and enjoy a luncheon after liturgy. The menu will be halupki, piroggi, piroshki, blini, salad and dessert. Monies collected will be used for the 2018 food festival and bazaar.

**MEMORY ETERNAL:** Mark Helba peacefully fell asleep in the Lord early in the morning of Friday, December 29th. Tentative plans for the funeral service here at St. Mark are for Tuesday, January 2nd, at 10:00 am. Please keep him, Cindy and their family in your prayers. May his Memory be Eternal!

**CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD:** We will celebrate Divine Liturgy for Circumcision of our Lord TOMORROW January 1st, 2018 at 9:30 am. We will also say prayers for the new year immediately following Liturgy! Happy New Year!

**THEOPHANY:** We will serve Compline and Blessing of Water at 7:00 pm on Friday, January 5th. We will also celebrate Divine Liturgy for Theophany on Saturday, January 6th at 9:30 am.

**HOUSE BLESSING SIGN-UP:** Fr. Gregory will be contacting parishioners to schedule house blessings, but if parishioners have a preference for a specific date and time, they may contact Fr. Gregory at any time. Thank you!

**BIBLE STUDY:** will resume on Saturday, January 7th, immediately following Vespers. Topic will be "*When you Die—The Most Important Thing*" A look at the first Christian document to see what it has to say on this topic.

**2018 LITURGICAL WALL CALENDARS ARE IN!** Please pick up a 2018 Liturgical Calendar if you have not done so already. They are available in the hallway outside of the Church nave. A big Thank You! To Chris German for once again sponsoring this wonderful ministry! Please limit one per household, Thank you!

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE IN!** If you would like offertory envelopes for 2018, they are available in the hallway outside of the church nave. Please be sure to record the box number and your name on the sign up sheet next to the boxes. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S PARTY?** Consider some food from our freezers. We still have meat piroshki, cabbage pirog, piroghi, blini, spanakopita, and walnut rolls for sale. See Tina Burpee after liturgy.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** Thanks to all who donated to this year's parish Christmas card. The money raised will be used to offset the cost of flowers for the church on feast days.

**OUTREACH UPDATES:**

Highland Elementary School Angel Tree Deliveries: The gifts were dropped off on Monday, December 18th, and everyone was extremely grateful. We have a lot of thank you notes, some of which you can read on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall. Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful ministry.

Stepping Stones: Our next meal delivery is schedule for Sunday, January 14th. Please sign up in the hall outside of the parish hall to provide a dish, or to help deliver the meal!

Grocery Cards: Thank you to all who donated funds for the grocery cards, or donated the cards themselves. We appreciate your support for this outreach effort and important ministry!

**SAVE THE DATE:** FOCA Annual Chili Cook-Off is Saturday, Feb 3, 2018. Please mark your calendars. We will play BINGO!

**FOCA BULLETIN BOARD:** Please feel free to post family or pet pictures on FOCA bulletin board. Thanks for sharing!

**NOVOGODNY BALL:** This year's Novogodny Ball will be on January 14, 2018, sponsored by St. Stephen's parish in Trevoise, PA. Please join our chapter in this fun filled weekend. Information and seating chart for dinner-dance is posted on the FOCA bulletin board in the outside hall. Early Bird Special rates are due by 12/16. Come! Enjoy! Mingle! It's fun!

**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).

**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.

**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>. January 28th—*Orphan Train* by Christian Baker Kline; February 25th—*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the birth of the FBI* by David Grann and others; March 25th—*Miller's Valley* by Anna Quinlan; April 29th—*Saints for All Occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan. Book suggestions are always welcome. See Mat. Sasha for more details.

*Happy January Birthdays!  
May God Grant You Many Years!*

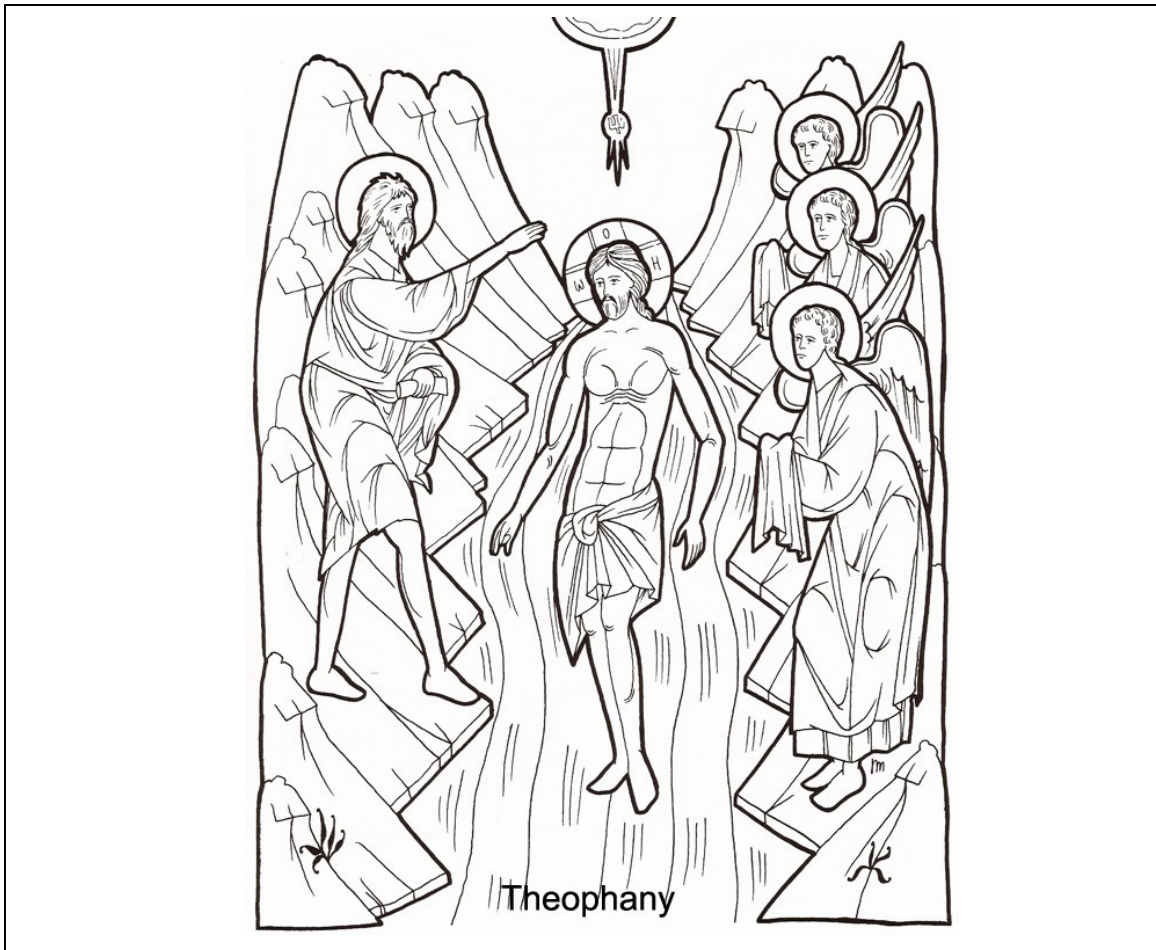
- 1 Jim Orban
- 2 James Flick  
Robert Williams
- 4 Samuel Kumar
- 5 Michael Albert  
Anna Meyendorff  
Julia Shiller
- 7 John Bainbridge  
Lisa Cannon  
Ted Koopersmith  
Pamela McHugh
- 8 Alexander Masick
- 9 Susan Petro  
Debbie Sieff
- 11 Debbi Dillon  
Anelia Rotunda
- 13 Elspeth Berry  
Susan Orban
- 14 Joan Mitchum
- 15 Nicholas Bilyeu  
Michael Bezuneh
- 16 Justin Ciubotaru
- 17 Hannah Perry  
Janice Victorov



- 18 Katheryn Cannon  
John C. Petro
- 19 Tom Cipu  
Leroy Gumpert
- 20 Jacob LeFors
- 22 Slavina Skenderska
- 23 Eugenia Jankovic
- 24 Peter Dillon  
Anthony Sekellick
- 25 Rose Zabela
- 26 Matthew Nimmer  
Ivana Rotunda
- 27 Michael Berencz  
James Lacko
- 28 Kaitlin Barber  
Nicholas Herrera
- 29 Jurretta Heckscher  
Marilyn Macht
- 30 Marti Badila  
Michelle Corbin
- 31 Rodica Cipu



**Happy  
Birthday!**



***Happy Birthday To You!***

***May God Grant You Many Years!***

**December**

31 Wayne Cessna  
Charles Datch

**January**

1 Jim Orban  
2 James Flick  
Robert Williams  
4 Samuel Kumar  
5 Michael Albert  
Anna Meyendorff  
Julia Shiller