

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

FEBRUARY 2nd, 2025

EPISTLE

1 Tim 4:9-15
Heb 7:7-17

GOSPEL

Luke 19:1-10
Luke 2:22-40

Tone 7

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

32nd Sunday After Pentecost. The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple. Sunday of Zachaeus.

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|---|--------|--|
| Saturday | Feb | 1 | 5:30p | Vespers – YouTube Live Stream |
| Sunday | Feb | 2 | 9:15a | Reading of the Third Hour |
| | | | 9:30a | Divine Liturgy – Meeting of the Lord in the Temple; Zacchaeus Sunday - YouTube Live Stream |
| | | | 11:30a | Coffee Hour Fellowship |
| | | | 11:30a | Church School |
| Tuesday | Feb | 4 | 10:30a | Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group |
| Saturday | Feb | 8 | 5:30p | Vespers – YouTube Live Stream |
| | | | 6:15p | Bible Study |
| Sunday | Feb | 9 | 9:15a | Reading of the Third Hour |
| | | | 9:30a | Divine Liturgy – Publican and the Pharisee – YouTube Live Stream |
| | | | 11:30a | Coffee Hour Fellowship |
| | | | 11:30a | Choir Rehearsal |
| | | | 11:30a | Church School |
| | | | | <i>Fast Free Week</i> |
| | | | | <i>Schedule continues on back page.</i> |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|----|--------|---|
| Saturday | Feb | 15 | 5:30p | Vespers – YouTube Live Stream |
| Sunday | Feb | 16 | 9:15a | Reading of the Third Hour |
| | | | 9:30a | Divine Liturgy – Prodigal Son – YouTube Live Stream |
| | | | 11:30a | Coffee Hour Fellowship |
| | | | 11:30a | Church School |
| Tuesday | Feb | 18 | 10:30a | Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group – Akathist |
| | | | 7:00p | Parish Council Meeting |

The **Altar and Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Sharon Sielinski** in memory of **Jonathan**. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

| Date | Hosts/Hostesses |
|-------|-----------------|
| Feb 2 | Kalavritinos |
| Feb 9 | Albert |

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

| Date | Director | Reader | Preparer | Greeter | Altar Servers |
|-------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|---|
| Feb 2 | W. Tatusko D. Hardy | T. Halvorsen | D. Dillon | J. Stevens | S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth E. Roth M. Sedor |
| Feb 9 | J. Sokich | M. Mihailov | V. Lutes | P. Zabela | |

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 Zelle.

Please pray for **Becky; Michael** Ouellette, brother-in-law of Ginny Albert. **Eileen, Rose-mary 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!

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

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!

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Join us for the return of our After Vespers Bible Study for one week only on Saturday, February 8. This session will be particularly practical and applicable to daily life. 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/@dougdillon1956 or by following this QR code:



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

- 1 William Koopersmith
- 2 Tammy Tsuchida
Andrew Wickard
- 5 Gabriel Baleanu
Victoria Olynik
Fr. Gregory Safchuk
- 7 Abigail Datch

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.

INVITATION FOR REFLECTIONS In anticipation of the upcoming All-American Council in July, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has asked all of the communities of the Orthodox Church in America to consider submitting “a reflection on this moment in the life of the Church: whence we have come, where we are now, and whither the Spirit may be calling us”. To this end, study guide questions have been prepared to facilitate thought and discussion about the Church on the areas of mission, education, finance and philanthropy. These questions will be distributed soon via our parish email list. All are encouraged to look them over and offer responses. We plan to gather in person on Saturday, February 15, following vespers to discuss those questions and topics. If you can attend, please bring your responses with you. If not, please send them to me (at gsafchuk@hotmail.com) by Sunday, February 9th. Please do not send them to the “grand invitation” email address listed. One reflection will be submitted from St. Mark incorporating the gathered input.. Thank you in advance for your interest and input. - 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.

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

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/>

Happy February Birthdays!

May God Grant You Many Years!

1 William Koopersmith
2 Tammy Tsuchida
Andrew Wickard
5 Gabriel Baleanu
Victoria Olynik
Fr. Gregory Safchuk
7 Abigail Datch
11 Stefan Gleason
Thomas Jenkins
Tammy Karas
Anna Nakshin
Jacob Prose
14 Luke Matthew Tatusko
17 Clark Little
Chloe Nimmer
18 Tom McCarthy
19 Nina Borissow

Mary Ann Fitzgerald
Donna Glenn
21 Roberta (Mitchum) McCunney
22 Nancy Stanton
24 Caleb German
Michael McCunney
25 John Bilyeu
Stacy Nimmer
27 Isaiah Rodak
28 Marjorie Sielinski

happy
birthday

