

SAINT MARY'S  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

*The Weekend of March 27/28, 2021*

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***Saturday, March 27, 2021***

***Commemoration:*** Second Saturday of Great Lent; The Holy Matrona of Thessalonica; Paul, Bishop of Corinth.

***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 Day, 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 for the Deceased, 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.....Hebrews 3:12-16***

Brethren, take care lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end, while it is said, “Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” Who were they that heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses?

***Gospel.....Mark 1:35-44***

At that time, Jesus went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him pursued him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. And a leper came to him beseeching him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And he sternly charged him, and sent him away at once, and said to him, “See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to a priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

***The Communion Prayers are found on page 4 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.*

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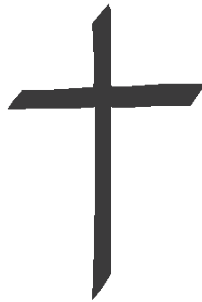
**Memorial Prayers** on Saturday are offered for:

**Georgia Papagiannopoulos** (1 year)

**John (Ioannis)** (6 years) & **Katerena Karmalis** (5 years)

(parents of Demetra Kordopitoulas)

**Demetrios Papagiannopoulos** (husband of Georgia).



## 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, March 28, 2021***

***Commemoration:*** Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas; Hilarion the New; Herodion the Apostle of the 70; Stephen the Wonderworker.

*Morning Gospel: Ninth*

*Tone: 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, First Tone***

Although your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, you rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise you: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom. Glory to your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

#### ***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 Saint Gregory Palamas, Plagal Fourth Tone***

Beacon of Orthodox belief, the strong support of the Church and her teacher inspired by God, you are the ornament of monks, the unassailable champion of theologians, O Gregory the Wonder-worker and the boast of Thessalonica, the messenger of grace. Forever earnestly entreat for the salvation of our souls.

#### ***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.

***Epistle..... Hebrews 1:10 – 2:3***

“In the Beginning, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end.” But to what angel has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?” Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

***Gospel..... Mark 2:1-12***

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority

on earth to forgive sins”-he said to the paralytic-”I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

***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 4 of this leaflet or inside the front cover of the hymnal.***

***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.*

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**Memorial Prayers** on Sunday are offered for:

***Angie (40 days) & Harry (1 year) Spell***

# Calendar of the Week

## ***Sunday, March 28***

1:00 p.m. – Mission and Outreach (Zoom)

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

*For streaming information: [www.meocca.org](http://www.meocca.org) or our website.*

## ***Monday, March 29***

6:00 p.m. – Compline

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

## ***Wednesday, March 31***

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. – Senior GOYA in the Great Hall

7:00 p.m. – Holy Confession: Grades 3 and 4

## ***Friday, April 2***

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

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession

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

## ***Saturday, April 3***

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

*(Registration requested)*

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

## ***Sunday, April 4: Sunday of the Holy Cross***

### ***• “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 information: [www.meocca.org](http://www.meocca.org) or our website.*



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.

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## 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.

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## 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 **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**. 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*.

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

# 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](http://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](http://www.meocca.org)

### ***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 - 38th Avenue South, Minneapolis

## **Philoptochos Membership Drive Ends Soon!**

The Philoptochos Membership Drive is officially over at the end of March, so get yourself joined if you haven't already! 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!*

## **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.

## **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](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.** *Thank you!*

## **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).

### **Ongoing: Quilt Tops for People in Need**

Philoptochos continues to create quilts for people in need. We will be distributing a portion of them locally with the rest blanketing the world via Lutheran World Relief. How can you participate? Two bins have been placed in the main south entry of St. Mary's, one for contactless kit pick-up and the other for drop off of your donations.

1. If you sew, 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, heavy tablecloths, and draperies. The quilters of Gethsemene Lutheran Church in Hopkins will use them for filling and backing the quilts.

### **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 18 and 19, in the south parking lot after Liturgy. Or wait until April 18 and 19 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.

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

*Canned soup or vegetables*

*March's recipient has been FOCUS Minnesota.*

*April's recipient will be Community Emergency Service (CES).*

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

## From the Fathers...on Prayer

Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen. No, no; every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer.

—*Saint Gregory Palamas*

### Daily Bible Readings

#### *Monday, March 29*

Isaiah 8:13-9:7 • Genesis 6:9-22 • Proverbs 8:1-21

#### *Tuesday, March 30*

Isaiah 9:9-10:4 • Genesis 7:1-5 • Proverbs 8:32 – 9:11

#### *Wednesday, March 31*

Isaiah 10:12-20 • Genesis 7:6-9 • Proverbs 9:12-18

#### *Thursday, April 1*

Isaiah 11:10 – 12:2 • Genesis 7:11-8:3 • Proverbs 10:1-22

#### *Friday, April 2*

Isaiah 13:2-13 • Genesis 8:4-21 • Proverbs 10:31 – 11:12

#### *Saturday, April 3*

Hebrews 10:32-38 • Mark 2:14-17

#### *Sunday, April 4*

#### *Sunday of the Holy Cross*

Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6 • Mark 8:34 – 9:1

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

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*Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina*