

SAINT MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

The Weekend of January 2/3, 2021

Saturday, January 2, 2021

Commemoration: Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople; Juliana the Righteous; Theagenes the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Parios; Theopemptos; Theodota, the Mother of the Holy Anargyroi; Righteous Mark the Deaf; Basil the Martyr of Ankyra; Sergios; Theopistos the Martyr; George the New Martyr of Georgia; Nilos the Sanctified; Sylvester of the Kiev Caves.

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 Forefeast of Theophany, Fourth Tone (Joseph marveled)

Make ready, Zebulon; prepare, O Nephthali. O Jordan, stop your flow, and with rejoicing receive the Master as he comes to be baptized. You too, O Adam, exalt with our mother Eve. Do not hide yourselves as you did, of old, in paradise. At the sight of your nakedness Christ has come forth, clothing you in innocence and renewing all creation.

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 Forefeast, 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, Fourth Tone (*You appeared today*)

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Epistle.....*I Timothy 3:13 – 4:5*

Timothy, my son, those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion:

God was manifested in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
preached among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Gospel.....*Matthew 3:1-6*

At that time, John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

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

Communion Hymn

The Lord sent redemption to His people. 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.



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, January 3, 2021

Commemoration: Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Malachi the Prophet; Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea; Righteous Genevieve of Paris; Righteous Peter of Atroas; Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker; Righteous Thomais of Lesbos.

Morning Gospel: Eighth

Tone: Plagal First

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

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!

At the Small Entrance

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.

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 for the Forefeast of Theophany, Fourth Tone (Joseph marveled)

Make ready, Zebulon; prepare, O Nephthali. O Jordan, stop your flow, and with rejoicing receive the Master as he comes to be baptized. You too, O Adam, exalt with our mother Eve. Do not hide yourselves as you did, of old, in paradise. At the sight of your nakedness Christ has come forth, clothing you in innocence and renewing all creation.

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, Fourth Tone (You appeared today)

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Epistle..... II Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel.....Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.

2021 Parish Council

The Oath of Office will be administered to the 2021 Parish Council after the Liturgy today. Council members are:

John Beauchamp
Daniel Buss
Ina Dunham
Thomas Hainlin
Paul Hastings
William M. Hoeft
Naira Istephanous
Nicholas Lejeros
Dean Psychogios
Michael Rakes
Maria Smith
Andrew Twito

We thank all of our Parish Council members for their dedication and service to St. Mary's. We also thank those four members who have completed their terms of office: Joseph DiGiovanni, Dean Murdakes, Andrew Theodotou, and Luke Twito.



Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: The family of Don Johnson; 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, John, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Olle, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

Calendar of the Week

Monday, January 4

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Don Johnson

Live-streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

Tuesday, January 5: Eve of Theophany

9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours (*Registration not necessary*)

6:00 p.m. – Vespers Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters
(*Registration not necessary*)

Wednesday, January 6: Holy Theophany

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

Great Blessing of Waters (*Registration not necessary*)

6:45 p.m. – Junior GOYA, Great Hall

Thursday, January 7: Synaxis of the John the Baptist

Julian (Old) Calendar Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy

The Resurrection of Christ Russian Orthodox Skete will be holding their Christmas Liturgy at St. Mary's. We are welcome to join the celebration. (Registration not necessary)

Friday, January 7

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship via Zoom

Saturday, January 9

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

(*Registration requested*)

12:00 noon – Blessing of the River at Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul

(*Registration not necessary*)

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

Sunday, January 10: Sunday after Theophany; Vasilopita Sunday

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

(*Registration requested*)

7:00 p.m. – Situational Awareness Training, on Zoom

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Cereals (hot and cold)

January's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

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

Saint Mary's Giving Report

2020 Offering Income

Year-End Actual: \$1,017,405

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

Year-End Difference: (\$52,021)

Order Your Vasilopita Today!

Philoptochos' annual Vasilopita (Sweet Bread) Sale has been approved, and we're excited to implement this fundraiser for St. Basil Academy! The Sweet Bread will be provided by a Hellas Bakery. Cost is \$13 per loaf. Preorders end January 7 or until sold out.

Preorders can be made in two ways:

Online: Order bread and/or make a donation. Go to St. Mary's website for the links: stmarysgoc.org

By check: Checks for bread (\$13 each) and/or donations payable to *Philoptochos* with *St. Basil* in the memo line can be sent to church or put in the stewardship drop box in the narthex.

Pick Up: Vasilopita is scheduled to be delivered the week of Christmas. Assuming this happens, you can pick up your order in the Sunday School Hallway for 30 minutes after these services:

- 10:00 a.m. January 9 Liturgy
- 9:30 a.m. January 10 Liturgy

Men's Fellowship

Friday, January 8

Due to the New Year's Day holiday last week, Men's Fellowship will meet this Friday, January 8, 7:00 a.m., on Zoom.

Blessing of the River

The Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Christian Clergy Association (MEOCCA), will hold the annual Theophany/Epiphany Blessing of the Waters service on the Mississippi River on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 12:00 noon, at Hidden Falls Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St. Paul. The half-hour service is free and open to the public. The service will end with the local priests immersing a gold cross in the Mississippi River, symbolizing Jesus Christ's baptism in the River Jordan 2,000 years ago.

House Blessings

During January and February, our clergy will be available for house blessings. To schedule a blessing, please send an e-mail request to: stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org or call the Office, 612.825.9595.

Situational Awareness and Personal Safety Training

Sunday, January 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Am I always mindful of my surroundings and personal safety...

- Once I step outside my home?
- Before I open my car door at Target?
- When I'm texting a friend as I walk to my next class?

The first step in maintaining personal safety is to be aware of your surroundings! Situational Awareness is the first and most important self-defense strategy. Please join us for this free and potentially life-saving seminar!

Join us on Sunday, January 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. It is hosted by St. Mary's parishioners, Peter and Libby Cheolis. This extremely valuable training is for all: high schoolers, college-aged students, singles, couples, parents, and retirees.

Please note that this seminar focuses ONLY on Situational Awareness and Personal Safety. It will not include any weapons-related training. Pete and Libby Cheolis are the owners of MindSight Firearms Training. To register for the seminar, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/SMGOCSituationalTraining>

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/mrMdtTKJcSkPjfrw8> or www.meocca.org.

Feel free to join for an individual session as well!

Stewardship Campaign 2021

Stewardship packets for 2021 were mailed in November! Please prayerfully consider how you would like to contribute to St. Mary's with your time, talent and treasure and return your completed pledge and time/talent forms to the office. We hope to increase our number of pledged members in 2021, in order to plan more efficiently for our budgeted items. If you have contributed but not pledged in the past, please consider making a pledge for 2021. Also, remember that you can pledge and contribute on-line. For more information, contact:

- Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina at: 952.913.7540 or ackalina@yahoo.com
- Athena Mihas at: 612.387.3890 or athenamihas@gmail.com

Prayers for the Unborn and March for Life

Sunday January 17, 2021, is “*Sanctity of Life Sunday*.” Immediately before Liturgy, the “Service for the Naming and Commending of Children Who Have Died before Birth and Have Not Been Baptized” will be offered. The prayers have been written in response to the ongoing need of our families who have lost children by miscarriage, spontaneous abortion, or intentional abortion. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. on the Solea, or via live-stream, that morning. The March for Life is Friday, January 22, 12:00 noon at the State Capitol steps and grounds in St. Paul. This is an annual reminder that over 60 million unborn tiny human lives have been lost. *Note:* This year there will not be a bus from St. Mary's. Be sure to wear your mask at this outdoor event.

From the Fathers...Baptism

When we come up out of the pool, we put on Christ our Savior,
as an incorruptible garment, worthy of the same honor as the Holy Spirit
who regenerated us and marked us with His seal.

—*Didymus the Blind*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, January 4

I Corinthians 4:9-16 • John 1:18-28

Tuesday, January 5

Eve of Theophany

I Corinthians 9:19-27 • Luke 3:1-18

Wednesday, January 6

Holy Theophany

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

Thursday, January 7

Synaxis of John the Baptist

Acts 19:1-8 • John 1:29-34

Friday, January 8

Romans 6:3-11 • John 3:22-33

Saturday, January 9

Ephesians 6:10-17 • Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, January 10

Sunday after Theophany

Ephesians 4:7-13 • Matthew 4:12-17

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina