

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Sunday before Nativity

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Sunday before Nativity; Martyrs Boniface, Probus, Ares, Timothy, Polyuktos, Eutychios and Thessaloniki; Our Righteous Father Gregentius, Bishop of Ethiopia; Aglaia the Righteous of Rome.

Morning Gospel: Fourth

Tone: First

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

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.

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 Forefeast of the Birth of Christ, Second Tone

How great is the power of faith. By faith three young men rejoice in flames as if in refreshing water, and Daniel in the lions' den is like a shepherd with his sheep. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

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..... Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel..... Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the

father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

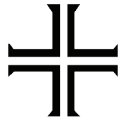
The Communion Prayers are found on page 5 of this leaflet.

The program guide for the Church School Christmas Program begins on page 7.

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: Presvytera Christa Dokos

The coffee hour this morning is hosted by George & Samantha Asselanis.

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.

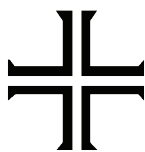
Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

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; the family of Presvytera Tulla Poteres; 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, Donnarae, Samira, Mary K., 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, 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: \$997,882

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

Amount remaining to meet stewardship goal: \$71,743



*Saint Mary's
Church School
Christmas
Program*

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Program



Processional.....	Christmas Medley
	<i>Benjamin Wehr, cellist</i>
Welcome	Libby Cheolis
Scripture Reading #1	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
	<i>John Kluznik, reader</i>
Carols	Away In A Manger
	Go Tell It On The Mountain
	<i>3, 4, and 5 year olds, kindergarten and first grades</i>
Scripture Reading #2.....	Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-7
	<i>Kirubel Birhane, reader</i>
Carols	The First Noël
	Star of Bethlehem
	<i>Grades 6-8</i>
Scripture Reading #3.....	Luke 2:8-20
	<i>Marina DiGiovanni, reader</i>
Carol.....	O Come, All Ye Faithful
	Angels We Have Heard on High
	<i>Grades 9-12</i>

Scripture Reading #4.....Matthew 1:18-23

Peter Nicklow, reader

Carols.....Joy To The World

Do you Hear What I Hear?

Grades 2-5

Thank You and Farewell to Fr. George..... Dena Tortorelis

Recognition for perfect attendance at Church School last year

Sophia Forches, Robert Koutroupas, Lila Simon

Carol..... Be Glorified

Congregation, led by Grades 2-5

Shepherds watch their flocks by night

Wise men bring their gifts to share

A star to guide to Bethlehem

Angels singing "Peace on Earth"

Chorus:

Emmanuel, God is with us

Christ is born, be glorified. *(repeat)*

A manger and a baby lay

Quietly by His mother's side

Angels sing to Him today

Glory in the highest

Unto us a Child is born

Unto us a Son is given

He's Wonderful, Counselor

Mighty God, and Prince of Peace

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Please turn the page for "Silent Night."

Silent Night..... Congregation

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin Mother and Child,
holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Closing..... Libby Cheolis

Christ Is Born!

Glorify Him!

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 19: Sunday before Nativity

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

Church School Christmas Program

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

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

Tuesday, December 21

6:00 p.m. – Open Gym, Great Hall

Wednesday, December 22

10:30 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer, Nave

11:00 a.m. – Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Thursday, December 23

Church Office closes at 12:00 noon

Friday, December 24: Eve of Nativity

9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

4:00 p.m. – Vespers Divine Liturgy

Church Office closed.

Saturday, December 25: Holy Nativity

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

Great Vespers will not be held this evening.

Sunday, December 26: Sunday after Nativity

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

No Church School

Monday, December 27: Proto-Martyr Stephen

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

Church Office closed.

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

Today is the final day to make a donation toward our Christmas decorations. Forms, envelopes, and the drop box is in the narthex.

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.

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

Baby Formula

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

Philoptochos News

Reasons to Stop by the Philoptochos Table during Social Hour

Pick Up Your Vasilopita

Pick up your Vasilopita (St. Basil Sweet Bread) today at the Philoptochos table! Preorders are ready for pick-up, and additional loaves are for sale for \$15 each. 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 Friday, December 31, 10:00 a.m. (*note date change*).



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 20

Hebrews 10:32-38 • Mark 9:33-41

Tuesday, December 21

I Timothy 5:11-21 • Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday, December 22

I Timothy 5:22 – 6:11 • Mark 10:11-16

Thursday, December 23

I Timothy 6:17-21 • Mark 10:17-27

Friday, December 24

Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Hebrews 1:1-12 • Luke 2:1-20

Saturday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Galatians 4:4-7 • Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, December 26

Sunday after Nativity

Galatians 1:11-19 • Matthew 2:13-23

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina