

Saint Mark Orthodox Church

**Orthodox Church in America
Archdiocese of Washington**

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Bethesda, MD 20817
Church Office: 301-229-6300
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Rector

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MARCH 30th, 2025

EPISTLE

Heb. 6:13 – 20

GOSPEL

Mark 9:17 – 31

Tone 7

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Fourth Sunday of Lent. Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, Author of the Ladder. (6th c.). St. Sophróny, Bishop of Irkutsk (1771). Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11 – 10th c. B.C.) Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Cæsar, and Epaphrodiuts, of the Seventy (1st c.). St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (6th c.). St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662).

Saturday	Mar	29	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Memorial Saturday – YouTube Live Stream
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Mar	30	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – St. John Climacus – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Apr	1	10:30a	Bl. Mka. Olga Prayer Group – Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday	Apr	2	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy – YouTube Live Stream
			7:45p	Lenten Lecture – YouTube Live Stream
Thursday	Apr	3	9:00p	Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt – YouTube Live Stream
Friday	Apr	4	7:00p	Akathist Glory to God for All Things – YouTube Live Stream
Saturday	Apr	5	8:30a	Parish Clean Up Day
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Saturday	Apr	5	6:30p	Bible Study
Sunday	Apr	6	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – St. Mary of Egypt – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Christina Kalavritinos** in memory of **Haralambos (Harry) Pistolas**. May his memory be eternal!
The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Mark and Karen Phinney** in loving memory of **Alice Krenitsky**. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	
Mar 30	Marti	
April 6	Dillon	

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Mar 30	S. Sielinski	D. Dillon	Dn. D. Phelps	P. Zabela	S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth E. Roth M. Sedor
April 6	S. Hardy	M. Baxtresser	R. Jefferson	J. Stevens	

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!

EVANGELIZER The latest edition of the newsletter is available on the table in hall outside of the nave!

THE READING OF THE LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT This week on Thursday, April 3rd beginning at 9:00 PM, the Life of St. Mary of Egypt will be read at St. Mark. This is traditionally done in anticipation of her commemoration on the fifth Sunday of Lent (this year April 6th). We plan to livestream this so that all can listen from home. It should take about an hour. Those who would like to be present at church for it are welcome! Our YouTube Channel, Holy Mother Mary, Pray to God for us!

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!

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY The Last VESPERS BIBLE STUDY before Pascha will be Saturday, April 5th, and immediately follow Vespers around 6:15 PM. Topic is TBD. Last night's bible study looked at the Prayer of Manasseh and the story behind it. Access the presentation portion (typically 3 slides a minute and less than 30 minutes) of previous studies at www.youtube.com/@dougdillon1956 or by following this QR code:



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

March		April	
29	Susan Sielinski	1	Gherman Uritsky
30	Meghan Fitzgerald	2	Jack Albert
31	David Rodak		Elizabeth Cannon
		4	Jessica Herrera
			Paulina Masick

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>

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!

LENTEN LECTURE SCHEDULE

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

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

PASCHAL GOSPEL READING If you are fluent in a language other than English and would like to read a portion of the Gospel in that language at the midnight Pascha service, please contact Fr. Gregory.

PASCHA BREAD BAKE SALE On Palm Sunday we will have our annual bake sale selling Pascha breads and kielbasa for your Pascha baskets. The sale will take place during coffee hour. Cash or checks will be accepted for payment.

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 Thursday 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 5 - “*Dead Souls*” by Nikolai Gogol
July 3 - “*Isola*” by Allegra Goodman
Aug 7 - “*The Shell Seekers*” by Rosamunde Pilcher

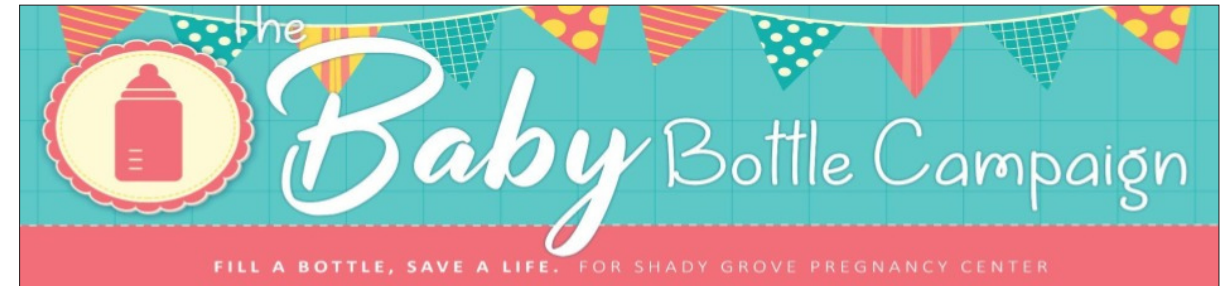
ST. TIKHON'S SUMMER CAMP Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp is a one-week sleep-away camp program for Orthodox Christian children between the ages of 7 and 17. It is held on the grounds of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary annually during the first week of July (June 29 to July 5). Participants enjoy a host 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.

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.

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



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 Jacobsen, 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.