

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: 410-200-0165
taj@toucan411.com

FEBRUARY 15th, 2026

EPISTLE

1 Cor 8:8 – 9:2

GOSPEL

Matt. 25:31 – 46

Tone 3

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT. Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus (ca. 109). Ven. Paphnutii (Paphnutius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 13th c.). Ven. Paphnutius and his daughter, Ven. Euphrosyne, of Alexandria (5th c.). Ven. Eusebius, Hermit of Syria (5th c.).

Saturday	Feb	14	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Feb	15	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Last Judgement (Meatfare) – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Chili Cook off & Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Monday	Feb	16		Meatfast begins
Tuesday	Feb	17	10:30a	St. Olga of Alaska Prayer Group - Akathist
			7:30p	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	Feb	21	5:30p	Vespers
			6:15p	Bible Study
			6:30p	Young Adult Maslenitsa Party
Sunday	Feb	22	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) – YouTube Live Stream <i>Forgiveness Vespers immediately following Liturgy</i>
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>				

Sunday	Feb	22	11:30a	Church School
Monday	Feb	23		Great Lent Begins
			7:00p	Canon of St. Andrew
Tuesday	Feb	24	7:00p	Canon of St. Andrew
Wednesday	Feb	25	6:30p	Presanctified Liturgy
			7:45p	Lenten Lecture
Thursday	Feb	26	7:00p	Canon of St. Andrew

The **Altar and Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **The Hydock Family** in loving memory of mother and Baba, **Olga Ference**. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses
Feb. 15	Jacobsen
Feb. 22	Dillon

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Feb. 15	W. Tatusko D. Hardy	A. Boyd	R. Jefferson	N. Stanton	S. Brhane H. Meyers E.J. Pedersen D. Roth
Feb. 22	S. Hardy		Rdr. V. Lutes	J. Stevens	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.)

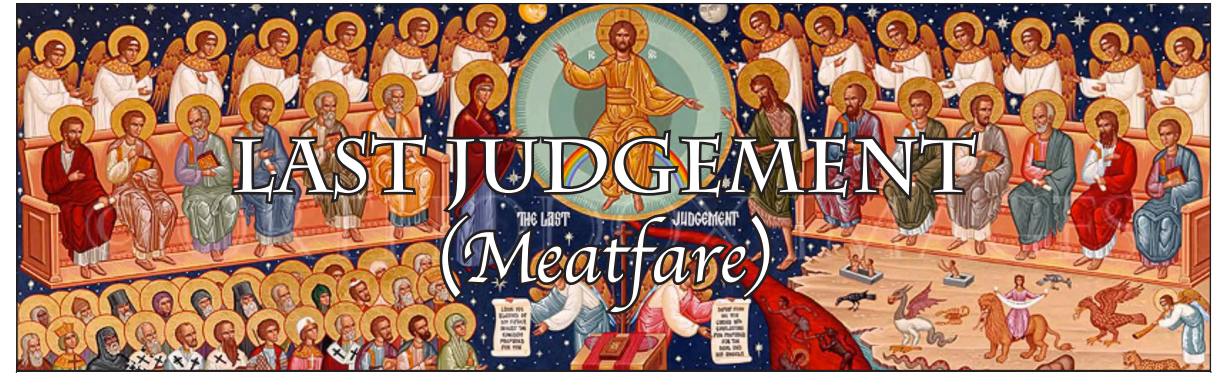
Thank you!



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: Christina & Michael Berencz; Vera Bumbak; Helen Damiani; Shirley & Paul Dean; Margaret Dove; Julia Flick; Philip Hydock; John & Patricia Ihnat; Linda Jackson; Stacy Jacobsen; Cindy & David Jefferson; Steve Kreta; 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 Zellem.

Please pray for **Doreen** Dyer, friend of Jack and Ginny Albert. **Becky; Eileen, Rosemary and Robert**, friends of Tina Burpee. **Hannah**, friend of Theodora Dean. **Shannon and Matt**, daughter and son-in-law of John Hendrickson. **Pia** Shepherd, sister of Sarah Hardy. **Paul** Giovetsis, **Denise** (Dionysia), Godsisiter 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.

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!

CHILI COOK OFF TODAY we will be turning up the heat as we work to raise some funds to replace the HVAC system in our chilly church. This free will offering event is fun for the family. As usual we will round out the festivities with some rousing rounds of BINGO for the kid in us all. Please join us in the parish all following Liturgy!

MASLENITSA YOUNG ADULT PARTY The Young adults are planning a Potluck Cheese party on Saturday February 21 following Vespers in the social hall. All young adults and the young at heart are welcome to bring and share your favorite cheesy meal with some ethnic/ folk dancing and fellowship. Any questions please contact Victor Lutes (victorlutes@me.com)

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY will meet on Saturday, February 21st. A typical bible study includes a presentation of around 20 minutes, followed by an engaging discussion, but this week will be mostly discussion with some prepared materials mixed in.

Earlier presentations (including last week's) are up on my youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@dougdillon1956> QR Code:



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

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

MONASTERIES I am aware that a number of inquiries have made about the status of St. Nina and Holy Spirit Monasteries in Union Bridge, MD. These monasteries are no longer canonical Orthodox monasteries. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has issued a letter regarding their status. Please see me if you would like more information. Thank you!
- Fr. Gregory

CONCERT Former parishioner Kevin Ayesh will be giving a piano concert on Februray 15th at 4:00 pm at Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville, MD. For more information: <https://resurrectionadw.org/event/lacs-presents-romantic-and-rhapsodic-favorites-with-kev-in-ayesh-pianist/>

BELL RINGING MINISTRY Anyone who is interested, or who previously expressed interest, in learning to ring the bells, here at St. Mark, is asked to please contact Tom Jenkins. Unfortunately, the original list of interested participants in missing, so even if you have already spoken with us, we kindly ask that you reach out again. Formal training will begin soon, and a regular rotation will be established. Please see Tom Jenkins for more information.

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

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 books for discussion are:

Mar 5 - "Hunger for Righteousness" by Phoebe Farag Mikhail. The author will be joining us on Zoom for the discussion.

April 2 - "A Year in the Company of Angels: A Pilgrim on Spruce Island" by Anthony Linderman

May 7 - "Paul: A Biography" by N. T. Wright

June 4 - "Persuasion" by Jane Austen

30TH ANNUAL NICHOLAS TSAKALOS MEMORIAL RETREAT - SATURDAY, MARCH 14. Join us for a day of worship, reflection, and fellowship at the 30th Annual Nicholas Tsakalos Memorial Retreat, themed “Christianity in Action: The Teachings of Jesus Illuminated Through the Life of Archbishop Anastasios Yannoulatos of Albania.” The retreat will be led by Fr. Luke Veronis, Protopresbyter of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church (Webster, MA).

The day begins with Divine Liturgy at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast and registration from 9:30–10:00 a.m., with the retreat starting at 10:15 a.m. Lunch is included. The retreat will be held at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, Baltimore.

Registration is \$30 if registered by March 4 (\$35 after). Free parking available. More information and registration at www.goannun.org (click “2026 Retreat”).

A special youth gathering with Fr. Luke will take place Friday, March 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m., with a light Lenten meal.

CGS LENTEN RETREAT Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church is hosting a Lenten Retreat at Camp Plankatank in Hartfield, VA, March 6th - 8th. The cost is \$100 per camper. For more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/4qRZ94q>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY IN OUR PARISH

- Library care and management
- Prospora baking
- Hydration of fresh decorative flowers in church
- Upkeep and maintenance of facility and grounds
- Parish hall setup for events
- Assistance with church school
- Coffee hour service
- Bell ringing
- Snow shoveling

Check the bulletin for updates. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please see Fr. Gregory with questions.

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 for those who are visiting, those who forget their dinner, those who are moved at the last minute to attend the Presanctified, and those who are just plain hungry, 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 soup on one of the Wednesday evenings (**February 25th, March 4th, March 11th, March 18th** and **April 1st** 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. All Lenten soups and bread are gratefully accepted. If you would like to bring a soup, but don’t have a Lenten recipe, never fear, we have seasoned (see what I did there?) soup makers who would share a recipe. Thank you all.

LENTEN LECTURE SCHEDULE

February 25th - Thomas Jenkins - Topic: *IOCC*

March 4th - Jill Stevens - Topic: *Rich and Fertile was the Earth Allotted to US: A Grant Application Update*

March 11th - Fr. David Bozeman - Topic: *Spiritual Pride*

March 18th - Fr. Nicholas Dujmovic - Topic: *Mt. Athos, A Personal Journey*

March 25th - *No Presanctified or Lenten Lecture; Divine Liturgy for Annunciation at 10:00 am*

April 1st - Andrew Boyd - Topic: *First Three Days of Holy Week*

FIRST WEEK OF LENT SERVICE SCHEDULE Services will be live streamed on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/saintmarkorthodoxchurch>

Monday, February 23rd - *Great Lent Begins*

7:00 pm - Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, February 24th - **7:00 pm** - Canon of St. Andrew

Wednesday, February 25th - **6:30 pm** - Presanctified Liturgy

7:45 pm - Lenten Lecture

Thursday, February 26th - **7:00 pm** - Canon of St. Andrew