



# FROM THE AMBIVON

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## *Welcome His Eminence, Archbishop Mark!*

**June 2nd, 2024 5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 4. Samaritan Woman.**

St. Nikephoros the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople (828). Greatmartyr John the New of Sochi, who suffered at Belgrade (1330-1340).

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### **Birthdays & Anniversaries for May/June**

**Birthdays:** Paul Dunay (5/27); Jason Vo (5/30); Daniel Jones (5/30); Patricia Jones (6/8) Bernard Elko (6/30)

**Nameday:** Helen Wytovich (5/21); Emily Krenitsky (5/30)

**Baptism:** Fr Michael and Matushka Emilia Shepherd (5/8); Maximus Shepherd (5/16); Rodion Shepherd (5/18); Jason Hart (6/25); Emily Hart (6/25); Silas Hart (6/25); Judah Hart (6/25); Nadia Hart (6/25)

**Anniversary:** Fr Michael Shepherd - Priest Ordination (5/26); Fr Michael & Emily Shepherd Wedding anniversary (6/3); Jason and Emily Hart Wedding Anniversary (6/10)

**Travelers:**

**Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it. Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.”***

June 2nd - Thank you Marie!

June 9th

June 16th

**Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations!**

June 2nd -

June 9th - Tammy

June 16th

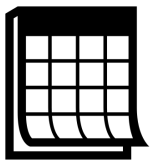
**Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.**

**PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!**

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DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community.*

*According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



## Service Schedule

SAT, June 8th: @ 4:50PM Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions

SUN, June 9th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5. Blind Man.**

THURS, June 12th: @ 6:30PM Great Vespers w/Litya

FRI, June 13th: @ 9:00 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

HOLY TRINITY WILKES BARRE

SUN, June 16th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension.**



## *Words of Wisdom*

*From the Saints & Teachers*

## Today Readings

**Epistle:** (26) Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

**Gospel:** (12) John 4:5-42

### **EPISTLE**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone, a Psalm of David: Sing praises to our God, sing praises, sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Choir: Sing praises to our God, sing praises, sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Reader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Choir: Sing praises to our God, sing praises, sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Reader: Sing praises to our God, sing praises,

Choir: Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(28) Acts 11:19-26,29-30] In those days, the apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. \* But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. \* And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. \* News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. \* When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with purpose of heart; \* for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. \* So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; \* and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. \* And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; \* and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

## ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: In the 4th Tone: AL-LE-LU-IA!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou lovest righteousness, and dost hate iniquity.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

[(12) John 4:5-42] At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. \* Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with His journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. \* There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." \* For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. \* The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that Thou, a Jew, askest a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. \* Jesus answered her, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to thee, 'Give me a drink,' thou wouldst have asked Him, and He would have given thee living water." \* The woman said to Him, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where dost Thou get that living water? \* Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" \* Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water shall thirst again, \* but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; the water that I shall give him shall become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." \* The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." \* Jesus said to her, "Go, call thy husband, and come here." \* The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "Thou art right in saying, 'I have no husband'; \* for thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband; this thou saidst truly." \* The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. \* Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." \* Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you worship the Father. \* You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. \* But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. \* God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." \* The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He Who is called Christ); when He comes, He will show us all things." \* Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to thee am He." \* Just then His disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What dost Thou wish?" or, "Why art Thou talking with her?" \* So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, \* "Come, see a Man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" \* They went out of the city and were coming to Him. \* Meanwhile the disciples besought Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." \* But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." \* So the disciples said to one another, "Has any one brought Him food?" \* Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent me, and to accomplish His work. \* Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. \* He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. \* For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' \* I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." \* Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." \* So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. \* And many more believed because of His word. \* They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of thy

words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

**Acts 11:20 Some Spoke to the Greeks Trusting in the Grace of God. St John Chrysostom:** Look! Not even in tribulation did they succumb to lamentations and tears, as we do, but dedicated themselves to a great and good work and preached the word even more undaunted. They did not ask, "Should we, who are Cyrenians and Cyprians, attack such a splendid and great city?" Instead, trusting in the grace of God, they applied themselves to the work of teaching, and the Gentiles themselves did not disdain to learn from them. Notice how all these things were accomplished through small means; how the preaching grew; and how, similar to those in Jerusalem, they bestowed their care on everyone, treating the entire world as a single household. **Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 25.**

