

PARISH BULLETIN
ST. MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH
AUGUST 14, 2016
TO
SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

St. Mark Orthodox Church
400 West Hamlin Road
Rochester Hills, MI
48309

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Visit our parish website at <http://stmarkrochester.org>.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

Newly Departed:

Mike – friend of Alysha Yavornitzky; **Hanna** – Marlene McKean’s co-worker’s father; **Renee** – Robert Saieg’s aunt; **Alvina** – Lubie Astor’s aunt; **Edith Martha Roberts** – former parishioner; **David** – Michele Templeton’s neighbor; **William** – Gerry Bokas Jr.’s friend

Other prayers:

Lorain and her family – Norain Ljuljgurovic’s sister, diagnosing and trying medications; **Rachel, Marek and their unborn child** – Sack family friends, pregnancy difficulties; **Sandra** – Michelle Chotkowski’s aunt, brain tumor; **Edward** (Alzheimer’s) and **Lucille** (caregiving wife) – Sack friends; **Anna** – Sack friend, for health and well-being; **Mary Ring** – Dan’s wife, sepsis, heart and blood pressure issues; **Phyllis** – Gerry Bokas Sr.’s sister in law, Alzheimer’s, hospice; **Jordan and her unborn child** – Morrish friend, high risk pregnancy; **Denny** – Morrish friend, aortic aneurism and breathing issues; **Rick** – Kozlowski friend, colo-rectal cancer; **Frank** – Joann Maxim’s brother, new round of chemotherapy; **Angela** – Demmy Lionas’ sister, pending neck surgery; **Carol** – Debbie Wenson’s sister in law, cancer, chemo; **Alysha Yavornitzky** – recovering from tonsillectomy; **Amy Ring** (Dan’s daughter) and **John Cebelak** on their marriage; **Kay** – Linda Saieg’s sister, intestinal procedure; **Karen** – Marlene McKean’s friend, multiple tumors; **John** – Patricia Morrish’s cousin’s husband, cancer and treatment; **Michael** – Morrish son, neck injury; **Mike** – Morrish friend, skin cancer; **Katie** – from Nadia Cherup, young girl, seizures, tests; **Bruce Michael** – Nadia Cherup’s doctor, retiring; **Jamie Michael Gialanella and their unborn child**; **Fr. Andrew** – pending hip replacement surgery

THE ADORNMENT CORNER

During our latest contact with Niculai he said that he will be installing the next phase of icons in August. He has been setting up a studio in Canada and has acquired assistance to improve his icon output. At the present rate we believe that we can fund the iconography as each payment comes due provided there is a continual flow of contributions to the adornment fund. Plans to promote those contributions are being developed to implement when the urgency arises.

MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS

The next meals are scheduled for August 21 and September 18. We encourage servers to attend the Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter and Paul on these days in support of the mission.

ANNUAL S.A.M.P. COLLECTION IN AUGUST

For more than ten years we have made collections in August to support Orthodox Christian missionaries in third world nations through the O.C.M.C. (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) Support a Mission Priest program. For the past several years we have collected enough to help fund four of the missionaries at \$600.00 each. The collection basket will be out throughout August to receive your contributions. Please generously help to continue this worthwhile work. Thank you.

ADJUSTMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

On Tuesday, September 6, Fr. Andrew will undergo a hip replacement and be sidelined for a number of weeks. Some of the changes that will be made are:

- the Festal Vigils for the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 7) and the Elevation of the Cross (September 13) will not be celebrated at St. Mark. However, both Festal Divine Liturgies (September 8 and 14) will be celebrated by Fr. Lev Kopistiansky at St. Mark at 9:00 A.M. as usual.

- There will be no Great Vespers on Saturday, September 10 or 17.

- The Sunday Divine Liturgies of September 11 and 18 will be celebrated by Fr. Esteban Vazquez from St. Nicholas parish in Burton, MI.

- His Grace our Bishop Paul will make an Archpastoral visit to St. Mark on the weekend of September 23 – 25. He will celebrate the Saturday Great Vespers and the Sunday Divine Liturgy as a priest.

- Weekend services from September 25 on will be determined by Fr. Andrew's abilities. There will AT LEAST be Sunday Divine Liturgy.

NON SURGERY RELATED ADJUSTMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

The Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on Wednesday, September 7th from 1 to 7 P.M.

There will be a Parish Pig Roast Picnic at Bloomer Park on Sunday, September 11th. Details will follow.

The fall church School program will begin on Sunday, September 18th at 9:00 A.M. and the Divine Liturgy will return to a 10:00 A.M. start time.

AND FARTHER AHEAD

The 55th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest will be held in Lansing, IL on October 11th, 2016. At our annual parish meeting Dion Roddy was selected to participate with Fr.

Andrew from St. Mark. As always, others who wish to attend as observers are welcome to do so, but they must formally register and be admitted. If you are interested in attending please speak with Fr. Andrew. The cost per participant is \$100.00. Registration and payment is due by September 1st, 2016.

The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos (Sept. 8)

The first Great Feast to fall in the Church Year is the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos. It is entirely fitting that at the beginning of the new religious year all Orthodox Christians should come before the highest example of human holiness that the Orthodox Church holds precious and venerates that of Mary, the Theotokos and Mother of God. This day is seen as one of universal joy; for on this day the boundary of the Old and New Covenants was born the Most-Blessed Virgin, pre-arranged from the ages by Divine Providence to serve the mystical Incarnation of God the Word.

The first Old Testament Reading of Vespers (Gen. 28:10-17) speaks of the dream of Jacob, one of the Old Testament Patriarchs, when he fled the wrath of his brother Esau. He saw a ladder extending from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. When he awoke, Jacob blessed with oil the stone on which he had slept and called it Bethel, meaning house of God. The Most-Pure Mother of God is seen here as that ladder between heaven and earth, uniting earth with heaven in her womb. She who carried God in her womb is truly Bethel, none other than the house of God...and the gate of heaven (Gen. 28:17).

The birth of the Most-Holy Theotokos took place in the following manner: Her father, the Righteous Joachim, was a descendant of King David, to whom God had promised that from the seed of his descendants would be born the Savior of the world. Her mother, the Righteous Anna, was the daughter of Matthan, and through her father was of the tribe of Aaron and through her mother was of the tribe of Judah. The spouses lived in Nazareth of Galilee.

Joachim and Anna had no children, and all their life they grieved about this, especially since they were now in old age. Scorn and mockery was their lot, for at that time childlessness was reckoned as a shame. But they never murmured and only the more fervently beseeched God, humbly trusting in His Will.

Once, during the time of a great Feast, the offering which Joachim took to Jerusalem to offer to God in the Temple, was not received by the priest, who reckoned that a childless man was not worthy to bring a sacrifice to God. This greatly grieved the old man and he, counting himself only a sinner among men, decided not to return home, but to flee to a place of solitude in a deserted place.

Anna, having heard how her husband had been humiliated by the priest, began to fast, and in prayer sadly beseeched God to grant her a child. In the wilderness, secluded and fasting, Joachim also prayed to God about this.

The prayers of the Holy Spouses were heard. The angel Gabriel came to them and announced that a daughter would be born to them, whom the whole human race would call blessed. At the command of the Heavenly Messenger, Joachim and Anna returned to Jerusalem where, according to the promise of God, a daughter was born to them, whom they named Mary.

This child, the Most-Holy Virgin Mary, pure and virtuous, surpassed not only all men, but even the angels, being manifested as the Living Temple, the Heavenly Gate, ushering in Christ to the Universe as the Salvation of our souls. The Nativity of the Mother of God pre-announced the approaching time when the great and comforting promise of God concerning the salvation of the human race from the slavery of the devil was to be accomplished. The Mother of the First-Born of all Creation was revealed to all of us as a merciful Intercessor to whom we perpetually run for help in all things.

Troparion of the Feast (Tone 4).

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)

By your Nativity, O Most-Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life.

FROM ST. THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE

“So, morning or evening, immediately before you begin to repeat your prayers, stand a while, sit for a while, or walk a little and try to steady your mind and turn it away from all worldly activities and objects. After this, think who He is to whom you turn in your prayer, then recollect who you are; who it is who is about to start this invocation to Him in prayer. Do this in such a way as to waken in your heart a feeling of humility and reverent awe that you are standing in the presence of God.”

FROM ST. NIKON OF OPTIMA

“A spiritual father, like a signpost, merely indicates the way; but you yourself must follow the path. If the spiritual father points the way but his disciple does not move and will not go anywhere, then he will simply rot at the signpost.”

August 14 - September 24, 2016

Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 14 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy Great Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition following Coffee Hr. Dormition Fast 8/1-14	August 15 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy-Dormition of the Theotokos Blessing of Flowers	August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20 4:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions
August 21 \$\$ 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	August 22	August 23	August 24	August 25 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting	August 26	August 27 4:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions
August 28 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	August 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist STRICT FAST	August 30	August 31	September 1 Church New Year	September 2	September 3 4:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions
September 4 \$ 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	September 5	September 6	September 7 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00-7:00PM	September 8 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy-Nativity of the Theotokos	September 9	September 10 NO VESPERS @ ST. MARK
September 11 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy Church Picnic	September 12	September 13	September 14 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy-Elevation of the Cross STRICT FAST	September 15	September 16	September 17 NO VESPERS @ ST. MARK
September 18 \$\$ 9:00 AM Church Sch 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22	September 23	September 24 4:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Bishop Paul Visit</div>