

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Sunday of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Sunday of the Seventh Ecumenical Council; Hosea the Prophet; Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian of Arabia; Andrew the Righteous Monk-martyr of Crete; Removal and Placing of the Sacred Relics of the Holy and Righteous Lazarus.

Morning Gospel: Sixth

Tone: Plagal 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, Plagal Fourth Tone

From on high you descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Holy Fathers, Plagal Fourth Tone

Unending glory be yours, O Christ our God, for making our holy fathers radiant lights to all the world. Through them you led us to the true faith. Compassionate Savior, glory to you.

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 Theotokos, Second Tone

O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Epistle..... Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Gospel..... Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and

their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As he said these things, he cried out “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for ***Kathryn Theros*** (20 years) mother of ***Charlie Theros***; ***John & Evangelitsa Papagianis*** (15 years) parents of ***Debbie Theros***; ***Alex Papagianis*** (10 years) brother of ***Debbie Theros***; ***Athanasios (Tommy) Mihas*** (5 years).

The coffee hour today is hosted by Charlie and Debbie Theros in memory of departed loved ones.

40-Day Churching: Alexandra Carroll and baby James Bradley.

Sacraments This Week

Marriage: Jonathan Williams to Dina Elias, October 16, 2021

Saint Mary's Giving Report

~ 2021 Offering Income ~

2021 Year to Date Actual: \$753,632

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

Amount remaining to meet budget: \$315,993

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:

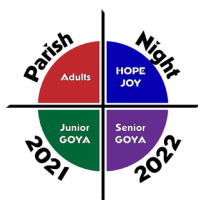
✠ Behold I approach Christ, our immortal King and God.

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; 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; 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, Alex, Karrisra, Corina, Tom, Vasilios, George R., Ken, Presvytera Tulla Poteres, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Kristina, Armour family, 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 Katie, Bri, 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, Dina, Landon, Luke, Aemiliane, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Brittany, Amy, Shinia, Chelsea, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Kristine, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Olle, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

Parish Night 2021-2022

Wednesday, October 20



Be sure NOT to miss our next Parish Night! It's this coming Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:15 p.m. with a brief prayer service in the Nave, followed by dinner in the Terrace Room, and breakout sessions for the adults and kids. Parish Night ends by 8:00 p.m.

Parish Night is a parish-wide event for Kindergarteners-12th graders and adults that occur monthly on a Wednesday from September through May, taking a hiatus during Great Lent.

2021-2022 Themes

Adults: The Illness & Cure of the Soul

Senior GOYA (Grades 9-12): Tending the Garden of Our Hearts

Junior GOYA (Grades 6-8): Be a Bee

HOPE/JOY (K-5th Grade): Journey Through the Parables

Next Parish Night...

- Wednesday, November 17

Calendar of the Week

Until further notice, all services will be held in the Great Hall while the Nave is undergoing renovations.

Due to the renovations, our live-stream of the Sunday Liturgy has been suspended.

Sunday, October 17: Sunday of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

- 8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; Church School
- 11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach, Fireside Room
- 11:45 a.m. – Church School Teachers' Meeting, Lecture Room

Monday, October 18: Saint Luke the Evangelist

- 6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, October 19

- 6:30 p.m. – Philoptochos Board Meeting, Fireside Room
- 7:00 p.m. – Women's Book Club, Church School Classroom #2

Wednesday, October 20

- 9:00 a.m. – "The Messenger" Mailing
- 6:15 p.m. – Parish Night, Terrace Room

Thursday, October 21

- 9:30 a.m. – FAITH Play Group, Terrace Room
- 6:30 p.m. – FOCUS MN Fundraiser, Great Hall

Saturday, October 23: Saint Iakovos

- 9:00 a.m. – Orthros; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
 - 9:00 a.m. – Saturday Bible Study, Lecture Room
- Great Vespers will not be held this evening.***

Sunday, October 24: Sixth Sunday of Luke

- 8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; Church School
 - 11:30 a.m. – Fall General Assembly, Great Hall
 - 1:30 p.m. – HOPE and JOY Outing to Sever's Fall Festival
- (Sign up deadline is today!)*

Announcements

Women's Book Club

Tuesday, October 19

The next Women's Book Club discussion will be held Tuesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Classroom #2. We will be continuing our excellent discussion of our August book, "Wounded by Love," by Elder Porphyrios. December's book will be "Acquiring the Mind of Christ." Both books are available in the bookstore.

Fall General Assembly

Sunday, October 24

We are pleased to invite all members to participate in our Fall Parish Assembly on Sunday, October 24, 11:30 a.m., in the Great Hall. Our agenda is below and the meeting minutes from our previous gatherings are attached to this message. Please review the materials prior to the meeting so you are ready to discuss and vote.

2021 Fall Assembly Agenda

Opening Prayer; Approval of the 2021 Spring Assembly Minutes and the September 12 Special Assembly; Election of Board of Auditors and Board of Electors; Highlights of Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly; Stewardship/Financial Update; Renovation Update; Closing Prayer

A light lunch will be offered for those participating in the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on October 24 and to your participation in this important work of the church.

Fresh Fillo Sale

It's time to order fresh fillo for your holiday delicacies. Stop by the Philoptochos table after Liturgy to place your prepaid order. The price is \$5.00 per one pound package. Orders will be taken through next Sunday, October 24 and the fillo will be available for pick up during coffee hour Sunday, October 31.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 30

10:00 a.m.

South Parking Lot

Stewardship/Ministry Fair

Sunday, November 7

Our annual Stewardship/Ministry Fair is Sunday, November 7. Invite a friend, neighbor, or, even better, a family member you haven't seen for a while, to join us for Liturgy then head to the Great Hall for fellowship. In the Great Hall you will see and learn first-hand about the many ministries of St. Mary's supported by our stewardship commitments.

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 2020. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for 2021.

In appreciation of your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure, St. Mary's Parish Council and Stewardship Committee invite you to a complimentary

APPRECIATION GLENDI

Saturday, November 13, 2021

6:00-11:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Great Hall

Dinner, Dancing, and Great Company!

This is our fifth year and each year gets better! Please join us!



RSVP today - space is limited.
RSVP link is in this week's Weekly Update e-mail.

Philoptochos News

“Festival” Bake Sale Packaging Dates

Philoptochos will hold the “festival” bake sale on December 4-5, with kourambiethes, baklava, cookbooks, and olive oil. Pre-orders will be taken and we will also sell goods at the Appreciation Glendi on November 13.

We need help with the finishing and packaging of the cookies on three dates:

- Monday, October 18, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 8, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 30, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

If you are able to assist, please stop by the Philoptochos table after church to volunteer, or via Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c49a8a722aaf85-bake>

Operation Classroom Supply Drive Ends October 24

Thank you for supporting the children of Jefferson Community School by donating school supplies! Please bring your gifts to the Philoptochos Table during the social hour after Liturgy. Needed items are #2 pencils, pens, washable markers, colored pencils, pencil boxes or pouches, pencil sharpeners, watercolor paint, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, graph paper, highlighters, spiral notebooks, tissues, and backpacks.

Philoptochos Hands-On Activities: Join Us!

- October 24 is Service Sunday with Sunday School students – help set up the Terrace Room at 9:00 a.m. or assist the students as they perform various service projects in lieu of class.
- November 14 we prepare and serve a meal at FOCUS MN. Contact *Carol Smith*, 952.210.8618, or watch for the Sign Up Genius link to make part of the meal or volunteer at FOCUS.

October Philoptochos Meeting *Tuesday, October 26*

Join us for light refreshments, fellowship, program, and the October Philoptochos meeting. We’ll gather at 7:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room. All are welcome.

Celebrate Fr. John's 25th Year!

