

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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VENERATION OF THE CROSS MARCH 11, 2018

EPISTLE Heb. 4:14 - 5:6	GOSPEL Mark 8:34 - 9:1	Tone 7
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT. Veneration of the Cross. St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638-644). St. Evfimii (Euthymius), Bishop of Novgorod (1458). Hieromartyr Pionius of Smyrna and those with him: Asclepiades, Macedonia, Linus, and Sabina (250). Translation of the Relics of Martyr Epimachus of Pelusium, St. Sophronii, Bishop of Vrachia (Bulgaria – 1813). Ven. Sophronii the Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 13th c.).

Sunday	Mar	11	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Veneration of the Cross
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship – SOUPER SUNDAY!
			11:30a	Church School
Wednesday	Mar	14	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy
			7:30p	Lenten Lecture
Saturday	Mar	17	8:00a	Parish Clean Up Day
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	Bible Study
			6:30p	FOCA Chapter Meeting
Sunday	Mar	18	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – St. John Climacus
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Mar	20	10:30a	Bl. Mka Olga Prayer Group - Akathist

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses			Donuts/Bagels
Mar 11	Mid	Lent	Potluck	Dean
Mar 18	Phinney	Mitchum	Cacic	Tatusko

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Mar 11	J. Sokich	M. Mihailov	D. Golembiewski	G. Freimann & K. Phinney	A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch J. Sedor M. Sedor
Mar 18	S&D Hardy	Mka. A. Prentice	Dn. D. Phelps	M. Hydock & C. Williamson	

Classes

Bible Study

Saturday, March 17 th	Following Vespers
Saturday, March 24 th	Following Vespers

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, Migs & Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret & Bill Dove; Mary Ann Fitzgerald; Julia Flick; Marge German; Jurette Heckscher; Evelyn Leleck; Larisa Looby; Marina McKee; Catherine Mikuluk; Timothy Parrish; Clint Perdue; Alexandra Sedor; Peter Sielinski; Beth Tucker.

Please pray for **Margaret**, Mary Carol Ashley's mother; Ellen Barber's friends **Bruce** and **Pamela**; Tina Burpee's brother-in-law **James**; and friend, **Edward**; Christine Cacic's friend, **Carmen**; 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 friend **Louise**, who is recovering from triple by-pass surgery; **Jeff** Jordan, friend of the Hardy family; Jurette Heckscher's father, **Stevens**; Margie Johnson's granddaughter **Nadia**. **Will & Janie** McNamara, friends of Christina Kalavritinos; **Carole** Roberts, mother of Tammy Karas; **Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; Mat. Jan and Fr. Mark Koczak's friend, **Metropolitan Isaiah** (Georgian Patriarchate); **Mary** Everhart, mother of Ted Koopersmith; Michael Kopcha's mother-in-law **Barbara Durynski**; Larisa Looby's daughter **Lisa** and granddaughters **Chelsea** and **Alexandra**. Michael Lungociu's brother-in-law, **Douglas**, and a friend's mother, **Gitta** Finch; Marilyn Macht's cousins **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; Sharon Sielinski's niece **Taylor**, and her friend **Bill** who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer; Olga & Slavina Skenderska's cousins, **Desi & Stanislav**, and friends **Catherine & Justin**; **Fr. Basil Summer**; 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!



VENERATION OF THE CROSS

SOUPER SUNDAY: will take place TODAY following Liturgy! Our youth will be sponsoring and working the event and all proceeds will go charity!

PARISH CLEAN UP DAY will take place on Saturday, March 17th, at 8:00 am. Please mark your calendars and plan to help out!

EVANGELIZER DEADLINE is fast approaching! Wednesday, March 21st! Please begin to compose your articles, collect recipes, photos or whatever you would like to share with our parish! Please submit them to Sharon Sielinski! Thank you!

THOSE CATKINS ARE READY TO POP. Our pussy willow bush here on the church property is just about ready to pop and we will be checking so we can get them cut before the catkins go to seed. If you have bushes, please check them. We are always grateful for pussy willow donations for Palm Sunday. Thank you.

THE BLESSED MATUSHKA OLGA OF ALASKA PRAYER will read The Life of St. Mary of Egypt on Tuesday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. If you are able to join us please do.

