

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, November 21, 2021

The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

The Divine Liturgy

*Although optional, masks are strongly recommended
to be worn while indoors. Thank you for your understanding.*

Commemoration: The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Morning Gospel: Tenth

Tone: Fourth

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 Entrance of the Theotokos, Fourth Tone

The joyful news of your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with his great mercy.

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, 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.

Repeat the Hymn of the Entrance of the Theotokos, above

Kontakion of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple,

Fourth Tone

Behold the temple of the Savior, his precious bridal chamber. Behold the virginal and sacred vessel of God's glory. Today she enters into the house of the Lord, bearing within her the grace of the Holy Spirit. For this, the angels exclaim: She is indeed the heavenly tabernacle.

Epistle.....*Hebrews 9:1-7*

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Gospel.....*Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28*

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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

Communion Hymn

I will lift the cup, lift the cup of salvation, I will lift the cup of salvation, I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

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.



Prosforo: Giannoula Bakritzis



Sacraments This Week

Baptism—

Kyra, parents: David and Jenna George, November 20, 2021

Marriage—

Greg Houck to Jenny Martel, November 21, 2021

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.

Prayer List Update

We encourage all to take a look at the prayer list below. If there are names that no longer need to be on it, please let the office know. Many names have been on for a considerable time. Thank you for helping to keep our prayer list current.

Prayer List

Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: The family of Stella Boosalis; 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; 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; Bethany, Mark, Owen, Chrysanthy, Estelle, Justine, Melissa, Megan, Dallas, Roy, Lenzie, Lisa, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Helen, Theodora, Mary, Irene Maria, Marion, Apostolos, Olivia, Lincoln, Joan, Carole, Patty, Archimandrite Dionysios, Karrisa, Corina, Tom, George R., Ken, Presvytera Tulla Poteres, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Lamona, Bo, Tom, Lynn, Deb, Sarah, Maia, Jeanette, Travis, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, Quinn, Annie, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Rifka, Pat, Nancy, Dave, Pam, Gilbert, George P., Barbara, Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Samir and Samira, Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Sophia, George, Rick, Bryn, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, Phil, Joyce, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, Elpis Fotini, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Amy, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Kristine, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.



Saint Mary's Giving Report

~ 2021 Offering Income ~

2021 Year to Date Actual: \$853,458

Annual 2021 Offering Budget: \$1,069,625

Amount remaining to meet budget: \$216,167

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, November 21: The Entrance of the Theotokos

- 8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; Church School after Liturgy – Parish Council Elections
- after Liturgy – Daughters of Penelope Bake Sale
- 11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach Committee, Terrace Room
- 11:45 a.m. – Church School Teachers' Meeting, Lecture Room
- 12:30 p.m. – Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Tuesday, November 23

- 3:00 p.m. – Service Project, Terrace Room
- 7:00 p.m. – Philoptochos Meeting, Terrace Room

Wednesday, November 24: Saint Katherine (observed)

- 10:30 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer, location TBA
- 11:00 a.m. – Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy

Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Day

Church and Office Closed

Friday, November 26

Office Closed

Saturday, November 27

- No Saturday Bible Study*
- 5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 28: Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

- 8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- No Church School*

Fr. George will be out of the office November 22-December 4 due to his move to Chicago.



Scan the QR code to give through Venmo.

Announcements

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections will take place today in the Great Hall after the dismissal from Liturgy. All members in good standing are encouraged to vote. Parishioners running for office are: Jessica Buss, Sam Hanna, Lani McCollar, Christopher Menke, Cristina Nicklow, Jeanne Possis, and Dean Psychogios. Additional brochures with the candidates' biographical information are available at the election site.

~ Year-End Giving ~

As we approach the end of both our calendar and fiscal year, it is important that we correctly record all stewardship gifts. Every dollar we receive **before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28**, will be recorded and reflected on your year-end Contribution Statement, and matched against your yearly pledge, as stewardship income for 2021. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for 2022.

Bookstore News

If you would like to special order an icon from the bookstore for Christmas gift giving, please have your request in by **today**. There have been many and significant changes relating to icon vendors. As a result, getting special order icons could take several weeks during this busy season. Therefore, the bookstore will not be taking special icon orders for Christmas gift giving after the date above. Thank you for your understanding in this regard.

Daughters of Penelope Holiday Bake Sale

The annual Daughters of Penelope Holiday Bake Sale takes place after Liturgy this morning. Come and stock up on a variety of gourmet treats for the upcoming holidays. Thank you for your support.

Summer Camp Staff Applications Due

By God's grace, Summer Camp 2022 will be held July 2-8, 2022, at Camp Wapo and we are now accepting applications for Camp staff! Please prayerfully consider this amazing ministry. Summer Camp staff applications are due November 30, 2021. Questions? Please contact Doria via e-mail or phone, 612.825.9595. To apply for the Summer Camp staff, go to <http://youth.stmarysgoc.org/> and follow the steps. If you need assistance, please contact Jon or Doria in the Church Office.

Save the Dates

Sunday, December 12

Farewell Luncheon Honoring Fr. George

Please join the Parish Council and Church Staff as we honor Fr. George for his dedicated service to St. Mary's. Following Liturgy on Sunday, December 12, we encourage everyone to join us for a festal meal. In just over seven years, Fr. George has impacted each of our lives and been a loving and faithful presence. We will miss him and his family and wish them continued joy as he begins his service at Holy Apostles in Westchester, Illinois. To ensure we have enough room for everyone, please RSVP via Sign Up Genius (in e-mail communications) or contact the Church Office to let us know you plan to attend.

Tuesday, December 14

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Kick-off the Christmas season with the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 14, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. We'll begin with a social time complete with appetizers, punch, and wine. Our lunch menu will be salad, garithes with manestra (shrimp with manestra in a special tomato sauce), a special Christmas dessert, and coffee. We will be entertained by our own Elena Biessener. She will perform holiday favorites and other delights. Our afternoon will conclude with Bingo, complete with prizes. Tickets are \$10.00 for Senior Citizens' Club members and \$35.00 for non-members and available today during coffee hour. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, December 12.

February 4-6, 2022

Basketball Tournament in Minneapolis!

Mark your calendars! The Western Region Family Basketball Tournament will be hosted by St. Mary's the weekend of February 4-6, 2022! Be on the lookout for communications from our parish for volunteer opportunities for the weekend.

For more information, visit: www.greekbball.com.

Our co-chairs are Georgia Andron, Lou Pappas, and Jon Klein.

Philoptochos News

Bake Sale and Boutique

Orders are being accepted today for pastries and other items for pick-up at the Greek Bake Sale and Boutique on December 4 and 5, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. You can order the items below (or in larger quantities) as well as 750 ml bottles of extra virgin olive oil – early harvest, cold extraction, <.3% acidity -- from Messinia, Greece. Cost is \$25/bottle. Pre-orders must be paid in advance. Cash, checks, and (hopefully) credit cards will be accepted.

- Baklava and Chocolate Baklava: 4-packs for \$8 and 8-packs for \$15
- Kourambiethes: 4-packs for \$4 and 8-packs for \$8
- Come Sit at Our Table Cookbook: \$20 (proceeds benefit FOCUS MN)

At the Bake Sale table or Philoptochos table in the social hour on Sunday, you can also sign up to help with Bake Sale packaging (November 30, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) or sales on December 4-5. You can also volunteer through Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c49a8a722aaf85-bake>.

Christmas Gifts for Healing House Kids

Stop by the Philoptochos table today to get a name of a child who needs a toy this Christmas. *Thank you for your support of Healing House.*

Local Hands-On Service Day and Philoptochos Meeting

Tuesday, November 23

12:00 noon-7:00 p.m. – The Terrace Room will be set up with projects for local use, including sewing pillow cases and nighties for shelters, walker bags for the VA, and finishing Days for Girls kits. There are many non-sewing jobs, too. (If you want to sew, please bring a machine or serger.) Come for an hour or stay the day. No RSVP needed.

7:00-8:00 p.m. – The November Philoptochos Meeting will follow the service projects. All members are welcome!

Women's Book Club Discussion in December

The Women's Book Club is reading "Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church" by Archimandrite Sergius. Books can be purchased in the church book store or office. The discussion will be Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., at the Kalina home.

You Can Help!

FOCUS Minnesota Needs

As winter approaches, the need for warm clothing increases. FOCUS Minnesota is in need of a number of items for their clients. Those items that are most needed are:

- Mittens and gloves for men, women, and children
- Kids clothing, especially sizes 2T-5
- Men's underwear – all kinds though it seems that clients prefer boxers or boxer briefs.
- Men's clothing and shoes including large sizes like XX and XXX

Donations may be placed at the display in the hallway leading to the Church Office.

Harvest Pack Is Back ~ Sunday, December 5



Let's join together in the Terrace Room on Sunday, December 5, after Liturgy, to pack 21,000 nutritious meals for those suffering from food insecurity.

Harvest Pack estimates that 1 in 9 people now experiences food insecurity, with a 60% increase in clients served at food shelves in 2021. Also, the meals will be gone within a month, and, at times, gone

within the week that they are packed.

St. Mary's has packed 89,360 meals during our previous four packing events in 2019 and 2020. What a blessing to those with food insecurity! With your help, we will have packed more than 100,000 meals after our December event.

You will make a big difference and get a great feeling by helping pack meals this December 5, after Liturgy. Pizza will be provided for lunch so that no one has to go off-site to eat before packing the meals. See your photo in the Harvest Pack video on St. Mary's Facebook page, and while you're there, click on "SignUp" (or go to this site: <https://sugeni.us/WuXC>) and register. *We look forward to seeing you this December 5!*

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

On-going needs are: applesauce or fruit cups (much needed for lunch bags); pouch of mashed potatoes mix; granola bars; canned fruit; oat-meal in small pouches; saltine crackers; small bags of sugar or flour.

November's recipient is FOCUS Minnesota.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, also called The Presentation, is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on November 21. Among those Orthodox Christians who use the “Old” (Julian) calendar as their Church calendar, the date of this feast corresponds to December 4 in the secular calendar.



According to Tradition, the Theotokos was taken – presented – by her parents Joachim and Anna into the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem as a young girl, where she lived and served as a Temple virgin until her betrothal to St. Joseph. One of the earliest sources of this tradition is the non-canonical Protoevangelion of James, also called the Infancy Gospel of James.

Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to become herself the “holy of holies” of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her. The Church also sees this feast as a feast which marks the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God.

Sometimes Matins is served on the morning of the feast. The Gospel reading is from Luke 1:39-49, 56. It is read on all feasts of the Theotokos and includes the Theotokos’ saying: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”

Divine Liturgy is served on the day on the feast. The Epistle reading is from Hebrews 9:1-7, and speaks of the tabernacle of the old covenant. The Gospel reading is taken from Luke 10:38-42 and 11:27-28 together; this reading is also read on all feasts of the Theotokos. In it, the Lord says, “blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

From the Fathers...on the Theotokos

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) ... thus was the knot of Eve’s disobedience loosed by the obedience of Mary...As the human race fell into bondage to death by means of a virgin, so it is rescued by a virgin.

—*Saint Irenaeus of Lyons*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, November 22

Philemon 1:1-25 • Luke 17:20-25

Tuesday, November 23

I Thessalonians 1:6-10 • Luke 17:26-37; 18:8

Wednesday, November 24

Philippians 3:20 – 4:3 • Luke 18:15-17, 26-30

Thursday, November 25

Saint Katherine, Great-Martyr of Alexandria

Galatians 3:23 – 4:5 • Mark 5:24-34

Friday, November 26

I Thessalonians 2:14-20 • Luke 19:12-28

Saturday, November 27

II Corinthians 8:1-5 • Luke 10:19-21

Sunday, November 28

Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Ephesians 2:4-10 • Luke 18:18-27

Saint Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church

3450 Irving Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408-3399

Telephone: 612.825.9595 • Facsimile: 612.825.9283

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysgoc

Fr. George Dokos, Proistamenos; Fr. Jason Houck, Associate

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina