

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: Wayne Tatusko Home: 703-573-0585 wtatusko@tatuskolaw.com
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NOVEMBER 10th, 2019

EPISTLE Gal. 2:16 – 20	GOSPEL Luke 10:25 – 37	Tone 4
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTACOST. (8th of Luke) Apostles of the Seventy: Erastus, Olympas, Herodion, Sosipater, Quartus, and Tertius (1st c.). Martyr Orestes of Cappadocia (204.) Hieromartyr Milles, Bishop in Persia, and two disciples (341.) Ven. Theocteristus, Abbot of Symbola on Mt. Olympus. Martyr Constantine, Prince of Georgia (842).

Sunday	Nov	10	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	Nov	15		Nativity Fast Begins
Saturday	Nov	16	10:00a	Fr. Michael Oleksa will speak on "Baptizing Cultures"
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Nov	17	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Annual Meeting
			11:30a	Church School

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **The Bilyeu Family** asking for God's blessings in honor of **Vanya Bilyeu's** birthday! May God Grant Him Many Years!

The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **The Rodak Family** asking for God's blessings for **Patricia & Michelle** on the occasion of their birthday! May God Grant Them Many Years!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	Prose	Donuts/Bagels
Nov 10	Jacobsen	Prose	Vance
Nov 17	Stanton	Albert	Bilyeu

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Nov 10	C. Berencz	D. Dillon	Mka. G. Phelps		A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch E. Pedersen
Nov 17	J. Barber	A. Norton	Dn. D. Phelps		N. Pedersen J. Sedor M. Sedor

Classes

Bible Study

Saturday, November 16th

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: Michael Ahmadi; Christina Berencz, Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret Dove; Julia Flick; George Freimann; Marge German; Jurretta Heckscher; Cindy Helba; Patricia Ihnat; Alice Krenitsky; Catherine Mikuluk; Susie Needham; David Rodak; Alexandra Sedor; Mka. Alexandra Safchuk; Peter Sielinski; Cliff Tarpy; Marsha Zelle.

Please pray for Ellen Barber's friends **Bruce and Pamela**; The child **Penelope**; **Fr. Dennis Buck**; Christine Cacic's friend, **Carmen**; Barbara Freimann's niece **Samantha**; **Misha Freimann**, who is being treated for cancer. Marge German's grandson **Joshua** and friend **Louise**, who is recovering from triple by-pass surgery, and sister **Mary Rodzon**; **Denise (Dionysia)**, Godsisiter of Christina Kalavritinos; Tammy Karas' mother **Carole Roberts**, and friend **Charlene**; **Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; **Mary Everhart**, mother of Ted Koopersmith; Sandra Little, Dawn Little's mother-in-law. Kim Lungociu's cousin **Doug**; Marilyn Macht's friend **Theodora** who was just diagnosed with lung cancer; cousins **Helen, Linda** and sister-in-law **Bonnie. Marina McKee. Mka. Kelly Oleynik; Stephen**, Susan Rodak's father. Anelia Rotunda's father, **Ivan**; Sharon Sielinski's Mother-in-Law **Patricia**, and **Lucille. Fr. Basil Summer**. Don Truitt's parents; Friend of St. Mark **Linda Weir**; Paula Zabela's cousins, **Helen**, who has thyroid cancer, and **Janet**, who has kidney cancer. **Father Patrick** of St Mary's Russian Orthodox Church, Southside (Pittsburgh.)

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!

CHOIR REHEARSAL will take place TODAY following Liturgy.

NATIVITY FAST begins on Friday, November 15th.

NOVEMBER LADIES LUNCHEON The ladies luncheon for November will be held at the Greenhouse Bistro, 2070 Chainbridge Road, Vienna, VA, on November 18 at 12:00 noon. Please let Tina Burpee know by November 10 if you will be attending.

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE Here's the plan for what's coming up:

Nov 16 - No Study, FOCA meeting instead

Nov 26 - TBD Study if we have a quorum

RETREAT AT ST. MARK The Archdiocese of Washington Mission Board is sponsoring a retreat to be hosted at St. Mark! Fr. Michael Oleksa will be the speaker and his talk is titled "Baptizing Cultures." The retreat will take place on Saturday, November 16th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch will be served, free will donations are appreciated. Please RSVP to Papadija Kitty Vitko: kittyv70@gmail.com

CONCERT PIANIST KEVIN AYESH, a former St. Mark parishioner and choir director, will be presenting a house concert on the Emerson Avenue Salons series in McLean on Sunday, November 10, with a program of works by Bach, Debussy, and Brahms. The evening begins with appetizers and drinks at 6:30; the performance is at 7:30, followed by a pot-luck dinner at 8:30. All are invited. Admission is free; attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or a dish for the buffet table. For complete information and to make a reservation, visit the website: emersonavenuesalons.com.

