

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 15th, 2019

EPISTLE Col. 3:4 – 11	GOSPEL Luke 14:16 – 24	Tone 1
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTACOST. (13th of Luke) Sunday of the Forefathers. Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia (2nd c.). Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.). Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6th c.). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh in the Crimea (8th c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583). Hieromartyr Hillarion (Troitskii), Archbishop of Vereiya (1929 – Dec. 15th O.S.) Hieromartyrs Archpriests Aleksandr Rozhdestvenskii, Vasilii Vinogradov, and Viktor Dobronravov (1937 – Dec. 15th O.S.).

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
Saturday	Dec	21	4:00p	Nativity Play Practice
			5:00p	Private Confession
			5:30p	Great Vespers
			6:30p	FOCA Chapter Meeting
Sunday	Dec	22	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy
			11:15a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Nativity Play

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Claire, Caleb & Caroline German** in honor of **Chris German's** birthday! (12/17) May God Grant Him Many Years!

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

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	Donuts/Bagels
Dec 15	Mytryshyn	Rudin
Dec 22	Tucker	Sekellick

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec 15	C. Berencz	N. Fitzgerald	V. Lutes		A. Ahmadi A. Datch C. Datch E. Pedersen N. Pedersen
Dec 22	J. Barber	M. Karas	D. Golembiewski		J. Sedor M. Sedor

Classes

Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 28th	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 **Helena**, **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!

CHOIR REHEARSAL will take place TODAY following Liturgy!

LECTIONARY WALL CALENDARS FOR 2020 are now available! The calendars are located in the basket on the table outside of the Sanctuary. Please only take one per household! A big thank you to Chris German and Family for once again providing us with these wonderful calendars!

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.

RECYCLE REMINDER We have a wheeled recycle bin located just outside the kitchen entrance to the building. If you put cardboard out for recycle, please make every effort to make sure the boxes are broken down and **IN** the bin. If the boxes are left outside of the bin, this is considered an "Overage" by our trash collection company and they charge us \$125 per "Overage" incident. If the bin is full, or you can't break down the box, please leave it inside the building and we will figure out a different method of disposal. Thank you!

EVANGELIZER SUBMISSION DEADLINE will be **Friday**, December 20th. Please get your articles, photos and announcements to Sharon Carter as soon as possible! Thank you!

THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB has a tradition at our December meeting to share stories from the Chicken Soup books and share Christmas cookies. An invitation is extended to all adults to join us after Liturgy on Dec. 29. Come and listen to our short stories; if you wish, you can choose a story from one of the books in the closet or from your own book to read. We will even share our cookies! Please come.

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!

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

16	Patricia Koopersmith Evelyn Leleck	19	Elizabeth Sedor Marsha Zelle
17	Christopher German Jesse Japaridze Henning Catherine Steger	20	Olan Sheppard Anne Tucker
18	Jenifer Calomiris Darren Tucker	21	Nicholas Masick Steven Sekellick

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 post 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.

CHICKEN KIEV LUNCHEON Please join us for a free-will offering Chicken Kiev luncheon after liturgy on Sunday, January 19. The proceeds will be used as seed money for the 2020 food festival.

FOR SALE (ALL ITEMS ARE FROZEN): Cabbage Pirog (9" x 13" pan) \$15.00; Piroghi (St. Mark 1 dozen) \$5.00; Pumpys Pierogies (3 doz bag) \$8.00; Kielbasa (2 sticks, approx. 1 lb) \$5.00; 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.

CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY will take place on Wednesday, December 25th, at 9:30 am. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

There will be a Christmas cookie Coffee Hour following Liturgy. Please bring some cookies or treats to share on a disposable tray for easy clean up! Thank you!

