

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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THE ANNUNCIATION MARCH 25, 2018

EPISTLE Heb. 9:11 – 14 Heb. 2:11 – 18	GOSPEL Mark 10:32 – 45 Luke 1:24 – 38	Tone 1
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY. St. Mary of Egypt.

Sunday	Mar	25	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS
				St Mary of Egypt
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Women's Book Club Meeting
Wednesday	Mar	28	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy
			8:00p	Lenten Lencture
Saturday	Mar	31	9:00a	Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday Baptism of Jonathan Bussenger
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Palm Sunday Vigil
Sunday	Apr	1	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Palm Sunday
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
Monday	Apr	2	7:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday	Apr	3	7:00p	Bridegroom Matins

The **Altar and Sanctuary Candles** are donated by **Nancy Stanton** in honor of **Michael Mihailov's** birthday! May God Grant Him Many Years!

The **Altar and Sanctuary Candles** are also donated by **Larisa Looby** in loving memory of **Gerald Joseph**, husband, father and grandfather. May His Memory Be Eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses			Donuts/Bagels
Mar 25	Petro	Petro-Jenkins	K. Petro	Tucker
Apr 1	Palm	Sunday	Potluck	

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Mar 25	W. Tatusko	S. Sielinski	Mka. G. Phelps	Mka. G. Phelps & N. Stanton	A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch
Apr 1	W. Tatusko	M. Baxtresser	N. Bilyeu	M. Nimmer & Renee Zabela	J. Sedor M. Sedor

Classes

Bible Study

Saturday, March 31 st	Following Vespers
Saturday, April 7th	Will Resume after Pascha

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; Jurretta 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**; 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 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; **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!



PASCHA PREPARATION WORKSHOP: Church School students and kids of all ages, join us at 4:00 pm this coming Saturday, March 31st for our annual Pascha Preparation Workshop. We'll do pysanky, fold palm crosses, bake mini loaves of bread for our Easter baskets, and try our hand at dipping homemade wax candles! Plus a few fun crafts and a scavenger hunt for the little ones. Dinner will be served. Contact Kathy Rudin or Mary Niemi with questions. Hope to see you there!

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.

BIBLE STUDY: will take place on March 31st, following Vespers. Topic : Farewell Address. Bible study will be on hold until after Pascha.

COFFEE, JUICE, PAPER PRODUCTS: A reminder that, although coffee hour food is donated by parishioners, the coffee, juice, cups, napkins, plastic utensils are purchased by St. Mark. Dropping a dollar or two in the baskets provided on the serving window and tables will help reduce the cost of these purchases.

CHOIR REHEARSAL will take place today TODAY following Liturgy. This will be our final rehearsal before Pascha. Please stay and attend!

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. Thank you, all.

LENTEN LECTURE SCHEDULE:

- **March 28** - Maria Rosana Roncatto (with Frederica Matthewes-Green),
Topic: Presentation on Fr. Gheorgue Calciu

PASCHAL BREAD BAKING The following Pascha baking workshops will take place at the end of the month. Help is needed for each one. Please let Tina Burpee know which one(s) you will attend:

- Thursday, March 29, 9:00 am - Poppy seed roll baking. (This one may canceled if participation is low)
- Friday, March 30, 9:00 am - Pascha bread
- Saturday, March 31, after Liturgy — Pascha bread

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!

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.

EARLY SPRING FROZEN FOOD SALE Cabbage pirog (1) - \$8.00/pan; spanakopita (5) - \$20.00/pan; walnut roll - \$8.00/roll. See Tina Burpee if you are interested.

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!

25	Michael Mihailov	29	Susan Sielinski
26	Kellie Holovac	30	Michael Ahmadi
27	Alice Krenitsky	31	David Rodak
	Theo Sheppard		Rachel Sieff
			Zachary Sieff

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!

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.

GIFT CARDS FOR SEMINARIANS:

Dear Sisters and Brothers at St. Mark,

St. John Chrysostom quote on fasting: "The fast is of real value only when it stems from a pure heart, when one is ready to deny wealth, and stand above money, when one is ready to give alms to the poor, when one has love and affection, not only for one's own children but also for the orphans and the poor..."

