

## Saint Mark Orthodox Church

**Orthodox Church in America  
Archdiocese of Washington**

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Bethesda, MD 20817  
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**Rector**

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**DECEMBER 23, 2018**

**EPISTLE**

Heb. 11:9 – 10, 17 – 23,  
32 - 40

**GOSPEL**

Matt. 1:1 - 25

**Tone 5**

**DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. (14<sup>th</sup> of Luke) SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY.** Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus (3<sup>rd</sup> c.). Repose of St. Theoctist (Theoctistus), Archbishop of Novgorod (1310). St. Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus (4<sup>th</sup> c.). St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea (4<sup>th</sup> c.).

Sunday	Dec	23	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Nativity Pageant (No Church School)
Monday	Dec	24		Christmas Eve
			5:00p	Holy Supper
			7:00p	Nativity Vigil
Tuesday	Dec	25	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Christmas Day
Saturday	Dec	29	10:30a	Wedding of Peter Hamman and Anna Elkins
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Dec	30	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Women's Book Club Meeting
Monday	Dec	31		New Year's Eve
Tuesday	Jan	1	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Circumcision of our Lord

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **The Rodak Family** in celebration of Godchild **Caroline German's** birthday. May God Grant her Many Years! The **Altar Candles** are also offered in honor of **John Rodak Jr.'s** memory. May his Memory Be Eternal!

The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **The German Family** in honor of **Caroline's** birthday. May God Grant her Many Years!

**Coffee Hour Fellowship**

Date	Hosts/Hostesses		Donuts/Bagels
Dec 23	<b>POTLUCK</b>	<b>POTLUCK</b>	*
Dec 30	Rose Zabela	Markovich	Korokhov

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec 23	C. Berencz	S. Sielinski	Dn. D. Phelps	M. Hydock & C. Williamson	A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch E. Pederson N. Pederson J. Sedor M. Sedor
Dec 25	C. Berencz	J. Bilyeu	N. Bilyeu		

**Classes**

**Bible Study**

Saturday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	Returning Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>
Saturday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>	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; **Julia** Flick; **Marge** German; **Jurretta** Heckscher; **Marcella** Hydock, **Philip** Hydock; **Alice** Krenitsky; **Evelyn** Leleck; **Marina** McKee; **Catherine** Mikuluk; **David** Rodak; **Alexandra** Sedor; **Peter** Sielinski; **Beth** Tucker.

Please pray for **Margaret**, Mary Carol Ashley's mother; Ellen Barber's friends **Bruce and Pamela**; The child **Penelope**; Christine Cacic's friend, **Carmen**; Barbara Freimann's niece **Samantha, Tristan, Betty**, and the **Hanway Family**. 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**; **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; Larisa Looby's daughter **Lisa** and granddaughters **Chelsea** and **Alexandra**. **Beth** and **unborn infant girl**. Marilyn Macht's cousins **Helen** and **Linda**. **Bridget**, friend of Skip & Barbara Mersereau's. 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 friend **Marilyn**. 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**. Paula Zabela's brother-in-law cousin Frank McIntyre, who has esophageal cancer. Rose Zabela's father **Ed** Dumm. **Syd**.

**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!**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Joshua Pierce who was Chrismated yesterday (Saturday) afternoon. May God Grant him Many Years!

**NATIVITY PLAY** will take place today during coffee hour!

**HOLY SUPPER SET UP:** Volunteers are needed to set up the tables for Holy Supper, following the Nativity Play. Please stay and help! Thank you! Marsha

**MEMORY ETERNAL** for Mark Needham's grandfather, John Paulsen. He fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday evening, December 16th. Please keep John, his family, and the Needhams in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY SUPPER & NATIVITY VIGIL:** Come spend Christmas Eve, Monday, 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.

**CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY** will take place at 9:30 AM, Tuesday, December 25th! Merry Christmas! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**VESPERS BIBLE STUDY:** After taking Saturday December 29th off, the Vespers Bible Study will resume after Vespers, Saturday, January 9th.

**2019 PLEDGE PACKETS** are available in the basket in the hall outside of the sanctuary. Questions? Please see Gene Jacobsen, Fr. Gregory, or Sharon Sielinski.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please take a moment to verify your contact information with us so that we may include it in the new church directory! The information sheets are downstairs in the parish hall. Please check it for accuracy or update as needed. Questions? Please see Fr. Gregory or Sharon Sielinski!

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

<p>23 Eugene Borissow Audrey Henning Alexander Landsburg Matthew Tatusko Andrew Tucker</p>	<p>25 Mat. Janet Koczak Margaret McCamant 26 Marina McKee 28 Cristian Ciubotaru 29 Alexander Sokich</p>
<p>24 Sophie Christine Balan</p>	

**2019 LECTIONARY WALL CALENDARS** are available in the hall outside of the Sanctuary. Thank you to Chris German and family for donating these beautiful calendars once again. Please only take one per family! Thank you!

**TOMB OF CHRIST EXHIBITION** The National Geographic Museum currently has an exhibit on the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. "Learn the fascinating history of the iconic Church of the Holy Sepulchre and be transported to Jerusalem for an immersive 3-D experience unlike anything you've seen in a museum before." See the National Geographic Muesum website for details and tickets. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/dc/>

**CFC AND FOCUS HAVE TEAMED UP:** If you are an employee of the federal government, you can maximize your support for FOCUS through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). FOCUS North America is an Approved CFC Charity CFC #19541. Choose FOCUS North America as YOUR Charity of Choice! Solicitation period ends January 11, 2019. Enroll Today <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome>

**ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP:** If you enjoy a good read followed by a worthy discussion, please consider attending the St. Mark Women's Book Group. We choose books well in advance and then meet in the library on the last Sunday of every month to discuss the merits of our choices. On December 30th: Choose a story from *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and share with Christmas cookies. Copies of a few of these books are available from Joan Mitchum. Book suggestions are always welcome. See Mka. Sasha or any participant for more details.

*Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. Following reception of Holy Communion, we should stay in the church until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Our fellowship begins after we venerate the Cross and receive the Blessed Bread (of which all may partake). If you have questions concerning the above, please feel free to speak with Fr. Gregory after Liturgy.*

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS** Two baskets of children's books are now located in the vestibule, behind where the greeters stand and next to the stairway to the choir loft. Children should feel free to borrow the books and can return them to the baskets.

**IT'S JUST BREAKFAST:** A group of our St. Mark men meet for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Second Saturday: IHOP 9490 Blake Ln, Fairfax, VA 22031 at 8am. Fourth Saturday: IHOP 18147 Village Center Dr, Olney, MD 20832 at 8am. Questions? See David Jefferson. Thank you!

**FOCA** is accepting new members and signing up current members during the months of November and December. If you enjoyed "OPA! October" or the "Annual St. Mark Chili Cook-off" then prayerfully consider helping us by joining our Fellowship. Dues for Adults are \$40 College or Higher Education Students \$10. See George Freimann or Marcella Hydock.

**FOR SALE – ALL ITEMS ARE FROZEN:** Spanakopita (9" x 13" pan) \$25.00; Piroghi (St. Mark 1 dozen frozen) \$5.00; Black Bread \$5.00. Please see Tina Burpee in the kitchen if you are interested in purchasing anything.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Our lost and found box is overflowing a bit. Please stop by and take a look and see if anything belongs to you or your family. There are quite a few "little" coats in there! The Lost and Found box is located outside the sanctuary, in the pew closest to the external door. Thank you!

**DIVINE LITURGY:** We will celebrate Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision of our Lord and offer prayers for the beginning of the new year on Tuesday, January 1st, at 9:30 AM. Happy New Year!