



**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 Zelle.**

Please pray for **Becky; Eileen, Rosemary and Robert**, friends of Tina Burpee. **Hannah**, friend of Theodora Dean. **Pia** Shepherd, 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; **Alexandra**, Granddaughter of Larisa Looby; **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.

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on Sunday, May 18th, following Liturgy. Read-ahead packets are available on the table in the hallway outside of the nave!

**MEMORY ETERNAL** to Matushka Mary Shafran! We extend our condolences to Nina Shafran, whose mother fell asleep in the Lord on March 31st. You can read Matushka Mary's obituary at [https://nynjoca.org/news\\_250401\\_1.html](https://nynjoca.org/news_250401_1.html) (which includes a personal note by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael), or at <https://www.oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-mary-shafran>

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST:** Dear Parishioners, this is a request for special prayers for my 21 yr. old granddaughter, Alexandra Cannon. She is a jr. at Clemson University, and is to undergo brain surgery on Mon., May 12, at Brigham Women's Hospital in Boston. Alexandra has a condition called Arteriovenous Malformation. (Tangled blood vessels in an AVM do not form properly, and can weaken and burst, causing bleeding in the brain and a possible stroke or brain damage.) Please also pray for the mind and hands of Dr. Patel, her surgeon, and all the other medical personnel who will be assisting in this operation to repair Alexandra's blood vessels. Many thanks! Larisa Looby

**VESPERS BIBLE STUDY** will resume after Pascha! Access presentations (typically 3 slides a minute and less than 30 minutes) of previous studies at [www.youtube.com/@dougddillon1956](http://www.youtube.com/@dougddillon1956) or by following this QR code:



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

1	John Michael Mikuluk	7	Colleen Church
2	Susan Rodak		Lily Church
	Aubreigh Roth		Madeleine Voth
3	Manuella Buzoianu Balan		Nicholas Voth
6	John Michael Kumar	8	Patricia Pearson
		9	Michael Karas

**AKATHIST HYMNS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY.** They are located on the large book case on the right. The color coded folders contain various Akathist Hymns to Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, The Most Holy Theotokos, Blessed Matushka Olga of Alaska, The Repose of Those Who Have Fallen Asleep, The Life of Mary of Egypt, and Prayers for the Sanctity of Life. You are more than welcome to take one or make copies.

**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](mailto:admin@stmarkoca.org) and we will add you!

**BOOKSHELVES** We have been blessed with additional books for our parish library. In fact, we need some additional bookshelves to put them on. It will take some rearrangement of our current configuration, but it will be worth it. If you have a bookshelf that you no longer need, please see Fr. Gregory.

**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>

*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 **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](mailto: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](https://accounts.doepa.org/counselor_application)

**THE 21ST ANNUAL ST. ANDREW ORTHODOX CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT** Registration is now open!! The tournament will take place on Friday, June 13th at Geneva Farm Golf Course in Street, MD. We hope to see you there for this fun-filled fellowship event! See the church website for more details and the regstration form: [https://standrew-baltimore.org/upcoming\\_events](https://standrew-baltimore.org/upcoming_events) (scroll until you see the golf tournament information)

**CONSECRATION OF NEW CHURCH BUILDING** The consecration of the new church building at St. Luke Orthodox Church in McLean will take place on May 9th and 10th. Friday, May 9th, Vespers and Presentation is at 7:00pm. Saturday, May 10th, is the Consecration and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. A celebratory banquet will take place following the service. All are welcome!

**UPDATED CALENDAR** There were some calendar errors in the latest edition of the newsletter. Please pick up a corrected copy of the calendar located on the table in the hallway outside of the nave.

**THANK YOU** to Kyra Smerkanich for organizing the annual egg hunt! And thank you to all those who helped make it a success! We deeply appreciate your hard work for making this experience so wonderful for the children of the parish!

**2025 PARISH DIRECTORY** It's finally here! The 2025 Parish Photo Directory is now available!! Please pick up your copy on the table by the kitchen in the parish hall during coffee hour!

*Happy May Birthdays!*

May God Grant You Many Years!



1	John Michael Mikuluk		Timothy Masick
2	Susan Rodak	21	Coy Williamson
	Aubreigh Roth	22	Simina Lal Ciubotaru
3	Manuella Buzoianu Balan		Renee Zabela
6	John Michael Kumar		Dominic Rotunda
7	Colleen Church	23	Kenneth Bernstein
	Lily Church		Carl Firestone
	Madeleine Voth		Cindy Jefferson
	Nicholas Voth	25	Eddie Roth
8	Patricia Pearson	26	Christina Berencz
9	Michael Karas		Andrew Bumbak
12	Shirley Dean	27	Timothy Firestone
	Joanna Williams		Fr. Mark Koczak
13	Ellen Barber	29	James Ficht
14	Alexander Norton		Henry William Meyers
	Bella Prose		Patty Prose
15	Bennett Barber	31	Hannah LeFors
	Antonina Riscuta		Alexandra Sedor
16	Alexandra Brasoveanu-Tarpy		
17	Sherry Safchuk		
19	Carol Mary Ashley		
	Stephen Ilario		