ANNUAL MEETING Our annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, November 17th, following Liturgy. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Read-ahead materials will be available today. Hard copies are available in the bin on the table outside of the sanctuary. You can also see them online: <https://stmarkoca.org/parish-council/>. The link will also go out on the friends list later today.

CHURCH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT On Sunday, November 17th, all church school children are invited to participate in a service project during our annual parish meeting. We will be assembling IOCC hygiene kits and making Christmas cards for deployed troops. If you have any questions, please see Alexandra Sedor. Thank you in advance for your participation!

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

10	Sonya LeFors Alexander Safchuk	14	Mark Lungociu
11	Andrea Phelps	15	Adrian Ahmadi Devon Burns
12	Abigail Dean		David Holovac
13	Michelle (Rodak) Weaver	16	Kaitlin Brooke Meyers

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER AND HEALTH STATUS INFORMATION. Praying for members of our community, especially those who are sick or suffering, is an important part of our Christian life. Sometimes when members of our community are sick or hospitalized they post requests for prayer or ask me to do so. I am happy to be able to posts requests for prayer but also want to honor the wishes of those who prefer not to have information posted. To that end, if you would like to request prayers please feel free to post to the friends list or ask me to on your behalf. Thanks! - Fr. Gregory

THANK YOU . . .to everyone who helped with this year's bazaar. It is so encouraging to see everyone pitch-in and help with the workshops and all three days of the bazaar. Thank you to those who came to the food workshops; to those who made food at home, to the bread bakers; to everyone who prepared borscht and baked from scratch; to the chicken pounders, rollers & dippers; to the filling and dough makers, pinchers and cookers; to those who helped with workshop cleanup; to those who braved the cold by working outdoors; to those who procured gifts; to those who acted as chairpeople and those who acted as helpers; to those who took off from work on Friday; for those who gave tours and explained our faith; for those who prayed for the strength to keep going; to those who stood on their feet for three days of fellowship and fun and gave unselfishly of their time and money to make our bazaar, once again, a wonderful success. Our bazaar has become a beautiful way to give of ourselves for the Love of our Church; but ultimately it is for the Love of God. May God grant you many years!

The Bazaar Committee

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.

ON COMMUNION: The fasting rules concerning communion apply to those who are healthy enough to keep them. If for example, you require medication that cannot be taken on an empty stomach, please speak to me about the possible need to eat or drink something along with it in the morning prior to 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!

ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP: The women's book club meets on the fourth Sunday of the month, following Liturgy, in the Library for discussion. Upcoming books: November 24th - Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan; December 15th - Story from Chicken Soup for the Soul (see Joan Mitchum) Any questions, please see Joan Mitchum, Mka. Sasha or any of the participants.

AKATHIST BOOK: On the third Tuesday of each month the Matushka Olga prayer group prays an Akathist to address a special need. The collected Akathists are in black loose leaf notebooks in the library on the bottom shelf of the first bookcase on the left as you walk in. Please feel free to take a look at these Akathists and copy them for your personal use.

tions will help offset these and many other needs of the Diocese of Alaska.

Recently, we have provided support for an orphanage and monastery in Kenya, hurricane victims, religious materials in the Native Alaskan Language, Military Chaplain religious items to be distributed to service personnel, and the Orthodox Christian Fellowship on college campuses. We have donated more than \$90,000 to those causes. We hope you will be generous again this year.



ANGEL TREE AND HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS. We will begin collecting donations for holiday grocery cards this Sunday (11/10), and we plan to have the basket available for additional upcoming Sundays as well. St. Mark has an account with Giant Food to facilitate the purchase of grocery cards at a 5% discount, so the best way to donate is via check or cash. If you donate via check, please indicate “outreach” in the memo line: this will give us the flexibility to use funds in excess of our needs for this campaign for other outreach opportunities. The outreach budget line, for example, is also used to support Father’s ongoing needs for grocery cards: people in need in our community approach him throughout the year for assistance. Our objectives this year for Highland Elementary School families are 25 (twenty-five) \$50 (fifty dollar) grocery cards for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The angel tree cutouts with the wish lists of 40 children will be delivered to St. Mark on Friday, 15 November. We will have the customary, little tree set up at church beginning Sunday, 24 November: this will give our parishioners the opportunity to select their angels in time to take advantage of the discounts traditionally made available around Thanksgiving time.

Please take a cutout from the tree or table, and then print your name against the cutout’s number (see the back of each cutout) on the sign-up sheet. This will allow us to track the progress of the campaign and ensure that we end up covering all 40 children. Please hang on to your gifts until the Sundays designated for collection: 1 December and 8 December will be the primary collection dates; 15 December will be the final, make-up collection date. We will have the usual collection box available for you to place your donated items. Please ensure that the tracking number associated with your cutout is prominently displayed on each item – either written with a permanent marker or taped on securely. The tracking numbers are the only means we will have to ensure that the gifts get to the intended children.

Guidance/Recommendations:

1. We would like each child to receive at least \$25 (twenty-five dollars) in value – either in the form of one or more gifts or a gift card (Target and Wal Mart preferred). If you end up going the gift card route, please include the receipt and evidence of card activation. If you decide on one or more cards, please hand them directly to me or Nina in an envelope labelled with the designated child’s cutout number.

2. One gift per child with a value of \$25 will be perfectly adequate. If you choose to go beyond that and select more than one item from the child's wish list on the back of the cutout, I have been assured by the coordinator that your desires will be honored: the donated items will be given to the designated child.
3. There is no need to gift-wrap the items.
4. When you select one of the cutouts, PLEASE ensure that you print your name legibly on the signup sheet against that particular cutout's number. The numbers are indicated on the back of the cutouts.
5. If you decide on a gift card but don't have time to purchase one, I will be happy to do it for you: simply hand me an envelope containing either cash or a check (made out to St. Mark Orthodox Church with the memo/purpose line indicating "Angel Tree"). Please indicate, on the front of the envelope, your name and the cutout number associated with the designated child.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. The angel tree is a particularly fun way to accomplish charitable giving during the holiday season. If you have any questions, please simply reply via email.

John Bilyeu Sr.

MATUSHKA KELLY ELIZABETH. The Matushka Kelly Elizabeth that we have been praying for during the services is our former parishioner Kelly Elizabeth Oleynik. Kelly and her husband Deacon Mark Oleynik enthusiastically and creatively led our church school for many years. Kelly has been diagnosed with breast cancer and has begun treatment. She and her family now live at 125 Wildernest Lane, Port Matilda, PA 16870. We miss them and love them very much. Please keep Matushka Kelly Elizabeth, Deacon Mark, Hannah, Sam and Ben in your prayers.

ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL 2021: Baltimore, MD, has been selected as the site for the 20th All American Council to take place July 23-30, 2021. Since the event is hosted in our own Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., we will be needing volunteers to help out with planning and execution of things leading up to the event. Please see the letter and list of needs on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you are interested in participating, please see Fr. Gregory.

2020 - FOCA GIFTS OF LOVE APPEAL The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.), a nationwide organization of Orthodox Christians, has designated two charities (St Herman House in Cleveland and the Diocese of Alaska - for support of the pilgrimage to honor the 50th anniversary of the canonization of St. Herman) for its annual Gifts of Love Appeal.

St Herman House – FOCUS Cleveland is an Orthodox Christian house of hospitality. It serves the homeless and poor of the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland and the surrounding area. It has been in operation since September 1977. The mission of St. Herman House is to support homeless men on the path to well-being and independence in a safe and stable environment, and to meet the basic needs of the people in the community. It has an emergency shelter for 28 men and a transitional home that accommodates 12 men. In addition, it is the only facility in northeast Ohio that serves three meals a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to anyone in need.

In 2018, 75,997 meals were served, which is an average of 208 people fed every day.

St Herman House has a current need for approximately \$5,000 towards the replacement of a vertical platform lift in the front of the building. The lift is used by disabled persons and has been broken for 8 months. It cannot be fixed, and the cost to install a new one is \$19,000. They have applied for a grant for \$14,000 (and have been unofficially told that they are being awarded the money), which leaves them \$5,000 short. There is currently no way for wheelchair-bound people, or those unable to walk up the stairs, to enter. As one of the recipients of the 2020 Gifts of Love, the first \$5000 raised will be provided to pay for the remainder of the cost of the lift.

The remainder of the monies raised will be sent to the Diocese of Alaska to assist with needs associated with the influx of pilgrims scheduled to attend the 50th Anniversary of the canonization of St. Herman in Kodiak. Until recently, commercial fishermen helped to ferry pilgrims from Kodiak onto Spruce Island. Due to the potential insurance liability, they have since limited their assistance. Fr. Innocent Dresdow is currently purchasing and repairing fishing boats to assist the pilgrims. In addition, the parishes in the area provide meals to those attending the pilgrimage and do not charge for this hospitality. Our generous dona-