**John 4:8 The Disciples Had Gone Away Like a Hunter, Jesus Comes to the Watering Hole. St Ephrem the Syrian:** Our Lord came to the spring of water like a hunter. He asked for water in order to give water, with water as a pretext. He sought something to drink, like a thirsty person, so that the way could be opened for him to quench thirst. He asked from her in order to teach her, and she in turn would ask from him. He was not ashamed as a rich person to ask like one in need, to teach poverty how to make a petition. He was not afraid of reproach because he was speaking to a woman by herself, in order to teach me that whoever keeps to the truth will not be shaken. "They were indeed amazed that he was standing and talking with a woman." He had dismissed his disciples from his presence so that they would not chase his prey away. He had cast bait for the dove so that by means of her he might capture the entire flock. He asked her in a way that was opposite to the real situation, so that she could answer honestly. "Give me water to drink." Here was the beginning of the meeting. He asked for water, and he made a promise about living water. He made a request, and he ceased from his request, even as she also left her pitcher. He ceased pretexts because she came to the truth, for the sake of which the pretexts [had arisen]. **Commentary on Tatian's Diatessaron 12.16.**

### How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
<b>\$200</b>	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
<b>\$500</b>	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
<b>\$750</b>	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
<b>\$1000</b>	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
<b>\$1500</b>	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

**WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE:** We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

**May Income:** \$10,923.50

**May Expense:** \$9,669.18

**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$3,740.85

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$14,963.58



### Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

**Silent Prayers and Confession:** Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

**Church Work Day:** Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. We need help pulling weeds. Everyone can do this!

**Monthly Panikhida:** June 29th, 4PM prior to Vespers

**Parish Council Meeting:** 6 July 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - All are invited.

**Take Out Chicken Barbeque:** Hosted by Arcaro and Genell's. Saturday, June 22nd from 12PM-3PM. The price will be \$13 a ticket. Everyone will be given two tickets to sell (you can purchase more if you like). Sandy and Tammy will have a meeting with Angelo this Tuesday at 6:30. Please start turning in your monies collected from sales so we can update Angelo NLT 9June. If anyone would like to donate towards the barbecue like for supplies, cupcakes or anything else we may need please see Tammy and Sandy.

**Diocesan Men's Group:** At our last Diocesan Assembly, His Eminence, Archbishop Mark suggested that a men's group be formed within our Diocese to provide for the new and old converts, as well as the cradle Orthodox Christian men, an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual nourishment. We believe this group will be a valuable addition to our diocesan community. The name of the group is Saint Alexis Toth Brotherhood of the DoEPA. Currently, we are in early stages of planning the first event for the men's group. We are asking each parish rector, with the blessing of His Eminence, to announce this in their parish and provide the names and email addresses.

Thank you.

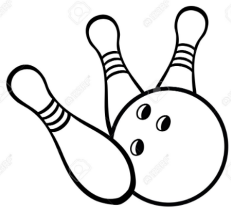
In Christ,

Fr Mark Koczak, Fr Michael Demko, Fr Vjekoslav Jovicic, Fr Aleksey Paranyuk, Pdn Peter Skoog

**Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.**

**Bulletin Boards:** Community and Administration Boards. Please, you can post on the community board as long as the post/event does not contradict our faith.

## **YOUTH BOWLING!!!**



What: Youth Bowling Party

When: Saturday, July 13th from 1pm - 3pm

Where: Idle Hours North (Dickson City)

Who: Youth of St. Michael's (Ages 5 and up)

Pizza and Drinks Provided!

## **Parish Prayer List**

**Newly Departed:** *Jean Staviski Mori (5/6)*

**Departed:** *Irene Pritchky (6/5); George Krenitsky (6/7); Mary Peregrim (6/10); Maxie Wozniak, Sr. (6/14)*

**Please remember in your prayers LIVING**

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

**All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends:** *David Lezinsky, John Pritchky, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

**Servants of God** *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchky,*

*Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Paul & MaryAnn Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

**Seekers** - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara*

**Catechumens** - *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

## The Most Reverend Mark Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

His Eminence, Archbishop Mark was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on December 5, 2004. His consecrating bishops included His Beatitude Ignatius IV at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Damascus, Syria as well as numerous Metropolitans of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch. He was enthroned at St. George Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio on August 25, 2005 and served as Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of America.