BIBLE STUDY: will take place on March 17th, following Vespers. Topic to be announced.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY The St. Mark tradition of bringing a sack "lunch" continues, but for those who forget their dinner, those who are moved at the last minute to attend the Presanctified Liturgy, and those who are just plain hungry, we will have peanut butter, jelly and bread to make sandwiches and at least one pot of hot soup. All Lenten soups, bread and other dishes are gratefully accepted. Thank you, all.

MEETING FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS TODAY: We've been trying a new format for coffee hour for about 5 months and want to have a chance to hear feed-back on the changes from our volunteers. Rather than doing another survey, we decide to hold a meeting for all coffee hour hosts, scheduled for March 11th. Our goal is to find out how the changes are working for hosts, clear up any confusion, and possibly work on other options. Our volunteer list did not grow much, and we are still looking for ways to decrease the frequency of hosting. One idea we want to speak with you about is decreasing the number of host families per coffee hour from three to two. We realize that not everyone will be able to make it to the meeting, so if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please don't hesitate to speak to Daniela, Debbi, or Renee.

RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY JUNE 2ND Mark your calendars! Start to collect your "treasures" now, and plan to volunteer!

BULLETIN SICK LIST: If you have someone listed on the sick list, please provide us with an update on how they are doing. If they are no longer ill, please let Fr. Gregory or Sharon Sielinski know so that we can remove them from the list. Going forward, names that are submitted will be included for 40 days, then deleted unless a request has been made to continue the prayers for chronic or long term reasons. Thank you!

MID-WINTER FROZEN FOOD SALE Meat piroshky \$8.00/bag; cabbage pirog (1) - \$8.00/pan; spanakopita (5) - \$20.00/pan; walnut roll - \$8.00/roll. See Tina Burpee if you are interested.

PROJECT MEXICO: I've been informed that there are some openings available with a trip planned by St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, to build homes with Project Mexico in Tijuana this July. Please let me know if you're interested in participating. Thanks. - Fr. 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. 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 Birthday To You!
May God Grant You Many Years!

11	Cormac Allen	14	Beth Tucker
	Jerry Lutes	15	David Hardy
	Kyra Smerkanich		Sean McHugh
12	Arianna Cacic	16	Patricia Ihnat
	Aaron Prose	17	Matthew Looby
13	Nadia Burns		
	Catherine Mikuluk		

LENTEN CONFESSION: I will be available to hear confessions at 5:30 pm prior to Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgies. Also, for the first three Saturdays in March at 4:30 pm prior to Vespers. I will also hear confessions by appointment as well. Please try to offer your Lenten confession earlier rather than later as things get really busy toward the end of the fast and during Holy Week. Thank you! - Fr. Gregory

GOLF TOURNAMENT The 15TH annual St. Andrew Orthodox Church Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 1ST at The Wetlands Golf Club in Aberdeen, MD. Registration will begin at noon, with a shotgun start at 1:30 pm. More information regarding registration and sponsorship will be sent in the near future. In the meantime, please mark your calendars, and hope to see you there!

LENTEN RETREAT: There will be a Lenten Retreat at Saint Sophia Cathedral on Saturday March 17th between 3 and 5 PM where bestselling author and radio host Eric Metaxas will share insights from his recent books *Miracles* and *Martin Luther*. Please see the flier on the candle stand for additional details or visit: <http://www.saintsophiadc.com/metaxas>

FOCA STOCK AWARDS: FOCA will be selling Stock Awards tickets. \$2 per ticket or \$10 for packet of 5. Winners will be drawn at the District Bowling Tournament on April 14, 2018. See Barbara or George Freimann to get your winning ticket.

GOLD RINGS FOUND: Two gold wedding bands were found in the church in the last week. One in the downstairs ladies room and one in the sanctuary. If you, or someone you know, misplaced their ring please let Fr. Gregory or Sharon Sielinski know.

LENTEN LECTURE SCHEDULE:

- **March 14** - Eugenia Ordynsky
Topic: *Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry*
- **March 21** - Marsha Zellum
Topic: *The Orthodox Church in Kenya*
- **March 28** - Maria Rosana Roncatto (with Frederica Matthewes-Green),
Topic: *Presentation on Fr. Gheorgue Calciu*

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: 2018-2019 Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships Available from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Applications for two scholarships administered by the Department of Philanthropy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are now available to students from Orthodox Churches affiliated with the Assembly of Bishops. The Malta Scholarship is for undergraduate studies, and the Paleologos Scholarship is awarded for graduate work of a non-theological nature. Each of these scholarships was established through generous gifts from dedicated Greek Orthodox Christians who wanted to provide financial assistance towards the education of young people from the Orthodox Christian community. Applications can be downloaded from the website of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at www.goarch.org (on the spotlight section on the home page). For more information, please email scholarships@goarch.org or call 212-774-0283. The deadline for submitting an application for these scholarships is May 4, 2018.

BIBLES FOR KENYA: The St. Mark Chapter of F.O.C.A. has finalized the purchase of a case of "Study Bibles" (12) for Kenya. A volunteer group of parishioners from St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Wichita Kansas will be hand carrying the Bibles to Nairobi Kenya within the next week or so. Due to the problems within the postal system, the Bibles had to be hand carried. The Bibles will be given to Bishop Neofitos, from the Holy Orthodox Diocese of Nyeri and all Mt Kenya Region. The Bishop will then give the Bibles to the appropriate clergy in his Diocese. Thanks to everyone involved who made this worthy project a reality. Marsha

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING: The first 50th Anniversary of the Founding of St Mark Team Meeting was held last Sunday, March 4th. The meeting was well attended and much was discussed! Thanks to all who were able to participate! If you missed this meeting but would still like to be on the committee, or help out in some way, please contact Jerry Marti or Sarah Borger (committee co-chairs.)

CENTER FOR THE BYZANTINE ARTS EVENTS:

INTENSIVE ICONOGRAPHY COURSE:

St. Patrick of Ireland — The Center for Byzantine Material Arts will hold a two-day Intensive Iconography Course this Lenten Season on our beloved saint: St. Patrick. The course will take place at Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church 8911 Weems Rd, Manassas, VA 20110 We will be working in the traditional method of dark to light in egg tempera on a board. This course will be taught by both Colette Kalvesmaki and Karen Ward. There will be no gilding for this course. Cost is \$350 per person.

DRAWING ICONS 3: Saturday, March 31, 2018 10 AM-4 PM

For those who have attended the Icon Drawing Classes or have previous drawing experience, this course will continue the study of the icon drawing. We will work with the whole figure, learning how the lines of the clothing support the structure of the body and provide a guide for the radiant light of the icon face. Tuition is \$130, Supplies provided! CONTACT FOR INFO: Karen Ward at karen@mandorla-arts.com. To register for workshop: cbma@byzarts.com.

A STUDY ON ANGEL WINGS: Join the Center for Byzantine Material Arts in the study of angel wings in Byzantine iconography April 21st 11-3pm Cost is \$125.00 Under the instruction of Colette Kalvesmaki, the class will practice drawing various angel wings, then transfer them to colored paper with chalks and ink. Visit the website under "Events" to sign up or contact Colette at cbma@byzarts.com with questions.

BOOK CLUB: If you would like to be part of a book club all about icons, join us once a month to discuss a chapter in our chosen book. We hope to meet the last Saturday of every month at 10 am at the Center. This first book will be, *BEAUTY, SPIRIT, MATTER* by Aiden Hart. We have some of this book available in our bookstore. Or I can do a large order if needed — just let me know if you are interested. Our first meeting will be Feb 17th at 10 AM. Cost is free. To RSVP or to join email cbma@byzarts.com

FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES FOR THE SPRING: Join us for insightful lectures from scholars, archaeologist, priests and iconographers to explore and better understand the Holy Icon. This spring's line up:

April 13th at 7pm: Robin Darling Young, TBA, (professor at Catholic University)

May 4th at 7pm: "Persons or Principles: The meaning of the Byzantine icon revisited", by Alexis Torrance (Visiting fellow currently at Dumbarton Oaks)

RSVP if possible: cbma@byzarts.com - Suggested donation \$10