

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Eleventh Sunday of Luke; Spyridon the Wonder-worker of Trymithous; Holy New Martyr Peter the Aleut; John (or Joachim), Bishop of Zichni.

Morning Gospel: Third

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.

Hymn of Entrance

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 Ancestors of Christ, Second Tone

By their faith you justified your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old you betrothed to yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave you birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of Saint Spyridon, First Tone (When the tomb had been sealed)

Our God-bearing Father Spyridon, at the first of the Synods, you emerged as the champion, and wonder-worker. Therefore, you addressed your dead daughter in the grave, and changed a serpent into gold. And while chanting your holy prayers in worship, you had the Angels concelebrating with you, O most holy one. Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to him who crowned you; glory to him who works through you, healings for all!

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..... Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Gospel..... Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a

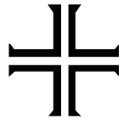
field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

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

Stewardship Prayer

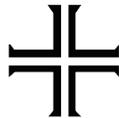
Lord Jesus Christ, our God, accept our offerings as You have accepted the gifts of Your people throughout the ages. We offer these gifts to Your glory, for the support of the ministries of Your holy Church, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, and for the proclamation of Your Gospel to the whole 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.



Prosforo: Yana Patridge

Coffee will be served in the Terrace Room following Liturgy for those who are unable to attend the farewell luncheon.



Sacraments This Week

Chrismation—

Samantha Asselanis (wife of George Asselanis), December 12, 2021

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.

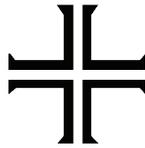
Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

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: The family of Helen Peters; 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; 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; Gigi, Zossima, Dreux, Monte, Bethany, Mark, Owen, Chrysanthy, Estelle, Justine, Melissa, Megan, Dallas, Lenzie, Lisa, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Theodora, Mary, Irene Maria, Marion, Apostolos, Olivia, Lincoln, Joan, Carole, Patty, Archimandrite Dionysios, Karrisa, Corina, Tom, George R., Ken, Presvytera Tulla Poteres, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Lamona, Bo, Tom, Lynn, Deb, Sarah, Maia, Travis, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, Quinn, Annie, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Rifka, Pat, Nancy, Dave, Pam, Gilbert, George P., Barbara, Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Sophia, George, Rick, Bryn, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, Phil, Joyce, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, Elpis Fotini, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Amy, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.



Saint Mary's Giving Report

~ 2021 Offering Income ~

2021 Year to Date Actual: \$920,542

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

Amount remaining to meet stewardship goal: \$149,083

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 12: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

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

Church School

after Liturgy – Luncheon honoring the Dokos family

(reservations asked)

Tuesday, December 14

12:00 noon – Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, Terrace Room

6:15 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, December 15

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Mailing

6:15 p.m. – Parish Night

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Thursday, December 16

9:30 a.m. – FAITH Play Group, Great Hall and Terrace Room

4:00-7:00 p.m. – Visitation for Helen Peters,

Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, Trisagion Service at 4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 17: Saint Dionysios; Prophet Daniel

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship, Fireside Room

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Helen Peters, St. Mary's Church

Visitation from 10:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. – Evening Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 18

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Lecture Room

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 19: Sunday before Nativity

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

Church School Christmas Program

11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach Meeting, Fireside Room

12:45 p.m. – Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

2:00 p.m. – Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Announcements

~ 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 2021. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for 2022.

Christmas Decorations

Donations toward our Christmas decorations can be made through next Sunday, December 19. Forms, envelopes, and the drop box is in the narthex.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Today is the last day to purchase your ticket for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 14, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. Tickets are \$10.00 for Senior Citizens' Club members and \$35.00 for non-members. Contact *Joanna Morgan* for your ticket.

We'll begin with a social time complete with appetizers, punch, and wine. Our lunch menu will be salad, garithes with manestra (shrimp with manestra in a special tomato sauce), a special Christmas dessert, and coffee. We will be entertained by our own Elena Biessener. She will perform holiday favorites and other delights. Our afternoon will conclude with Bingo, complete with prizes.

Help Sought for Christmas Mailing

Help our faithful mailing crew by joining us as we put together our annual Christmas parish mailing! We'll do the task this Wednesday, December 15, 9:00 a.m., in the Great Hall. A light lunch will be provided for the workers. Please call the Church Office if you are able to assist.

Coffee Hour Host Needed

We are in need of a host for coffee hour next Sunday, December 19. If you would like to host, please contact the Church Office, 612.825.9595.

In the Bookstore

Please visit the bookstore for gifts in the real spirit of Christmas. You will find books, icons, and many other items for people of all ages. Gift certificates to the bookstore are also available.

Parish Night

Our next Parish Night is Wednesday, December 15! The evening begins 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 through adults.

Our 2021-2022 themes are:

- Adults: The Illness and 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-grade 5): Journey Through the Parables: The Parable of the Rich Fool

Church School Christmas Program

The annual Church School Christmas Program will take place immediately following Liturgy on Sunday, December 19. Don't miss this annual tradition, the students have been busy preparing a program for all to enjoy!

Holiday Office Closures

The office will be closed for the Christmas holiday on the following days: Thursday, December 23, the office will close at 12:00 noon and remain closed on Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27. The office will be open 8:30 a.m-4:30 p.m. on December 31, New Year's Eve.

Our Church – Our Spiritual Home

2022 Stewardship Campaign

Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Packets have been mailed to our members' homes. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to share with St. Mary's in 2022. We thank you for your generosity.

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Hygiene items

December's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES).

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

Philoptochos News

Reasons to Stop by the Philoptochos Table during Social Hour

Order Vasilopita

The St. Basil Sweet Bread is made by our Sacred Baking team, and can be ordered for your New Year's celebration. Each loaf is \$15, has a coin baked inside, and will be available for pick-up (frozen) on Sunday, December 19. All funds go to St. Basil Academy (stbasil.goarch.org), a home for children in need.

Shop

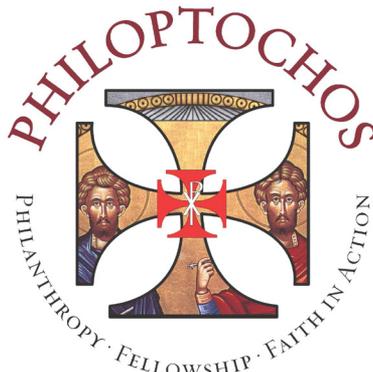
Let us help you with your gift giving and hosting needs. We're selling cookbooks, Greek oregano, kourambiethes, and classic and chocolate baklava.

Volunteer

We need Christmas Day Social Hour hosts (all goodies provided) as well as Vasilopita cutters on Saturday, January 8.

Deliver

Your gifts for children of Healing House, if you chose a child's name.



From the Fathers...on Christ

The person who listens to Christ fills himself with light;
and if he imitates Christ, he reclaims himself.

—*Saint Thalassios the Libyan*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 13

I Timothy 1:1-7 • Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday, December 14

I Timothy 1:8-14 • Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday, December 15

Saint Eleutherios

II Timothy 1:8-18 • Mark 2:23 – 3:5

Thursday, December 16

I Timothy 3:1-13 • Mark 9:10-15

Friday, December 17

Saint Dionysios; Prophet Daniel

Hebrews 11:33 – 12:2 • Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 18

Galatians 3:8-12 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 19

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 • Matthew 1:1-25

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina