

The Messenger

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church | 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408 | 612.825.9595 | www.stmarysgoc.org

January 2020

Inside This Issue

Bookstore.....	10
Children and Youth.....	12
Education and Fellowship.....	3
Koinonia.....	3
Missions and Outreach.....	7
Our Life Together.....	2
Parish News and Events.....	4
Philotochos.....	6
Stewardship.....	8
Worship Schedule.....	3

St. Mary's

Mission Statement

To proclaim, celebrate, and share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ in accordance with the Orthodox Tradition.

The Five Tasks of Our Parish Vision

- Hear*
- Pray*
- Grow*
- Serve*
- Share*



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

A Message from Father George

Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

Theophany

The Baptism of Christ – January 6 – The Renewal of Our Baptism

When we were baptized into the Name of the Holy Trinity, brothers



and sisters, we were given a second birth, not one “according to the flesh and the will of man, but according to the will of God” (John 1:13); a new birth, heavenly, “born again by water and the Holy Spirit” (John 3:5). In the baptismal waters our sinful and rebellious nature was drowned and sin was washed away, only for us to rise out of those hallowed waters new, raised

with Christ in order to live the resurrected life of the future Kingdom here and now.

The expectation is that we will live out our Baptism as faithful Christians, obeying the words and commandments of Christ. A petition oft repeated during the Sacrament supplicates God that the one being baptized “may preserve his baptismal garment spotless and blameless at the fearful Day of Christ our God.” But how many of us have not sinned after Baptism? How many of us have preserved our garment unstained? How many of us have kept our vow to “renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his worship, and all his angels, and all his depravity?” The fact is, after explaining to his flock in Rome that they had been mystically crucified with Christ in Holy Baptism and raised to newness of life, St. Paul reminds them, and us: “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin should have no dominion over you” (Romans 6:11-14).

Therefore, beloved, even if we have allowed sin to be resurrected in us and given the devil opportunity to lead us astray, let us renew our baptismal vows and recall the saving day of our Baptism, being reminded

—article continues on page 3.

The Clergy and Staff of St. Mary's wish everyone a Blessed Nativity and Peaceful New Year!

Our Life Together

Baptisms

Theodora

Parents: Anthony and Kelly Kempf

November 23

Evgenia

Parents: Mark and Lea Sullivan, November 24.

Thomas

Parents: Gena and Mark Abbott November 30.

Deaths

Loukas Angelus

December 7, 2019

May his memory be eternal.



Share YourShelf

January's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Sunday, January 5

Canned fruit and vegetables

Sunday, January 12

Cereals

(hot and cold)

Sunday, January 19

Canned meals (large cans)

(e.g. chili; pork and beans)

Sunday, January 26

Hygiene items

Please consider making a monetary donation. Through a partnership with the Food Group, the food shelves we support are able to purchase staple food items at a marked reduction in price. This means that your donated dollars go farther – almost doubling the money you give to purchase much needed food items.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16

Memorial Prayers

Sunday, January 26

Theodore N. Boosalis (50 years)

Thank You

Georgia Papagiannopoulos wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, and visits during her illness. She has appreciated it all very much.

Brothers and sisters, THANK YOU!

We had a good turnout for December 8's St. Nicholas Celebration and Spaghetti Luncheon. As a result, we raised \$1,110 for FOCUS Minnesota. I'd like to thank the volunteers, the members of the AHEPA Family, and the church community at large for their support in making the annual St. Nicholas Spaghetti Luncheon a success. *—Don Vanover*



Saint Mary's Visitation Ministry

Our Visitation Ministry is continually updating its list of parishioners who are homebound or in care facilities and would like to be on our Visitation List. If you or your loved one is a member of St. Mary's and physically unable to attend church and would enjoy a visit or a telephone call from either a member of our clergy and/or a member of our Visitation Committee, please notify the Church Office, 612.825.9595, or doria@stmarysgoc.org.

If you are interested in being trained as a member of our Visitation Team, please contact Doria.

St. Mary's Church Staff

Priest

Fr. George Dokos

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

Attached Priest

Fr. John Kostas

Emeriti

Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Fr. Theodore Filandrinos

Deacon

Deacon Paul Kalina

Administrator

Julie Moricz

Parishioner Support Communications

David Mertesdorf

Ministry Support

Doria Saros

Youth Director

Jonathan Klein

Facilities Coordinator

Bob Yang

Music Director

Thespina Macres

Organist

Mark Macres

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Joseph DiGiovanni

Vice President

Dean Murdakes

Secretary

Andrew Theodotou

Treasurer

Michael Rakes

Assistant Treasurer

John Beauchamp

Members

George Andreadakis

Paul Hastings

William Hoefl

Naira Istephanous

Pamela Nelson

Dean Psychogios

Randy (Luke) Twito

Education • Fellowship • Worship

Fellowship and Study Groups

Adult Senior Bible Study

On Winter break

FAITH Playgroup

Wednesday, January 8
9:30 a.m., Great Hall and Terrace Room

Thursday, January 23
9:30 a.m., Great Hall and Terrace Room

Intercessory Prayer

Wednesday, January 8
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men's Fellowship

Friday, January 3
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Evening Men's Fellowship

Date and location to be announced
7:00 p.m.

Saturday Bible Study

Every Saturday
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Senior Citizens

On Winter break

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Koinonia

Edina Koinonia

Thursday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Fireside Room
952.944.9397 (*Joan Calott, contact*)

Lake Calhoun Koinonia

Sunday, January 26, 5:00 p.m.
Fr. George & Presbyteria Christa's home
612.825.1067

Northeast Metro Koinonia

January gathering to be announced
Paul & Jenny Hibberd's home
612.723.5681

South of the River Koinonia

January gathering to be announced
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog's home
612.743.2789

West Metro Koinonia

Sunday, January 19, 5:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow's home
952.476.7624



—Fr. George's article, continued from page 1

of it especially during the sacred time of the Lord's own Baptism on the festal day of Theophany. Let us take this opportunity once again, here in the year 2020, to repent and recommit ourselves to our Savior Jesus Christ, repeating with unshakeable faith the words we affirmed at our own Baptism so long ago: "I pledge allegiance to Christ. I believe in Him as my King and my God. I bow down and worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the consubstantial and undivided Trinity."

Wishing you a most blessed New Year, and with love in Christ,



+Fr. George

January 2020

Sunday Schedule

Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Schedule

Wednesday, January 1

*Circumcision of Our Lord
Saint Basil the Great*
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 3

Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 4

Great Blessing of Waters
–12:00 noon
Hidden Falls Park
1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St. Paul

Sunday, January 5

Eve of Holy Theophany
Great Vespers – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 6

Holy Theophany
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 7

Old Calendar Christmas Day
Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.
Hosted by Resurrection of Christ Skete (Fridley)

Friday, January 17

Saint Anthony the Great
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 18

Saints Athanasios and Cyril
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 25

Saint Gregory the Great
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 30

The Three Hierarchs
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Parish News & Events

Church Cancellation Procedures for Winter

The winter months are upon us and we want to ensure all our parishioners stay safe and don't attempt to travel during icy or severe conditions. Here's how we plan to keep you informed.

- Cancellations of events, activities, and services will be announced a minimum of two hours prior to the start time.
- We will update our website and office voice mail announcing the cancellation as another opportunity for you to be notified.
- All individual group leaders (choir, church school, senior citizens, etc.) must notify the church office of the decision to cancel so we can make the necessary updates.
- The Parish Council President must also be notified of any cancellations, and no cancellations will occur without the blessing of our priests.

While we plan on always having scheduled services, no one should travel to church if road conditions in your area are dangerous. Please remain at home, giving thanks to God that at least a priest and chanter are leading the services praying for all of us.

House Blessings

During January and February, Fr. George and Fr. Jason will be dedicating time each week for house blessings. They look forward to seeing as many parishioners as will allow them to visit! To schedule a blessing, please send an e-mail request to: stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org or call the Office, 612.825.9595. Again this year, in an effort to be more efficient, we are booking appointments by quadrants.

- January 6-14: Southwest Quadrant
Bounded by Highway 394 on the north and 35W on the east.
- January 15-21: Northwest Quadrant
Bounded by Highway 394 on the south and 35W on the east.
- January 22-28: Northeast Quadrant
Bounded by Highway 94 on the south and 35W on the west.
- January 29-February 4: Southeast Quadrant
Bounded by Highway 94 on the north and 35W on the west.

If the preceding dates do not work, we will have open scheduling will take place February 5-18.

Blessing of the River

The Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Christian Clergy Association (www.meocca.org), will hold the third annual Theophany/Epiphany Blessing of the Waters service on the Mississippi River on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at 12:00 noon, at Hidden Falls Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St. Paul. The half-hour service is free and open to the public. The service will end with the local priests immersing a gold cross in the Mississippi River, symbolizing Jesus Christ's baptism in the River Jordan 2,000 years ago.

