

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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MAY 31st, 2026

EPISTLE
Acts 2:1 – 11

GOSPEL
John 7:37 – 52; 8:12

Tone 7

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

8th SUNDAY OF PASHCA – PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY. Apostle Hermes of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Hermias at Comana (2nd c.). Martyr Philosophus at Alexandria (3rd c.).

Saturday	May	30	5:30p	Vigil for Pentecost
			6:45p	Bible Study
Sunday	May	31	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – PENTECOST – YouTube Live Stream <i>Kneeling Prayers immediately following Liturgy.</i>
			11:30a	Parish Picnic!
Tuesday	June	2	10:30a	St. Olga of Alaska Prayer Group – Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	June	6	5:30p	Vespers
			6:15p	Bible Study
Sunday	June	7	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – All Saints – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			12:30p	Baptism of Philippos Williams
Monday	June	8		Apostles' Fast Begins
Tuesday	June	9	7:00p	Parish Council Meeting
				<i>Schedule continues on back page.</i>

Saturday	June	13	5:30p	Vespers
			6:15p	Bible Study
Sunday	June	14	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy – All Saints of America – YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	
May 31	Parish Picnic	
June 7	McDonald	

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
May 31	A. Boyd	N. Edwards	D. Dillon	P. Zabela	All eligible altar servers welcome!
June 7	J. Sokich	M. Lungociu	Dn. D. Phelps		

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.)

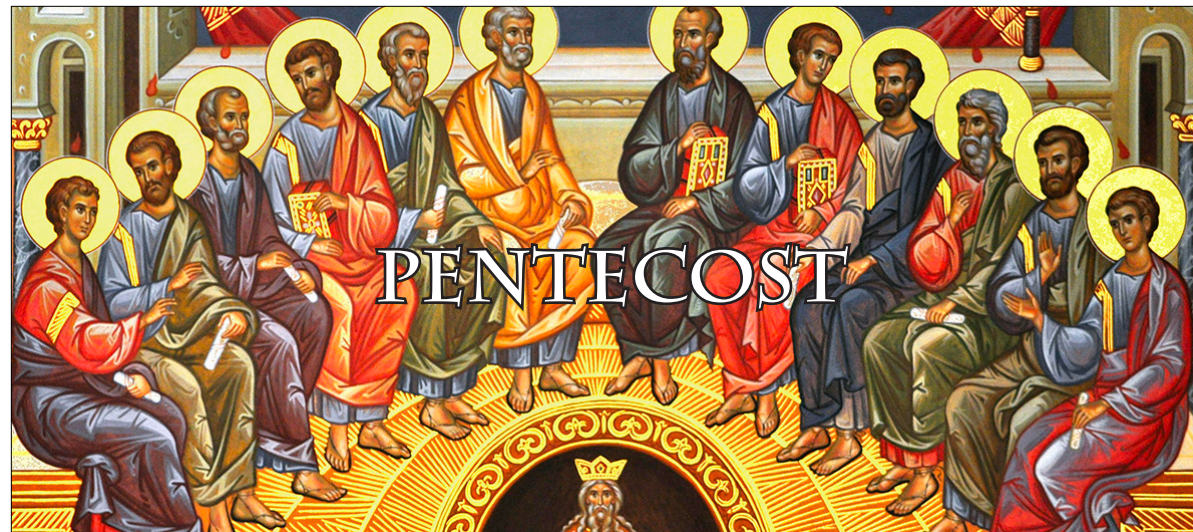
Thank you!



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. **Paul** Giovetsis, **Denise** (Dionysia), Godsis-ter 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 **Car-men**; 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.

REMINDER as of today, the prayer "Oh Heavenly King..." once again returns as part of our regular rule both in church and private prayers.

KNEELING PRAYERS for Pentecost will take place today immediatly following Divine Lit-urgy.

FAST FREE The week following Pentecost is fast free! Enjoy!

PARISH PICNIC will take place TODAY! Following Liturgy!

2026 GRADUATES Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school or college this May and June? If so, please let Fr. Gregory or Sharon Sielinski know. We will honor our graduates following Divine Liturgy on a date to be determined! Stay tuned!

COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP Our May-June coffee hour sign up is available downstairs near the walk-in fridge. Please consider where you are able to help. If you have any questions or want the link to the online version please see Debbi Dillon.

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Bible Study will take place Saturday, June 6th. Earlier presentations are up on youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@doug Dillon1956>

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

May		June	
31	Hannah LeFors Alexandra Sedor	1	Alexandra Zabela
		5	Rachael Datch Rosemary Garriott

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
- Altar and Handmaid service
- Parish Council
- Choir
- Liturgical vestments repair (sewing buttons, etc.)

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

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: New in June! 1st or 3rd Saturday in June at the Orchard Cafe in Odenton, MD. 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:

June 4 - "Persuasion" by Jane Austen

July 2 - "How to Read a Book" a novel by Monica Wood

St. Mark T-Shirts Are Here! Get'em While It's Hot!

Show your support for St. Mark by purchasing a T-Shirt!

Black and White are standard cut.

Burgandy and Gold are women's cut.

Standard sizes available, special order sizes available by request!

All shirts are \$30 and proceeds go to the St. Mark HVAC Fund!

Cash, Check, Credit Card, Paypal payment methods accepted!

See Michael Lungociu during coffee hour.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY We are looking to start a movie and potluck one Tuesday each month. The church will be purchasing a subscription to Sight and Sound theater. This will give us full access to watch all their performances. This resource will also be available for any group in our parish to use at the church (i.e. men's group, families, children's activity or movie night as an outreach to our neighbors, etc.) Please let Carol Mary know if you have an interest in joining the ladies activity in June. We plan to meet in the teens room for the movie. More info coming on the date.

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL Please visit our very own YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/@stmarkoca>! Not only can you stream all of our regular services, but you can also see past Lenten lectures and some other special services.

While you are there, please take a moment to subscribe. There is no cost or obligation to you, but we do need another 150 or so subscribers to reach the level where we can more easily produce our videos. Please visit and subscribe!

GIFT SHOP Our parish Gift Corner is a small ministry created to serve and bless our church family. As we continue to stock it with meaningful items, we would love to hear from you! Please share your thoughts, suggestions, and preferences on what you would like to see offered in the Gift Corner so that we may better serve the needs and interests of our parish. Kindly direct your feedback to Carol Mary or Anelia. Thank you for helping this ministry grow in a way that best serves our parish community!

SWING DANCE FUNDRAISER Join us for an evening of swing dancing and community in support of Holy Cross Orthodox Church. This fundraiser will help support the ongoing mission and ministries of Holy Cross Orthodox Church, and we are grateful for your participation. Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026. Catonsville United Methodist Church. 18+ RSVP here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C48A8AB2BA4F58-63920029-swing#

SAVE THE DATE! The 22nd Annual St. Andrew Orthodox Church Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 5th at Geneva Farm Golf Course in Street, MD. The tournament will be an afternoon tournament with a shotgun start beginning at 2:00P. Registration information and additional tournament information will be provided in late March to early April.

FROZEN BAKED GOODS there are still a few frozen Pascha breads (\$15) and walnut and poppy seed rolls (\$25) available for sale. Proceeds go to the HVAC fund. See Tina Burpee during coffee hour if you are interested.

HVAC FUNDRAISING



Perhaps you've seen the fundraising posters around our church building. As per our most recent parish meeting, we are about to embark on the replacement of the entire HVAC system at a total cost of approximately \$700,000. Funds have been set aside for this purpose for several years.

Presently, just over \$300,000 in reserves is available to dedicate to this project, some of which is the result of recent fundraisers and special gifts. We are applying for a second trust loan in the maximum amount of \$500,000, in case costs go over budget, which often happens with large projects such as this. The terms of the loan are not yet known, but the interest rate is likely to be more than 7% per annum. Our current loan is at 4.5% per annum, has a balance of \$486,218, and our monthly payment is \$3,523. Borrowing close to \$400,000 could double our monthly payments, due to the higher interest rate.

We realize that many may not be in a position to make a large donation. Our Lord regarded the donation of two mites from the poor widow as greater than all other gifts (Mark 12:42) because she gave all that she had, but some among us are blessed with a greater abundance of resources. This is a time to prayerfully consider a gift to reduce the strain on our parish finances.

HVAC FUNDRAISING - DONATING STOCK

The stock market is now at an all-time high. You may own stocks that have increased significantly in value. For those in a position to do so, a very tax efficient way to donate to the HVAC project is to transfer appreciated stock into St. Mark's Schwab account. Several parish members have used this method recently.



For example, a person may be willing to make a gift of \$10,000. Rather than giving cash, that person could transfer stock purchased for \$4,000 that is now worth \$10,000. The generous donor would receive a tax deduction of \$10,000, and will not recognize capital gains tax on the \$6,000 increase. The donor can then purchase the same shares for the \$10,000 in cash the donor was otherwise willing to donate. This eliminates \$6,000 of capital gains tax, provides a donation to St. Mark of \$10,000, and increases the tax basis in the shares to \$10,000, reducing taxes on a future sale.

Please see our Treasurer, Michael Chow, or Wayne Tatusko, for information on how to donate stock.