

Saint Mark Orthodox Church

**Orthodox Church in America
Archdiocese of Washington**

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Bethesda, MD 20817
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Rector

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FEBRUARY 16th, 2025

EPISTLE

1 Cor. 6:12 – 20

GOSPEL

Luke 15:11 – 32

Tone 1

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Martyrs Pamphilius the Presbyter, Valens the Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in Palestine (307 – 309). St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (422). Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (4th c.). St. Nikolai, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (1912).

Saturday	Feb	15	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
			6:30p	AAC Reflection Group Meeting
Sunday	Feb	16	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Prodigal Son – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Chili Cook Off!
Sunday	Feb	16	11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Feb	18	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group – Akathist
			7:00p	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday	Feb	22	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Feb	23	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Meatfare – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Saturday	Mar	1	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Mar	2	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Cheese fare – YouTube Live Stream <i>Forgiveness Vespers immediately following Liturgy</i>
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses
Feb 16	Potluck – Chili Cook Off!
Feb 23	Kerch

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Feb 16	W. Tatusko S. Hardy	V. Lutes	Mka. G. Phelps	M. Kopcha	S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth
Feb 23	A. Boyd	M. McDonald	Dn. D. Phelps	N. Stanton	E. Roth M. Sedor

Donation

**To make a donation electronically, please scan the QR Code:
Please specify the purpose of your donation in the text box.
(Example: candles, general purpose, pledge, etc.)**

Thank you!



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 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 Zelle.

Please pray for **Becky; Michael** Ouellette, brother-in-law of Ginny Albert. **Eileen, Rosemary and Robert**, 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), Godsisiter 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!

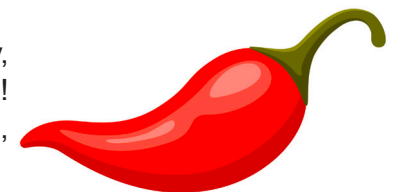


WELCOME VISITORS! We invite you downstairs following Liturgy for coffee and light refreshments in the parish hall.

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!

WELCOME! Today we welcome Fr. John Behr who is joining us from Aberdeen, Scotland! Fr. John is the former dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary and currently Professor of Humanity, University of Aberdeen, Scotland and is in town for this year's annual Orientale Lumen Conference hosted by the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. On the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, the conference will focus on its meaning and significance with presentations and a "Dialogue for Today."

CHILI COOK OFF Please join us TODAY, following Liturgy, for an afternoon of friendly competition, chili, bingo and more! This is a free will donation fundraiser. If you have questions, see a Jacobsen or Prose! We look forward to seeing you!



HOUSE BLESSINGS I am available to come bless your homes. Please let me know if and or when you might like me to visit. It is a wonderful tradition seasonally associated with the Feast of Theophany and the blessing of water. It affords us an opportunity to pray together and spend some quality time in conversation and fellowship. I look forward to hearing from you. - Fr. Gregory

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

17	Clark Little	21	Roberta (Mitchum) McCunney
	Chloe Nimmer	22	Nancy Stanton
18	Tom McCarthy		
19	Nina Borissow		
	Mary Ann Fitzgerald		
	Donna Glenn		

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Stay tuned for future dates! In the mean time, you can catch previous studies on YouTube! Each study includes a presentation of less than 30 minutes, followed by an engaging discussion. Keep an eye on this bulletin for announcements about future Bible studies. Access presentations from previous studies edited for youtube at www.youtube.com/@doug Dillon1956 or by following this QR code:



COFFEE HOUR UPDATE! We're growing here at St. Mark, which is wonderful, but it's made coffee hour a little more challenging for our hosts. To lighten the load and encourage more parishioners to participate in this ministry, we will return to having coffee hour teams. We will have assigned team leaders who will be the main point-person for that week. Then, we have tasks that others can sign up for, like set-up and clean up, bringing donuts, bringing a portion of the food. Sign up every week for a month to do a task or do it once every few months. This gives everyone the flexibility to help as often as they can and offers new people an opportunity to participate without having to host by themselves. In March we will have sign-up sheets available near the kitchen for the April-June schedule. Please consider what way you can be part of the coffee hour team. Thank you!

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.

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.

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 UPDATE The Women's Book Club will meet on **Thursday, March 13th @ 7:15 p.m.** via Zoom. We will be discussing *The Orthodox Way* by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. A link will be sent out the day before.

ST. TIKHON'S SUMMER CAMP Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp is a one-week sleep-away camp program for Orthodox Christian children between the ages of 7 and 17. It is held on the grounds of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary annually during the first week of July (June 29 to July 5). Participants enjoy a host of outdoor recreational activities (e.g. field sports, swimming, boating) with their peers as well as a superior religious education program and daily church services. The camp does have a limited number of spaces and it's first come first serve. Registration opens on February 14th here: <https://www.sttikhon-scamp.org/>. For more information or questions about the camp, please reach out to Jake Toroney Email: Toroney@hotmail.com Phone: 610-223-3919. There are a limited number of need-based scholarships available from the Archdiocese, please see Fr. Gregory for more information on scholarships.

Additionally, St. Tikhon's Summer Camp is looking for volunteers. We are in need of kitchen staff, age group counselors, area counselors, and lifegaurds. You must be 18 years or older and Orthodox Christian in good standing to apply. If interested, apply here: https://accounts.doepa.org/counselor_application

OCMC MISSIONS DINNER FEBRUARY 22 in Potomac, Maryland – Everyone is welcome to attend the Missions Dinner at SS Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, 10620 River Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854 (just past the village center) on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Vespers begins at 5:00pm. The Missions Dinner begins with appetizers and social time, followed by the dinner and program at 6:30pm. Please use the link below to register prior to February 15th, as tickets will not be available at the door. Please note that ticket prices are much lower than in previous years: \$45 for adults; \$25 for those 25 years old and younger. You will have opportunity to meet a missionary priest, a priest from the Orthodox Mission Center, hear from a missionary in the field, & learn what it's like to serve at Project Mexico. It's a must to attend this lovely event which will fill your heart with the joy of Christ and inspire you with learning about Orthodox missions! Registration link: <https://ocmc.org/potomac-dinner>. For more information, please contact Paula Massouh at pmassouh@aol.com.

LENTEN LECTURE SOUP AND BREAD The Lenten Lecture series continues this year, following the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies. The St. Mark tradition of bringing a sack "lunch" continues as well, but we will have peanut butter, jelly and bread to make sandwiches, and at least one pot of hot soup. Anyone who might be able to make a Lenten soup or bring Lenten bread on one of the Wednesday evenings (March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9 are all currently available) please let Matushka Sasha know either in person, on the phone (301-320-0739), by email (asafchuk@hotmail.com) or carrier pigeon if you could bring soup for a specific date. We can do this the easy way, where others bring soup, or the hard way, where week after week Sasha's Cabbage Soup is the only choice, making it a true Lenten experience. If you would like to bring a soup, but don't have a Lenten recipe, never fear, we have a number of seasoned soup makers who would share a recipe. Thank you all.

PUSSY WILLOWS Please keep an eye out on the willow trees. In some places the catkins are getting ready to pop and need to be cut before they do. Anyone who brings willows (Thank You!) please put them in the back of the kitchen, behind the walk-in. There are already some there. Thank you! Mka. Sasha

SINGLES RETREAT The Ancient Faith Singles Retreat 30+ is a gathering of Orthodox Christians who are at least 30 years of age, unmarried (single, divorced, widowed), and living in the world. The weekend will include daily matins and vespers, and Sunday Divine Liturgy. The group will participate in interactive, leader-led discussion sessions, opportunities for community service, games, and social activities, and free time for relaxation and fellowship. **When:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 - Sunday, February 23, 2025 **Where:** Antiochian Village Conference Center. For more information, please visit: <https://store.ancient-faith.com/singles/>