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 8th, 2026

EPISTLE Eph. 2:4 – 10	**GOSPEL** Luke 8:41 – 56	**Tone 6**

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (7th OF LUKE) – SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS: ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, URIEL, SELAPHIEL, JEGUDIEL, AND BARACHIEL.

Saturday	Nov	7	4:30p	Memorial Service for Memorial Service for Ivan Manov; Lucio; Hristadochka & Ivan Mihailov; Maria & Angel Rafailov.
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Nov	8	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School
Tuesday	Nov	10	7:00p	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday	Nov	14	5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
			6:10p	Bible Study
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
				Schedule continues on back page.

Tuesday	Nov	17	10:30a	St. Olga of Alaska Prayer Group – Akathist
Saturday	Nov	21	9:30a	Divine Liturgy – Entrance of the Theotokos
			5:30p	Vespers – YouTube Live Stream
Sunday	Nov	22	9:15a	Reading of the Third Hour
			9:30a	Divine Liturgy –YouTube Live Stream
			11:30a	Coffee Hour Fellowship
			11:30a	Church School

The **Altar Candle** is offered by **Christina Kalavritinos and Family** in loving memory of our Father, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather, **John Christopher Kalavritinos**. Everlasting be his memory. Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Date	**Hosts/Hostesses**	
Nov 8	Brooks	
Nov 15	Jacobsen	

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

Date	**Director**	**Reader**	**Preparer**	**Greeter**	**Altar Servers**
Nov 8	-	T. Jenkins	R. Jefferson	J. Stevens	All eligible altar servers welcome!
Nov 15	Rdr. D. Hardy	D. Dillon	Rdr. V. Lutes	N. Stanton	

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!

WELCOME ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY CHOIR! It is our joy to host these students who have offered some of their precious time away from their studies to travel here and be with us last evening and this morning. We look forward to learning more about St. Tikhon's Seminary and for the opportunity to get to know you. Be assured of our prayers for continued success in your labors. God bless!

WELCOME! We are delighted to welcome the St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir this weekend. They'll sing the responses at Vespers and the Divine Liturgy. After Liturgy, we'll take up a collection for the Seminary. Please join us at coffee hour, where the choir will give a short presentation and you can meet them.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY! Thank you O God for the seasonable weather! Thank you all dear parish for making last Sunday such a joy! There are so many things both large and small that went into the wonderful celebration beginning with the tonsuring of David Hardy, the hierarchical divine liturgy, the blessing of the St. Olga Prayer Garden and the enhanced coffee hour. Thank you to Tom Jenkins for making the excellent icon kiot from wood from our original St. Mark pews! Thank you to those who baked the bread, embroidered the special cloth beneath the icon of St. Olga, practiced, sang, directed and served the liturgy. And the food was abundant, varied and so delicious all served in our beautifully decorated social hall. With gratitude, - Fr. Gregory

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.

VESPERS BIBLE STUDY Bible study will meet on Saturday, November 14th, 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!

7	Dn. David Phelps	11	Andrea Phelps
	Karen Phinney	12	Abigail Dean
	Patricia Rodak		Walter Laurie
	Brian Zabela	13	Michelle (Rodak) Weaver
10	Michael Kopcha	14	Mark Lungociu
	Sonya LeFors		
	Alexander Safchuk		

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.

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.

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 and the next list of books!

GIFT SHOP IS STOCKED FOR THE NATIVITY SEASON come check out our new inventory! If you want to order Christmas cards please let Carol Mary know by next week. They are $16.00 a box. We will be ordering chrismation/baptism candles soon. So keep us in mind if you have need of one in the near future. **PLEASE NOTE: gift shop hours are from right after liturgy to NOON.** Please plan to do your shopping at the beginning of coffee hour so that the gift shop workers also get to take a break and have fellowship. Thank you so much for your support of our St. Mark Gift Shop!

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.

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

BLESSED After weeks of work by a skilled landscaping crew, how wonderful it was to witness the blessing of the new St. Olga Prayer Garden by his Beatitude! How lovely to experience that blessing together as a Parish community, with clergy from across the diocese, and guests to St. Mark as well, including the landscape designer and installer. Per our garden blessing, "May the flora planted here flourish by Thy providence and reflect Thy loving hand to all."

WORD OF CAUTION Please enjoy the new prayer garden! Note, however, that the boulders on the slope of the garden outside the Parish Hall windows are not steppingstones. They are design elements that also serve as "check dams" to slow and divert water coming down that hill. Check dams are among the several stormwater management techniques used in the new conservation garden to mitigate runoff and erosion and encourage the absorption of rainwater to nourish our plants. For your safety, please do not walk on the slope or on the boulders in that area. If you have any questions, please see Jill Stevens.

ST. NICHOLAS ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN FAMILY PROGRAM: It's that time of year again! Help support our seminarian families this holiday season by participating in the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) annual St. Nicholas Adopt-a-Seminarian Family Program.

To participate, simply select an ornament with a wish-list item from the poster in the downstairs hallway, purchase the item, and return the gift unwrapped to Alexis Steffaro (732-395-1652) by Sunday, November 22. Gifts will then be distributed to the families in time for St. Nicholas Day. Monetary donations are also welcome.

HVAC HOLIDAY MARKET Are you looking for another way to support the Church's HVAC Fundraiser? Stop by the Handmade Holiday Craft Market Table to purchase crafts and goodies and get some of your holiday shopping done during coffee hour! From the end of November until the Sunday before Christmas there will be a holiday market craft table with handmade items donated by parishioners. All proceeds will go directly toward our church's HVAC fundraiser. Thank you for your generosity and support!

DO YOU ENJOY CRAFTING OR MAKING HANDMADE ITEMS? Please consider sharing your talents by donating handmade crafts, or other creative items to our Holiday Craft Market Table! By donating your items this ensure that 100% of the money earned will go directly to our HVAC funds. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for sharing your gifts and helping support our church family! Please reach out to Patty Prose (571-214-6033) with any questions or donations!

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.

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!!

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.

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!

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!

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD! Christmas (card) has come early this year! Once again, we will be sending out a Community Christmas card. If you would like your name included on the card, the cost will be $15 per family name. After deducting the cost of producing the card, any funds will be used to defray the cost of flowers used to decorate the Church during feast days and for Nativity! If interested, see Mka. Sasha or Sharon to make a donation. Deadline is Tuesday, December 1st! Thank you!