

SAINT MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

The Weekend of December 5/6, 2020

Saturday, December 5, 2020

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

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 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.

Entrance Hymn

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 of Saint Savas, 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 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..... Matthew 11:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Communion Prayers are found on page 3 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.

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 with spiritual fire my sins, 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, December 6, 2020

Commemoration: Tenth Sunday of Luke; Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra; Nicholas the New Martyr of Asia Minor.

Morning Gospel: Fourth

Tone: First

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

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 Nicholas, Fourth Tone

An example of the Faith and a life of humility, as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock; and through the truthfulness of your deeds were exalted by greatness through your humility uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. Father and Hierarch Saint Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

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

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Epistle..... *Hebrews 13:17-21*

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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 3 of this leaflet.

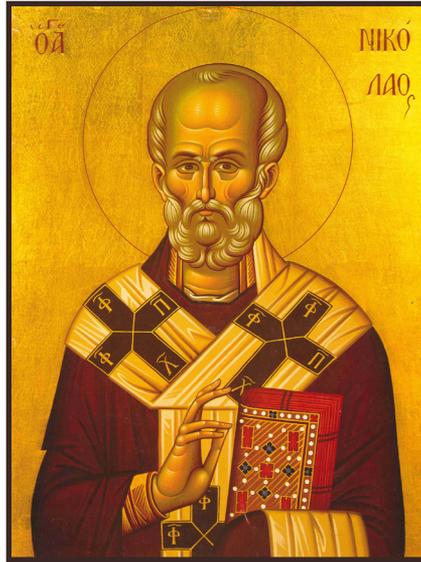
Stewardship Prayer

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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 today (Sunday) are offered for: Luke Angelus (1 year); Angie Angelus (8 years); Christos N. Boosalis (12 years) and Garifalia (Carrie) Boosalis (13 years).

Congratulations to Bill and Beverly Kottas who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 5. *May God grant them many years!*



Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: The family of Zoe Kakos; 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; 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, Henry, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Elena, Speranta, Alexander, Stephanie, John, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Olle, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

Calendar of the Week

Tuesday, December 8

7:00 p.m. – Women’s Book Club on Zoom

Wednesday, December 9: Conception of the Theotokos

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

6:45 p.m. – Senior GOYA in the Great Hall

Saturday, December 12: Saint Spyridon

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

Registration requested.

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers *

Sunday, December 13: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

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

Registration requested.

11:30 a.m. – HOPE and JOY Gathering in the Great Hall

* = services when advance registration is not asked.

Saint Mary’s Giving Report

2020 Offering Income

2020 Year to Date Actual: \$817,611

Annual 2020 Offering Budget: \$1,069,426

Amount Remaining to Meet Budget: \$251,815

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.

Parish Christmas Card and Decorations

Share Christmas greetings with all at St. Mary's through our annual Christmas card! Forms were in both the November and December issues of "The Messenger," which are also posted on our website for easy access. You can make a Christmas card donation on-line through our on-line giving area, either by logging in to your account or by using the Quick Give field. Be sure to enter your name as you'd like it in the card in the Special Instructions field. You may also mail your form to the Church, or bring it with you to Liturgy.

Deadlines:

Christmas Card - Today

Christmas Decoration Donations - Sunday, December 20

Monday Night On-line Bible Study

Monday Night On-line Bible Study continues tomorrow evening, 7:30-8:30 p.m. The link for the sessions is: <https://tinyurl.com/yyp83l77>, or you may find it on our website's homepage. Remaining sessions are December 7, 21, and 28.

Kids Jacket Collection Ends December 8

As part of the national Operation Classroom program, Philoptochos has initiated a relationship with Jefferson Community School, a PreK-Grade 8 school with 517 students, of whom 92% are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. We are collecting new and clean, gently used winter outerwear, specifically:

- Winter Jackets (Sizes 3T – Appropriate Adult)
- Waterproof Mittens
- Hats

Donations can be placed in the bins in the south entrance of St. Mary's through Tuesday, December 8. Contact Paulette Hastings, 952.564.8388, if you'd like to help deliver at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 9.

Thank you for your gifts!

Women's Book Club

Tuesday, December 8

Copies of "The Life of Saint Macrina" are available in the church office. Discussion date is Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., and will be via Zoom only. The link will be sent out by e-mail, anyone not receiving e-mails from Philoptochos, please email Diakonissa Alexandria at ackalina@yahoo.com to be added to the list.

Parish-Night Week Next Week



Our next Parish-Night Week is December 15-17. Please register for the meeting at least two days prior to the Parish Night event on our church website. After you register, you will receive an email with the Zoom Meeting link. The youth meeting link is sent by email to the parents/guardians.

HOPE/JOY - Tuesday, December 15, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

- “Offering Our Talents and Gifts”

Adult/Senior GOYA - Wednesday, December 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

- Fr. Geroge Parsenios presents on “The Nativity and the Biblical Narratives.”

Junior GOYA - Thursday, December 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

- “Offering Our Talents and Gifts”

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 Monday, December 28**, will be recorded and reflected on your year-end Contribution Statement, and matched against your yearly pledge, as stewardship income for 2020. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for 2021.

On occasion, a parishioner may choose to provide additional funds to the church, indicating these dollars should be recorded as a donation for a “future year.” While we can make a notation of this request, the funds will still be recorded and reported as income for 2020. Your Statement of Financial Giving will accurately reflect all income received in a particular calendar year.

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Course

Our MEOCCA sponsored, 12-week, Winter 2021 cooperative catechism course, “Introduction to Orthodox Christianity” will begin Monday, January 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The class is open to all; people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians we well! The course is an excellent opportunity to deepen the knowledge of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Classes will be held virtually via Zoom to begin the semester. Register online at <https://forms.gle/mrMdtTKJcSkPjrw8> or www.meocca.org. Feel free to join for an individual session as well!

From the Fathers...on Charity

He who loves God will certainly love his neighbor as well.

Such a person cannot hoard money,
but distributes it in a way befitting God,
being generous to everyone in need.

—*Saint Maximos the Confessor*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 7

I Timothy 5:1-10 • Luke 20:27-44

Tuesday, December 8

I Timothy 5:11-21 • Luke 21:12-19

Wednesday, December 9

Conception of the Theotokos

Galatians 4:22-27 • Luke 8:16-21

Thursday, December 10

I Timothy 6:17-21 • Luke 21:28-33

Friday, December 11

II Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18 • Luke 21:37 – 22:8

Saturday, December 12

Saint Spyridon

Ephesians 5:8-19 • John 10:9-16

Sunday, December 13

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

Colossians 3:4-11 • Luke 14:16-24

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina