

The Messenger

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church | 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408 | 612.825.9595 | www.stmarysgoc.org

January 2022

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St. Mary's Mission Statement

To proclaim, celebrate, and share
the good news of salvation in
Jesus Christ in accordance
with the Orthodox Tradition.

The Five Tasks of Our Parish Vision

- Hear
- Pray
- Grow
- Serve
- Share



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

A Message from Father Tim

Father Timothy Sas, Proistamenos

Dear Friends,

Last year at this time I would have laughed if anyone had described this major change in my family's life. Yet here I am navigating the conclusion of a major and beautiful chapter of my ministry at Twelve Holy Apostles Church in Duluth. Equally daunting is navigating the start of a new chapter of my ministry here with you. There's great joy in returning to you at St. Mary's but we are indeed sad to leave our parish family in Duluth. Even this past summer our plans and thoughts were that we would remain in Duluth permanently. The book of Proverbs warns otherwise: "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9) Our family has been beautifully nurtured in the faith with the wonderful congregation of Twelve Holy Apostles Church. All six members of our family will always consider Duluth and that faithful parish a place of God's love which we will always consider home.

Simultaneously, there is excitement and anticipation about our return to St. Mary's. During our three years at St. Mary's in the early 2000s our family literally doubled in size as our three youngest daughters - Casiana, Theodora, and Sofia; Andrea was 1-year old when we arrived - were born during our time here. We have beautiful memories of learning and growing while we were here and we have maintained many friendships with parishioners in this parish. Through the St. Mary's Summer Camp and Family Camp our daughters have also grown friendships with teenagers and young adults at St. Mary's. We all look forward to growing in our relationships with God together with you and we're confident we'll be well nourished in the Orthodox faith as we all once again become members of your parish family.

The logistics of this transition are challenging for our family but we have begun arrangements and we're certain that with the Lord Jesus Christ leading us, moments of clarity will increase in number and frequency. Our test will be to place our trust in Him, as once again the book of Proverbs comes to my aid: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5). This verse is particularly fitting for Presvytera Gabriela and I, as we had let go of how we understood our lives moving forward, but indeed, we trust in the Lord with all our heart that He will care for us as we take this step. St. Mary's Church is a place we both truly love and it is a community that serves the Lord Jesus and we are joyful to join you in that fruitful work.

We pray that all of you and your families receive God's blessings for the New Year of 2022 and for many, many years!

With prayers and blessings,
Fr. Timothy Sas and family.

(The Sas family photo is on page 2.)

Our Life Together

Baptism

Kyra Kay

Parents: David & Jenna George

November 20, 2021

Chrismations

Renee Hainlin

November 28, 2021

Samantha Asselanis

December 12, 2021

Marriage

Greg Houck to Jenny Martel

November 21, 2021

Deaths

Charles Young

November 19, 2021

Helen Peters

December 7, 2021

May their memories be eternal.

2022 Parish Council

We wish to thank all who ran for Parish Council this fall. Those who were elected to office are: Sam Hanna, Cristina Nicklow, Jeannie Possis, and Dean Psychogios. The results of the election are official as we have received the official ratification from the Metropolis of Chicago.



Fr. Timothy & Presvytera Gabriela Sas and family

Memorial Prayers

Sunday, January 2

John Woolf, husband of

Stephanie Pappas Woolf (1 year)

Sunday, January 23

Stella Boosalis (40 days)

Helen Peters (40 days)

Sunday, January 30

Mary (6 years) & John (1 year)

DeMoss

Our Sympathy

We received word recently that St. Mary's parishioner, Maria Miller, passed away at her home in Nebraska on November 16, 2021. Her obituary may be found on the Kuncf Funeral Home website, www.kunclfh.com May her memory be eternal.

Share YourShelf

January's recipient of Share Your-Shelf contributions is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Sunday, January 2

Canned fruits and vegetables

Sunday, January 9

Cereal – hot and cold

Sunday, January 16

Canned meals – large cans
(e.g. chili; pork and beans)

Sunday, January 23

Coffee and tea

Sunday, January 30

Hygiene items

"Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others."
—Saint Augustine

St. Mary's Church Staff

Priest

Fr. Timothy Sas

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

Attached Priest

Fr. John Kostas

Deacon

Deacon Paul Kalina

Administrator

Julie Moricz

Parishioner Support Communications

David Mertesdorf

Ministry Support

Doria Saros

Youth Director

Jonathan Klein

Facilities Coordinator

Bob Yang

Music Director

Thespina Macres

Organist

Mark Macres

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Naira Istephanous

Vice President

William M. Hoeft

Secretary

Paul Hastings

Treasurer

Thomas Hainlin

Assistant Treasurer

Michael Rakes

Members

John Beauchamp

Daniel Buss

Ina Dunham

Nicholas Legeros

Dean Psychogios

Maria Smith

Andrew Twito

Education • Fellowship • Worship

Fellowship and Study Groups

Intercessory Prayer

Wednesday, January 26
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men's Fellowship

Fridays, January 7 and 21
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

Every Saturday
9:00 a.m., Lecture Room
No class session on January 1.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 26
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Orthodox Game League Is Back!

Adults (age 18 years and older)... come to Orthodox Game League, enjoy time with each other, and play some fun games. Do you want to learn a new game? Do you want to play a classic? How about teach a game? Then this is for you! Questions? Contact Nikki Beachamp, 612.910.2943

Next Game Night

Saturday, January 22, 2022
7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral
1701 - 5th Street NE, Minneapolis

* We'll gather in the Parish Center across the street from the church *

Bring a munchie or dessert to share.



Church Cancellation Procedures for Winter

The winter months are upon us and we want to ensure all our parishioners stay safe and don't attempt to travel during icy or severe conditions. Here's how we plan to keep you informed.

- Cancellations of events, activities, and services will be announced a minimum of two hours prior to the start time.
- We will update our website and office voice mail announcing the cancellation as another opportunity for you to be notified.
- All individual group leaders (choir, church school, senior citizens, etc.) must notify the church office of the decision to cancel so we can make the necessary updates.
- The Parish Council President must also be notified of any cancellations, and no cancellations will occur without the blessing of our priests.

While we plan on always having scheduled services, no one should travel to church if road conditions in your area are dangerous. Please remain at home, participating in our live-streaming service, and giving thanks to God that at least a priest and chanter are leading the services praying for all of us.

Weekend Schedule

Saturday

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday (live-streamed)

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

Weekday Schedule

Saturday, January 1

Circumcision of Christ; Saint Basil
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 5

Eve of Theophany
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Vespers Divine Liturgy and
Great Blessing of Water – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 6

Holy Theophany
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing
of Water – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 7

Synaxis of John the Baptist
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 17

Saint Anthony the Great
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 18

Saints Athanasios and Cyril
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 22

Saint Timothy
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 25

Saint Gregory
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Parish News & Events

Winter General Assembly

Sunday, January 30, 2022

The Winter General Assembly, Budget Approval, will take place on Sunday, January 30, 11:30 a.m., in the Great Hall. Copies of the budget and the agenda will be available around mid-January.

Calling All Youth of St. Mary's!

"Do you wanna Greek dance?"

If so, now is the time to register if you are between the ages of 6 and 18. Dance classes will begin on Monday, January 24, 2022, through March 19 and end with a performance on Sunday, March 20, at our Greek Independence Day event. We will resume classes in May/June and continue through the summer months to get ready for our Taste of Greece Festival on September 9-11. Also, we are looking for adults who would like to assist with Greek dance instruction, dance program logistics, costume inventory, or taking photos/videos at our performances to include in our archives. To register for classes or volunteer to help with our dance program, please contact Director Tessie Bourdamis by e-mail at tbourdamis@comcast.net or call 952.831.3529, or Jim Canelake at agrimi01@gmail.com or call 612.719.6965. Please reply by January 10. Thank you for your support and we look forward to another fun year of Greek dancing ahead! *Opa!*

2022 Western Region Family Basketball Tournament



The Western Region Family Basketball Tournament will be hosted by St. Mary's on February 4-6, 2022! For purchasing an ad in our ad book, volunteer opportunities, or meal registrations, visit the website: www.greekbball.com. Everyone is welcome to attend the festivities. Early meal registration ends January 9 and the last day to purchase a meal or package is January 24. For any questions, please contact Georgia Andron, Lou Pappas, or Jon Klein (athletics@chicagometropolis.org). The championship games will be played on Sunday in the Great Hall! Please pray for a fun, successful, and safe weekend!

The Encounter

An Orthodox Daily Prayer App.

Have you ever found praying to be difficult? Do you feel too busy to pray? Or perhaps you don't know where to begin? Maybe you have found it hard to focus, or even experienced emptiness when you pray. If so, you're not alone. For many Orthodox Christians, prayer can be misunderstood, or even frustrating. But prayer is how we build an intimate relationship with the living God! The reality is that cultivating that relationship takes time and effort. That's why our parish is partnering with Faithtree Resources in The Encounter, a prayer initiative that will help us grow closer to God, closer to each other, and to grow in our faith.

Made up of daily Orthodox prayers that you can utilize on a free app, or through a physical prayer book, The Encounter is a simple and easy way to begin to grow in your prayer life and do so with others in our community.

If you'd like more information about participating, e-mail Cooper Buss, cooper@duck.com

The Encounter is coming in January 2022. Watch for more information in the upcoming weeks. We hope you will join us!

Women's Book Club 2022 Schedule

The Women's Book Club has decided to meet the first Thursday of each Book Club month (every-other month). We hope to have in-person meetings this year. The schedule and book list is as follows.

February 3: "Toolkit for Spiritual Growth: A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving" by Father Evan Armatas

April 7: "Philokalia" by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

June 2: "The Forgotten Desert Mothers" by Laura Swan

August 4: "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis

October 6: "The Blessed Surgeon: The Life of Saint Luke of Simferopol" by Archdeacon Vasiliy Marushchak (facilitated by Diakonissa Alex)

December 1: "On the Incarnation" by Athanasius of Alexandria and Sister Penelope Lawson

And... February 2, 2023: "All is Well" by Albert Rossi

Details for each meeting will be announced as the dates approach.

Philoptochos



Philoptochos would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2022!

God bless you and your families in the New Year.

Blessings are like friends who love and labor with us.

*Let's raise our voices in praise
and give thanks to the Lord
so all Philoptochos friends can hear us.*

Philoptochos meetings for January

There will be a budget planning meeting in January 2022, the date has yet to be determined. The Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, and the General Meeting on Sunday, January 23, in the Terrace Room after Liturgy. We will be approving the budget for 2022 at the meeting on January 23.

Vasilopita

New Year's Day Vasilopita

Our annual fundraiser for St. Basil Academy is here! Although the pre-sales have passed, a limited number of additional loaves will be available for purchase on Vasilopita Sunday, January 2, 2022. Chair: Toni Bazakos.

The National Philoptochos Society purchased the estate that became St. Basil Academy in 1944, and has responded to the needs of the Academy and its children for more than 70 years. Located in Garrison, New York, St. Basil Academy is a home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.

Membership Drive

January is the start of our Philoptochos membership drive. Letters will be going out this January to all the women of our parish. Watch for more details on the upcoming membership drive. The drive will conclude at the end of March.

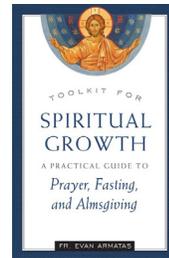
Help Undecorate Our Church

We will "undecorate" the church and halls in early January, after Holy Theophany, and can use your assistance! Please stop by the Philoptochos table and sign up to help.

Women's Book Club Discussion

February 3 (time to be determined)

"Toolkit for Spiritual Growth: A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving" by Father Evan Armatas is our next book. It is available in the bookstore.



*Philoptochos Friends make the most of what
God has given them.*

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who helped with volunteering in December.

Bake sale preparations: Thank you to everyone who helped with packaging and cutting the kourambietes, baklava, and chocolate baklava: Paulette Hasting, Joanna Morgan, Linda Stanton, Annette Legeros, Connie Kouzes, Vangie Karakatsanis, Mary Kafkas, Cathy Forchas, Fifi Kafkas, Elaine Smith, Elena Gabor, Tia Muchulas, Roxanne Muchulas, Tina Menter, and Carrie Petrou.

Thank you to all who helped at the bake sale in December.

Thank you to Donna Psihos and Sandra Anderson for chairing the gifts for Healing House mothers and children. It was a great success, and thank you to everyone who donated gifts.

Vasilopita baking: Thank you to Toni Bazakos for chairing the project again this year. Thank you also to all who helped with baking the breads: Tina Menter, Jamie Amacci, Paulette Hasting, Carrie Petrou, and Sophia Johnson.

