

SAINT MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

The Weekend of April 3/4, 2021

Saturday, April 3, 2021

Commemoration: Third Saturday of Lent; Nicetas, Abbot of the Monastery of Medicium; Joseph the Hymnographer; Theodosia and Irene the Martyrs.

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

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

At the Small Entrance

Hymn for the Saints, Second Tone

O Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics and the Righteous, you finished the race and kept the faith. You speak freely to the Savior. We pray you entreat Him on our behalf, to save our souls, since He is good.

Entrance Hymn, Second Tone

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

Repeat the Hymn for the Day, above.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

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

Kontakion of the Martyrs, Plagal Fourth Tone

O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord, abundantly merciful.

Epistle..... *Hebrews 10:32-38*

Brethren, recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. "For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry; but my righteous one shall live by faith."

Gospel..... *Mark 2:14-17*

At that time, as Jesus passed on, he saw Levi the son of Alphaios sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Communion Prayers are found on page 3 of this leaflet or inside the front cover of the hymnal.

Communion Hymn

Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord. Their memorial abides from generation to generation. Alleluia.

Stewardship Prayer

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

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

THE COMMUNION PRAYERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approaching to receive, each makes a reverence and says:

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

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Commemoration: Sunday of the Holy Cross; George the Righteous of Maleon; Righteous Plato the Studite; Nicetas the Hieromartyr, Struggler of Serrai (1808); Righteous Zosimas; Theonas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki, Founder and Renovator of the Sacred Monastery of Saint Anastasia of Pharmakolytria, Halkidiki; Theodoulos and Agathopous of Thessaloniki.

Morning Gospel: Tenth

Tone: Second

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Small Entrance

Hymn of the Holy Cross, First Tone

Save, O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your holy cross.

Entrance Hymn

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

Resurrection Hymn, Second Tone

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

Repeat the Hymn of the Holy Cross, above.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

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

Kontakion of the Theotokos, Plagal Fourth Tone

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn ("Holy God"), we sing:

Before Your cross we bow down, O Master, and we glorify Your holy resurrection. (3 times)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

And we glorify Your holy resurrection.

Epistle..... *Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6*

Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel..... *Mark 8:34 – 9:1*

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he

comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

Megalynarion, instead of “It is truly meet”

In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the races of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, he who is God from all ages. By making your womb his throne he made you more spacious than all heavens. In you, O woman full of grace. All creation, all creation rejoices. Glory to you!

The Communion Prayers are found on page 3 of this leaflet or inside the front cover of the hymnal.

*Instead of “We have seen the light,” we sing the **Hymn of the Holy Cross.***

Save, O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your holy cross.

Stewardship Prayer

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

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

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

Holy Week and Pascha Flowers

Contributions for flowers that will adorn our church during Holy Week and Pascha are now being accepted. Forms are at the display in the narthex. Please place your completed form and contribution in an envelope and drop in the Stewardship box on the sign in cabinet. The deadline is Palm Sunday, April 25.

Weekly Lenten 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 needed support. We have made the decision to receive an offering each week in support of a variety of worthy charities. This week we will be collecting for **Healing House of Metro Hope Ministries**. A special link for online giving can be found on our website if you are unable to be with us at our Lenten service. Please make checks payable to *St. Mary's*.

April 5-9: Healing House

April 12-16: Coptic Orphans

April 19-23: Philoxenia House in Rochester

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, April 4

• ***“The Messenger” Deadline, May Issue***

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

(Registration requested)

4:00 p.m. – Lenten Vespers, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

For streaming and attendance information visit:

www.meocca.org or our website.

Monday, April 5

6:00 p.m. – Compline *(Registration not requested)*

7:00 p.m. – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom

Tuesday, April 6

7:00 p.m. – Women’s Book Club Discussion, Lecture Room & Zoom

Wednesday, April 7

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession

5:45 p.m. – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts *(Registration requested)*

This Liturgy is live-streamed on our YouTube page.

6:45 p.m. – Junior GOYA in the Great Hall

7:00 p.m. – Holy Confession: Grades 9 and 10

Thursday, April 8

7:00 p.m. – YAL Movie Night, Great Hall & Zoom

Friday, April 9

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession

6:00 p.m. – Salutations to the Theotokos *(Registration not requested)*

Saturday, April 10

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

(Registration requested)

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers *(Registration not requested)*

Sunday, April 11: Saint John Climacus

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

(Registration requested)

4:00 p.m. – Lenten Vespers, St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church

For streaming and attendance information visit:

www.meocca.org or our website.

Lenten Worship Schedule

Mondays in Great Lent

Great Compline – 6:00 p.m. (*Registration not requested*)

Wednesdays in Great Lent

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 5:45 p.m. (*Registration requested*)

Fridays in Great Lent

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

(*Registration not requested*)

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



Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

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

Due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions on in-person gatherings, attendance will be limited at all host churches. The services will be live-streamed. Viewing and possible attendance information will be posted on our website (stmarysgoc.org) and in Fr. George's weekly update e-mail on Fridays. Also, visit the MEOCCA website for additional streaming and attendance information, www.meocca.org

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 - 38th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Philoptochos Membership Drive Ends

The Philoptochos Membership Drive was officially over at the end of March, but you can still join! All gift amounts are welcome, so please consider being a supporter of our charitable work here in our local community, in Orthodox missions, orphanages and monasteries, and nationally and internationally. Give online through the St. Mary's GOC Online Giving portal, leave a check in the Narthex drop-off box, or mail in the form and check sent to all church women back in January. *Thank you!*

Pick Up Your Fillo ~ April 3-4, 10-11

If you ordered fillo from Philoptochos, please plan to pick it up after liturgy this weekend or next! On Saturday and Sunday, April 3-4 and April 10-11, fillo can be retrieved from the exterior door of the classroom that's between the flagpole and main south parking lot door. If you're unable to come, please arrange for someone to pick it up for you. Unlike in the past, no one is allowed to retrieve their fillo from the kitchen refrigerator.

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 Papavasiliou. 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 – both in person and via Zoom. Contact the church office for more information.

YAL Movie Night ~ Thursday, April 8

The Twin Cities YAL group is hosting a movie night on Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. The film, "Ancient and Marvelous: The Life of Father Nicola Yanney" will be viewed and discussed. The movie night takes place at St. Mary's in the Great Hall and on Zoom. If you plan to attend in person, masks are required and social distancing measures will be in place. Contact YAL for Zoom information: twincitiesyal@gmail.com

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). *Thank you!*

Baby Bottle Bank Fundraiser 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, use the Philoptochos option in the Gift Information drop-down and indicate it's for Tandem in the Special Instructions box, or send a check to church payable to Philoptochos with TANDEM on the memo line. **Our goal: \$500.** *Thank you!*

Senior GOYA Retreat ~ Saturday, April 17

GOYAns: Save Saturday, April 17, 1:00-6:00 p.m. for our Senior GOYA Retreat at Church. We will begin in the Great Hall and end with Vespers in the Nave. The theme of the retreat is "Call on Me." There will be a variety of activities from a lesson to minute-to-win-it games! Please eat lunch prior to the retreat. Snacks will be offered, but dinner will not be provided. For questions, contact Jon@stmarysgoc.org. To sign-up, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/SeniorGOYARetreat2021>

Meal at FOCUS Minnesota ~ Sunday, April 18

Philoptochos is preparing another meal for clients of FOCUS Minnesota. As of April 1, we need 3 volunteers to make cheesy potatoes and one to make a green bean casserole. Recipes will be provided. If you can help, please go to the Sign-Up Genius invitation: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C49A8A722AAAF85-dinner1>) or contact chair Carol Smith, 952.210.8618 or smithzcl@gmail.com.

Spanakopita and Tyropita Sale

The Daughters of Penelope are selling spanakopita and tyropita as a fundraiser this month before Pascha. Make your purchase online today and pick up your items on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18, in the south parking lot after Liturgy. Or wait until April 17 and 18 and make an in-person purchase. Available are packages of four pieces for \$8.00 or packages of eight pieces for \$14.00. Place your order online by following the link in Fr. George's weekly update e-mail.

Save the Date – Vacation Church School

Monday-Friday, June 14-18, 2021 • 8:45 am – 12:00 noon
"Put on the Armor of God" • *More information coming soon.*

Lenten Dinner and Talk

Join us for a Lenten dinner and a talk following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays, April 14 and 21.

Our first speaker will be Fr. George Dokos who will speak on the topic of “Psalms for All Seasons.” Archimandrite Sergius, Abbott of St. Tikhon’s Monastery in Pennsylvania, will be our speaker (via Zoom) on Wednesday, April 21. He will speak on the topic of “Acquiring the Mind of Christ,” based on his book of the same name.

Dinner and talk will be capped at 100, and you must sign up ahead of time. The dinner will be plated and served directly to the table, and we will follow all social distancing and Covid guidelines. You will have to exit the church after liturgy and re-enter at the north door of the building for dinner. Only those who have signed up will be allowed into the Great Hall.

A sign up link will be sent to our parishioners closer to these dinners.

Holy Friday Retreat

Walk with Christ to the Cross

Friday, April 30

10:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Vespers of the Descent from the Cross begins at 1:30 p.m.

Pre-K (4 year old) through 12th grade

To register, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HolyFriday2021>

Please join us for an engaging day at Church in which children will learn about Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will have lessons, crafts, lunch, stations in the church, and gym time (to help get the wiggles out...even the big kids).

Social distancing measures will be followed by all participants!

Visit our website for more details.

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Diapers (size 5)

April’s recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES).

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

From the Fathers...on the Holy Cross

They hanged upon a tree Him Who stretches out the earth;
they transfixed Him with nails Who laid firm the foundation of the world;
they circumscribed Him Who circumscribed the heavens;
they bound Him who frees sinners.

—*Saint Alexander of Alexandria*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, April 5

Isaiah 14:24-32 • Genesis 8:21 – 9:7
Proverbs 11:19 – 12:6

Tuesday, April 6

Isaiah 25:1-9 • Genesis 9:8-17
Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday, April 7

Isaiah 26:21 – 27:9 • Genesis 9:18 – 10:1
Proverbs 12:23 – 13:9

Thursday, April 8

Isaiah 28:14-22 • Genesis 10:32 – 11:9
Proverbs 13:19 – 14:6

Friday, April 9

Isaiah 29:13-23 • Genesis 12:1-7
Proverbs 14:15-26

Saturday, April 10

Hebrews 6:9-12 • Mark 7:31-37

Sunday, April 11: Saint John Climacus

Hebrews 6:13-20 • Mark 9:17-31

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