

SAINT MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

The Weekend of December 12/13, 2020

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Commemoration: Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous; Holy New Martyr Peter the Aleut; John (or Joachim), Bishop of Zichni.

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who are wondrous among your saints, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Small Entrance

Hymn of Saint Spyridon, First Tone (When the tomb had been sealed)

Our God-bearing Father Spyridon, at the first of the Synods, you emerged as the champion, and wonder-worker. Therefore, you addressed your dead daughter in the grave, and changed a serpent into gold. And while chanting your holy prayers in worship, you had the Angels concelebrating with you, O most holy one. Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to him who crowned you; glory to him who works through you, healings for all!

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who are wondrous among your saints, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Repeat the Hymn of Saint Spyridon, above.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion of Preparation for the Birth of Christ, Third Tone

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave, To give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice therefore, oh, Universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new born Babe and who is our God before all Ages.

Epistle..... Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Gospel..... John 10:9-16

The Lord said, "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."

The Communion Prayers are found on page 4 of this leaflet.

Stewardship Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, our God, accept our offerings as You have accepted the gifts of Your people throughout the ages. We offer these gifts to Your glory, for the support of the ministries of Your holy Church, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, and for the proclamation of Your Gospel to the whole world.

Grant us Your blessing, Lord our Savior, that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts you have given us, by the power of Your grace, mercy, and love. May Your name be glorified forever. Amen.



THE COMMUNION PRAYERS

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for life eternal. Amen.

Behold, I approach for Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, for You are fire consuming the unworthy. But cleanse me from every stain.

Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper; for I will not betray Your mysteries to Your enemies, nor give You a kiss as did Judas, but as the thief I confess You: Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as you behold the divine Blood. It is a burning coal that sears the unworthy. The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: It deifies the spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine eros You have changed me. But burn up with spiritual fire my sins, and grant me to be filled with delight in You, so that, leaping for joy, I may magnify, O Good One, Your two comings.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

Approaching to receive, each makes a reverence and says:

✠ Behold I approach Christ, our immortal King and God.

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Commemoration: Eleventh Sunday of Luke; Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska and First Saint of America; The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Greater Armenia; Lucia the Virgin-martyr; Gabriel the Hieromartyr, Archbishop of Serbia.

Morning Gospel: Fifth

Tone: Second

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Small Entrance

Resurrection Hymn, Second Tone

When you descended into death, Life immortal, you vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when you raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above.

Hymn of the Ancestors of Christ, Second Tone

By their faith you justified your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old you betrothed to yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave you birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion of Preparation for the Birth of Christ, Third Tone

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave, To give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice therefore, oh, Universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new born Babe and who is our God before all Ages.

Epistle..... *Colossians 3:4-11*

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel..... *Luke 14:16-24*

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

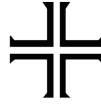
The Communion Prayers are found on page 4 of this leaflet.

Stewardship Prayer

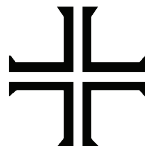
Lord Jesus Christ, our God, accept our offerings as You have accepted the gifts of Your people throughout the ages. We offer these gifts to Your glory, for the support of the ministries of Your holy Church, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, and for the proclamation of Your Gospel to the whole world.

Grant us Your blessing, Lord our Savior, that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts you have given us, by the power of Your grace, mercy, and love. May Your name be glorified forever. Amen.

Memorial Prayers today (Sunday) are offered for: Judith Hibberd (sister of Paul Hibberd); Iakovos Iakovou; Polyxeni Andrea.



Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: The family of Bill K. Nicklow; Those suffering from COVID-19 and those who care for them; Our brothers and sisters living through the aftermath of disaster; For the victims of violence; Families Moving Forward; Metro Hope Ministries; Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry; FOCUS Minnesota; Our brothers and sisters serving in the Armed Forces throughout the world especially John Ellis; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Olga, Peter, Kristina, Armour family, Cora and family, Lamona, Bo, Tom Grund, Lynn, Deb, Sarah, Maia, Jeanette, Travis, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, Alex, Quinn, Annie, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Carole, Rifka, Pat, Nancy, Dave, Pam Katie, Bri, Gilbert, George P., Barbara, Thespina, Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Samir and Samira, Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Sophia, George, Rick, Bryn, Phil, Karen, Phil, Marnie and family; Joyce, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, Elpis Fotini, Dina, Landon, Luke, Aemiliane, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Brittany, Amy, Shinia, Chelsea, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Slibe, Saleh & Deanna, Kristine, Henry, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Elena, Speranta, Alexander, Stephanie, John, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Olle, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.



Calendar of the Week

Tuesday, December 15: Saint Eleutherios

8:30 a.m. – Orthros *; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy *
6:30 p.m. – Parish Night: HOPE/JOY

Wednesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Mailing
7:00 p.m. – Parish Night: Senior GOYA and Adults

Thursday, December 17: Prophet Daniel; Saint Dionysios

6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy *
6:30 p.m. – Stewardship Committee
7:00 p.m. – Parish Night: Junior GOYA

Saturday, December 19: Saturday before Nativity

9:00 a.m. – Orthros; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
Registration requested.
5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers *

Sunday, December 20: Sunday before Nativity

8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
Registration requested.

* = services when advance registration is not asked.

Saint Mary's Giving Report

2020 Offering Income

2020 Year to Date Actual: \$857,042

Annual 2020 Offering Budget: \$1,069,426

Amount Remaining to Meet Budget: \$212,384

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Hygiene items (e.g. toothpaste, soap, shampoo)

December's recipient is CES (Community Emergency Service).

Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.

Christmas Weekend Worship Schedule

Thursday, December 24 — Eve of Nativity

Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25 — Holy Nativity

Orthros – 9:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 26 — Synaxis of the Theotokos

Orthros – 9:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 27 — Sunday after Nativity; Stephen the First Martyr

Orthros – 8:30 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

*Registration is requested for all services except for
Royal Hours on Christmas Eve morning.*

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

Holiday Office Closures

Saint Mary's Church Office will be closed all day on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. The office will be open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 28-Wednesday, December 30. We will close at noon on Thursday, December 31 and will be closed on Friday, January 1.

Year-End Giving

As we approach the end of both our calendar and fiscal year, it is important that we correctly record all stewardship gifts. Every dollar we receive before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 28, will be recorded and reflected on your year-end Contribution Statement, and matched against your yearly pledge, as stewardship income for 2020. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for 2021.

On occasion, a parishioner may choose to provide additional funds to the church, indicating these dollars should be recorded as a donation for a "future year." While we can make a notation of this request, the funds will still be recorded and reported as income for 2020. Your Statement of Financial Giving will accurately reflect all income received in a particular calendar year.

Christmas Decorations

This year, as in the past, we are accepting memorial donations for our Christmas decorations. Even though it may be difficult for many to attend a Liturgy this year, we still plan to decorate to celebrate the birth of our Lord and share our beautifully decorated nave with people watching online from various parts of the country and world. You can drop your decoration form and donation in the stewardship drop box in the narthex or mail it to the church soon so it arrives by Monday, December 21!

Parish-Night Week This Week



Our next Parish-Night Week is December 15-17. Please register for the meeting at least two days prior to the Parish Night event on our church website. After you register, you will receive an email with the Zoom Meeting link. The youth meeting link is sent by email to

the parents/guardians.

HOPE/JOY - Tuesday, December 15, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

- “Offering Our Talents and Gifts”

Adult/Senior GOYA - Wednesday, December 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

- Fr. Geroge Parsenios presents on “The Nativity and the Biblical Narratives.”

Junior GOYA - Thursday, December 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

- “Offering Our Talents and Gifts”

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Course

Our MEOCCA sponsored, 12-week, Winter 2021 cooperative catechism course, “Introduction to Orthodox Christianity” will begin Monday, January 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The class is open to all; people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians we well! The course is an excellent opportunity to deepen the knowledge of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Classes will be held virtually via Zoom to begin the semester. Register online at <https://forms.gle/mrMdtTKJcSkPfjrw8> or www.meocca.org. Feel free to join for an individual session as well!

Monthly Greek Zumba Class!

Starting Tuesday, December 15

Feed your mind, body and soul with a monthly Greek Zumba class on Zoom with Kally Youngdahl! Mark your calendars for 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18) and get ready to enjoy Greek music and exercise with your friends! Zoom link for all classes:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85100956362>

Vasilopita Sales Coming Soon...

Philoptochos will offer Vasilopita (Sweet Bread) sales in the coming days, and we ask your support of this fundraiser for St. Basil Academy. Please watch for details soon on how to order online or by sending a check to the Church Office.



From the Fathers...on the Theotokos

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word," (Luke 1:38) ... thus was the knot of Eve's disobedience loosed by the obedience of Mary...As the human race fell into bondage to death by means of a virgin, so it is rescued by a virgin.

—*Saint Irenaeus of Lyons*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 14

II Timothy 2:20-26 • Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday, December 15

Saint Eleutherios

II Timothy 1:8-18 • Mark 2:23 – 3:5

Wednesday, December 16

II Timothy 4:9-22 • Mark 8:30-34

Thursday, December 17

Prophet Daniel; Saint Dionysios

Hebrews 11:33 – 12:2 • Mark 9:10-15

Friday, December 18

Titus 1:15 – 2:10 • Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 19

Saturday before Nativity

Galatians 3:8-12 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 20

Sunday before Nativity

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 • Matthew 1:1-25

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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Fr. George Dokos, Proistamenos; Fr. Jason Houck, Associate

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina