



February 2, 2020

Welcome

Whether you have been worshipping with us for years or this is your first time, welcome. You bless us with your presence here today. If you have any questions about our ministry at St. Mary's Church or about the church in general, please stop by the Welcome and Information Table in the Great Hall. If you are visiting and have time to wait until everyone is dismissed, Fr. George or any of our clergy would be honored to take a few minutes to greet you personally. Greeting you at the table this morning is Cheryl Dragotis.

Stewardship 2020

If you have filled out and returned your 2020 Stewardship Financial Commitment card, thank you! If not, please take a moment today to do it. For your convenience, we have inserted one in today's bulletin. When you have filled it out, you may slip it in the Stewardship box in the narthex.

House Blessings

During January and February, Fr. George and Fr. Jason will be dedicating time each week for house blessings. They look forward to seeing as many parishioners as will allow them to visit! To schedule a blessing, please send an e-mail request to: stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org or call the Office, 612.825.9595.

Godparent Sunday ~ Today

Today is Godparent Sunday. We hope you invited your godparents to sit with you in Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together. If your godchild is of school age you are invited to join them in their Church School class after communion. We also have an area in the hallway outside the Great Hall to take your picture together.

Senior Citizens' Valentine Social ~ Tuesday, February 11

The Senior Citizens Club is having a Valentine Social on Tuesday, February 11, at 12:00 noon, in the Terrace Room. Please join us for fun, conversation, and food. Feel free to bring an appetizer to share. If you don't bring an appetizer - come anyway. We will also play Bingo. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Something Special in Today's Social Hour

It's Sweet Sunday today! Philoptochos is holding its annual fundraiser by hosting the social hour. In return, we are requesting your freewill donations to support the Assistance League's Sexual Assault Kits, which are used in all Twin Cities hospitals. Thank you for your generosity! (Cash or checks payable to Philoptochos are welcome.)

Additionally, it is the start of the annual Philoptochos Membership Drive. Women and men, either Orthodox or married to Orthodox people, can be members or associates. Become a friend of the poor and join us! Dues amount is determined by you, knowing the first \$22 goes to Metropolis and National Philoptochos programs. Stop by the membership table on your way to the sweets!

Winter "Parea" Potluck Dinners

In the spirit of continued in-reach, the Winter "Parea" Potlucks are taking place in February. The purpose of the potluck gatherings is simply fun and fellowship. This is a continuation of the Stewardship Committee's goal of creating more opportunities for connection among members.

If you are interested in attending one of the potluck dinners, a sign-up table is in the Great Hall today following the Liturgy. Seven parishioner families have volunteered to host the potlucks in their homes. Locations are throughout the city and scheduled for dates throughout the month of February. If you are interested in attending one of the dinners, please stop by the table and sign-up today!

Orthodox Game League ~ February 22

Adults (age 18yr+) here's your chance to enjoy time with each other and play games. Do you want to learn a new game? Play a classic? Teach a game? Then this is for you! Our next game night is Saturday, February 22, 7:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. Bring a munchie or desert to share. Any questions, call Nikki Beauchamp, 612.910.2943. *Please enter the building at the south door of the south parking lot by the flagpole.*

Greek Independence Day Program

Plans are underway for a Greek Independence Day program and luncheon sponsored by AHEPA on Sunday, March 22, 2020, in the Great Hall after Liturgy. We are looking for children to participate with Greek poems/short stories or a song referencing Greek Independence Day or inspired by Greek culture. To sign your child up for this event or for further information, please contact Nicole Brilakis by February 15 at Nicole.brilakis@gmail.com or 707.803.1902.

Winter General Assembly

Sunday, February 23

The Winter General Assembly, Budget Approval, will take place on Sunday, February 23, 11:30 a.m., in the Great Hall. Copies of the budget and the agenda will be available soon.

2020 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

It's time for our youth to use their voices (and their pens and paint brushes)! Our 2020 Oratorical Festival will be held Sunday, March 15, and we hope to have great participation from our parish youth in one of a number of categories: Speech, Essay, Iconography, Poetry and Vocal Solo for both Jr Division (7-9th grade) and Senior Division (10-12th grade). The topics are available on the Metropolis of Chicago website at Chicago.www.goarch.org/oratorical-festival and Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina will be handing out the speaking topics in Church School. The Metropolis Festival will be held on Saturday, April 25, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview, Illinois. If you have any questions, contact Dka. Alexandria or the church office.

Icon Class Sessions

Session 2 will be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Thursdays, February 20, 27, March 12, 19, and 26; 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Tuition including materials is \$165.00

Session 2 will study the icon "Myrrhbearing Women at the Empty Tomb of Christ."

Session 3 will be held at The Basilica of Saint Mary in downtown Minneapolis.

Saturdays during Great Lent: March 14, 21, 28, and April 4
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Tuition including materials is \$295.00

Session 3 will contemplate the sacrament of repentance and will study and write the icon "Mary the Undoer of Knots."

