

# The Messenger

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

## April 2021

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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 George

*Father George Dokos, Proistamenos*

"When Joseph had taken the body of Jesus, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and buried it in a new tomb."

—Matthew 27:59-60

Burial and respect for our dead. That is what I would like to speak about in this month's article. From time immemorial, Christians – and their Jewish predecessors – have always taken great care to bury their deceased loved ones with honor and respect. Going all the way back to the story of Abraham and Sarah in the Holy Scriptures, it was a directive from God Himself that a person was to be buried, as He had first said to Adam: "Earth you are, and to earth shall you return" (Genesis 3:19). The Lord spoke to Abraham saying: "As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age" (Genesis 15:15). For this reason, Abraham took great pains to acquire land – not for a home or for a farm – but in order to have a place of burial for himself and his family. Before Abraham himself died, Sarah passed away, and what did Abraham do? "After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife" (Genesis 23:19). And when Abraham fell asleep in the Lord, his sons continued the divine custom, as we are told: "Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife" (Genesis 25:9-10). And the list goes on and on: Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph, Aaron, Miriam, Moses, Samuel, David, Solomon, John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary, and, of course, our Lord Himself; all were buried with dignity according to God's will.

Where do we see any of the Old Testament Righteous or New Testament Saints ever being cremated? Absolutely nowhere. Sure, in the lives of the Saints we might encounter a holy man or woman burned at the stake or thrown into a fiery furnace, but it certainly wasn't their loved ones doing this to them. They may have suffered martyrdom in the flames at the hands of pagans, but every effort was made thereafter by the onlooking Christians to bury the body of the martyr, to preserve the remains as holy relics, and even to erect churches over the very sites of their burial. On the contrary, the Scriptures teach us that in order to disgrace someone, that person was either left unburied, had his bones burned, or the bones were scattered about all over the place (not unlike what so many people do today by having their ashes thrown to the wind).

"But my loved one told me to cremate him/her. It's in his/her will." And? Should you follow their wishes even though they contradict Christ and the faith? Even though this



—article continues on page 3.

# Our Life Together

## Births

*Owen Theodore*

Parents: James & Maggie Menter

February 4, 2021

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## Deaths

*Angie Spell*

February 16, 2021

*May her memory be eternal.*

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## Memorial Prayers

**Sunday, April 11**

*Maria Tortorelis (1 year)*

*Panagiotis Tortorelis (23 years)*

*grandparents of Stephanie Binning*

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## Helping Those in Need

The Parish Council, at the March 9 meeting, approved the recommendation of the St. Mary's Foundation to provide a monetary donation to the following organizations working hard to eliminate hunger and need within our community:

\$10,000 FOCUS MN

\$10,000 Joyce Uptown Foodshelf



*Creation beheld amazed to see you, ever-Virgin Bride, seated in the midst of holy glory, for in your womb you have held the God of all; from you comes the everlasting Son, who bestows salvation unto all who sing praise to you. Most holy Theotokos, save us. —The Akathist Hymn, Ode Five*

## Thank You

Thank you for the many birthday wishes and numerous phone calls I received on my birthday in February. I shall always remember that day.

Thank you to all!

—*Elaine Smith*

Tia Muchulas thanks all who sent get well messages and prayers after her accident. God bless you all!



## Share YourShelf

April's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Community Emergency Service (CES).

**Sunday, April 4**

Canned soup or vegetables

**Sunday, April 11**

Diapers (size 5)

**Sunday, April 18**

Hygiene items

**Sunday, April 25**

Baby formula

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. —*Luke 12:33*



## 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

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## St. Mary's Parish Council

**President**

Naira Istephanous

**Vice President**

William M. Hoeft

**Secretary**

Paul Hastings

**Treasurer**

Thomas Hainlin

**Assistant Treasurer**

Michael Rakes

**Members**

John Beauchamp

Daniel Buss

Ina Dunham

Nicholas Legeros

Dean Psychogios

Maria Smith

Andrew Twito

# Education • Fellowship • Worship

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## Fellowship and Study Groups

### Men's Fellowship

Friday, April 2

*Exodus Study*

7:00 a.m., Lecture Room and Zoom

Friday, April 16

*Psalms Study*

7:00 a.m., Zoom only

### Virtual Bible Study

Each Monday evening,  
except April 26

7:00 p.m., on Zoom

**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.

## Senior Citizens

Senior Citizens' Club meetings are suspended for the time being. We will keep you posted as to when gatherings can safely resume.