Plan to celebrate Father John's 25 years in the Greek Orthodox priesthood on Sunday, October 31, immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Great Hall of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. Festivities include a lunch and program honoring Father John as spiritual leader, confidante, and friend to parishioners at St. Mary's and parishes around the country. If you have questions or wish to volunteer to help plan or work during the event, please feel free to contact *Dena Tortorelis*, 651.334.1842 or *Carol Smith*, 952.210.8618.

Giving Is Easy on Venmo!



Scan this QR code to use our St. Mary's VENMO account for weekly or special donations, pledges, etc.

Remember to include your name, envelope number (if you have it), purpose of the gift (pledge or general donation) in the "What's it for?" section.

You Can Help!

FOCUS

✦ MINNESOTA

Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding and Shelter

FOCUS Minnesota Fundraiser

New Fundraiser Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Food! Music! A Celebration of Our Work!

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis

Please join us for an evening together as we reflect on the blessings the past year brought us and look to a future with continued service.

RSVP: focustwincities@gmail.com or 651.222.0712

(By inviting a friend, you'll be helping us grow our network of support!)

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Hygiene items

October's recipient is Simpson Food Pantry.

The Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

The Seventh Ecumenical Council took place in Nicea in 787 AD, and is also known as the Second Council of Nicaea. The last of the seven Ecumenical Councils dealt with the icons.

The Controversy

Disputes concerning the Person of Christ did not end with the sixth Council in AD 681, but continued through the eighth and ninth centuries. This time, the controversy focused on icons—pictures of Christ, the Theotokos, the saints, and holy events—and lasted for 120 years, starting in AD 726. Icons were kept and venerated in both churches and private homes. The two groups in the controversy were:

Iconoclasts, also called “icon-smashers,” were suspicious of any art depicting God or humans; they demanded the destruction of icons because they saw icons as idolatry.

Iconodules, also called “venerators of icons,” defended the place of icons in the Church.

Restoration of the Icons

Venerating icons, having them in churches and homes, is what the Church teaches. They are “open books to remind us of God.” Those who lack the time or learning to study theology need only to enter a church to see the mysteries of the Christian religion unfolded before them.

Concerning the doctrinal significance of icons

Icons are necessary and essential because they protect the full and proper doctrine of the Incarnation. While God cannot be represented in His eternal nature (“...no man has seen God,” John 1:18), He can be depicted simply because He “became human and took flesh.” Of Him who took a material body, material images can be made. In so taking a material body, God proved that matter can be redeemed. He deified matter, making it spirit-bearing, and so if flesh can be a medium for the Spirit, so can wood or paint, although in a different fashion.

I do not worship matter, but the Creator of matter, who for my sake became material and deigned to dwell in matter, who through matter effected my salvation... —St. John of Damascus

The seventh and last Ecumenical Council upheld the iconodules’ position in AD 787. They proclaimed: Icons... are to be kept in churches and honored with the same relative veneration as is shown to other material symbols, such as the ‘precious and life-giving Cross’ and the Book of the Gospels. The ‘doctrine of icons’ is tied to the Orthodox teaching that all of God’s creation is to be redeemed and glorified, both spiritual and material.

From the Fathers...on God

Tell me what thoughts of God we should conceive?
One, all things seeing, yet Himself unseen.

—*Philemon, quoted by Justin*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, October 18

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18 • Luke 10:16-21

Tuesday, October 19

Acts 2:14-21 • Luke 9:23-27

Wednesday, October 20

II Timothy 2:1-10 • Luke 9:44-50

Thursday, October 21

II Corinthians 9:6-11 • Luke 9:49-56

Friday, October 22

Ephesians 6:18-24 • Luke 10:1-15

Saturday, October 23

James (Iakovos) the Apostle, Brother of Our Lord

Galatians 1:11-19 • Matthew 13:54-58

Sunday, October 24

Fourth Sunday of Luke

II Corinthians 9:6-11 • Luke 8:26-39

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