

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Tenth Sunday of Luke; Saint Savas

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Tenth Sunday of Luke; Savas the Sanctified; Holy Martyr Diogenes; Philotheos the Righteous of Mount Athos; Nektarios the Bulgarian.

Morning Gospel: Second

Tone: Grave

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, Grave Tone

By your cross, O Lord, you destroyed death; to the thief you opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers' sorrow you transformed into joy, and you sent your apostles forth to proclaim that you had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world your great mercy.

Hymn of Entrance

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 Savas, Plagal Fourth Tone

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Savas, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, 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 Preparation for the Birth of Christ. Third Tone

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, Oh universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify him who by his will shall become a new-born babe and who is our God before all ages.

Epistle..... Galatians 5:22 – 6:2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel..... Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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.

Prosforo: Ruta Kubits

Memorial Prayers today are offered for: **Bill K. Nicklow (1 year); William & Catherine Poulos, John Poulos, Peter Poulos; Anthony, Chrisoula, Cleo, and Beth; Iakovos Iakovou, Philoxenia Andrea.**

The coffee hour today is hosted by the family of Bill K. Nicklow in his memory.

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; 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; Dreux, Monte, 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, Karris, 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, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

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.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 5: Tenth Sunday of Luke

• *“The Messenger” News Item Deadline ~ January 2022 Issue*

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

Saint Nicholas Procession during Liturgy

Church School

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Greek Bake Sale and Boutique, Flagpole Entrance

11:30 a.m. – Harvest Pack, Terrace Room

12:45 p.m. – Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

2:00 p.m. – Boys’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Monday, December 6: Saint Nicholas

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

Tuesday, December 7

6:00 p.m. – Open Gym, Great Hall

7:00 p.m. – Women’s Book Club, **Lecture Room** (*enter at flagpole*)

Wednesday, December 8

10:30 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer, Nave

11:00 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study, Fireside Room

6:15 p.m. – Senior GOYA Christmas Party, Great Hall

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Thursday, December 9: Conception of the Theotokos

6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 11

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Lecture Room

1:00 p.m. – HOPE/JOY Outing

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 12: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

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

after Liturgy – Luncheon honoring the Dokos family

(reservations asked)

Saint Mary’s Giving Report

~ 2021 Offering Income ~

2021 Year to Date Actual: \$886,355

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

Amount remaining to meet stewardship goal: \$183,270

Announcements

AN URGENT REQUEST!

From time to time we receive donations through investment companies and are noted as an offering or stewardship contribution. All too often no donor information is provided. If you are making a donation through your investment company, PLEASE notify the church office of the transaction so we can be on the lookout and give you proper credit. Last month alone we received two generous checks without a donor's name!

~ 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.

Christmas Card and Decorations

Today is the deadline to be included in the parish Christmas card. Additional forms and envelopes are located by the drop box in the narthex. Donations toward our Christmas decorations can be made through Sunday, December 19.

Church School Christmas Program

The annual Church School Christmas Program will take place immediately following Liturgy on Sunday, December 19. Don't miss this annual tradition, the students have been busy preparing a program for all to enjoy!

Holiday Office Closures

The office will be closed for the Christmas holiday on the following days: Thursday, December 23, the office will close at 12:00 noon and remain closed on Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27. The office will be open 8:30 a.m-4:30 p.m. on December 31, New Year's Eve.

Our Church – Our Spiritual Home

2022 Stewardship Campaign

Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Packets have been mailed to our members' homes. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to share with St. Mary's in 2022. We thank you for your generosity.

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 next 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

Greek Bake Sale and Boutique This Weekend!

Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5 – 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Come to the Lecture Hall to stock up on delicious Greek treats, find a hostess gift, search through jewelry, purchase Greek-themed items, and find a special gift or something for yourself. Items for purchase include Classic and Chocolate Baklava, Kourambiethes, Greek EV Olive Oil, Jewelry, Apparel, Cookbooks, Hand Towels, and Fun Surprises!

This event is a small substitute for the Festival bake sale and boutique. Please invite your friends and family as we support the church and our philanthropic work!

Order Vasilopita for Christmas or New Year's Day

Pre-order delicious Vasilopita (Sweet Bread) for your Christmas or New Year's celebration by stopping at the Philoptochos table on Sundays through December 12. Loaves are \$15 each with payment requested at the time of your order. You can pick up your bread on Sunday, December 19. It will be frozen and will include thawing and powdering instructions. Each loaf will have a coin baked inside. A limited number of additional loaves will be available for purchase on Vasilopita Sunday, January 9, 2022.

Christmas Day Reception

Philoptochos is providing cookies for the December 25 social hour and is looking for two or three individuals or families to serve as hosts. This role includes plating cookies, serving coffee, and cleaning up at the conclusion of the gathering. If you can help, please stop by our table on Sunday or contact *Annette* at MplsPhilo@gmail.com or 952.239.5060.

Women's Book Club Discussion

Tuesday, December 7

The Women's Book Club Discussion on Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., at church (Lecture Room). The book "Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church" by Archimandrite Sergius can be purchased in the church book store or office. Dinner will be potluck, please bring a Lenten dish to share.

Conception of the Theotokos

The Conception of the Theotokos by Saint Anna is commemorated by the Orthodox Church on December 9. St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. For many years, St. Anna was childless and the couple suffered much reproach for her barrenness. When they were in Jerusalem to offer sacrifice to God, the High Priest, Issachar, upbraided Joachim, "You are not worthy to offer sacrifice with those childless hands." Both spouses gave themselves to fervent prayer, and the Archangel Gabriel announced to them separately that they would be the parents of a daughter who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching of the Immaculate Conception, but has also always believed that the Virgin Mary was, from her conception, filled with every grace of the Holy Spirit in view of her calling as the Mother of Christ our God.

The Church also celebrates other saints who were sanctified in the womb of their mothers. St. John the Baptist is one example; St. Nicholas the Wonderworker is another.

The feast is not exactly nine months before the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8) as it is in the West, but one day later. Many have taught this is to show that God alone is perfect.

Reprinted from Orthodoxwiki.

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Diapers (size 5)

December's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES).

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

From the Fathers...on Labor

The bee is more honored than other animals,
not because she labors, but because she labors for others.

—*Saint Augustine*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 6

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

Hebrews 13:17-21 • Luke 6:17-23

Tuesday, December 7

II Thessalonians 1:10 – 2:2 • Luke 21:12-19

Wednesday, December 8

II Thessalonians 2:1-12 • Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday, December 9

Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos

Galatians 4:22-27 • Luke 8:16-21

Friday, December 10

II Thessalonians 3:6-18 • Luke 21:37 – 22:8

Saturday, December 11

Galatians 1:3-10 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 12

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

Ephesians 5:8-19 • Luke 14:16-24

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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