

SAINT MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

✠ THE DIVINE LITURGY ✠

The Weekend of February 20/21, 2021

Saturday, February 20, 2021

Commemoration: Leo, Bishop of Catania, Agathus, Pope of Rome, Bessarion the Great, Sadok the Bishop and the 128 other Martyrs of Persia, Plotinus.

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 Saints, Second Tone

O Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics and the Righteous, you finished the race and kept the faith. You speak freely to the Savior. We pray you entreat Him on our behalf, to save our souls, since He is good.

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 Saints, above.

Another Hymn for the Day, Plagal Fourth Tone

Remember Your servants, O Lord, since You are good, and forgive them for all their sins in life; for no one is without sin except for You who are able to give rest to those who have passed away.

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 the Martyrs, Plagal Fourth Tone

O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature’s first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord abundantly merciful.

Epistle..... II Timothy 2:11-19

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure: If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and charge them before the Lord to avoid disputing about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Avoid such godless chatter, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will eat its way like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaios and Philetos, who have swerved from the truth by holding that the resurrection is past already. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let every one who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

Gospel..... Luke 18:2-8

The Lord said this parable, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily.”

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

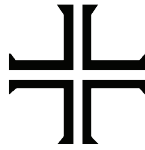
Communion Hymn

Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord. Their memorial abides from generation to generation. 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.



Memorial Prayers on Saturday are offered for: **Tom Kachevas** (40 days).

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, February 21, 2021

Commemoration: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion begins today; Timothy the Righteous; John III, Patriarch of Constantinople; Eustathius, Bishop of Antioch; Zachariah, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Morning Gospel: Fourth

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

Resurrection Hymn, 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!

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, 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 the Publican and the Pharisee, Fourth Tone

Let us flee the boastful words of the Pharisee and learn humility from the sighs of the publican; let us cry out to the Savior: Spare us, for you alone are rich in forgiveness.

Epistle..... II Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus

will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel.....*Luke 18:10-14*

The Lord said this parable, “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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.



Calendar of the Week

Monday, February 22

7:00 p.m. – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom

Tuesday, February 23: Saint Polycarp

6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy (*Registration not requested*)

7:00 p.m. – Philoptochos General Meeting

Thursday, February 25

6:30 p.m. – Stewardship Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. – Orthros: 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
(*Registration requested*)

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

Sunday, February 28: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
(*Registration requested*)

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

House Blessings

Now through the end of 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.

Virtual Bible Study

Virtual Bible Study meets *weekly* on Monday evenings, Fr. John Kostas is leading the discussions. In preparation for Lent and Holy Week, the discussions will focus on Holy Week according to Matthew's Gospel. We meet on-line via Zoom from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** The link can be found on our website. Zoom meeting ID: 838 4110 4908 and Passcode: 660926 (use for Zoom and phone meetings).

Annual Philoptochos Membership Drive Is Underway

By now, all women of the parish should have received a letter inviting them to join Philoptochos. Please consider mailing in your tax-deductible membership gift (you choose the amount) to support the good works of the St. Mary's chapter. All levels of giving and volunteering are welcome and valued. Associate memberships are open to men who want to support our charitable work, too. Membership information and a drop box are also in the Narthex.

Philoptochos Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

Plan to attend the February Philoptochos meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Grab your favorite beverage and join us as we discuss what Philoptochos will look like in the coming months. Zoom link will be provided closer to the date.

We wish **Elaine Smith** a blessed 90th birthday on Thursday, February 25! *Χρόνια πολλά!*

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Hygiene items

February's recipient is Simpson Food Pantry.

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

FOCUS House Needs

The needs for FOCUS are great for men.

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We desperately need outer winter clothing especially boots.

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Also of need are men's belts and men and women new underwear and socks.

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Please bring them to the church hallway or take them to FOCUS House on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays.

The address is 550 Rice Street, St. Paul.

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The phone number is 651.324.2705.

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Matushka Vera Proctor is the Director of FOCUS House.

FOCUS



MINNESOTA

Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding and Shelter

From the Fathers...on Repentance

Repentance is the renewal of baptism.

Repentance is a contract with God for a second life.

—*St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, February 22

II Peter 1:20 – 2:9 • Mark 13:9-13

Tuesday, February 23: Saint Polycarp

II Peter 2:9-22 • Mark 13:14-23

Wednesday, February 24

II Corinthians 4:6-15 • Matthew 11:2-15

Thursday, February 25

I John 1:8 – 2:6 • Mark 13:31 – 14:2

Friday, February 26

I John 2:7-17 • Mark 14:3-9

Saturday, February 27

I Timothy 6:11-16 • Luke 20:46 – 21:4

Sunday, February 28

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

I Corinthians 6:12-20 • Luke 15:11-32

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Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina