

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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DECEMBER 8th, 2019

EPISTLE Eph. 4:1 – 6	GOSPEL Luke 17:12 – 19	Tone 8
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTACOST. (12th of Luke) Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8th c.). Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychius, Epaphroditus, Cœsar, and Onesiphorus (1st c.). Martyr Anthusa, at Rome (4th – 5th c.). Holy 362 Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians (477). Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogórsk (1378).

Sunday	Dec	8	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	St. Nicholas Workshop
Monday	Dec	9	7:45p	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	Dec	10	8:00p	Parish Council Meeting
Friday	Dec	13	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – St. Herman
Saturday	Dec	14	5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Dec	15	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	Dec	17	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group - Akathist

The **Altar and Sanctuary** Candles are offered by **Drs. Anna and Mary Nemesh** in loving memory of parents **Charles and Annie Nemesh** and brother **Dr. Walter Nemesh**. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	Donuts/Bagels
Dec 8	Zellem	Karas Helba
Dec 15	Mytryshyn	Rudin Hydock

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec 8	J. Sokich	M. Phinney	R. Reeves		A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch E. Pedersen N. Pedersen
Dec 15	C. Berencz	N. Fitzgerald	V. Lutes		J. Sedor M. Sedor

Classes

Bible Study

TBD	Following Vespers
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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 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 bypass surgery, and sister **Mary** Rodzon; **Ken** Bernstein, husband of Jurretta Heckscher, who is recovering from a stroke. **Denise (Dionysia)**, Godsister 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. 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.

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!

ST. NICHOLAS CRAFT WORKSHOP Sunday School students, please join us TODAY after church for our annual St. Nicholas Day craft workshop! Instead of church school, elementary age kids and younger will gather in the double classroom downstairs for holiday crafts and cookie decorating. St. Nicholas may even pay us a visit!

Please enjoy a quick snack in the coffee hour room and then join us for crafts and fun. **Parents, please plan to attend with children Kindergarten age or younger.** We could also use a couple volunteers at the craft tables. See Kathy Rudin or Mary Niemi if you can help.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD! TODAY is the last day to sign up for the parish Christmas card. If you would like your name included on the card, the cost will be \$15 per family name. Any profit will be used to defray the cost of flowers used to decorate the Church during feast days and for Nativity! If interested, please see Coy Williamson or Mka. Sasha to make a donation. Thank you!

CHOIR REHEARSAL will take place on Monday, December 9th, at 7:45pm.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will take place on Tuesday, December 10th, at 8:00pm

DIVINE LITURGY for St. Herman will be celebrated on Friday, December 13th, at 10:00am.

THE LADIES WHO LUNCH will meet again on Monday, December 16th, at 12:30 pm at the Tower Oaks Clyde's in Rockville, MD. Please let Mka. Sasha know if you'd like to attend. There will be a holiday gift exchange, so if you plan to attend, please see Paula Zabela for questions on that.

NATIVITY PLAY Our annual Nativity Play will take place on Sunday, December 22nd. Play practice will take place on Saturday, December 21st, at 4:00 pm. If any children would like to perform a musical piece during the play, please see Christina Berencz!

EVANGELIZER SUBMISSION DEADLINE will be Wednesday, December 20th. Please get your articles, photos and announcements in as soon as possible! Thank you!

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

8	Kyla Prentice Marie Wickard	13	Ivan Borissow Micah Needham
9	Linda Marie Jackson	14	Mat. Helen Kuchta
10	Ransom Berry Olga Uritskaye		David Markovich Timothy Petro
11	Simeon Tatusko		

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.

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

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!

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: December 29th - 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.

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.

FOR SALE (ALL ITEMS ARE FROZEN): Cabbage Pirog (9" x 13" pan) \$15.00; Spanakopita (9" x 13" pan) \$25.00; Piroghi (St. Mark 1 dozen) \$5.00; Pumpys Pierogies (3 doz bag) \$8.00; Kielbasa (2 sticks, approx. 1 lb) \$5.00; Halupki (10 per bag) \$25.00; Poppy Seed Roll \$10.00; Apricot Russian Torte (5" x 7" piece) \$6.00; Raspberry Russian Torte (5" x 3-12" piece) \$3.00; Vatrushki (2 pack) \$3.00.

2020 PLEDGE PACKETS AND OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the table outside of the sanctuary. Please return your pledge card to the Gene Jacobsen or Sharon Carter by the end of January 2020. When you pick up your box of envelopes, please make sure to write down your name and box number on the accompanying sign up sheet. Please do not draw on, remove, or otherwise tamper with sign up sheet. Thank you!

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

