

# Saint Mark Orthodox Church

**Orthodox Church in America  
Archdiocese of Washington**  
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## DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**EPISTLE**  
Eph. Col. 3:4 – 11

**GOSPEL**  
Luke 14:16 – 24

**Tone 8**

### DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost. (13<sup>th</sup> of Luke).** Sunday of the Forefathers. Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia (2<sup>nd</sup> c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh in the Crimea (8<sup>th</sup> c.). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583). Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3<sup>rd</sup> c.). Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6<sup>th</sup> c.). New Hieromartyr Hilarion (Troitsky), Archbishop of Vereiya (1929).

Saturday	Dec	14	4:30p	Memorial Service for Photina Uritskaya
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
			6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Dec	15	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Dec	17	7:30p	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	Dec	21	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Dec	22	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Nativity Play
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Tuesday	Dec	24	5:00p	Holy Supper
			7:00p	Nativity Vigil
Wednesday	Dec	25	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Christmas Day
Saturday	Dec	28	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Dec	29	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School

The **Sanctuary and Altar Candles** are offered in thanksgiving for the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Howard Guba** (12/15). May God grant him many years!  
The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Don & Jan Truitt** in memory of Jan's parents, **James & Lynne** and Don's father, **Donald Sr.** Memory Eternal!  
The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Drs. Mary and 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	
Dec 15	Burpee	
Dec 22	Baxtresser/Chow	

Choir Directors, Readers, Preparers, Greeters, & Altar Servers					
Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Dec 15	S. Hardy	M. Karas	Dn. D. Phelps	P. Zabela	H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen M. Sedor
Dec 22	A. Boyd	T. Jacobsen	R. Jefferson	M. Kopcha	

**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: Vera Bum-bak; Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret Dove; Julia Flick; George Freimann; Philip Hydock; John & Patricia Ihnat; Linda Jackson; Cindy & David Jefferson; Steve Kreta; Cristin and John Michael Kumar; Alex Landsburg; Marilyn Macht; Joan Mitchum; John Michael Mikuluk; Mary Mytryshyn; Millie Mytryshyn; Drs. Mary and Anna Nemesh; David Rodak; Alexandra Sedor; Mka. Alexandra Safchuk; Peter Sielinski; Ann Steger; Cliff Tarpy; Marsha Zellem.**

Please pray for **Becky; Michael** Ouellette, brother-in-law of Ginny Albert. **Eileen** and **Rose-mary**, friends of Tina Burpee. **Hannah**, friend of Theodora Dean. **Paul** Giovetsis, **Carmine** Carocella, friend of Pat Ihnat. **Denise** (Dionysia), Godsister of Christina Kalavritinos, and also family friends **Constantine** and **Thomas; Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; **Mary** Everhart, mother of Ted Koopersmith; **Sandra** Little, Dawn Little's mother-in-law. Marilyn Macht's friend **Carmen**; friend **Ken** Reichard; cousins **Helen** and **Linda. Marina** McKee; **Mka. Kelly** Oleynik; **Amanda** St.Cyr, sister-in-law of Susan Rodak; **Rosemarie**, sister-in-law of Nancy Stanton. Don Truitt's mother, **Janet**;

**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!**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We invite you downstairs following Liturgy for coffee and light refreshments in the parish hall.

**CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS** will dismiss immediately at the conclusion of Liturgy. Any children between the ages of 4-18 who are visiting St. Mark today are welcome to join the children for Church School!

**CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY SUPPER & NATIVITY VIGIL:** Come spend Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th at 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 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'd like to bring.

**NATIVITY PLAY & SING ALONG** The Nativity Play & Sing Along will take place on Sunday, December 22nd. All children are welcome! Please let us know if you play an instrument! See the included flier for more info. Questions? See Patty Prose!

**EVANGELIZER** The deadline to submit for the next Evangelizer (Jan-Feb-March 2025) is December 22nd. Gather your articles and photos and send to Sharon Sielinski [sscarter2018@gmail.com](mailto:sscarter2018@gmail.com). Thank you!

**VESPERS BIBLE STUDY** is on a break until after the holidays. We will resume again in the new year. The most recent bible study "Spirit, a word study, a meditation" is now up on YouTube! Previous bible studies are also up on the channel. Check it out! There is approx 30 mins of study and then a discussion afterward. <https://www.youtube.com/@doug Dillon1956/videos> or with this QR code:



**PARISH HALL CHRISTMAS TREE** On our social hall Christmas tree, we are planning on displaying "collected ornaments" from parishioners. Won't it be wonderful to have a St Mark Christmas Tree of Memories. Please consider bringing an ornament from home, perhaps something meaningful or sentimental. It will be labeled with the family name (or individual's name). Years from now when the tree is being decorated with these "baubles" hopefully it will bring smiles of the wonderful memories associated all of us at St Mark. Christmas so special! Thanks for sharing.

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

12	Olga Uritskaya Senai Brhane	17	Christopher German Jesse Henning
13	Ivan Borissow Micah Needham	18	Jenifer Calomiris Darren Tucker
14	David Markovich Timothy Petro	19	Elizabeth Sedor Marsha Zelle
15	Howard Guba	20	Anne Tucker
16	Patricia Koopersmith	21	Nicholas Masick Steven Sekellick

**BAZAAR 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS** In the absence of a Bazaar this year, please prayerfully consider making an additional donation possibly reflecting what you might have spent or donated at the bazaar. This will help offset our income deficit for this year. Please indicate "Bazaar 2024" in the memo or note. Thank you!

**PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2025** Pledge cards for 2025 are now available on the table in the hall, outside of the nave.

*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. Thanks! Fr. Gregory

**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:** **There is no men's breakfast this month.** A group of our St. Mark men meet for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Questions? See David Jefferson. Thank you!

**ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. Watch this space for possible date changes. The next 3 books for discussion are:

Jan. 9 (date change) - "*the Berry Pickers*" by Amanda Peters

Feb. 6 - "*Home Front*" by Kristin Hannah

Mar. 6 - "*The Orthodox Way*" by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

**PRAYER GROUP** There will not be an Akathist this Tuesday, Dec. 17th. The next Akathist will be on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.