

SAINT MARY'S  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

*The Weekend of February 27/28, 2021*

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***Saturday, February 27, 2021***

***Commemoration:*** Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis; Raphael of Brooklyn; Stephen the Monk; Gelasios the Actor and Martyr of Heliopolis; Nesios the Martyr.

***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 Saints, above.*

***Another Hymn, Plagal Fourth Tone***

Remember Your servants, O Lord, since You are good, and forgive them for all their sins in life; for no one is without sin except for You who are able to give rest to those who have passed away.

***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..... I Timothy 6:11-16***

Timothy, my son, aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, and King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

***Gospel..... Luke 20:46 – 21:4***

The Lord said to his disciples, “Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and love salutations in the market places and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had.” Having said this, he proclaimed, “He who has ears let him hear.”

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

***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, February 28, 2021

**Commemoration:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Righteous John Cassian the Confessor; Basil the Confessor; Kyranna the New Martyr of Thessaloniki.

*Morning Gospel: Fifth*

*Tone: Plagal First*

## **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**

#### **Resurrection Hymn, Plagal First Tone**

To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For he willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

#### **Entrance Hymn**

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

*Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above.*

#### **Hymn of the 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 Prodigal Son, Third Tone**

From my Father's glory I have foolishly turned away. By my sins I squandered all the riches He gave me. Therefore like the prodigal I cry out to Him: I have sinned before You, compassionate Father. Accept my repentance, and take me back again as one of Your hired servants.

**Epistle**..... *I Corinthians 6:12-20*

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God

will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

**Gospel**..... *Luke 15:11-32*

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what

this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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

***Stewardship Prayer***

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

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



**Memorial Prayers** on Sunday are offered for: **John DeMoss** (40 days); **Pauline Youtsos** (40 days).



Fr. George is out of town this week, March 1-6. Fr. Jason will be handling any pastoral concerns that may arise during this week.

# Calendar of the Week

## ***Monday, March 1***

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

## ***Wednesday, March 3***

6:00 p.m. – Small Blessing of Water (*Registration not requested*)

6:45 p.m. – Junior GOYA, Great Hall

## ***Thursday, March 4: Saint Gerasimos of the Jordan***

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

(*Registration not requested*)

## ***Friday, March 5***

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship, Lecture Room and on Zoom

## ***Saturday, March 6: First Saturday of Souls***

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

(*Registration requested*)

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

## ***Sunday, March 7: Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)***

### **• “The Messenger” news item deadline, April issue**

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

(*Registration requested*)

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***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; Cleo, 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, Thespina, Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Samir and Samira, Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Sophia, George, Rick, Bryn, Phil, Karen, Phil, Marnie and family; Joyce, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, Elpis Fotini, Dina, Landon, Luke, Aemiliane, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Brittany, Amy, Shinia, Chelsea, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Slibe, Saleh & Deanna, Kristine, 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.



## **Virtual Bible Study**

Virtual Bible Study meets *weekly* on Monday evenings, Fr. John Kostas is leading the discussions. In preparation for Lent and Holy Week, the discussions will focus on Holy Week according to Matthew's Gospel. We meet on-line via Zoom from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** The link can be found on our website. Zoom meeting ID: 838 4110 4908 and Passcode: 660926 (use for Zoom and phone meetings).

## **Men's Fellowship**

Men's Fellowship will meet this Friday, March 5, 7:00 a.m., in-person in the Lecture Room and on Zoom. A Zoom link will also be sent later this week. The group will continue the reading of Exodus.

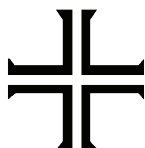
## **Annual Philoptochos Membership Drive Is Underway**

By now, all women of the parish should have received a letter inviting them to join Philoptochos. Please consider mailing in your tax-deductible membership gift (you choose the amount) to support the good works of the St. Mary's chapter. All levels of giving and volunteering are welcome and valued. Associate memberships are open to men who want to support our charitable work, too. Membership information and a drop box are also in the Narthex.

## **Women's Book Club Discussion**

*Tuesday, April 6*

The next book the group will discuss is: "Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life" by Vassilios Papavassiliou. Copies are now available in the Church Office for \$19.00.



## **Food Shelf Needs for Next Week**

*Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat®*

*February's recipient has been Simpson Food Pantry.*

*March's recipient will be FOCUS House.*

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

# **Saint Mary's Bookstore Open for Lenten Shopping**

In preparation for Great Lent our Bookstore will be opening to allow parishioners to come and purchase books and other items to assist with Lenten efforts. In addition to these dates and times, our Bookstore Manager, Rebecca Myerly, remains available to assist you with special orders and requests.

Monday, March 8 — 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11 — 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

You must register in advance to visit the Bookstore in person. Please contact the church office or click on the link provided in the Weekly Parish Update emailed each Friday afternoon to select a day and time which works for you.

To allow as many people as possible to come to the Bookstore the following guidelines have been established:

- A maximum of two customers in the bookstore at a time.
- Limit your browsing to 15 minutes so others will have an opportunity to shop.
- Follow all COVID-19 protocols, including wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and sanitizing your hands upon entry.

We hope to provide additional opportunities for our parishioners to support the St. Mary's Bookstore.

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The Bookstore now has an e-mail address for you to place your orders or inquire about inventory! Contact the Bookstore staff directly on: [bookstore@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:bookstore@stmarysgoc.org)

## **FOCUS House Needs**

FOCUS House is in need of winter clothing items, especially for men, especially boots. Also of need are men's belts and new underwear and socks for both men and women.

Please bring your donations to the church hallway or take them to FOCUS House on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. The address is 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, and the phone number is 651.324.2705.

*Matushka Vera Proctor is the Director of FOCUS House.*

## **Youth Lenten Retreat**

***~ Saturday, March 13 ~***

St. Mary's and St. George are hosting a Lenten Retreat, sponsored by the Metropolis of Chicago's Fanari Camp, on Saturday, March 13! This regional retreat is for 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and will have seven satellite locations throughout the Metropolis each with a capacity of 25 campers per site (subject to change due to COVID-19). The retreat will be the same format and experience in all locations and will run from 2:00-8:00 p.m. The location for the Twin Cities region is St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The cost is \$30/child, but we will reimburse you \$15/child following the retreat. Dinner, snacks and a T-shirt are included! To register, visit: <https://www.fanari.camp/retreat>. The registration deadline is Friday, March 5.

## **St. Mary's Summer Camp Is Back!**

***~ July 3-July 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!

## **From the Fathers...on Repentance**

The compassionate God still calls to Himself all that have turned away,  
and He awaits them and promises them mercy.

—*Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, "Journey to Heaven"*

### **Daily Bible Readings**

#### ***Monday, March 1***

I John 2:18 – 3:8 • Mark 11:1-11

#### ***Tuesday, March 2***

I John 3:9-22 • Mark 14:10-42

#### ***Wednesday, March 3***

I John 3:21 – 4:11 • Mark 14:43 – 15:1

#### ***Thursday, March 4***

I John 4:20 – 5:21 • Mark 15:1-15

#### ***Friday, March 5***

II John 1:1-13 • Mark 15:20, 22, 25, 33-41

#### ***Saturday, March 6***

#### ***First Saturday of Souls***

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 • Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

#### ***Sunday, March 7***

#### ***Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)***

I Corinthians 8:8 – 9:2 • Matthew 25:31-46

#### ***Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church***

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