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

NOVEMBER 1st, 2026

EPISTLE Gal. 6:11 – 18	**GOSPEL** Luke 8:26 – 39	**Tone 5**

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (6th OF LUKE) – Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Mesopotamia, and their mother, St. Theodota. Hieromartyrs John the Bishop and Jacob (James) the Presbyter, of Persia (ca. 345). Martyrs Cyrenia and Juliana in Cilicia (4th c.). Martyr Hermenegild the Goth of Spain (586). Martyrs Cæsarius, Dacius, Sabbas, Sabinian, Agrippa, Adrian, and Thomas, at Damascus (7th c.). Monk Martyrs Jacob, Jacob the Deacon, and Dionysius, of Prodromous (Mt. Athos – 1520).

Saturday	Oct	31	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
			6:15p	Bible Study
Sunday	Nov	1	8:45a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:00a	Greeting of the Metropolitan
			9:15a	Tonsure of David Hardy
			9:30a	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
				St. Olga Prayer Garden Blessing immediately following Liturgy
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship & Reception
			11:30a	Church School
Saturday	Nov	7	4:30p	Memorial Service for Memorial Service for Ivan Manov
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Nov	8	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
				Schedule continues on back page.

Sunday	Nov	8	11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Saturday	Nov	14	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Nov	15	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
			11:30a	Annual Parish Meeting

The **Sanctuary Candles** are offered by **Stephanie Kozemchak** for the health of her son **Stefan Christopher Kozemchak.**

The **Altar Candles** are offered by **Don & Jan Truitt** in memory of Don's father, **Donald H. Truitt, Sr.** Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	**Hosts/Hostesses**	
Nov 1	Potluck	
Nov 8	Brooks	

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

Date	**Director**	**Reader**	**Preparer**	**Greeter**	**Altar Servers**
Nov 1	S. Sielinski	P. Dean	Mka. G Phelps	T. Amara	All eligible altar servers welcome!
Nov 8	-	T. Jenkins	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** Bumbak; **Helen** Damiani; **Shirley & Paul** Dean; **Margaret** Dove; **Philip** Hydock; **John & Patricia** Ihnat; **Linda** Jackson; **Stacy** Jacobsen; **Cindy** & **David** Jefferson; **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 **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; **Katrina** and her unborn children. **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.

CHURCH SCHOOL Teachers and students will dismiss following Divine Liturgy! Any children between the ages of 4-18 who are visiting St. Mark today are welcome to join the children for Church School!

PRAYER GARDEN BLESSING Today, just before the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will bless the St. Olga of Kwethluk Prayer Garden. We will process out to the garden together, singing the Troparion to St. Olga, and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, will bless the garden. We will then return to the church to conclude the Liturgy.

Afterward, please join us downstairs for an enhanced coffee hour to celebrate this joyous occasion!

MISSING VASE A white vase with gold trim was placed on the table near the kitchen for the owner to pick up, but it has disappeared. This vase was a gift to the owner from her father. If you have seen this vase, please return it to the table or let Matushka Sasha or Diakonissa Daniela know. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING will take place on Sunday, November 15th, following Liturgy. Read-ahead packets are now available on the table outside of the nave, next to the newsletters. The read-ahead packets will also be available online today, except for the Treasurer report. For security reasons, we do not post the Treasurer report online.

COFFEE HOUR please consider donating a dollar into the baskets with the red and white bows to help defray the ever-increasing cost of coffee hour supplies- coffee, juice, paper products. Nowhere else can you get a cup of coffee and delicious snacks for a dollar!

ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY CHOIR will be visiting us on the weekend of the 7th and 8th . They will sing vespers on Saturday evening and liturgy on Sunday morning. We will take a collection for the Seminary at the conclusion of Liturgy. After making a brief presentation during coffee hour, we will have an opportunity to meet and greet them.

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Bible study will meet on Saturday, November 7th, following Vespers. Earlier presentations are up on youtube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/@dougdillon1956.