## Enhanced In-Person Worship Opportunities

As we continue through our Lenten Journey, we are excited to announce four additional services where our capacity for in-person worship will be increased. You will have the opportunity to worship in the nave or Great Hall, via a livestream feed from the church. We are excited about this opportunity to increase our capacity and pray it will allow more people to participate in the liturgical life of St Mary's.

On each of the dates note below, your family can select either the Nave or the Great Hall for service. During Divine Liturgies, Holy Communion will be distributed in both locations. Those selecting the Nave will continue to enter via the south entrance, while those choosing to worship in the Great Hall will enter via the north doors and have a separate check-in area. The doors between the sections will remain locked.

Watch your email for the sign-up links for these additional services.

Palm Sunday, April 25 – 170 in the Nave AND 70 in the Great Hall

Holy Friday Lamentations, April 30 – 170 in the Nave AND 70 in the Great Hall  
*Lamentations evening service only*

Holy Saturday, May 1 – 170 in the Nave

*First Resurrection service in the morning*

Pascha Midnight Service, May 1/2 – 170 in the Nave AND 70 in the Great Hall

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## Weekend Schedule

### Saturday

Orthros – 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

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

decision will cost them an Orthodox funeral? Even though no memorial or *kollyva* can ever be offered for them? "Whoever loves father or mother or son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me," said the Lord Jesus (Matthew 10:37). We must seriously consider whether or not God and His commandments are first in our life and if we indeed love Him above all else with all our heart, soul, and strength, as the First and Great Commandment instructs us.

The fact of the matter is, brothers and sisters, the ancient and venerable tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church (a tradition not of men, but of God) is to offer our loved ones the proper Funeral Service of the Church and then honorably and respectfully bury them in a place of rest until the General Resurrection, when that very body will be raised from the grave and reunited with its soul to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Everything we do is to affirm our belief in the dignity of the human person and the resurrection of the body, and Christian burial is intrinsically bound up with that fundamental and dogmatic belief. It should come as no surprise that the so-called philosophers of the Enlightenment and the movement's followers willfully had their bodies cremated. Why? In order to make a statement *against* their belief in the resurrection. Hence, the anti-Christian practice of cremation and a denial of the resurrection of the body go hand in hand, while the Christian custom and good work of burying the dead goes hand in hand with our fundamental belief in the resurrection and glorification of the body. This is the faith of the Apostles; this is the faith of the Fathers; this is the faith of the Orthodox; this is the faith that has established the universe.

With love in Christ,



Fr. George

# Lent & Holy Week

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## Lenten Worship Schedule

### **Mondays in Great Lent**

Great Compline – 6:00 p.m.

### **Wednesdays in Great Lent**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
–5:45 p.m.

*(Great Vespers will be offered on  
Wednesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m.)*

### **Fridays in Great Lent**

Salutations to the Theotokos  
(Akathist Hymn) – 6:00 p.m.

*(Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will  
be offered on Friday, April 23)*

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## Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

### **Sundays during Great Lent, 4:00 p.m.**

*Due to the ongoing pandemic and re-  
strictions on in-person gatherings, atten-  
dance will be limited at all host churches.  
The services will be live-streamed. View-  
ing and possible attendance information  
will be posted on our website (stmarys-  
goc.org) and in Fr. George's weekly update  
e-mail on Fridays.*

### **Sunday, March 21**

*Sunday of Orthodoxy*  
St. Mary Orthodox Cathedral  
1701 Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis

### **Sunday, March 28**

*Saint Gregory Palamas*  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

### **Sunday, April 4**

*Sunday of the Holy Cross*  
St. George Antiochian Orthodox  
Church  
1250 Oakdale Avenue, West St Paul

### **Sunday, April 11**

*Saint John Climacus*  
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis

### **Sunday, April 18**

*Saint Mary of Egypt*  
Twelve Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox  
Church  
632 East Second Street, Duluth

### **Sunday, April 25**

*Palm Sunday – Bridegroom Matins*  
St. Herman's Orthodox Church  
5355 - 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis

## Holy Week and Pascha

### **Saturday, April 24: Saturday of Lazarus**

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy  
Family Service Day follows the Liturgy  
5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers

### **Sunday, April 25: Palm Sunday**

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

### **Monday, April 26: Holy Monday**

9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

### **Tuesday, April 27: Holy Tuesday**

9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

### **Wednesday, April 28: Holy Wednesday**

9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
4:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Unction  
7:00 p.m. - Orthros of the Last Supper with Holy Unction

### **Thursday, April 29: Holy Thursday**

9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper  
7:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Passion

### **Friday, April 30: Great and Holy Friday**

9:00 a.m. - Royal Hours  
Church School Retreat continues until 2:30 p.m.  
*Office closed*  
1:30 p.m. - Vespers of the Descent from the Cross  
7:00 p.m. - Service of Lamentations

### **Saturday, May 1: Holy Saturday**

10:00 a.m. - First Resurrectional Divine Liturgy  
11:30 p.m. - Midnight Office, Resurrection Service, Orthros, Divine Liturgy  
Paschal Celebration

### **Sunday, May 2: Great and Holy PASCHA**

12:00 noon - Agape Vespers  
Easter Egg Hunt follows Vespers

### **Monday, May 3: Bright Monday; Saint George (observed)**

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy  
*Office closed*

### **Friday, May 7: Bright Friday; Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos**

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

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## Additional Lenten Service

### **Thursday, April 15**

6:00 p.m. - The Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

# Parish News & Events

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## Lazarus Saturday Service Day

We are currently planning a socially distanced, shortened version of our annual Lazarus Saturday Service Day on Saturday, April 24, following Divine Liturgy. We will need help with cleaning the church and plaiting the palms. Watch for more details as well as a sign-up link.

## Save the Date:

### Remembering Father Anthony

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16



We are excited to welcome our spiritual leader, Metropolitan Nathanael, as we remember our beloved Fr. Anthony Coniaris with a one-year memorial and bless our new parish library dedicated to Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Mary. Our committee is working hard to formulate the schedule and a plan

to ensure all who join us follow the necessary Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines.

If you were in Fr. Anthony's Greek School class, if you remember his gentle and wise counsel, if you benefited from his books, if you were a dedicated member of his Saturday morning Bible Study, or any other of the amazing contributions Fr. Anthony made to St. Mary's, we ask that you please mark your calendars. More information will be shared as we finalize our celebration.

## Did You Know?

Saint Mary's has the opportunity for you to make a payment online, either one-time or by establishing your profile. Not only can members make their monthly stewardship payments via this portal, but you can also donate to a recent memorial, make your Philoptochos membership payment, and even pay for your bookstore purchases.

The online portal is easily located on the top right of our website or contact the Church Office for assistance. Just click and pay the St Mary's way! Thank you for your generosity.

## Twin Cities YAL Movie Night

Join us on Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. for a virtual viewing and discussion of the movie "Ancient and Marvelous: the Life of Father Nicola Yanney" who was an Orthodox missionary in the Midwest in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Email [twincitiesyal@gmail.com](mailto:twincitiesyal@gmail.com) for login information. Young Adult League is for young adults, married, or single, ages 18-35

## Daughters of Penelope Spanakopita/Tyropita Sale

The Daughters of Penelope will be selling spanakopita and tyropita as a fundraiser this month before Pascha. The sale will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, in the south parking lot after Liturgy. You can purchase a package of four pieces for \$8.00 or a package of eight pieces for \$14.00. Ordering information will be available soon.

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## A Thank You Note from Angel Tree

Dear St. Mary's,



Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$2,463.00 to help Angel Tree deliver Christmas gifts and the Gospel to children of prisoners. By the time you read this, your gift will already be working to show prisoners' kids that they haven't been forgotten.

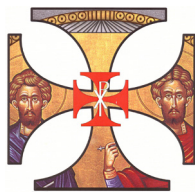
I wish you could see the children's faces as they open their gifts. They're filled with such joy, excitement, and wonder. It means so much to these kids to know that their incarcerated parent is thinking about them. As they hold their gift in their arms and read the personal note from their mom or dad, they are able to connect with their parent behind bars in a meaningful way.

You've made that moment possible. And with every Christmas gift you make possible, you also share the Gospel with a child. So many would thank you if they could. It is my honor to pass on that message, along with my wish that it will encourage you.

Thank you again for helping to give an Angel Tree Christmas to so many hurting kids. They and their families will always remember your kindness.

Yours in His service,  
(signed) James J. Ackerman, President and Chief Executive Officer

# Philoptochos



## Coming Soon in May

Philoptochos is hoping to get together in person for our May Spring Finale and Board Elections on the evening of Tuesday, May 25, the election of a new board – that means new ideas and opportunities – consider running! If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact Annette Legeros, 952.239.5060 or [MPLSPHILO@gmail.com](mailto:MPLSPHILO@gmail.com)

## Membership Drive – Last Chance to Join!

The 2021 Philoptochos Membership Drive is officially over. BUT, if you intended to join and didn't get the chance, you are welcome to do so! Decide how much you'd like to give, then join in one of three ways:

1. Give online through the [St. Mary's Online Giving portal](#). Be sure to designate your gift for Philoptochos.
2. Pick up membership materials in the Narthex and leave your check (or cash) in the Philoptochos drop-off box.
3. If you are a woman on the parish mailing list, use the 2021 Membership Form and envelope you received in the mail to send in your membership check, payable to Philoptochos.

## Women's Book Club Discussion

**Tuesday, April 6**

The Women's Book Club book is reading *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life* by Vassilios Papavassiliou. The book can be purchased in the church office for \$19. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Bookstore. Discussion will be on Tuesday, April 6. Please watch for more information in the weekly bulletin.

## Greek Zumba

**Tuesday April 20, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

*Every Third Tuesday of the Month!* By request of participants, Kally Youngdahl will now offer a monthly Greek Zumba class on Zoom! Mark your calendars for 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (April 20 and May 18) and get ready to enjoy Greek music and exercise with your friends!

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

## Ongoing: Quilt Tops for People in Need



Philoptochos has joined the quilting women of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins, to create quilts for someone in need. As of January, 5 quilt tops have been completed by Philoptochos ladies. How can you participate?

1. Pick up a quilt top kit. Each kit has a sewing machine needle, instructions and the correct number of quilt squares to make a 60"x80" top. This is easy sewing – straight lines only – plus some ironing. And, you can do it safely in your own home.

2. Donate old blankets, sheets, bedspreads and draperies and heavy tablecloths. The quilters of Gethsemane will use them for filling and backing the quilts.

Bins have been placed in the main entry of St. Mary's south parking lot, one for contactless kit pick-up and the other for drop off of your donations. On March 10, our first five completed quilts were delivered to Metro Hope Ministries. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

## Socks and Underwear Collection for FOCUS MN

Philoptochos is contributing to the church's Lenten Collection for FOCUS Minnesota. Please bring donations of socks and underwear to the collection station by the Sunday School hallway door. Items for men, women and children are welcome, with a real need for boys brief or boxers (sizes 4, 6, 8) and women's briefs (sizes 6, 7, 8).

## Baby Bottle Bank Fundraiser

**Now through Palm Sunday**

Philoptochos has long supported TANDEM, an organization that focuses on generational poverty and single motherhood during pregnancy and beyond. Parishioners are invited to pick up a Baby Bottle Bank from the Narthex and fill it with coins, dollars and checks to help mamas and littles purchase many supplies needed in adverse circumstances. If you prefer to simply make a donation, give online using the GIVE NOW button at [stmarysgoc.org](http://stmarysgoc.org) (indicate it's for Tandem) or send a check to church payable to Philoptochos with TANDEM on the memo line. Our goal: \$500.

## Meal at FOCUS Minnesota

**Sunday, April 18**

Philoptochos is preparing another meal for clients of FOCUS Minnesota. As we did in 2020, we are asking volunteers to make a portion of a meatloaf dinner in their home, then bring it to the church on the afternoon of April 18 for delivery to FOCUS Minnesota. To volunteer to help, watch for a Sign-Up Genius invitation in the coming days, or contact chair Carol Smith, 952.210.8618 or [smithzcl@gmail.com](mailto:smithzcl@gmail.com).

## Thank You...

To the chairs of our ongoing programs, Sofia Johnson (quilt tops), Kally Youngdahl (Greek Zumba) and Diak. Alexandria Kalina and Katherine Boosalis (book club).

To all the people who have joined Philoptochos in support of our charitable activities.



# Mission & Outreach

A message on my hat during a past illness: "Heaven Can Wait."

Picture this, we are walking in the Skyway and pass by a young dad and his daughter. Dad greets us with "I like your hat." We smile and say "thanks." Ten years after an illness there is still a feeling of gratitude when a young dad reaches out with a greeting "I like your hat." How does a message on one's cap, a pink cap, get a smile and warm comment, "I like your hat."

While it is natural to hope that Heaven can wait, what can we do to greet each other? Overtime, many of us have heard positive responses to our seeking a visit with someone. There is no wrong way to extend a warm greeting and share with one another.



Larry and Ina Dunham and Tanya Chresand greeting guests at our annual Greek Festival

There are people new to our parish. Greeting is a joyful beginning best begun in person. It is a privilege to welcome someone.

We look forward with all of you to the opening of our church with no worship or fellowship restrictions.

It is very exciting that

the American Legion held their March 8 meeting in person at St. Mary's.

Soon the lights will be on to welcome those we know and, more importantly, those we have not yet met.

## Lenten Outreach Offerings

Again this year our special Lenten activities need to be suspended or limited. As a result, many of the organizations we contribute to through the offerings received at the meals following our Wednesday services will miss out on some needed support. We have made the decision to receive an offering each week at all of our weekday services in support of a variety of worthy charities. In addition, a special link for online giving can be found on our website if you are unable to be with us at our Lenten services. Offerings can be placed in the box at the sign-in counter. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's.

March 15-19: Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)

March 22-26: Simpson House

March 29-April 2: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

April 5-9: Healing House

April 12-16: Coptic Orphans

April 19-23: Philoxenia House in Rochester



Our Welcome and Information Table set up and ready for greeters to welcome members and guests.

# Stewardship

by Athena Mihas

**"...The greatest of these is love."**

—I Corinthians 13:13

Thank you for your participation in our 2021 Stewardship Campaign and your on-going support of St. Mary's through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Your contributions make it possible for St. Mary's to continue providing all its ministries and to cover operating costs of the church, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so blessed to have your generous support!

- As of March 5, 2021, we have received \$195,499 in offering income for 2021.
- Additional needed by the end of the year to meet our budgeted goal is \$874,126.
- Compared to last year, we have received \$33,061 more in offering income compared year to date.

Offering Income as of March 5, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2021 Annual Budget	Additional Needed by December 31
Payments Received	\$195,499	\$1,069,625	\$874,126

Offering Income as of March 5, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2020 YTD Actual	Increase or (Decrease) vs. Prior Year
Payments Received	\$195,499	\$1,069,438	\$33,061

**Reminder:** Stewardship packets for 2021 were mailed in November! Please prayerfully consider how you would like to contribute to St. Mary's with your time, talent, and treasure in 2021. If you have not done so already, return your completed pledge and time/talent forms to the office. We hope to increase our number of pledged members in 2021, 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 2021. Also, remember that you can pledge and contribute online.

- As of the end of February 2021, we had received 166 pledge forms for 2021.
- In 2019, we received 219 completed pledges form.

## For more information, contact:

- Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina at: ackalina@yahoo.com
- Athena Mihas at: athenamihas@gmail.com
- David at St. Mary's Office: David@stmarysgoc.org or 612.825.9595

## Stewardship Reflection

"These, then, are the things in which you must stand firm and follow the Lord's example: be steadfast and immovable in the faith; love the brotherhood; cherish one another; be united in the truth; with the meekness of the Lord give precedence to one another; despise no one. When able to do a work of charity, do not put it off; for almsgiving delivers from death. One and all, submit to each other's rights; for life among the gentiles must be beyond reproach; thus by your good example you will win praise for yourselves and the Lord will not be blasphemed on your account." —St. Polycarp, *Epistles to the Philippians*

Lent is a wonderful time to recommit to Christ and His Church. Part of that commitment is reflecting on how we spend our time (prayer, services, religious education, volunteering), our talent and our treasure.

St. Mary's has been very blessed to have clergy who are committed to aiding us in growing in our spiritual life-before and through the pandemic-and stewards who are committed to their spiritual calling of giving generously in their time, talent, and treasure. As with everything, accountability to Christ for our actions is very personal and private. Lent is a wonderful time to take inventory of those actions, and make "course corrections." While giving to Christ and His Church of time, talent and treasure are wonderful for the Church, these actions are more for the benefit of our own souls—part of our commitment to God, reflecting the "steadfastness in the faith."

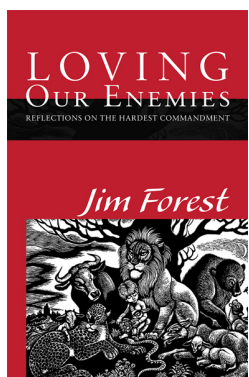
During this Lent, may "generosity" be one of the virtues we focus on, whether in the form of Time, Talent, and Treasure to St. Mary's, or to any one we encounter who is suffering and in need of our love.



# In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



Being in the liturgical season during which we witness most clearly Christ loving his enemies, we are invited to see, ponder, and know what loving an enemy is and means for every person. *Loving Our Enemies: Reflections on the Hardest Commandment* by Jim Forest is a book to help and encourage us in this process.

Defining the key terms in his book, the author writes:

As used in the Bible, love has first of all to do with action and responsibility, not about your emotions or liking someone. To love is to do what you can to provide for the well-being of another whether you like that person or not.... An act of love may be animated by a sense of gratitude and delight in someone else—wonderful when it happens—or it may be done despite exhaustion, depression, fear, aversion, or anger; it may be done simply as an obedient response to Christ's teaching; it may be done as a prayer and a response to God who is our common creator, who links us all, in whose image each of us is made, in whom we are brothers and sisters, who has bound together love of God with love of neighbor.

An enemy is anyone I feel threatened by and seek to defend myself against. An enemy is a person or group of people whose defeat I would count a victory. What for them would be bad news for me would be good news.... Enemies can be divided into two broad categories, those nearby and those far away—those known by name and those who are strangers.

The biblical meaning of reconciliation has to do with relationships transformed in the peace of God. The current of reconciliation is love, without which the healing of damaged relationships is impossible. (14, 18, 15)

Including narratives of what loving one's enemies looks like lived out, Forest provides the reader opportunities to grow in awareness of and appreciation for the process and to think about problems as opportunities for growth in faith and trust as well as courage and commitment. It is a brilliant book while also being a rather earthy read

because loving one's enemies is often not a neat and tidy process, nor is it a "once and done" project. Rather, it is a lifelong journey in which we walk with Christ and learn from him, being guided by him and his example every step of the way. "Our basic unity, existing beneath all divisions, has to do with each of us being bearers of the divine image... [B]eneath our separateness is our unity. It's about the "our" in "Our Father." (16, 21)

Jim Forest not only shows what loving one's enemies looks like; he also reflects in depth on nine disciplines of active love: praying for enemies, doing good to enemies, turning the other cheek, forgiveness, breaking down the dividing wall of enmity, refusing to take an eye for an eye, seeking nonviolent alternatives, practicing holy disobedience (Mother Maria Skobtsova is featured for this), and recognizing Jesus in others. He concludes:

Our acts of love and failures to love continue to cast ripples until the end of time. What Adam and Eve did, what Moses did, what Herod did, what Pilate did, what the Apostles did, what Caesar Augustus did, what Hitler did, what Martin Luther King did, what Dorothy Day did, what you and I have done and left undone continue to matter and have consequences, for the better or the worse, for the rest of time. (165)

**Special Note:** The bookstore will not be open after the weekend Liturgies until social gatherings inside the church after Liturgies are deemed safe. Please check the weekly emails from Father George or Father Jason for updates. In addition, the bookstore now has its own email address: [bookstore@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:bookstore@stmarysgoc.org) Please email this address if you would like to purchase a book or icon. We can arrange a version of curbside pick up so you can pick up your purchase(s) when you come to a Liturgy. We also have a new option in place to pay for your purchases online—you can go to St. Mary's website, click online giving, and choose "bookstore."

# Children & Youth

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## 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.

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### HOPE and JOY

#### Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

▶ Sunday, April 11

10:45 a.m. (following Communion)-11:30 a.m.

HOPE/JOY in the Great Hall

*Watch Jon's e-mails to sign up.*

### Junior GOYA

#### Grades 6-8

▶ Wednesday, April 7, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Junior GOYA in the Great Hall

following Presanctified Liturgy Communion

*Watch Jon's e-mails to sign up.*

▶ Wednesday, April 21, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Junior GOYA in the Great Hall

following Presanctified Liturgy Communion

*Watch Jon's e-mails to sign up.*

### Senior GOYA

#### Grades 9-12

▶ Wednesday, April 14, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Tentative Senior GOYA in the Great Hall

following Presanctified Liturgy Communion

▶ Saturday, April 17

Senior GOYA Day Retreat

*Watch Jon's emails to sign up and for more information.*

## 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 six 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>

## February Recap

It was a busy month for our youth groups! We kicked off the beginning of the month with our Junior GOYA group where we discussed the Feast Day of the Presentation of Our Lord into the Temple. We also played some socially distant games and got to know each other with some ice breaker questions! The Senior GOYAns met in the middle of the month and read the Reader's Paraklesis Service. Then we went into the Great Hall and played some games that were facilitated by our Social Officers. We ended the month with the HOPE/JOY kids in the Great Hall where we watched a short video on the Publican and the Pharisee, and had small group discussions. We also played 4 Corners!

## 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.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: **St\_Marys\_GOYA**

## Lenten Confession Schedule for 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Date (Wednesday)	Confession Group	Time
March 17	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	In the Nave, immediately following Presanctified Liturgy (around 7:00 p.m.)
March 24	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
March 31	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
April 7	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
April 14	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
April 21	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	

**NOTE: There will be Confession offered on Sunday, April 4, and Sunday, April 11, for the youth that are not able to make it to their designated Wednesday slot. This will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Nave.**



# Church School

## Lenten Journey Packages

Lenten journey packages are available on a small table in the Narthex if you'd like to pick one up or they are available on our website to download and print from home.

## Oratorical Festival

The Oratorical Festival is Sunday, April 11, at the end of Liturgy. Listen to inspiring speeches by our middle and high school students. Students may also submit poems, essays, or perform a vocal solo. For questions please contact Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina.

## Holy Friday Retreat

Our Church School Holy Friday Retreat is April 30, 10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. The Retreat is for students age 5 through grade 12 (subject to change based on sign-up of children and volunteers) Enjoy lessons, craft, light lunch and gym time - all socially distanced and safe! Keep an eye out for the sign-up in your email soon!

Any questions, contact *Dena Tortorelis* at [Churchschool@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:Churchschool@stmarysgoc.org)



# Summer Camp

## Saint Mary's Summer Camp Is Back!

**July 3-10, 2021**

St. Mary's Summer Camp will be held this year at Camp Courage near Maple Lake, MN.

The move to a different site is due to maximum participant limitations at the Camp Wapo facilities for this summer only. We plan to return to Wapo in 2022.

Appropriate safety protocols will be in place to ensure a safe, fun, and enriching experience for our youth.

The start of registration will be delayed until May, after Pascha, this year. Please stay tuned for all the registration details that will be coming soon!

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## The Prayer of St. Ephraim



O Lord and Master of my life!

Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

*(Prostration)*



But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience  
and love to your servant.

*(Prostration)*



Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions  
and not to judge my brother, for blessed are you unto ages of ages.

*(Prostration)*



### 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

# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Sunday morning Orthros and Divine Liturgy and the Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.</i></p>				1	2 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 4:00pm-Holy Confession 6:00pm-Salutations to the Theotokos	3 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<p><b>4 Sunday of the Holy Cross "The Messenger" Deadline</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 4:00pm-Lenten Vespers -St. George Antiochian Church (Live-streamed)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 6:00pm-Great Compline 7:00pm-Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b> Women's Book Club —time to be announced</p>	<p><b>7</b> 4:00pm-Holy Confession 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy 6:45pm-Junior GOYA in the Great Hall 7:00pm-Confession: Grades 9 &amp; 10</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:00pm-YAL Movie Night</p>	<p><b>9</b> 4:00pm-Holy Confession 6:00pm-Salutations to the Theotokos</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>11 Saint John Climacus</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 4:00pm-Lenten Vespers -St. Mary's GOC (Live-streamed and in-person)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:00pm-Great Compline 7:00pm-Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:15pm-Parish Council</p>	<p><b>14</b> 4:00pm-Holy Confession 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy 6:45pm-Senior GOYA in the Great Hall 7:00pm-Confession: Grades 5 &amp; 6</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:00pm-Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 4:00pm-Holy Confession 6:00pm-Akathist Hymn</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy Senior GOYA Day Retreat —time to be announced 5:00pm-Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>18 Saint Mary of Egypt</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 4:00pm-Lenten Vespers -Twelve Holy Apostles' GOC (Live-streamed)</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6:00pm-Great Compline 7:00pm-Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 4:00pm-Holy Confession 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy 6:45pm-Junior GOYA in the Great Hall 7:00pm-Confession: Grade 2</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:30pm-Stewardship Com.</p>	<p><b>23 Saint George (observed May 3)</b> 4:00pm-Holy Confession 6:00pm-Presanctified Liturgy</p>	<p><b>24 Lazarus Saturday</b> 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy -Family Service Day 5:00pm-Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>25 Palm Sunday</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Nathanael 4:00pm-Bridegroom Matins -St. Herman Orthodox Ch. (Live-streamed) 7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins</p>	<p><b>26 Holy Monday</b> 9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins</p>	<p><b>27 Holy Tuesday</b> 9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins</p>	<p><b>28 Holy Wednesday</b> 9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy 4:00pm-Holy Unction 7:00pm-Orthros of the Last Supper</p>	<p><b>29 Holy Thursday</b> 9:30am-Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper 7:00pm-Service of Holy Passion (<i>The Twelve Gospels</i>)</p>	<p><b>30 Great Friday</b> 9:00am-Royal Hours Church School Retreat 1:30pm-Descent from the Cross 7:00pm-Lamentations</p>	<p><i>The complete Holy Week schedule is on page 3 of this issue.</i></p>

# Holy Pascha Flowers Contribution

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your contribution to St. Mary's by  
Palm Sunday, April 28, 2021.

*Thank you!*