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

AUGUST 30th, 2026

EPISTLE 1 Cor. 16:13 – 24	**GOSPEL** Matt. 21:33 – 42	**Tone 4**

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner. Ss. Alexander (340), John (593), and Paul the New (784), Patriarchs of Constantinople. Repose of Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Svir (1533). Translations of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky (1724). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Daniel of Moscow (1652). St. 4) Ss. Sava I (1237), Arsenius I (1266), Sava II (1269), Eustathius I (ca. 1285), Jacob (1292), Nicodemus (1325), and Daniel (1338), Archbishops; Joannicus II (1354), Spyridon (1388), Ephraim II (after 1395), Macarius (1574), Gabriel I (1659), Patriarchs; and Gregory, Bishop.

Saturday	Aug	29	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Beheading of St. John the Baptist – Strict Fast
			5:30p	Vespers
			6:10p	Bible Study
Sunday	Aug	30	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	Sept	1		Church New Year
			10:30a	St. Olga of Alaska Prayer Group – Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	Sept	5	3:00p	Wedding of Kate Xenos and Davis Wylie
			5:30p	Vespers
Sunday	Sept	6	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
				Schedule continues on back page.

Sunday	Sept	6	9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
Tuesday	Sept	8	10:00a	Divine Liturgy – Nativity of the Theotokos – YouTube Live Stream
Saturday	Sept	12	4:00p	Baptism of Tessa Belyeu
			5:30p	Vespers

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	Hosts/Hostesses	
Aug 30	Looby/Johnson	
Sept 6	Vance	

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

Date	Director	Reader	Preparer	Greeter	Altar Servers
Aug 30	A. Boyd	N. Edwards	R. Jefferson	M. Kopcha	All eligible altar servers welcome!
Sept 6	W. Tatusko D. Hardy	M. Lungociu	Rdr. V. Lutes	T. Amara	

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!

Donation

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** 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), Godsister of Christina Kalavritinos, and also family friends **Constantine** and **Thomas**; **Olga**, friend of Helen Kerch; **Mary** Everhart, mother of Ted Koopersmith; **Alexandra**, Grandaughter 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. 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.

ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY Our Archdiocesan Assembly is scheduled on Saturday, September 26th at St. Luke Church in McLean VA. The day will begin with liturgy at 8:00 AM and following a brief break for coffee and breakfast, the first session will begin at 10:00 AM. Sessions will conclude at 3:00 PM. Anyone desiring to attend as an observer should inform me as soon as possible. The deadline for credentials input is September 14th. Thank you! - Fr. Gregory

GRATEFUL! Thank you to everyone who pitched in for the special potluck coffee hour on Saturday, August 15th, for Dormition and the visit of His Beatitude. Those who answered the "volunteer" call and stepped up, either by bringing food or helping in the kitchen (and for many of you, both). It's a relief to everyone not to have a "Sasha's Cabbage Soup" coffee hour. Especially on a major feast!

CATECHESIS Guided instruction in the Orthodox Faith is available. Those interested are encouraged to contact me with questions in person or via email at gsafchuk@hotmail.com Thank you! Fr. Gregory.

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW 2026 ANNUAL ICON RAFFLE The icon for this year's raffle is of Saint Olga of Alaska written by Wayne Hajos a parishioner of St. Matthew. It is valued at $600 and measure's 11 x 14. Tickets are $2.00 each or $5.00 for 3 tickets. The drawing will be on Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Checks should be made to "Orthodox Church of St. Matthew with "Icon Raffle" in the memo line. Send checks to Orthodox Church of St. Matthew, P.O. Box 2003, Columbia, MD 21045. Flyers with a picture of the icon are available on the candle counter.

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 special services, Lenten Lectures and more! Please take a moment to subscribe. There is no cost or obligation to you, but we do need about 64 or so subscribers to reach the level where we can more easily produce our videos. Please visit and subscribe!

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Bible Study will not meet next weekend, Saturday, September 5th. Earlier presentations are up on youtube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/@dougdillon1956

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

August		September	
30	Michael Kissell Matthew Joseph Sedor	2	Madeleine Hardy Margie Johnson Michael Olynik
		4	Stephen Koopersmith

ROMANIA PILGRIMAGE 2026 "Spiritual Treasures of Orthodox Romania" When: September 30 – October 13, 2026. Led by Fr. Robert Miclean (leading Romania pilgrimages since 2011) Join Holy Archangels Orthodox Church on a two-week pilgrimage through Romania, venerating relics and wonder-working icons while visiting the country's holiest monasteries and churches.

Highlights include: ProVita orphanage in Valea Plopului; Crasna Monastery, Sinaia & Peleş Castle; The painted monasteries of Bucovina (Voroneţ, Moldoviţa, Sucevi̧a) and Putna Monastery; Monasteries in Moldova: Bistriţa, Pângărați, Petru Voda, Sihăstria, Agapia, Văratec Bucharest's Old & New Patriarchal Cathedrals (the latter newly consecrated as the tallest Orthodox church in the world), plus St. George the New, St. Spiridon, and Antim Monastery

This pilgrimage is open to all Orthodox Christians and interested catechumens — a chance to deepen your faith, experience Orthodox Romanian culture, and support the children of ProVita. Contact: 262-844-2369 | OrthodoxChesapeake.org

A SENIOR RETREAT AT SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP WILL FOCUS ON "AGING GRACEFULLY." Join us for a time of prayer, fellowship and discussion, sponsored by the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, September 18–20, 2026, featuring guest speaker Dr. David C. Ford, Professor of Church History at Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. The featured presentation, "Wisdom from St. John Chrysostom on Aging Gracefully," will draw upon the teachings of Saint John Chrysostom and the Early Church to explore Christian life and the experience of aging. Pick up a copy of the flyer at the candle desk for registration details

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.

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:
Sep 3 - "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas - Parts 1 and 2 (chapters 1-47)
Oct 1 - "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas - Parts 3 and 4 (chapters 48-117)
Nov 5 - "The Code of the Woosters" by P.G. Wodehouse

GIFT SHOP UPDATES: Please note Gift shop hours: the shop is open right after church until 12:00. Please plan to do your shopping at the beginning of coffee hour. Thank you. All greeting cards are on clearance sale! New children's book on St. Elizabeth is now for sale. Please see Carol Mary if you want to order one. We get a discount if we buy 5 or more.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY IN OUR PARISH

- Library care and management
- Prosphora baking
- Hydration of fresh decorative flowers in church
- Upkeep and maintenance of facility and grounds
- Parish hall setup for events
- Assistance with live streaming
- Coffee hour service
- Bell ringing
- Altar and Handmaid service
- Parish Council
- Choir
- Liturgical vestments repair (sewing buttons, etc.)

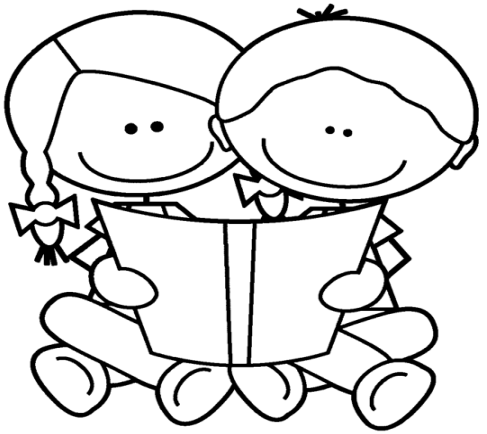
Check the bulletin for updates. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please see Fr. Gregory with questions.

CHURCH SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 13TH! Please register your children this year via the Google Form or in person with Christine Brooks on a Sunday at church — registration helps teachers plan, but all are still welcome. Want to volunteer? Email Christine at christine.L.brooks@gmail.com. Adult inquirers interested in Orthodoxy should contact Fr. Gregory (gsafchuk@hotmail.com); Bible Study meets Saturdays at 6:10pm after Vespers with Doug Dillon.
Also, save the date: Youth Sunday is October 18, when our young people will take on liturgical roles like ushering, greeting, and reading — plus cake!

SS. PETER AND PAUL MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 11–13, 2026
Friday: 5–9 PM; Saturday: 12–10 PM; Sunday: 12–4 PM;
Join in for authentic Middle Eastern food, vendor booths and handmade goods, kids' activities, Mediterranean music and entertainment, and homemade pastries. Free parking and free entrance — all are welcome! 10620 River Rd, Potomac, MD

ST MARK TSHIRTS 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.

The St. Mark gift corner has become a place of many treasures but did you know we have a wonderful selection of Orthodox books for children such as prayer books, books about Pascha, a children's guide to Divine Liturgy, another one on the sacrament of Confession, as well as a wide collection of tiny colorful books perfect for little hands introducing children to saints from many different traditions:



Modern saints: St. Porphyrios
Slavic saints: Sts. Cyril & Methodius, St. Sava, St. Nikolai Velimirovich
Biblical saints: The Holy Myrrh bearers
Early Church saints: St. Thekla, St. Paraskevi
Family saints: St. Emmelia (mother of St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Macrina, and several other saints)

Special Agents of Christ: A Prayer Book for Young Orthodox Saints by Annalisa Boyd A prayer book written especially for Orthodox youth. Uses the engaging "special agent" theme to encourage young people to see themselves as disciples of Christ.
The Prayer Rope A beautifully illustrated introduction to the Jesus Prayer and the Orthodox prayer rope.
The Three-Day Pascha by Mother Melania A children's book explaining Christ's Passion, death, burial, and Resurrection. Mother Melania's books are generally known for presenting Orthodox theology in a gentle, poetic way.
A Child's Guide to the Divine Liturgy One of the best introductory books for helping children understand what is happening during the Liturgy.
A Child's Guide to Confession Helps children prepare for the Mystery of Confession in an age-appropriate way. Focuses on God's mercy rather than fear, making it a helpful resource for families

Plant seeds of faith that will last a lifetime. Stop by the Gift Corner and discover these beautiful Orthodox books that help children and grandchildren grow in their love for Christ and His saints!