

The Messenger

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

November 2020

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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



A Message from Father Jason

Father Jason Houck, Associate Priest

November always brings our joyous holiday, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is our only truly religious and uniquely North American holiday. Thanking God for all we have in this country reaches back to the very beginning of our nation. As we approach Thanksgiving, I think it is appropriate to reflect on the first presidential proclamation of Thanksgiving, signed by George Washington back in 1789.

By the President of the United States of America. A Proclamation.



George Washington, by Gilbert Stuart 1795 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey **His will, to be grateful for His benefits**, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and

Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me 'to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public **thanksgiving and prayer**, to be observed by acknowledging **with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God**, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety

and happiness:"...

"And also that we may then unite **in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations**, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; **to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue**, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity **as He alone knows to be best**.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, the year of our Lord, 1789.

President George Washington

—article continues on page 3.

Our Life Together

**Daylight Saving Time ends on
Sunday morning, November 1.
Set your clocks back one hour
before you retire on Saturday, October 31.**

Baptism

Navya Sophia

Parents: Jonathan & Priya Backos
September 25, 2020

Chrismations

Andrew Gatchell

October 2, 2020

Parker Mullins

October 3, 2020

Marriage

Katie Sperides to

Austin Polson-McCannon
October 17, 2020



Share YourShelf

November's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is FOCUS Minnesota.

Sunday, November 1

Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat®

Sunday, November 8

Peanut butter and jelly

Sunday, November 15

Hygiene items

Sunday, November 22

Canned meat
(*e.g. tuna / chicken*)

Sunday, November 29

Peanut butter and jelly

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

—Luke 3:10-11

Memorial Prayers

Sunday, November 15

James Petrou (*40 days*)
Theodore Stundahl (*5 years*)
James Peters (*6 years*)
Joseph Seidl (*9 years*)

Our Sympathy

We extend sympathy to Athena Karos and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Ginakes, in Winnepeg, Manitoba, on September 6, 2020. *May her memory be eternal.*

Thank You

The board and all volunteers at the Medical Crisis Program thank you for your continued support towards MCP's mission. The Annual Gala which was virtual this year was another amazing event! MCP has been blessed to provide most probably another 15/ \$1,000 grants for 2021! Save the date for next year's Annual GALA scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 19, 2021; virtually and hopefully in person once again!

With you in Christ,
Deb (Korluka)

More Thank You notes on page 6.



St. Mary's Church Staff

Priest

Fr. George Dokos

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

Attached Priest

Fr. John Kostas

Deacon

Deacon Paul Kalina

Administrator

Julie Moricz

Parishioner Support Communications

David Mertesdorf

Ministry Support

Doria Saros

Youth Director

Jonathan Klein

Church School Director

Dena Tortorelis

Facilities Coordinator

Bob Yang

Music Director

Thespina Macres

Organist

Mark Macres

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Dean Murdakes

Vice President

John Beauchamp

Secretary

Paul Hastings

Treasurer

Michael Rakes

Assistant Treasurer

Naira Istephanous

Members

Joseph DiGiovanni
Thomas Hainlin
William M. Hoeft
Nicholas Legeros
Dean Psychogios
Andrew Theodotou
Luke Twito

Education • Fellowship • Worship

Fellowship and Study Groups

Men's Fellowship

Friday, November 6
7:00 a.m., In-person (**Lecture Room**) and on Zoom

Senior Citizens

No November gathering.
Monthly gatherings are cancelled until further notice.

All other gatherings are cancelled until further notice.

Koinonia

All Koinonia gatherings are suspended for the time being. We will keep you posted as to when gatherings can safely resume.



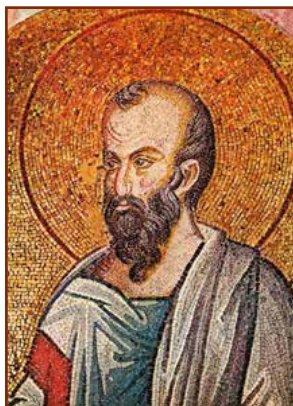
—Fr. Jason's article, continued from page 1

George Washington gave thanks...for what was given. Notice that in President George Washington's proclamation of the observance of Thanksgiving, he didn't just say, "well, we had better ideals," or "we had a better military strategy," or "we were smarter than the British regulars," or "we did it all on our own." No, no, no. Rather, he gave thanks to God for granting help to their fledgling country. Imagine that, one of the most significant people in the history over the last three centuries, who risked life and limb, attributed his success...to God.

But unlike George Washington, we often don't give thanks to God. We often think...I made a smart choice, or I worked hard, or I made this or that happen. We think of our own effort... instead of thanking God for what we have been given by Him who is the giver of all good things.

In First Thessalonians 2:13, we read St. Paul's words, "We also **constantly give thanks** to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers." Although Saint Paul—like George Washington—risked life and limb, he gave thanks to God that the Gospel spread. St. Paul attributed his success to God and, accordingly, felt **bound** to give thanks to God **constantly**.

George Washington gave thanks. It wasn't about him. It was about God and His great gifts to us. George Washington understood what St. Paul understood, that it is by God's grace that we have the material blessings we have. It is by God's grace that we have the successes we have. May we, always, every day, give thanks to God, the giver of all good things. Amen.



Saint Paul
early 14th c. mosaic,
Chora Church,
Constantinople

Sunday Schedule

Saturday

Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
** (4:00 p.m. on November 7)*

Sunday (live-streamed)

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

Weekday Schedule

Tuesday, November 3

Transfer of the Relics of Saint George

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

Wednesday, November 4

Small Blessing of Water
6:00 p.m.

Monday, November 9

Saint Nektarios
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 11

Saint Menas
Evening Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 13

Saint John Chrysostom
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, November 16

Saint Matthew
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 25

Saint Katherine
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, November 30

Saint Andrew
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

No Thanksgiving Eve Liturgy this year.

Parish News & Events

Parish-Night Week: 2020-2021

The Church Facing the World

Parish-Night Week continues this month on the week of November 16. During the week, the HOPE/JOY (kindergarten-grade 5) will be meeting virtually on Tuesday from 6:30-7:15 p.m., the adults and Senior GOYAns (grades 9-12) will be meeting virtually on Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m., and the Junior GOYAns (grades 6-8) will be meeting virtually on Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The adults and Senior GOYA group must register by going to the URL below.

- November 17-19: Deacon Philip Wagner presents on "Prisoners Outside of Prisons: Still Paying the Price" <https://tinyurl.com/NovemberPNRegistration>. A link is also on our website.
- December 15-17: Fr. George Parsenios will present on the topic: "The Nativity and the Biblical Narratives."

Parish Council Needs YOU!

Are you an active member of St. Mary's? Are you looking for an opportunity to contribute to the work of the church? Would you like to more fully participate in the life of St. Mary's? Do you have time to commit to serving others? Do you have a special gift for working cooperatively and enhancing our parish?

WE NEED YOU! The four-outgoing member of our Parish Council are not eligible to run for re-election, so we are actively seeking men and women of all ages to become members of the Parish Council. If you have been a member in good standing of St. Mary's for at least one-year, please prayerfully consider serving on the council.

Members serve for a three-year term, and meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:15 p.m.

All candidates will attend a webinar prior to the election where you learn about the Uniform Parish Regulations, work of the council, and the significance of the affirmation of office.

Candidate applications are now available in the Church Office and due back by Friday, November 13.

All interested parishioners are encouraged to speak with a current member of the Parish Council to ask questions and learn more about this important ministry of the church.

Year-End Updates

It is hard to believe that 2020 is rapidly coming to an end. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, it is important that the parish correctly records your donations in the appropriate year. 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 next year.

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. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please see our Parish Council Treasurer, Michael Rakes, for clarification.

Voting during a Pandemic

As we continue to work through the many precautions and directives designed to keep our members and facility safe, the Parish Council has begun plans for our upcoming Council Elections.

After speaking with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, they strongly recommend that all voting occurs via US Mail, and no on-site voting takes place this year. We appreciate their guidance and are working through various scenarios to accommodate this recommendation.

#1 Elections have been **postponed** until **Sunday, December 6**, to allow ample time to review options and prepare ballots.

#2 Candidate submission deadline has been delayed until **Friday, November 13**, to ensure ballots are prepared in accordance with the recommendations.

#3 All members in good standing should watch their emails and other church communication to learn of the process for voting this year.

Philoptochos



On Sunday, November 1, the church will commemorate Saints Cosmas and Damian, the Patron Saints of the Ladies Philoptochos Society. Their love for God and neighbor serve as ex-

amples for us to do the same, to share our blessings with those in need and to be instruments of God's grace. After their feast day Liturgy, Philoptochos will offer artoclasia, the blessing of five loaves, which remind us of Jesus' miracle in the desert when he fed five thousand with five loaves.

Olive Oil for Sale Continues

Sundays, November 1 and 8; Saturday, November 7

Philoptochos is selling extra virgin olive oil produced via cold extraction and with very low acidity, green color, and rich aroma. This fundraiser is made possible by a gift from Toni and Mike Bazakos, who donated the fruits of an early harvest from their family farm in Messenia, Greece, on the western coast of the Peloponnese.

Quantities are limited! Cost is \$25 per 750 ml bottle. Sales will be conducted after church from the south parking lot side door (between the flag pole and main door). Purchase some for yourself and for gift giving! Proceeds will benefit Philoxenia Charities in Rochester, which hosts (for free) patients and their families while they receive services from the Mayo Clinic. Chairs: Stephanie George and Paulette Hastings

Philoptochos Provides FOCUS Minnesota Meal

Sunday, November 15

Philoptochos will provide dinner for FOCUS Minnesota guests on Sunday, November 15. FOCUS gives away 150 free takeout meals weekly, 50% more than in June, so help is needed!

A menu with set recipes has been established. To maintain social distancing, we are asking volunteers to prepare small batches of food in their homes and deliver it to the north (small) parking lot of St. Mary's by 3:30 p.m. on November 15. From there it will be transferred to vehicles of 4 volunteers who will go to FOCUS to prepare to-go containers and hand out

dinner at the door. (There will not be in-house dining.)

If you're able to make food items or volunteer to attend, please sign up via the link on Fr. George's weekly email or contact Chair Carol Smith, 952.210.8618, smithzcl@gmail.com.

Greek Zumba via Zoom

Tuesday, November 2

Get out your jingly scarves...it's time for Greek Zumba! Join Kally Youngdahl via Zoom and get some exercise to the sounds of Greek music! All levels and abilities welcome. The Tuesday date and Zoom link will be published in Fr. George's weekly email and in the Philoptochos newsletter.

Days for Girls Service Project

Tuesday, November 24

Terrace Room (3:00-9:00 p.m.) or On Your Own

Components of Days for Girls Kits (reusable menstruation supplies) will be made as part of our ongoing service project for girls and women around the world. This year we will work in the Great Hall to allow for social distancing. All skill levels are welcome – jobs include cutting, ironing, sewing, assembling, and more.

If want to participate but cannot attend, you can...

- Provide donations:
 - GIRLS (not women's) underwear, sizes 10-16 – colored, not white
 - Ziploc gallon size freezer bags – no slide closers, please
- Work at home: Based on your interest and ability, there are lots of things you can do! Chair Sofia Johnson will compile all you need to participate – perhaps you can cut fabric, serge around pads, or insert drawstrings into kit bags. Contact Sofia to determine the project that's right for you, 952.500.2991 or SofiaCheronisJohnson@gmail.com.

Philoptochos Meeting in Lecture Hall

Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 p.m.

The November Philoptochos Meeting will be held during the Days for Girls event. Please join us for a brief meeting to discuss year-end activities includ-

ing Vasilopita Sales in support of St. Basil Academy and the final spend down of our 2020 budget. The spend down process started in September because our expenditures were reduced due to the pandemic, i.e. no National Philoptochos Convention travel or hotel costs. At that time, the membership approved \$5,000 in disbursements:

- \$1,500 IOCC (National Disasters)
- \$1,000 Chloe's Fight Rare Disease Foundation
- \$1,000 Chicago Metropolis Philanthropy Fund (assists Orthodox in need)
- \$500 National Philoptochos Social Services (assists Orthodox in need)
- \$500 IOCC (Beirut Recovery)
- \$500 Assistance League (Sexual Assault Kits)

Thank You Notes



On behalf of the bookstore and everyone who has spiritually benefited from this ministry, thanks to Elena Tudor for her dedicated and devoted bookstore ministry, which she has been doing for 30 years. We wish her great joy and peace as she and her mother move to Connecticut to be near her children and her grandson. She will be missed here at St. Mary's.

Godspeed, Elena and Speranta!

Dear Fr. Dokos,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and to each and every one of your parishioners for your generous gift to FOCUS Minnesota. Your contribution directly benefits our programs to help the poor and needy in our own community. Your loving kindness towards our neighbors in need is truly making a difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you for your compassionate support in this way, so that together we may fulfill Christ's commandment to love one another. Please pray for us as we settle into our new home in St. Paul. Your prayers and support sustain and encourage our work daily!

With love in Christ,

Vera Proctor, Director
FOCUS Minnesota



Dear Members of St. Mary's,

Thank you so much for your support, we are so grateful. We are very busy giving out food to people in the neighborhood. The demand is still up that's for sure. We appreciate your very generous donations for the Simpson Food Pantry. This is to thank you for your awesome support at the Food Pantry at Simpson United Methodist Church. Your food drive donations will go a long way in this neighborhood. Thank you Larry Dunham and his wife for delivering oatmeal packages from Second Harvest Heartland, they are going fast. Thank you to Margery and her son Paul for delivering all the food from the food drive, you are truly a blessing to us. We want to thank you for your donations of wonderful dinners made by your members to feed the shelter guests and my volunteer staff from the food pantry. Everyone enjoyed the meals so much, the cooks were busy I'm sure. The meals were so good, some people were having seconds. We're sad the Covid has taken away your yearly events.

We have been so very busy both with the Tuesday produce fair and Wednesday, sometimes Thursday and on Fridays, with free give-aways of food, many people have no idea where to go for food in this area now, so we are happy to be here to help everyone. The demand is up, that's for sure. 35 people came last Wednesday for free food. They are very grateful we are here to help **everyone who comes**.

Thank you again for thinking of others, you are truly a blessing to us, we are so grateful for your support. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gross
Food Pantry Director

IOCC Minneapolis Virtual Event

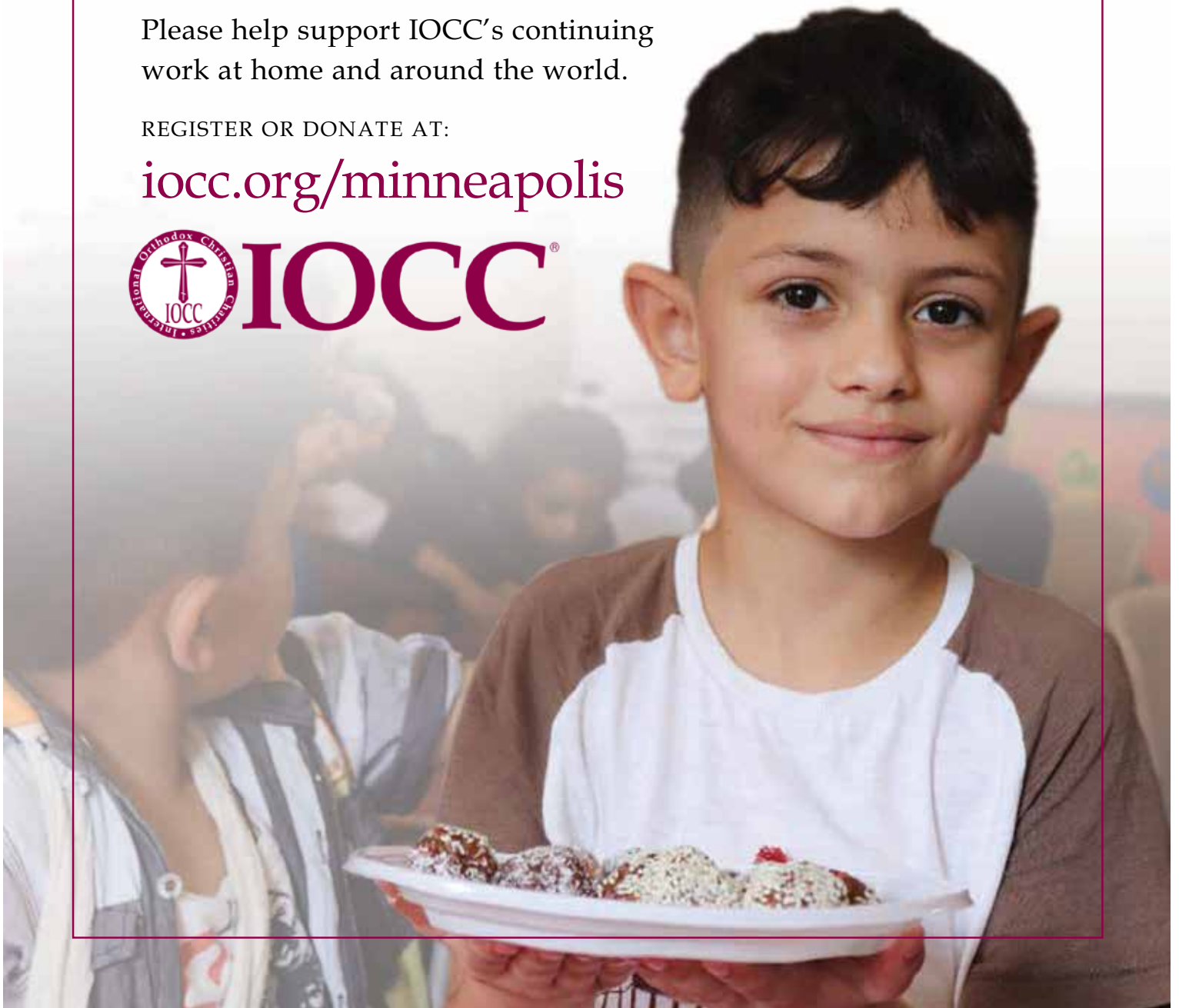
Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 7:00 pm

Join us for the Twin Cities' first ever virtual event! You will see friendly faces from the Twin Cities, get special IOCC updates, and more.

Please help support IOCC's continuing work at home and around the world.

REGISTER OR DONATE AT:

iocc.org/minneapolis



Mission & Outreach

Laughter. A few weeks ago, when shopping for groceries at the early hour, I heard boisterous laughter. The 'sound' of laughter that was out loud, happy, joyful, uplifting and caring. Doesn't that make you happy for a moment to read this? What a wonderful sound to hear, have to admit it still makes me happy thinking about that wonderful moment. Encourages me to look forward.

Volunteers' 'Pop' Quiz

Why, when, and where to volunteer quiz. FAQ:

1. How can one person prepare 300 meals in just a few hours on a Sunday after Liturgy?
2. Name the Simpson House 'top hit' breakfast food meal for children?
3. Which meal is the most important meal of the day?

Read the next paragraphs to find out the answers.



Food packers at our June 28 Share the Harvest Event

Serve as a volunteer to pack meals that "Share the Harvest" at the next Missions and Outreach sponsored Harvest Pack event.

We are planning an event for early December. Watch the news. Oatmeal breakfasts are popular at the food shelves – what a wonderful way to start the day in this colder weather. To volunteer, please click on the sign-up genius link for Harvest Pack. You and 49 other volunteers will pack 15,000 meals in a few hours. Our safety committee will review all the contingencies to assure the safety of volunteers.

The days are shorter, and they are colder and soon to be very cold. We are entering the time of year that we are prayerfully thinking about the words, "harvest" and "thankfulness." As one drives in the country, we will see fields that are now harvested to help with having food for us. Food that we can share along with our joy in giving, or for those in need you give joy in receiving.

November is a month of "Thankfulness."

Take Heart

www.missiontakeheart.org

Urgent Prayer Request for Nigeria

Take Heart sends this prayer request that we may pray for 90 million Christians in Nigeria alone.

"Christians are the world's most persecuted people."



Take Heart is on a mission to spiritually encourage, technically equip and financially support persecuted Christians in Egypt, Syria, Nigeria, and Iraq.

Islamic extremists are attacking and killing Christians in the places

where Take Heart serves in Nigeria. Pray for miraculous protection for our siblings in Christ today and for hearts of the persecutors to turn to the love of Jesus.

There is a strong effort being made to eliminate Christianity from not only the country, but also the continent. With 90 million Christians in Nigeria alone, such an effort equates with mass genocide.

Let's call upon the name of the Lord together to intervene for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria:

Father, You are our protector and provider. You are the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. We know that you see the intense persecution of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria and that you are not idly watching. Please allow your compassion and justice to change hearts and eradicate violence in this country. Show Your power and glory and strengthen Your followers with Your Spirit so that even when all is not well they may still say with confidence, "It is well with my soul." In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

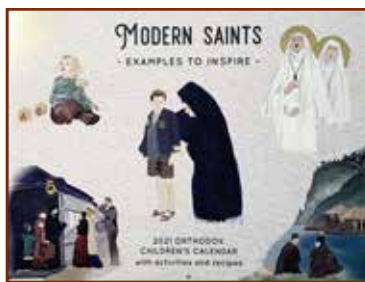


The Saints are inspiring and encouraging companions for our faith journey. Many in our parish read *Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints and Fasting Calendar* that is published annually. The 2021 edition is now available, so this seems a good opportunity to introduce more people to this spiritually beneficial resource—and even more so in light of the Family Camp theme this year being “The Communion of Saints.” *Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints and Fasting Calendar* is a great and convenient daily resource for Orthodox Christians who want to grow in their knowledge and appreciation of the Saints. For each day the life of one of the Saints celebrated that day is featured, together with a thoughtful Orthodox teaching and a list of the day’s commemorations (including those in the Greek, Russian, Georgian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, American, Celtic, and British traditions—and more). In addition, the liturgical Scripture readings and the fasting or feasting guidelines are listed for each day.

Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints and Fasting Calendar is a labor of love that Tom and Georgia Mitrakos have been doing since 1996. The seeds for this resource started much earlier than this because of Tom’s deep enthusiasm for and appreciation of the Saints. He loved sharing the lives of the Saints with his wife Georgia and with his high school Church School students who were, as he writes, “genuinely interested” in the Saints. These motivated Tom and Georgia to begin their annual calendar project. Tom spends about three months each year writing the lives of the Saints, condensing their stories from 10 to 15 pages down into what he calls “almost sound bites” for daily reading. Georgia gathers the quotes and does the typing and editing. Their three sons help with decisions for the cover of their annual calendar, making their Orthodox Calen-

dar Company a real family project.

Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints and Fasting Calendar for 2021 is available in a spiral bound book or as an ebook. If you would like to order a copy through the bookstore, please email r.p.myerly@gmail.com by November 15. The total cost is \$21.00, and you will be notified when your copy arrives so you can pay for it and pick it up in the church office. If you prefer the portable convenience of an ebook format, you can order a copy for \$9.95 through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or iTunes. If you prefer to order a copy directly from Orthodox Calendar Company, the cost will be \$18.95 and \$4.00 shipping. Their website is: LivesoftheSaintsCalendar.com



If you have young children, Ancient Faith has recently published *The 2021 Orthodox Children's Calendar: Modern Saints - Examples to Inspire*. The description

of this calendar on their website explains:

[It] is all about saints who lived in the 20th century, including saints like St Paisios, St Elizabeth the New Martyr, and St John Maximovitch. Each month features an illustrated biography of a modern saint, illustrated saint’s days, clearly marked fasting periods and feast days, along with significant American holidays. Following each month is a page with a recipe and activities pertaining to the saint featured that month or the liturgical season.

You can order this book by sending an email to the address above by November 15. The price is \$22.00. As above, you will be notified when your calendar arrives so you can pay for it and pick it up in the church office.

Please note that, because the bookstore is closed indefinitely and the calendars are time sensitive items, we will only be ordering the specific number of copies requested by November 15.

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.

HOPE and JOY

Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

- ▶ Saturday, November 14, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
HOPE and JOY at Church
Attend Liturgy for St. Philip at 10:00 a.m. and then come to HOPE/JOY gathering.
- ▶ Tuesday, November 17, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Parish-Night Week
Offering Our Conflicts.
Watch your e-mails for the Zoom link.

Junior GOYA

Grades 6-8

- ▶ Wednesday, November 4, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
Junior GOYA at Church
- ▶ Thursday, November 19, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Parish-Night Week
Offering Our Conflicts.
Watch your e-mails for the Zoom link.

Senior GOYA

Grades 9-12

- ▶ Wednesday, November 11, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
Senior GOYA at Church
- ▶ Wednesday, November 18, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Parish-Night Week
Senior GOYAns and Adults:
Deacon Philip Wagner presents on "Prisoners Outside of Prisons: Still Paying the Price."
Register for meeting:
<https://tinyurl.com/NovemberPNRegistration>
Or go to the church website for the link.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: **St_Marys_GOYA**

In-Person Youth Activities

It is important for us to follow social distancing measures throughout our in-person activities. Below are the safety precautions:

- Masks must be worn properly by everyone for the duration of the event
- Practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart from each other)
- Avoid touching each other
- Sanitize hands frequently. Everyone will be required to sanitize your hands when you arrive and encouraged throughout the evening.

Please note that while the Church has taken steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19, it cannot guarantee safety. Attending this activity may increase your child's risk of contracting the disease. By attending these events for which you are making a reservation, you acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and assume the risk of becoming ill. Further, you agree to release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Church, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to COVID-19. You understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Church, its employees, agents, and representatives.

When should I stay home? For the well-being of others, you should stay home if you are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. Click this link if you need help discerning whether you are sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>.

September Recap

After many months of virtual activities, the HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYAns, and Senior GOYAns kicked off the new year in-person in the Courtyard! We discussed our New Year's Resolutions as we began the Ecclesiastical New Year. We were even able to watch the sun set over the Lake with the Junior and Senior GOYAns! We also kicked off our Parish-Night Week Ministry on Zoom, which will be virtual through the end of the year. Looking forward to another Youth Ministry Year ahead of us!



HOPE and JOY Kick Off

Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. To access our 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.



Junior GOYA Kick Off

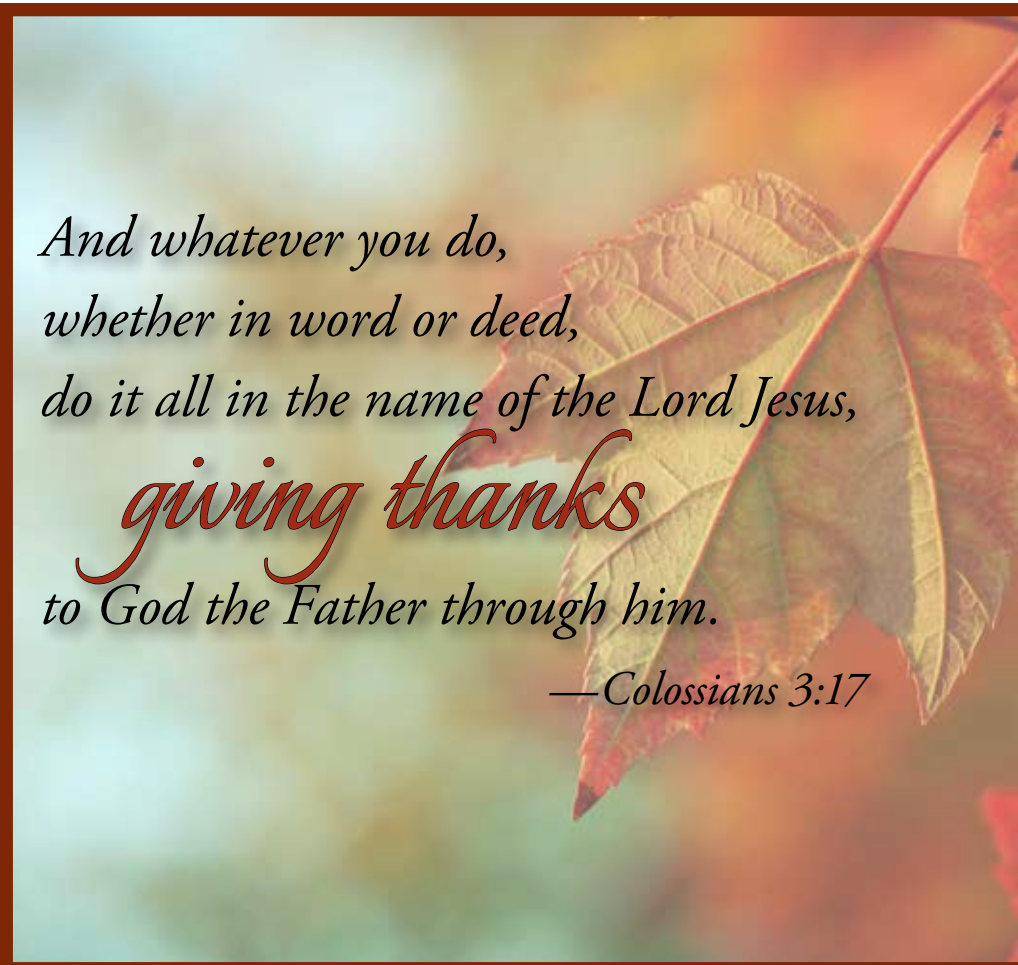


Senior GOYA Kick Off

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit #3735

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father through him.*

—Colossians 3:17

**St. Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church**

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Publication Deadlines
The Messenger—
First Sunday of each month.

Sunday Bulletin—
Preceding Thursday,
12:00 Noon

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fifth Sunday of Luke Saints Cosmas & Damianos "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	2	3 Transfer of the Relics of Saint George 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	4 6:00pm-Small Blessing of Water 6:45pm-Junior GOYA	5	6 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	7 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 4:00pm-Great Vespers
8 Seventh Sunday of Luke Synaxis of the Archangels 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	9 Saint Nektarios 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	10 6:15pm-Parish Council	11 Saint Menas 6:00pm-Evening Divine Liturgy 6:45pm-Senior GOYA	12 7:00pm-IOCC Virtual Fundraising Event	13 Saint John Chrysostom <i>Parish Council applications are due.</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	14 Saint Philip 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 11:15am-HOPE/JOY 5:00pm-Great Vespers
15 Eighth Sunday of Luke Nativity Fast Begins 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	16 Saint Matthew 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	17 6:30pm-Parish-Night Week <i>HOPE/JOY</i>	18 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 7:00pm-Parish-Night Week <i>Senior GOYA & Adults</i>	19 6:30pm-Stewardship Com. 6:30pm-Parish-Night Week <i>Junior GOYA</i>	20	21 Entrance of the Theotokos 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
22 Ninth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	23	24 3:00pm-Days for Girls	25 Saint Katherine 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	26 Thanksgiving Day <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	28 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
29 Thirteenth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	30 Saint Andrew 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy					

Parish Christmas Card

Send holiday greetings to your family and friends at St. Mary's!

Simply fill out this form and return it to the Church Office
with a contribution *no later than* Sunday, December 6...
(*we send the card to the printer on Monday, December 7*).



Your name(s) as you want it listed in the card:

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Please note: Forms will not be available at the church this year.