

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: Thomas Jenkins Home: 410-643-9249 taj@toucan411.com
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JANUARY 12th, 2025

EPISTLE Eph. 4:7 – 13	GOSPEL Matt. 4:12 – 17	Tone 4
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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

29th Sunday After Pentecost. Afterfeast of the Theophany. SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY. Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those who suffered with her (226 – 235). St. Sava I, first Archbishop of Serbia (1237.) Ven. Martinian, Abbot of Belozérsk (1483). Martyr Mertius of Mauretania (284 – 305). Martyr Peter Apselamus of Palestine (309 – 310). Ven. Eupraxia of Tabenna, in Egypt (393). The “Akathist” and “Milkgiver” Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos.

Saturday	Jan	11	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Jan	12	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Wednesday	Jan	15	7:30p	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	Jan	18	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Jan	19	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream <i>Installation of Parish Council members</i>
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Jan	21	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group - Akathist
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Tuesday	Jan	21	7:00p	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday	Jan	25	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Jan	26	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Christina Kalavritinos** in memory of **Georgia Haralabos & John; Panagiotis and Demetrios**. May their memory be eternal!

The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Joanna, Eric, & Christos Williams, Philip Navarro, and Christina Kalavritinos** in thanksgiving and celebration for **Vivian Kalavritinos’** name day.

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses
Jan 12	Jacobsen
Jan 19	Potluck

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Jan 12	S. Sielinski	T. Jenkins	Dn. D. Phelps	P. Zabela	S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth E. Roth M. Sedor
Jan 19	A. Boyd	N. Edwards	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: Robert, friend of Tina Burpee. **Vera** Bumbak; **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 **Rosemary**, friends of Tina Burpee. **Hannah**, friend of Theodora Dean. **Lovie**, cousin of Chris German who was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. **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!

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

2025 WALL CALENDARS are now available on the table in the hall, outside of the nave!

2025 BOX SET ENVELOPES are now available on the table in the hall, outside of the nave!

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY is on a break and will resume again very soon! More to come, stay tuned! 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/@dougdil-1on1956/videos> or with this QR code:



PRAYER GROUP The next Akathist will be on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

INSTALLATION OF PARISH COUNCIL will take place on Sunday, January 19th, following Liturgy!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING has been rescheduled from Tuesday, January 14th to Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 pm.

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

12	Regina Kundell
14	Joan Mitchum
15	Michael Bezuneh Nicholas Bilyeu
16	Justin Ciubotaru
17	Hannah Perry Janice Victorov
18	Katheryn Cannon

WINTER TEEN RETREAT The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOEP) is holding a Winter Teen Retreat and has once again invited the Archdiocese of Washington, DC to participate. Such great success was had with their summer camp (~24 of our youth) and their fall retreat (10 of our youth), that the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors will again be offering full or partial scholarships to cover the \$200 per child fee!

The retreat will be held from Jan. 31st 2025 - Feb. 2nd, 2025 at a location just north of Lancaster, at Refreshing Mountain 455 Camp Rd, Stevens, PA 17578 <https://refreshing-mountain.com/>

This is the same venue they used last year and just like the Summer camp the teens had a blast!

If you are interested please contact Jake Toroney (toroney@hotmail.com).

And, mark your calendars! Next year's (2025) summer camp will in the first week of July!

The DOEP has added an option to the Teen Retreat online registration for kids in our Diocese. There's now a "7th-12th grade (Teen in Diocese of DC): \$0.00" in the drop-down menu.

Link to Register: <https://www.accounts.doepa.org/retreat>

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: 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 on one Thursday of each month at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. Watch this space for possible date changes. The next 3 books for discussion are:

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

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