Prayers for the Unborn March for Life

Sunday January 19, 2020, is "Sanctity of Life Sunday." As is our tradition here for the past ten years, we will offer immediately before Liturgy the "Service for the Naming and Commending of Children Who Have Died before Birth and Have Not Been Baptized." These prayers have been written in response to the ongoing need of our families who have lost children by miscarriage, spontaneous abortion, or intentional abortion. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. on the Solea that morning. You are then invited to join us on January 22 for the annual March for Life which takes place at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

Orthodox Christians across the country will be joining in their local marches to speak out publicly against abortion, to influence their legislators to support pro-life legislation, and to remember all the unborn babies who have been aborted as well as the mothers who have been wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually. To date since January 22, 1973, the number is over 55 million.

The bus will pick us up at St. Mary's at 9:15 a.m. and stop at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, then proceed to the Cathedral of St. Paul for the 10:30 a.m. Prayer Service for Life (we have reserved seating). Following the service, we will march together with our banner to the Capitol building for the program. The bus picks us up around 1:00 p.m. for the return to St. Mary's. We recommend you bring your children (many Catholic schools close to join the march). It's a wonderful way to evangelize our faith beliefs. Dress warm – we never know what the weather will be!

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

The Winter Term of the MEOCCA-Sponsored Catechism Classes has been announced. The dates and topics are as follows:

January 6 – Introduction

January 13 – God: Holy Trinity

January 20 –
Mankind: Creation, The Fall, The Messiah

January 27 –
Christ I: Incarnation, Theotokos and Saints

February 3 – Christ II: His Work and Teachings

February 10 – Church I: Birth, Mission, Structure

February 17 –
Church II: Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition

February 24 – Sacraments I: Baptism, Chrismation,
Confession, Unction

March 2 –
No Class, Clean Monday/First Day of Great Lent

March 9 –
Sacraments II: Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer

March 16 –
Sacraments III: Marriage and Monasticism

March 23 – The Goal: Second Coming and Living the
Christian Life

March 30 – Conclusion: Review and Q&A

Classes meet on Mondays, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul. The classes are open to all, whether considering chrismation or just wanting to learn more about Orthodoxy. Classes begin Monday, January 6, and run through Monday, March 30, with the exception of March 2, Clean Monday/First Day of Great Lent.

The texts used are: "Introducing the Orthodox Church" by Anthony Coniaris, "The Orthodox Church" by Kallistos Ware, "The Orthodox Way" by Ware, and "The Faith" by Clark Carlton. All can be purchased through St. Mary's Bookstore. There is no charge for the classes. Please register on-line by going to the MEOCCA website: www.meocca.org, and click on the Introduction to Eastern Orthodox Christianity link. Paper forms are located outside the Church Office.

YAL New Year Party

Friday, January 3, 2020

YAL—young adults 18 to 35 years old, single or married. College students are welcome, too—please join us Friday, January 3, 6:00 p.m., in the Terrace Room at Saint Mary's. We're kicking off the New Year with an evening of fellowship and some dancing, too! Free drinks and appetizers.

Please RSVP to twincitiesyal@gmail.com

If you would like to receive Twin Cities YAL event reminders, please e-mail twincitiesyal@gmail.com to be placed on our e-mail list. We have exciting monthly events scheduled. YAL is for young adults, married or single, ages 18-35.

Pan-Orthodox Ethnic Dance Party

Saturday, February 1, 2020

It's time again for a great night of dancing and meeting our Orthodox brothers and sisters. This year all the parish priests in our community are sponsoring this pan-Orthodox event through MEOCCA. The youth are planning for it and hoping more parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles come and learn new dances. Arabic, Bulgarian, Greek, Romanian, Russian and Serbian instruction will be given. Save the date: Saturday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. If possible, bring an ethnic appetizer or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. This free event is for all ages. No reservations required this year but please sign in at the event so we know you came. Spread the word and reach out and invite your Orthodox friends, especially from other heritages!

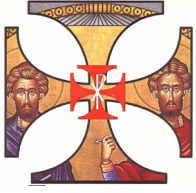
Our Sermons Are On-line

Did you miss a Sunday Liturgy? Do you want to hear again a sermon that was especially meaningful? You can listen to the sermons each week by going to our website (www.stmarysgoc.org), clicking on "Sermons," then scrolling to the one you wish to hear.

Another Enhancement for St. Mary's

We are pleased to announce that our current Administrator is now a Notary Public and available to sign and authenticate your legal documents. Please contact the Church Office should you require the services of a notary.

Philoptochos



by Jenn Coin and Annette Legeros

Philoptochos wishes the entire parish a Happy New Year! We invite you to join Philoptochos as we kick off our Membership drive this month.

Women of the parish will receive a letter in the mail with details about joining- remember we welcome all types of members from volunteers to financial supporters. Our future depends on all of us welcoming our sisters as members starting at age 18.

Vasilopita Sunday

January 12

Pick up Your Vasilopita

Our annual fundraiser for St. Basil Academy is here! Purchase Vasilopita (sweet bread of St. Basil) at the Philoptochos table on Sunday, January 12. Loaves are \$15, and all proceeds go to the Academy. Chair: Toni Bazakos.

The National Philoptochos Society purchased the estate that became St. Basil Academy in 1944, and has responded to the needs of the Academy and its children for more than 70 years. Located in Garrison, New York, St. Basil Academy is a home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.

Members we are cutting the bread Saturday, January 11, 10:00 a.m., in the church kitchen. Please join us with your bread knife in hand!

Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday January 26

Please join us at 11:30 in the Terrace Room for our first meeting of the new year. Our primary business will be to approve the 2020 budget. If you have suggestions on charities to include, please talk to Jennifer Coin or Annette Legeros before January 13.

Future Dates

January 13

Budget committee meeting (time to be announced)

January 20

Board meeting, Fireside Room, 6:30 p.m.

February 2

Sweet Sunday

Thank You...

...to all Children's Medical Fund supporters! Many of you purchased raffle tickets, which helped the Chicago Metropolis raise more than \$500,000 for organizations supporting medical research for children.

...to all who helped make Philoptochos Sunday a success.

...to Presvytera Christa Dokos, Georgia Fischer, Paulette Hastings, Fifi Kafkas, Mary Kafkas, and Tina Menter for baking Greek pastries for the IOCC fundraiser.

...to Andrea Tiggas for organizing the fall fillo sale.

...to Andrea Tiggas and Margie Markredes for coordinating the decorating of the church for Christmas.

...to Toni Bazakos, for chairing the Vasilopita fundraiser, and her fellow bakers Giannoula Bakritzes and Tina Menter.

...to Giannoula Bakritzes and Tina Menter, who baked 102 loaves of prosforo!

...to Sofia Johnson for organizing the Days for Girls Day of Service, and to all who attended.

...to Diane Achterling for hosting the Christmas Day reception after Liturgy.

...to Elena Tudor, Alexandria Kalina, and Angela Koumontzis for leading, hosting, and coordinating the December book club discussion.

...to Sandra Anderson and her crew for planning the Pan Orthodox Women's Retreat and meal, and to Fr. John Kostas for his wonderful presentations.

Missions & Outreach

A recent first-time St. Mary's visitor from a Protestant background sent us some comments on his observations of St. Mary's. They are:

"This our first visit to St. Mary's... We are attending the MEOCCA classes... We are long-time members and have many family and friends that we would leave behind... St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church has rich Liturgy (long) and traditions... The Liturgy is musical... you have so many families with kids... We think the children are so well behaved during the Liturgy... St. Mary's is involved in so many local missions, food shelves, and meal events."

Pop Quiz

1. Choose the correct statement.

(Multiple choice question)

- St. Mary's shares our gifts in obedience to God.
- We serve others.
- When we grow spiritually - we serve ourselves.
- All of the above

2. Which of these four statements is false.

- 4 out of 10 children have food insecurity.
- We are called in scripture Matthew 25:35-36 "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."
- In 1998, St. Mary's master plan established our Missions and Outreach Ministries Team.
- Helping others is no big deal.

3. True or False

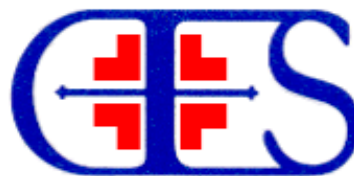
St. Mary's parish calls us to five tasks. The five tasks are to Hear, Pray, Grow, Serve, and Share.

Missions and Outreach News

Community Emergency Service (CES)

Minnesota Facts – Did You Know?

- CES serves one of the most diverse and densely populated neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Over 21,000 people live within its boundaries in South East Minneapolis.
- This area is home to new immigrants, especially from Latin America, Mexico and Africa. In fact, almost 35% of the residents were born outside of the United States. Minnesota is home to one of the largest segments of the Somali community.
- Because of a growing number of treatment and supportive housing facilities to help people with addiction, mental illness, and incarceration, this area has become the first stopover on the path back to mainstream society and Metro Hope Ministries, who serves those struggling to overcome addiction and also receives support from St. Mary's, is less than a mile from CES.
- Due to its relatively affordable rents and many supportive services, many older people with limited incomes are attracted to the CES neighborhood.
- 70% of CES's client assists are elderly or disabled people, which is expected to grow substantially each year for the next decade.



Community
Emergency
Service

Stewardship

by Athena Mihas

Saint Mary's Stewardship Testimonial

Parishioner, Glenna Alevizos, shared the following powerful testimonial with us on Sunday, November 10, 2019, following the Liturgy:

When I married my husband, I promised to raise our children at St. Mary's. I was not familiar with the Orthodox Church, so it was a journey of trust and faith. It was a very different world from which I had come. I was raised on a farm in northwestern Montana, very close to Yellowstone Park.

My family were members of a little country church with lots of gospel preaching and hymn singing. Attending liturgy at St. Mary's was a completely different experience. I didn't understand the significance and struggled with the icons. But as I watched as our children participated in St. Mary's Sunday School, Summer Camp, Bible School, and the beautiful Easter celebration, I was impressed with the spiritual life and teachings they were being taught.

In 1972, our family traveled to Greece to visit cousins and tour the area where my in-laws had come from. In Athens, our cousin Nikki was Executive Director of the Byzantine Archeological Ministry, located at the foot of the Acropolis. The Byzantine Ministry she headed was in charge of Attica and responsible for artifacts, monuments, and church restorations.

Cousin Nikki took our family on a tour of the workshop where the staff was restoring icons. She explained that many were very old and had come from homes where families had hidden them during the occupation by the Turks. The icons were the only thing these Orthodox Christians had to help them in their spiritual journey. The icons were kept in the homes at great peril. Families risked persecution and arrest if the icons were found. I began to understand and appreciate how precious the icons were in helping these families maintain their faith during these

difficult times.

On another trip to Greece, cousin Nikki invited my husband, myself, and her husband to accompany her to inspect a restoration project under the supervision of her ministry. The restoration was at St. George's Monastery high in the mountains on the island of Evia. Cousin Nikki showed us the icon of St. George that had been covered by plaster during the years of occupation.

All of these experiences served as inspiration and gave me a keener understanding of what had been done to help Orthodox Christians maintain their faith. My knowledge of Church history consisted of the Old and New Testaments and the history of the Church after the Reformation. Our family attended a class taught by Father Harry on the history of the Orthodox Church. I was astounded. It was humbling and compelling to learn of those who had withstood persecution and given their life to defend the faith through the centuries. I thought of how easy it is for us to come to a beautiful sanctuary filled with icons, incense, prayers, and the scripture with the choir in the background. I believe we live lives that are soft and easy compared to the many who stood against tyranny and oppression to defend their faith.

Many of our congregation have been at St. Mary's for generations. Others have recently arrived. One of the great advantages of our Church is that it is multi-generational. A congregation that has celebrated with us and supported us in our challenges. We thank you.

One of our newer members that I have met through the greeters is Sam Hanna. One day I heard Sam tell his son that, as an eleven-year old student in Egypt, Sam asked his teacher if he could be excused to attend Christmas dinner with his grandparents the following day at this grandparents' home. The teacher told Sam if he missed school and the test that was going to be given the next day, Sam would fail. There are many stories of our members enduring great challenges in being

an Orthodox Christian in their country.

This is the season of Thanksgiving. As we contemplate God's many blessings we received through our Church, let us remember those who were faithful to their calling and stood for their faith. How fortunate we are to worship freely in a beautiful Church that has delivered God's message of love through the Centuries. So now it is our turn to be the keepers of the faith. How will you answer? As a thank you note for all the gifts we receive, will you remember to thank God for all our blessings and say thank you with your commitment as a good and faithful steward with your pledge. —Glenna Alevizos

Winter "Parea" Potlucks!

Are you ready to kick those winter doldrums? In the spirit of continued in-reach, the Stewardship Committee is looking for additional hosts for our Winter Parea Potlucks, to be held in January and February. If you would like to host 8-10 fellow parishioners at your home (you provide the home, others provide the food) for an afternoon or evening of fun and fellowship, please email david@stmarysgoc.org or call the office at 612.825.9595. Hosts will be finalized in December and sign-ups for guests will begin in early January.

2019 Ark of the Covenant Campaign Progress Update

Thank you for being the **Stewards of Our Faith!**

We really appreciate your participation in our 2019 Stewardship Campaign this year.

2019 Offering Income Payments as of 11/30/19

Offering Income as of 11/30/19	2019 YTD Actual	2019 Annual Budget	Additional Needed This Year
Total Payments Received	\$859,673	\$1,068,143	\$208,470

As of November 30, 2019, we have received \$859,673 in offering income. We are getting closer to reaching our goal of \$1,068,143 with one month remaining in the year.

Offering Gift payments received so far this year are ahead of last year at this time by \$50,308:

Offering Income as of 11/30/19	2019 YTD Actual	2018 YTD Actual	Increase/ (Decrease) vs. Last Year
Total Payments Received	\$859,673	\$809,365	\$50,308

Thank you to all parishioners for helping us reach our goal this year.

For more information, contact:

- Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina at: 952.913.7540 or ackalina@yahoo.com
- Athena Mihas at: 612.387.3890 or athenamih@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation in our 2019 Stewardship Campaign.

A Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Stewardship 2020: Stewardship packets for 2020 have been mailed! Please prayerfully consider how you would like to contribute to St. Mary's with your time, talent and treasure and return your completed pledge and time/talent forms to the office. We hope to increase our number of pledged members next year, in order to plan more efficiently for our budgeted items. If you have contributed but not pledged in the past, please consider making a pledge for 2020! Also, remember that you can pledge and contribute online: www.stmarysgoc.org

Opportunity to Serve

Coffee hour hosts are needed for the upcoming Sundays:

January 19

February 9

February 16

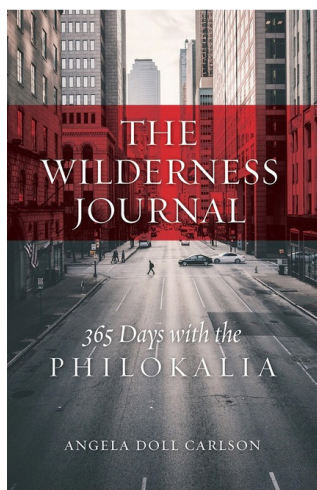
If you would like to host one of these Sundays, please contact the Church Office.

Pictorial Directory News

Saint Mary's Parish Council is planning to produce another St Mary's Community Directory and sign ups are now underway. Please stop by the Great Hall following Divine Liturgy to register your family for their picture. There is no cost to participate. Lifetouch will be here January 16-18, 2020, for photography sessions.

In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly



The month of January is an invitation to set a chart for a nourishing course through the new year. For those who are seeking a spiritual companion to accompany them through each day, *The Wilderness Journal: 365 Days with the Philokalia* by Angela Doll Carlson is a wellspring of daily spiritual sustenance and humble enrichment.

Initially intimidated by the idea of reading the *Philokalia*, which Angela describes—by quoting directly from its introduction—as “a collection of texts written between the fourth and fifteenth centuries by spiritual masters of the Orthodox Christian tradition,” she returned several months later with a new approach:

[...] to take a year and read a few lines, or maybe a page, each day. I read the words and then write something short, reflective of what’s been given to me that day. The words I read are bread and water, bountiful and sumptuous, mildly sweet, often savory. I leave each sitting with a full stomach, or an aching head, sometimes satiated, often left wanting. Even so, I find the words of the Fathers linger, coming back to me...

This book is the result of Angela’s journey through the first volume of the *Philokalia*. She points out in her introduction, “It’s important for me to say... that what I have written here is less a book *about* the *Philokalia* and more a book about my *reading* the *Philokalia*.” The *Wilderness Journal* contains eight chapters with quotes from eight saints whose writings are included in the first volume: Isaiah the Solitary, Evagrius the Solitary, John Cassian, Mark the Ascetic, Hesychios the Priest, Neilos the Ascetic, Diadochos of Photiki, and John of Karpathos. Angela had different people write the introductions to each chapter, providing a brief biography of each saint and an overview of their spiritual wisdom. For each day there is a quote from one of these saints and then Angela’s reflection—both together are a page or less in length.

Because life is in many ways a wilderness journey, no matter where one lives, *The Wilderness Journal: 365 Days with the Philokalia* provides sustenance day by day, tuning the busy mind to listen to the wisdom of the Fathers and spend time with the reflections of a contemporary companion. Angela writes from her life as it is—immersed in the liturgical year, living in Chicago with the challenges and opportunities of an urban environment and northern climate, and with three children still living at home—with the result that her writing is realistic, accessible, and not idly idealistic. She seeks and sees the many graces en route and thereby invites the reader to be attentive to their pilgrimage through the year and beyond.

Orthodox Travel Opportunities

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land through the Eyes of an Orthodox Christian

September 19-28, 2020

Tom and Mary Rudquist, parishioners at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in West St. Paul, are organizing another memorable trip to the Holy Land. The dates are September 19-28, 2020. The price, including airfare, is \$1450 and includes all meals except six lunches and tips. A non-refundable deposit of \$700 holds your spot and the remaining \$750 is due by August 15, 2020. The registration deadline is January 15, 2020. The pilgrimage is limited to 25 people. For more information, contact Tom Rudquist via e-mail at: abousean@yahoo.com

Tour the Glories of Greece with Father John Kostas

October 1-11, 2020

Explore Hellenic culture, from the Acropolis and Delphi, to early Christian Corinth, the rock monasteries of Meteora and St. Demetrios Church in Thessaloniki. You will be sure also to enjoy the *kefi* (that's Greek for *joie de vivre*).

If you would like to be included on the electronic mailing list for a travel brochure detailing itinerary, costs, and other important information, please contact Fr. John at FJKostas@yahoo.com. Brochures are available in the Bookstore.



Intensive Study of Icons in St. Petersburg

April 21-29, 2020

Plans are in progress for another visit to Russia! Due to the Russia 2019 trip being a great success, plans are underway to visit St. Petersburg from April 21-29, 2020. Package price will include air, hotel (breakfast included), airport transfer, and lectures at the State Russian Museum. An intensive study of the icon collection at the State Russian Museum will be led by an expert at the museum who will also deliver lectures during our stay. Additional optional tours will be available for an extra charge. A potential day excursion to Novgorod will be scheduled for the group which would also include a very detailed tour of the icons at the city's Icon Museum.

This pilgrimage is intended to offer the travelers greater freedom without commitments to a traditional daily tour itinerary. Individuals will have the opportunity to choose the places and amount of time spent at those choices.

Deb is especially inviting anyone wishing to gain a qualitatively artistic and religious depth of study in Russian iconography facilitated by Russian experts located in St. Petersburg. She would also like to provide the group with preparatory study materials and discussions prior to departure.

There will be room for a group of ten reservations. Deb will facilitate the visa application process. Visa, travel insurance, meals outside of breakfast and optional tours are not included in the final cost.

Please call Debra at 612.889.5868 or e-mail, akorluka@aol.com, for additional details.

Children & Youth

Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: **Liturgia** (Worship), **Diakonia** (Service), **Martyria** (Witness), and **Koinonia** (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.

Parish Night

Everyone!

Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend! The theme for the kids is "Finding Christ through Discipline."

Winter Camp

Junior and Senior GOYAns

Friday-Monday, January 17-20

Don't miss Winter Camp at Camp Courage with St. Mary's OCA! This year's theme is "These Roads" where we will be spending the weekend discussing our Orthodox Christian faith, traditions, and practice, and the roads that lead to Christ. The camp is for those in grades 6-12. Transportation is not provided. The cost is \$190 per child by January 3. St. Mary's GOC will subsidize \$100 of the \$190 for St. Mary's GOC youth, but you will have to pay for Camp up front. Cost after the deadline is \$230. To register, visit <https://www.stmarysoca.org/youth/saints/>. Please let Jon know if you register.

Faith Group

0-5 Year Olds and Parents

- ▶ Wednesday, January 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- ▶ Thursday, January 23, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Great Hall and Terrace Room

HOPE and JOY

Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

- ▶ Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
HOPE and JOY at Parish Night
See above for description
- ▶ Saturday, January 18, 1:50 p.m. sharp-4:00 p.m.
Bowling at Bowlero
12200 Singletree Lane, Eden Prairie
The kids will be bowling, as well as playing arcade games (each kid will receive five tokens). Even though the bowling is for the children, parents/

guardians should be in attendance watching over their child(ren). Pizza will be included!

Please RSVP to Georgia Andron

Greekborba@hotmail.com or 612.978.2793 by January 10!

Junior GOYA

Grades 6-8

- ▶ Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Junior GOYA at Parish Night
See description at left.
- ▶ Friday-Monday, January 17-20
Winter Camp
See article at left.
- ▶ Wednesday, January 29, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Junior and Senior GOYA combined at Church. We will be combining Junior and Senior GOYA on January 29 at Church where there will be various activities we will be enjoying together! Please RSVP by January 27 to this doodle:
<https://doodle.com/poll/4ar3rq8cn634s8g3>

Senior GOYA

Grades 9-12

- ▶ Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Senior GOYA at Parish Night
See description at left.
- ▶ Friday-Monday, January 17-20
Winter Camp
See article at left.
- ▶ Wednesday, January 29, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Junior and Senior GOYA combined at Church. We will be combining Junior and Senior GOYA on January 29 at Church where there will be various activities we will be enjoying together! Please RSVP by January 27 to this doodle:
<https://doodle.com/poll/4ar3rq8cn634s8g3>



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: **St_Marys_GOYA**

Basketball Practices

All practices are in the Great Hall

Sunday, January 5

12:45-2:00 p.m.

JOY Basketball Practice

2:00-3:15 p.m.

Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice

Saturday, January 11

12:30-2:30 p.m.

JOY Basketball Practice

Sunday, January 12

12:45-2:00 p.m.

Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice

Sunday, January 19

12:45-2:00 p.m.

JOY Basketball Practice

Saturday, January 25

12:30-2:30 p.m.

JOY Basketball Practice

Sunday, January 26

12:45-2:00 p.m.

Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice

Saturday, February 1

12:30-2:30 p.m.

JOY Basketball Practice

Sunday, February 2

12:45-2:00 p.m.

Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice

November Recap

In November, the HOPE/JOY youth group and their families attended the holiday classic, *Elf The Musical, Jr.*, at Stages Theatre. We had many laughs and a great time. The Junior GOYAnS joined efforts with the parish at the Harvest Meal Pack and packaged thousands of meals for those in need! Finally, the Senior GOYAnS rallied together and helped IOCC set the tables for the fundraiser. Be sure to follow us on our Instagram account! @St_Marys_GOYA

Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. We have a new formal feedback process. Go to our St Mary's home page-Click on "Youth," then "Youth Program Feedback" Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.

Young at Heart



A merry group of St. Mary's seniors gathered on Tuesday, December 10, for the annual Christmas lunch and program. The festivities included entertainment by Elena Biessener and a visit by Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

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Holy Theophany

January 6



As many of you as have been baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia!

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

The Messenger is published
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January 2020

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Publication Deadlines
The Messenger—
First Sunday of each month.

Sunday Bulletin—
Preceding Thursday,
12:00 Noon

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Circumcision of Our Lord Saint Basil the Great New Year's Day 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy	2	3 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:00am-Royal Hours	4 9:00am-Bible Study 12noon-Great Blessing of Water, Mississippi River 5:00pm-Great Vespers
5 Eve of Holy Theophany "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of Waters 12:45pm-JOY Basketball 2:00pm-Girls' GOYA BBall 4:00pm-Great Vespers	6 Holy Theophany 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters	7 Synaxis of John the Baptist Old Calendar Christmas Day 8:30am-Confessions 9:30am-Festal Divine Liturgy for Holy Nativity	8 9:30am-FAITH Playgroup 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer 11:00am-Women's Bible Study 6:15pm-Parish Night	9	10	11 9:00am-Bible Study 12:30pm-JOY Basketball 5:00pm-Great Vespers
12 Sunday after Theophany 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School 12:45pm-Girls' GOYA BBall 2:00pm-Boys' GOYA BBall	13	14 6:15pm-Parish Council	15 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing	16 6:30pm-Stewardship <i>Pictorial Directory Photos</i>	17 Saint Anthony the Great 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy <i>Pictorial Directory Photos</i> <i>Jr./Sr. GOYA Winter Camp</i>	18 Saints Athanasios and Cyril 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 9:00am-Bible Study 1:50pm-HOPE/JOY Bowling 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Pictorial Directory Photos</i> <i>Jr./Sr. GOYA Winter Camp</i>
19 Twelfth Sunday of Luke Vasilopita Sunday 8:30am-Orthros 9:15am-Prayers for the Unborn 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School 11:45am-Missions/Outreach 12:45pm-JOY Basketball 5:00pm-Western Koinonia <i>Jr./Sr. GOYA Winter Camp</i>	20 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board <i>Jr./Sr. GOYA Winter Camp</i>	21	22 9:15am-March for Life bus at St. Mary's 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30am-FAITH Playgroup Icon Class 7:00pm-Edina Koinonia	24	25 Saint Gregory the Theologian 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 9:00am-Bible Study 12:30pm-JOY Basketball 5:00pm-Great Vespers
26 Fifteenth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School 11:00am-Philoptochos Mtg. 11:15am-Chant Group 11:45am-Middle School Chant Group 12:45pm-Girls' GOYA BBall 2:00pm-Boys' GOYA BBall 5:00pm-Lk Calhoun Koinonia	27 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice	28	29 6:15pm-Jr./Sr. GOYA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	30 The Three Hierarchs 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	31	

WORSHIP - WITNESS - FELLOWSHIP - SERVICE

TWIN CITIES YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE

A PAN-ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21- 5PM / VESPERS & MOVIE NIGHT
@ ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3 - 6 PM / NEW YEAR, NEW YAL!
TWIN CITIES YAL NEW YEAR'S KICK-OFF
@ ST. MARY'S GREEK**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - 7 PM / PAN-ORTHODOX DANCE
@ ST. MARY'S GREEK**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - TIME TBD / ORTHODOXY ON TAP
@ LOCATION TBD**

**FEBRUARY 14-17 / YAL NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
@ GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 2 PM / PRIEST Q & A
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS
@ ST. MARY'S OCA CATHEDRAL**

Connect with us!

To join our email list please us at: twincitiesyal@gmail.com

Facebook - Twin Cities YAL

Instagram - twincitiesyal

Twin Cities YAL is for Orthodox Young Adults, married or single, ages 18-35