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

1 Diana Haverlack
2 Christina Sokich
5 Jane (Ihnat) Cessna
Mka. Ann Prentice
6 Alexander Jankovic
Susie Needham

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!

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.

OCTOBER MOVIE The Ladies' Movie Activity for October is postponed. Given the HVAC installation and overlapping travel schedules, we couldn't find a good date. Look for it again in November.

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:
Nov 5 - "The Code of the Woosters" by P.G. Wodehouse

GIFT SHOP UPDATES: The Gift shop has stocked up for the Nativity season with lovely gifts from 3 monasteries. Gift shop hours are: immediately after liturgy until noon. Please plan to do your shopping when liturgy is over. Come check out our new inventory and stop by the SALE table for cards and books. <u>The gift shop is open from right after Liturgy until Noon!</u>

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

HVAC FUNDRAISING Hopefully, you've seen the fundraising posters around our church building. We have now begun the process of replacing our entire HVAC system at a total cost of $700,000+. Some funds have been set aside for this purpose for several years. However, the estimated cost of this project will exceed what we have.

Therefore, we have sought a loan for what we need in order to make up the difference. Fortunately, a private lender has offered us some very favorable terms to borrow up to $400,000. Even so, we will have to pay down what we borrow and cover interest and any other costs associated with the loan. It is in our best interest therefore to borrow no more than we actually require and to pay it off as soon as we are able. As a reminder, we still have a balance of over $400,000 on the construction loan from our expansion and renovation project from 2004. Although we are confident that St. Mark can handle these expenses, it will require faithful stewardship on the part of all our members.

We realize that many may not be in a position to make a large donation at this time. But we should remember that our Lord regarded the donation of two mites from the poor widow as greater than all other gifts (Mark 12:42). She gave all that she had. Some among us are blessed with a greater abundance of resources. This is a time to prayerfully consider offering a gift according to the best of our abilities, to reduce the strain on our parish finances. Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

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.

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.

ADVENT RETREAT: A DAY WITH ST. PAISIOS Join St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church for its annual Advent retreat on Saturday, November 21, at Nativity of the Theotokos (909 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD). Very Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides will lead sessions on the life and teachings of St. Paisios the Athonite. The day begins with Orthros and Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos at 7:30 AM and closes with Vespers at 4:00 PM. The $35 fee covers breakfast and lunch, and childcare is provided. Register at nativityofthetheotokos.org.

AN EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT will take place on Saturday, November 14, at Ss. Peter & Paul, Potomac, MD. Regarding the plight of Orthodox Christians in the Holy Land. OCP (Orthodox Christians for Palestine) invites all the faithful to a day of prayer and learning about the situation Christians of the Holy Land face. Register online at: https://orthodoxchristiansforpalestine.info/events

RETREAT WITH KH. FREDERICA MATHEWES-GREEN on Fr. George Calciu — The Confessor for 20th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. A Unique retreat with Author, Kh. Frederica Mathewes-Green. Saturday, 7 November, 2026 1-7 p.m. (crabcake dinner included.) Holy Archangels Orthodox Church 11126 Tuckahoe Rd., Denton, MD 21629. https://www.orthodoxchesapeake.org/retreat-registration

PHASE II BEGINS Having completed Phase I of our grant-funded stormwater management work, with new permeable pavers in the courtyard and at the landing of the front steps, we are on to Phase II. This phase involves the removal of harmful invasive plants (already underway) and the installation of a large-scale conservation garden that will mitigate damaging stormwater runoff and erosion along the uphill side of the church property (to the left of the church when facing the church) and improve wildlife habitat with native plantings. The conservation garden is also the future site of the St. Olga Prayer Garden, a contemplative garden for prayer and reflection. So, once again, we will have a temporary construction zone on the property and for safety reasons, we ask that you please stay clear of the area. The project will take about 4-5 weeks. You will see yellow hazard tape go up soon. Thank you. Your prayers for those who are helping us with this transformation and for a successful outcome are most welcome! Please see Jill Stevens with questions.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS We would like to decorate the tree in the narthex this year with ornaments that truly represent our community. If you have or can purchase an ornament that represents you or your family, preferably with your name on it, please bring it to church and give it to Shirley Dean or Matushka Sasha. Thanks so much!!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE : SATURDAY, NOV. 7
Join hierarchs, clergy, and laity for this year's conference, "Toward a More Perfect Orthodox Union," exploring the promise and challenges of a more united Orthodox witness in America. Metropolitan Tikhon gives the keynote, Archbishop Nathaniel offers the welcome, and speakers include Serge Schmemann on "Alexander Schmemann's America," Dr. Alexander Lingas on Orthodox liturgy in America, and Dr. Paul Meyendorff on ethnophyletism and autocephaly, along with Dr. Nicholas Gvosdev and Dr. Bill Marianes. Sessions begin at 8:00 am and run through the afternoon at St. Andrew's Romanian Orthodox Church, 9111 River Road, Potomac, MD, or join virtually on Zoom. Registration is $25 (students free): zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/orthodox-christian-laity-39th-annual-conference. A hotel block is available at group.embassysuites.com/38of0c.

BE REFRESHED IN CHRIST AND THE HOLY ORTHODOX FAITH Focus more on Christ and grow in your faith. Be inspired by the Romanian people and their Saints. Minister to those in need. Experience Romanian hospitality, learn to love more as Christ loves, Venerate the relics of the Saints. Be emboldened to witness to the truth of Christ upon your return!
Dates: March 5th - 13th 2027
Cost: $2,800. Your place is secured with a $1400 deposit (1/2 of cost). Space is limited. Deadline for registration is 31 Oct.; 2nd half payment is due, 6 Dec., St. Nicholas Day. Checks can be made out to Holy Archangels Orthodox Church and marked ACM-Romania Mission Trip 2027. https://orthodoxchesapeake.org/files/2027-ACM-Mission-Trip-Brochure.pdf

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS Although the poinsettias will not be arriving until the Friday before Christmas, we would like to put up all the other Christmas decorations in the sanctuary in time for St Nicholas Day (Sunday, 6 December.) Therefore, some of us are planning to decorate on Saturday morning, 5 December at 10:00 AM. If you want to get into the holiday spirit, please come and join in the fun. All ages are welcome.

ST. NICHOLAS WORKSHOP The annual St. Nicholas Day workshop will take place right after liturgy on Sunday, December 6th (classroom location TBD). All parish children and their families are welcome to attend. We will have a visit from St. Nicholas, learn about his life, and enjoy some fun crafts. Older children are asked to attend to share in the fun and assist the younger kids with their crafts. Please note that we will also be having a non-perishable food drive on that day in conjunction with the workshop, and ask families to bring a food item to donate. Single-serving food items most appreciated. If you have any questions, please see Alexandra or Joe Sedor.

Happy November Birthdays!
May God Grant You Many Years!

1	Diana Haverlack
2	Christina Sokich
5	Jane (Ihnat) Cessna
	Mka. Ann Prentice
6	Alexander Jankovic
	Susie Needham
7	Dn. David Phelps
	Karen Phinney
	Patricia Rodak
	Brian Zabela
10	Michael Kopcha
	Sonya LeFors
	Alexander Safchuk
11	Andrea Phelps
12	Abigail Dean
	Walter Laurie
13	Michelle (Rodak) Weaver
14	Mark Lungociu
15	David Holovac
16	Kaitlin Brooke Meyers
17	John Bilyeu, Jr.
	Connor Alexander Ruzila
18	Claire German
20	Mka. Mary Roth
21	Matthew Balamaci
	Sarah Kostyk
22	Gregory Mitchum
	Francis Thistle-Brooks
24	Dn. Matthew Prentice
25	Naomi Ruth Edwards
	John Thomas Sedor
28	Samantha Pearson
30	Helen Kerch