Archbishop Mark served as priest of St. John the Evangelist Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania from 1997 to 2000. In January of 2001, he was assigned to St. George in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Archbishop Mark was born in 1958 in New Albany, Indiana. He was baptized in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in 1958 and confirmed when he was nine. He attended elementary school at our Lady of Perpetual Help and graduated from New Albany High School in 1976. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1985. In 1987, he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Biblical Literature from Oral Roberts University and accepted the position of Adjunct Professor of Old Testament at Oral Roberts University.

Having been introduced to the Orthodox Church by the V. Rev. George Eber, pastor of St. Antony in Tulsa, Oklahoma and his professors of Church History, Dr Jerry Sandidge and his Old Testament professor, Dr Howard Ervin at Oral Roberts University, Bishop Mark was received into the Church through Holy Chrismation on Great and Holy Wednesday 1989. He attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, receiving his Master of Divinity degree at St. Vladimir's in 1991.

From 1993 – 1997, His Grace worked in mental Health as a Mental Health worker at Mercy Psychiatric on a dual diagnosis unit and from 1997 – 2000, as a crisis worker in the emergency room at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Aliquippa, PA.

Archbishop MARK was ordained a deacon on August 17, 1997. On September 7, 1997, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Archbishop MARK was received into the Orthodox Church in America on January 1, 2011, and given the title of Bishop of Baltimore. On January 17, 2014, he was nominated to fill the vacant Episcopal See of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania at a special Diocesan Assembly at Saint Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA—he had served as the Diocese's Administrator since 2012. On March, 18, 2014, he was elected by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

His Eminence was enthroned as Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, was celebrated at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Saint Stephen Cathedral on Saturday, May 10, 2014. He was elevated to the rank of Archbishop during the 2015 Spring Session of the Holy Synod.

He also presently serves as the Synodal Liason to the various commissions and departments of the OCA.

## **Bishop**

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The **bishop** is the first and highest degree of the clergy in the Orthodox Church (ἐπίσκοπος or *episkopos* in Greek, which means overseer).

## **Episcopal ministry**

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A bishop is the successor to the Apostles in the service and government of the Church. The bishop thus serves εις τόπον και τύπον Χριστού (in place and as a type of Christ) in the Church. No bishop in Orthodoxy is considered infallible. None has any authority over or apart from his priests, deacons, and people or the other bishops. They have the responsibility of maintaining the unity of the Church throughout the world by ensuring the truth and unity of the faith and practice of their diocese. The bishop represents his particular diocese to the other churches or dioceses, and represents the Universal Church to his own particular priests, deacons, and people.

According to Church Law, bishops of an area must meet in councils. When doing so, the metropolitan or patriarchate presides administratively.

In the Orthodox Church, from about the sixth century, it has been the rule that bishops are single men or widowers. Bishops are also usually in at least the first degree of monastic orders.

## **Holy orders**

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It is the belief of Orthodoxy that Christ is the only priest, pastor, and teacher of the Christian Church. He alone forgives sins and offers communion with God, his Father. Christ alone guides and rules his people. Christ remains with his Church as its living and unique head. Christ remains present and active in the Church through the Holy Spirit. Through the sacrament of holy orders bishops give order to the Church. Bishops guarantee the continuity and unity of the Church from age to age and from place to place, that is, from the time of Christ and the apostles until the establishment of God's Kingdom in eternity. Bishops receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to manifest Christ in the Spirit to men. Bishops are neither vicars, substitutes, nor representatives of Christ. It is Christ, through his chosen ministers, who acts as teacher, good shepherd, forgiver, and healer. It is Christ remitting sins, and curing the physical, mental, and spiritual ills of mankind. This is a mystery of the Church.

## **Ruling bishop**

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A **ruling bishop** or **diocesan bishop** is responsible for and the head of all the parishes located in his a particular geographical territory, called a diocese or archdiocese. All authority of the lower orders of clergy is derived from the bishop. No divine services may be served in any Orthodox temple without the authorization of a bishop. Saint Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch went so far as to state that "he who acts without the bishop's knowledge is in the devil's service."

He may be called *Bishop*, *Archbishop*, *Metropolitan*, *Metropolitan Archbishop* or *Patriarch*.