

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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MARCH 16th, 2025

EPISTLE

Heb. 1:10 – 2:3

GOSPEL

Mark 2:1 - 12

Tone 5

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Second Sunday of Lent. *St. Gregory Palamas* Martyr Sabinas of Egypt. Martyr Papas of Lyconia (305 – 311). *St. Serapion*, Archbishop of Novgorod (1516). *Apostle Aristobulus* of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain (1st c.). *Hieromartyr Alexander*, Pope of Rome (119). *Martyr Julian* of Anazarbus (3rd c.). *Hieromartyrs Trophimus* and *Thalus*, of Laodicea (ca. 300).

Saturday	Mar	15	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
			6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Mar	16	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – St. Gregory Palamas – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	Mar	18	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group - Akathist
Wednesday	Mar	19	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy - YouTube Live Stream
			7:45p	Lenten Lecture – <i>Recorded & Uploaded</i>
Saturday	Mar	22	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Mar	23	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Veneration of the Cross – YouTube Live Stream
				<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>

Sunday	Mar	23	11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Mar	25	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – Annunciation – YouTube Live Stream
Wednesday	Mar	26	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			7:45p	Lenten Lecture – YouTube Live Stream

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses
Mar 16	Korokhov/Simonenko
Mar 23	Vance/Budish

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Mar 16	J. Sokich	D. Dillon	V. Lutes	M. Kopcha	S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth
Mar 23	A. Boyd	JM Mikuluk	Mka. G. 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.)

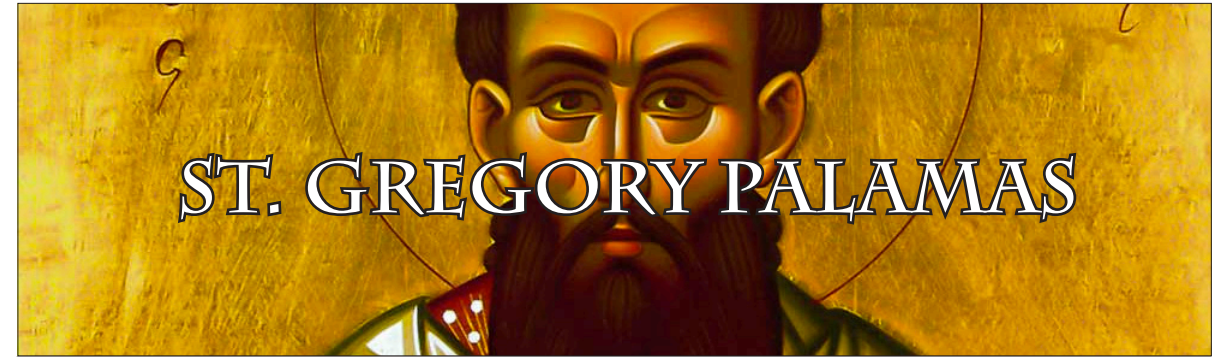
Thank you!



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 Bum-bak; Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret Dove; Julia Flick; George Freimann; Philip Hydock; John & Patricia Ihnat; Linda Jackson; Stacy Jacobsen; 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 Tarcy; Marsha Zellem.

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. **Pia** Shep-herd, sister of Sarah Hardy. **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; **Marjorie** Sielinski; **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!

SAINT MARK SPRING CLEAN UP is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please consider any amount of your time to help. See Marcella if you need more information and Thank You!

EVANGELIZER SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the April/May/June issue is Sunday, March 23rd. Please gather your articles, updates, photos, etc. and submit to Sharon (sscar-ter2018@gmail.com.) Thank you!

ST. MARK PARISH EMAIL LIST "The Friends List" If you are new to our parish, or not new, and would like to be added to our parish email list please email admin@stmarkoca.org and we will add you!

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY continues next Saturday, March 23rd. Access previous presentations (typically 3 slides a minute and less than 30 minutes) of previous studies (including the recently completed "Level Up" series) at www.youtube.com/@dougduillon1956 or by following this QR code:



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

16 Patricia Ihnat
17 Matthew Looby
19 Catherine Corbin
20 Vera Bumbak
21 Kieran Perdue
22 Caleb Bryan

OUR NEW COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP IS AVAILABLE! Please look over the schedule and the task list located downstairs by the kitchen window. There are slots available to bring donuts and creamers, set up and make coffee, clean up, and assist team leaders with bringing food. There is something available for everyone to help. If you prefer, sign up via SignUp Genius available here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054EAEA-B2EA02-55615087-coffee>

A NOTE OF CAUTION In light of the recent scam emails that were sent in my name to some of our parishioners, I will not make personal appeals for donations or vague references to needing help via email. Our parish charitable efforts are funded from your donations to our budget and through our discretionary fund. Please be alert and aware of possible attempts to defraud in this way. In Christ, Fr. Gregory

ADC - LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS Join His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, and the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at St. Nicholas Cathedral. Liturgical responses will be sung by the Archdiocesan Choir. Wednesday, March 19th, at 6pm. For more information: www.wdcoca.org

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 will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. Watch this space for possible date changes. The next book for discussion is
April 3 - "*The Giver of Stars*" by Jojo Moyes
May 1 - "*Rebecca*" by Daphne du Maurier
June 6 - "*Dead Souls*" by Nikolai Gogol
July 3 - "*Isola*" by Allegra Goodman
Aug 7 - "*The Shell Seekers*" by Rosamunde Pilcher

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 lifeguards. 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

SAVE THE DATE! The 21st Annual St. Andrew Orthodox Church Golf Tournament will be held on the afternoon of Friday, June 13th at Geneva Farm Golf Course in Street, MD. Registration information will be posted in the coming weeks. We hope to see you there for this fun-filled fellowship event! Additional details along with registration information will be provided early to mid-March.

IN MEMORIUM - FR. THOMAS HOPKO On Saturday, March 22, 2025 there will be an event to remember and honor Fr. Thomas Hopko on the 10th anniversary of his falling asleep at Holy Transfiguration Monaster in Ellwood City, PA. The event starts with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am followed by a memorial service. Memorial Luncheon at Noon and 1:30pm Reflections and Remarks by Serge Schmemmann and V. Rev. Alexander Garklavs. Then, Great Vespers with procession of the Holy Cross will take place at 3:30pm. The services, reflections and remarks will be live streamed on the monastery's YouTube Channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@EllwoodCityChapel>

Fr. Thomas was one of the most articulate and influential contemporary thinkers and teachers having impacted the lives of many seminary students and listeners to his podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio. He was a frequent visitor here at St. Mark serving, preaching and lecturing many times. I am personally grateful to him as a teacher and mentor. - Fr. Gregory

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

LENTEN LECTURE SCHEDULE

March 19th - John & Betty Slanta - Topic: *The Shroud of Turin*

March 26th - Eugenia Ordynsky - Topic: *Orthodox Prison Ministry*

April 2nd - Fr. Nicholas Roth - Topic: *Think about Thinking*

April 9th - Svetlana & Predrag Rogic - Topic: *Serbian Orthodox heritage and monasteries*

SOUP UPDATE Thank you to all our soup "volunteers". We have soups scheduled for the rest of the Lenten Presanctified lectures! And thank you to everyone who has brought fruit or nuts or lent-friendly cookies to share. They and bread continue to be welcome additions to the table. The soups and the lectures have been varied and filling. If you haven't joined us yet this year, there are still some opportunities. Come and see! With gratitude and love in the Lord, Matushka Sasha.

PRISON MINISTRY RETREAT Please join us at St. Luke Orthodox Church in McLean, VA and learn about this important ministry. All are welcome! Saturday March 22nd, 2025. Vespers at 5 PM with a Lenten meal to follow. Fr. John Kowalczyk is our guest speaker.



The Baby Bottle Campaign

FILL A BOTTLE, SAVE A LIFE. FOR SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER

Ways to Give:

- 1. Pick up a bottle, fill it with coins, currency, or a check, and return it by April 6, 2025.**
- 2. Use the link or QR code provided by your church to give online.**
- 3. Send a check to "Shady Grove Pregnancy Center"**

16220 Frederick Rd, Suite 118, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Add Memo: St. Mark Orthodox Church BBC



NATIONAL ORTHODOX BABY SHOWER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN During the month of March Orthodox Christians for Life supports local pregnancy centers with a baby shower around the Feast of the Annunciation. St. Mark Church has a long-standing relationship with Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. This year we are supporting the center with what they need the most, cash. A fill the baby bottle with spare change type of collection. What a wonderful way to share the gifts we are given and spread the love of Christ to mothers and babies during this season. Everyone, from young children contributing some of their hard-earned money, to the families who don't have time to shop, to the elders who are no longer able to go out, all will be able to participate. Take an empty bottle from the table in the social hall, fill it with what you can. Checks can be made out directly to Shady Grove Pregnancy Center or to St. Mark Orthodox Church {these will be collected and one big check from St. Mark will be issued}. Once filled please turn in to Dica Cipu , Patty Prose or Tammy Jacobson, we don't want bottles of money left unattended in the church. Bottles should be turned in by Sunday April 6th. Thank you in advance for your support of this meaningful project.