Philoptochos gets you up and moving!



Mission & Outreach

It is January 2022 and we are still getting used to coming to St. Mary's for Liturgy, wearing masks or not wearing masks. There have been renovations and we will soon enjoy seeing and sitting in pews. But most of all, with heartfelt joy, is to be able to attend in person. To kiss/bow down to the Icons, walk into the Nave, to receive the Eucharist, to see and hear! And, what a joy to see Fr. Sas.

Share the Harvest

Thank you to 50 energetic and cheerful volunteers!



Congratulations! St. Mary's Meal Pack event met our goal of 20,000 meals in just two hours right after our December 5 Liturgy.

You encouraged us to offer an intergenerational volunteer event in a safe environment according to CDC guidelines.

Thankfully,

we found Harvest Pack.org to guide our meal pack event. These are nutritious oatmeal meals and hundreds of schools place food in student lockers for those who will be hungry over a week-end. Among clients, these meals also go to food shelves for families, children and others now in a struggle to get back on their feet. We are assured that all of these meals will be needed in the next 30 days. Simpson House, FOCUS, Joyce Food Shelf and Community Emergency Services are some of the food shelves who serve clients in real need.



to serve our community.

Please go to St. Mary's YouTube channel which has a two-minute video of thanks to St. Mary's. Look for a video with the title "Thank You." To learn more visit the Harvest Pack Facebook page, www.facebook.com/harvestpackmn/, to view a couple dozen pictures of our volunteers offering their time

MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life), March



for Life was a virtual event in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an annual reminder that over 60 million unborn tiny human lives have been lost. This caring reminder brings to light thoughts about

respect and protection for all the 'unborn children and their mothers'. In previous years, the crowds have been made up of mostly younger people and a great many had signs: "I Regret Lost Fatherhood," "I Regret My Abortion," "Protect Life." Even though cold out, this gathering is very touching. Photo from MCCL website.

Greetings from the Hogar

Mother Inés' 2021 Nativity Letter

Dear Friends of "our children," our Monastery, and our missions in Guatemala and abroad,

From our Monastery to your heart we wish you a blessed Nativity!

May the star that shone in Bethlehem bring you the hope and joy that only Jesus brings, especially at this time of difficulty and uncertainty. And may the year 2022 bring many blessings from God.

We remember you and pray for all of you. May God keep us faithful to the Christian values and our love for Jesus Christ. In this time of trials and fear, may He develop in us the discernment we need and fear no death as we believe in life without end in God.

We want to update you on our mission in Guatemala as we know you often pray for us and help financially when you can through our FOUNDATION "FRIENDS OF HOGAR RAFAEL AYAU." Please visit the Hogar website for updates and how to make a donation: fhrayau.org

Stewardship

by Athena Mihas

Saint Mary's Stewardship Testimonial

Parishioners, Alexis and Anastasia Friesen, shared the following powerful testimonial with us on Sunday, October 31, 2021, following the Liturgy:

Alexis: *What does St. Mary's mean to me? This question sounds very similar to the question we ask the 3rd through 5th graders at summer camp, "What does Christ mean to me?" The camp program has been very impactful in our life at St. Mary's and today as we share our experience, it feels like we are answering the adult version of this classic camp question. Overall, St. Mary's Youth and Young Adult Programming in addition to the support of the community has been instrumental to how we have built and continue to build our lives as Orthodox Christians.*

Growing up, programs like summer camp, Sunday school, and GOYA taught us how to live our lives in the church. Many of the Sunday School Teachers, Camp Counselors, and older Orthodox kids (now adults) were and continue to be role models, even if they didn't know it. We both watched how they behaved both in and out of church and tried to follow their examples: going to the services, serving the church, and welcoming newcomers. In addition to our family, it was through many of these ministries that we learned how to have an Orthodox lifestyle and built a foundation for leading Christ centered lives. In my third year of college, I can now see how incredibly valuable this foundation has been as I have taken my spiritual life as my own.

Anastasia: *Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is a national ministry which works to connect college students to Christ and to one another. We are blessed to have a vibrant chapter on the U of M campus, and it is heavily supported by this community. Many people from this parish have generously donated meals and/or spoken at our meetings which has been invaluable support. Further, St. Mary's has funded numerous programs including yesterday's MNTRship Program, our Spring District Day, and College Conference transportation and scholarships. Because of this funding, we have been able to participate in an abundance of OCF programs that strengthen our relationship with God. In the future, this collection of experiences will only serve us as we build our lives on Christ.*

In closing, I was recently given advice to always surround myself with people I wish to be like as I pursue future programs and professional paths. I immediately thought of my St. Mary's community because I have many role models to look to. Our parish is full of generous, kind, loving, and supportive

people who I feel so blessed to be surrounded by. Thank you all for your financial, physical, and spiritual support. You have supported us by contributing to that foundation.

—Alexis and Anastasia Friesen

Stewardship Campaign 2021 Update

"...the greatest of these is love."

—I Corinthians 13:13

Thank you for your participation in our 2021 Stewardship Campaign and your on-going support of St. Mary's through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We are getting closer to our goal! See progress update below:

Offering Income As of December 3, 2021

Offering Income as of Dec. 3, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2021 Annual Budget	Additional Needed by December 31
Payments Received	\$879,314	\$1,069,625	\$190,311

Offering Income as of Dec. 3, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2020 YTD Actual	Increase or (Decrease) vs. Prior Year
Payments Received	\$879,314	\$839,011	\$40,303
Average per Week	\$18,319	\$17,479	\$840
Average per Month	\$79,214	\$75,609	\$3,632

Stewardship giving has continued to be strong in both 2020 and 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic impact.

Your stewardship contributions support all of St. Mary's ministries as well as church operations. St. Mary's continues to be a beacon in the community and throughout the nation among Orthodox Churches.

In addition to Stewardship giving, St. Mary's has relied on both the Greek Festival and rental income to fully cover the costs of the church operations and all ministries. This year, St. Mary's has experienced income losses due to the cancellation of the Greek Festival and reduced rental income.

As a result of this decrease in income this year, additional sources of funding are needed. The increase in Stewardship giving we are seeing so far this year will certainly help to offset some of these losses.

Thank you for making 2021 a success!

—Stewardship continues on next page.

Stewardship 2022 Campaign Kick-Off

Our Church, Our Spiritual Home

Our Orthodox Christian Church is our spiritual home.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ, a family.

We kicked off the 2022 Stewardship Campaign in the past month with the following activities:

- For three Sundays in a row, testimonial speakers shared personal messages of what St. Mary's means to them (William Buss on October 24, Alexis and Anastasia Friesen on October 31, and Sylvia Kafkas on November 7).
- Stewardship Sunday took place on November 7. The sermon on this Sunday, as well as the two previous Sundays, was focused on stewardship.
- On Sunday, November 7, our annual Stewardship Drive kicked off with the Ministry Fair. After Liturgy, several parishioners stopped by the Great Hall for refreshments

and to stroll among the tables displaying information from the many ministries and organizations that make up St. Mary's. This is always a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see firsthand how our gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure are used by St. Mary's both at home and beyond.

- The Stewardship Campaign packets were mailed out in mid-November.

By the time you read this newsletter, you will have received your stewardship envelope in the mail. Please take some time to prayerfully consider how you will support St. Mary's in the coming year.

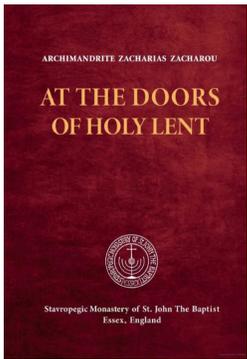
For more information, contact:

- Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina at: ackalina@yahoo.com
- Athena Mihas at: athenamihas@gmail.com
- David at St. Mary's Office: David@stmarysgoc.org or 612.825.9595

In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



At the Doors of Holy Lent is a great guide and companion for entering into the liturgical season of Great Lent. Written by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou of the Stavropegic Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex, England, this book focuses on the five Sundays preparing for the Triodion and the four Sundays of the Triodion. In addition

there is a section titled "Constant Principles for Our Spiritual Warfare." The Introductory Note explains:

During the period before the Triodion and the Sundays which mark its beginning, the Church sets forth before our eyes various lessons through the Gospel readings: the grateful Leper, the Blind Man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, the good and faithful Servant of the 'talents', the Canaanite woman, the Publican, the Prodigal Son and the Righteous on Judgment Day. Through some word, or deed, or attitude, these people all attracted God's gaze upon them. They became the target of his visitation and traversed centuries in an instant. These suffering souls, who had withered away either because of sin or because of not knowing the true God, came into the presence of the Lord and 'a spiritual sun, the name of which is persona, began to rise in them.

...In this way, the Church guides us, knowing the struggle which we are encouraged to undertake in order to find our deep heart, so that we may also become persons in the sight of our Creator and Judge, the targets of His visitation.

...The path is trodden. The constant principles are laid out with clarity, and we must keep them in our conscience as our polar star, as pearls of great price. We must embrace them so that they may render our labour fruitful not only during Great Lent, but also throughout our lives. (11-12)

Reading what Father Zacharias writes about the Gospel readings for each Sunday, we are sitting at the feet of a wise spiritual guide and elder inviting us to hear, know, and grow in this word of God. Father Zacharias writes:

In every passage of the Gospel we find a perfect teaching that portrays the whole Christ. He is hidden in every verse of Scripture, but according to the Fathers, in order to discover Him, we need to 'use the virtues of our hands to knock on the door of Scripture'. (52)

Reading *At the Doors of Holy Lent* we are knocking at the door of Scripture and Father Zacharias leads us through the doors with God-given wisdom and grace.

Note: The Sunday of the Ten Lepers, the first Sunday written about in this book, is on January 16 this year.

Children & Youth

Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: **Liturgia** (Worship), **Diakonia** (Service), **Martyria** (Witness), and **Koinonia** (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.

Parish Night

Wednesday, January 19

We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!

Winter Camp

Friday, January 14 – Monday, January 17

Winter Camp at St. Croix with St. Mary's OCA. The theme is Baptism and Salvation. We will discuss the sacrament of Baptism and our Orthodox understanding of Salvation. The camp is for those in grades 6-12. Transportation is not provided. The cost is \$200 per child by January 3. St. Mary's GOC will subsidize \$100 for St. Mary's GOC youth, but you will need to pay for the full cost of the Camp up front. The cost after the deadline is \$250. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2022WinterCamp>. To pay, use Venmo -@stmarysocayouth (business) or make checks payable to **St. Mary's OCA**. Please let Jon know if you register. Reimbursements will be issued following camp.

FAITH Group

0-5 Year Olds and Parents

- ▶ Wednesday, January 12, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 - ▶ Thursday, January 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- FAITH Play Group
Great Hall and Terrace Room

HOPE and JOY

Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

- ▶ Sunday, January 9, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Ice Skating at Centennial Lakes
RSVP to jon@stmarysgoc.org by **January 5** if you would like to attend. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child and are welcome to join us! Bring your own skates. If you don't have any skates, St. Mary's will pay for the HOPE/JOY kids (grades K-5) and 1 parent or guardian. Any additional family members will have to be covered by the family (\$8.00/rental).
- ▶ Wednesday, January 19, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Parish Night – See above for details.
Theme: *Journey through the Parables: The Parable of the Ten Virgins.*

Junior GOYA

Grades 6-8

- ▶ Friday, January 14 – Monday, January 17
Winter Camp
See the article above for details
- ▶ Wednesday, January 19, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Parish Night – See above for details.
Theme: *Be a Bee.*

Senior GOYA

Grades 9-12

- ▶ Friday, January 14 – Monday, January 17
Winter Camp
See the article above for details
- ▶ Wednesday, January 19, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Parish Night – See above for details.
Theme: *Tending the Garden of Our Hearts.* Mr. Paul Karos will lead the discussion.

Basketball Practices

All practices are in the Great Hall

- Saturday, January 8, 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.
Boys' GOYA Practice
- Sunday, January 9, 12:45-2:00 p.m.
Girls' GOYA Practice
- Sunday, January 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Boys' GOYA Practice
- Sunday, January 16, 12:45-2:00 p.m.
JOY Practice
- Saturday, January 22, 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.
Boys' GOYA Practice
- Sunday, January 23, 12:45-2:00 p.m.
JOY Practice
- Sunday, January 23, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Girls' GOYA Practice
- Saturday, January 29, 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.
Boys' GOYA Practice



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*A Blessed Christmas
and the
Healthiest and Happiest of
New Years to All*

**St. Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church**

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