Several years ago I sponsored a fund-raiser to collect gift cards (to walmart, weis, etc.) for the seminarian families here at St. Tikhon's. St. Mark's has always been so generous in supporting our monastery and seminary so I wanted to let you know that we are going to sponsor this fund-raiser again this year since we have 18 seminarian families this year.

If you would like to participate in this lenten fund-raiser, just purchase a gift card in the amount of \$25 or \$50 (or more if you'd like) and we will give them out to the seminarians that have the most need. Some of our single seminarians could also use some help and encouragement during this time. So if you would like your gift to go to one of the single students, just specify that on your gift. You can mail the gift cards to me at:

Attention: Mary Carol Ashley
St. Tikhon's Monastery Bookstore
175 St. Tikhon's Road
Waymart, PA 18472

Thank you and God bless you for reaching out to these men and their families who have sacrificed so much to come to seminary to be trained as our future priests. Have a blessed Lenten struggle!

In Christ,
Mary Carol Ashley

ROOM FOR RENT: Furnished room in Rockville Townhouse available to rent with private bath, kitchen and laundry usage. Parking out front. \$600.00 per month (includes all utilities). References requested. Call Dee at 301-424-4214. Please let Dee know you heard about it from Mary Carol and St. Mark.

CENTER FOR THE BYZANTINE ARTS EVENTS:

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

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT ST. MARK

Saturday, March 31st	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy—Lazarus Saturday Baptism of Jonathan Bussenger
	5:30 pm	Palm Sunday Vigil
Sunday, April 1st	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy—Palm Sunday
Monday, April 2nd	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 3rd	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 4th	10:00 am	Unction Service
	7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 5th	10:00 am	Vesperal Divine Liturgy
	7:00 pm	Matins of Holy Friday (Passion Gospels)
Friday, April 6th	4:00 pm	Vespers & Burial Procession
	5:30 pm	Holy Friday Lenten Meal
	7:00 pm	Matins and Praises
Saturday, April 7th	9:30 am	Vesperal Divine Liturgy
	11:30 pm	Nocturns, Matins & Divine Liturgy for Pascha

LAZARUS SATURDAY: Please note the time change for Divine Liturgy on Saturday, March 31st, for Lazarus Saturday. We will begin the service at 9:00 am with the baptism of Jonathan Bussenger . Please note the time change and plan to attend!

ST. MARK FOCA ST. ANDREW APPEAL COLLECTION: The St. Andrew Appeal is an appeal to support the various orthodox charities throughout America. Previously called the United Appeal. Annually FOCA runs the appeal encouraging individuals and its membership to support orthodox charities. To designate a specific charity list the charity on your check in the note field. Some of the supported charities are listed here: Seminaries, seminarian assistance, Alaskan Orthodox project, college scholarships, IOCC, OCMC, OCF, orphanages, summer camps. Collections will be held on Sunday, April 1 and April 22. Please make checks to St. Mark FOCA.

MEMORY ETERNAL! Mrs. Eleanor Carstea fell asleep in the Lord on the evening of March 22nd. Her husband, Dumitru has requested that her funeral service be here at St. Mark where they have attended during the last few years. The family is currently working on arrangements and timing. We will update these details as soon as possible. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.



OUTREACH UPDATE: As always, we endeavor to accompany each season of Fasting and Prayer with an opportunity to give alms to those in need. Accordingly, we will have collection points beginning this Sunday (through Thomas Sunday 4/15) for a threefold Outreach ministry effort:

1. Food:

- a. St. Mark Pantry: Canned and boxed groceries for those who come to our door.
- b. Grocery Cards: Replenish pastor's discretionary cards + contribute to Stepping Stones.

2. New and Lightly Used Clothes:

- a. Stepping Stones: If you would wear it...especially on a new job or to school, it's a good gift.
- b. Shady Grove Pregnancy Center: Diapers, Baby and/or Maternity Clothes.

3. Cash:

- a. Replenish the pastor's discretionary fund.
- b. Give to support our orthodox seminary housing, and orthodox charities for orphans (Home of Hope), prison ministry (OCPM), and Project Mexico.

If your gifts do not conform to the above or you have questions, please remember 1) we will have a Parish Rummage Sale in late Spring, and 2) I will do my best to answer your questions. And if in addition to the above, you would like contribute your time and prayers to Outreach, may God bless you abundantly to speak with Fr. Gregory. Thank you! With love in Christ, Skip Mersereau