Please register by sending a \$75.00 deposit to Icon Art Studios, Inc., 13921 - 127th Street No., Stillwater, MN 55082, or call Deb Korluka, 612.889.5868.

Additional Photo Sessions

Did the weather prevent you from having your directory photo taken? Were you out of town when the photographers were at St. Mary's? You now have a second chance to get your photo taken and be a part of our 2020 parish photo directory. Photography sessions have been scheduled for Friday, March 20, 1:00-8:50 p.m., and Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.-3:50 p.m. Please call the Church Office to schedule an appointment.

Bible Study for Young Women in Their 20-30s

This Bible study meets twice a year: a 6-week session in the fall and a 6-week session in the spring. Our next study begins Tuesday, March 10, ending Tuesday, May 19. The topic of study is the biblical basis of the twelve articles of the Nicene Creed. Our sources are primarily Holy Scripture and the book, "Orthodoxy: A Creed for Today" by Anthony M. Coniaris. One article is covered each session. We meet every other Tuesday evening at 7:15 p.m. and conclude by 8:45 at the Christopulos home: 5312 Highwood Drive West, Edina 55436. If you are interested in joining, please contact Patty Christopulos at patty@light-n-life.com or 952.200.9566

Bible Study for Young Men of the Same Age Group

The same study for young men is also held within similar dates at the Christopulos home. The men meet on a different evening, typically Thursday evenings. Young men interested in learning more and/or attending, please contact Dan Christopulos at dchristopulos@ioccc.org or 612.308.5407.

Metropolis of Chicago Servant Leadership Award

Requesting BRONZE CROSS Nominations

The purpose of the Metropolis of Chicago Servant Leadership Award is to honor lay stewards from within the Metropolis who have demonstrated exceptional and innovative servant leadership and in so doing, inspire others to get involved in the life of the Church.

The Parish Awards

- Each parish from within the Metropolis shall select one lay steward who demonstrates the qualities of Service, Leadership, and Innovation to receive the Bronze Cross of the Metropolis.
- The criteria for receiving the Metropolis Bronze Cross are as follows:
 - > Outstanding service within the parish and/or in the greater community
 - > Exceptional leadership qualities
 - > Innovative manner of service
 - > Recipients must be stewards (or children of stewards) in good standing of the parish

Please email the nomination to Dean.murdakes@comcast.net by February 8, 2020. The Parish Council will review nominations at the February 11 monthly meeting.

The Metropolis Servant Leadership Awards Dinner will take place May 1, 2020. The Bronze Cross and plaques from the Metropolitan will be officially bestowed at the Dinner.

YAL (Young Adult League)

We are blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago lead a “Round Table with the Met” event on Friday, February 7, 9:00 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Bloomington, 3200 East 81st Street in Bloomington. This will be in conjunction with the Western Region Basketball Tournament hosted by St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul. At this event we will have a chance to meet young adults from neighboring states who are participating in the basketball tournament. Following the event there will be ample time for fellowship! Light food and drinks will be provided.

A Pan-Orthodox young adult conference will be held in Chicago February 14-17. Visit www.yalchicago.com for more information and registration.

Discover OCF

Calling all high school juniors and seniors! The college students at the University of Minnesota want to meet YOU and share all about the Orthodox opportunities in college! High school students are invited to join the OCF folks at The U on Friday, February 28, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Bruininks Hall on East Bank Campus. Dinner will be provided. RSVP to z.umn.edu/discover-ocf

Basketball Tournament

Come cheer on our youth and adults as they compete at the Western Region Family Basketball Tournament at the Courts at Jefferson Activity Center (<https://bit.ly/2BLWGSi>). For more information on the times of the games, go to www.greekbball.org!

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Potatoes (boxed, instant, or canned)

This month's recipient is Simpson Food Pantry.

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

Please give generously!

Due to a reduction in benefits from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Simpson has seen a large increase in new clients who can no longer qualify for food stamps. As a result, working families are unable to pay for both rent and food for the month. Others are struggling to pay for needed medications and food. Working families, those with children, single adults, and retired veterans have all seen a reduction in benefits, and are forced to make a choice between paying bills and buying food.

From the Fathers...on Christ

He is called by many names.
But we shall leave aside all of them and prove
that He who came from God is God and the Son of God.

–Aphraates, Treatises

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, February 3

Hebrews 9:11-14 • Luke 2:25-38

Tuesday, February 4

Ephesians 2:19 – 3:7 • Mark 6:1-7

Wednesday, February 5

Ephesians 3:8-21 • Mark 6:7-13

Thursday, February 6: Saint Photios

Hebrews 7:26 – 8:2 • John 10:9-16

Friday, February 7

Ephesians 4:17-25 • Mark 6:45-53

Saturday, February 8

Ephesians 2:4-10 • Matthew 10:16-22

Sunday, February 9: The Publican and Pharisee

II Timothy 3:10-15 • Luke 18:10-14

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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 Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina