

# The Messenger

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

## February 2022

### Inside This Issue

Bookstore.....	8
Children and Youth.....	9
Education and Fellowship.....	2
Missions and Outreach.....	5
Our Life Together.....	2
Parish News and Events.....	3
Philoptochos.....	4
Stewardship.....	7
Thank You Notes.....	6
Worship Schedule.....	3

## 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



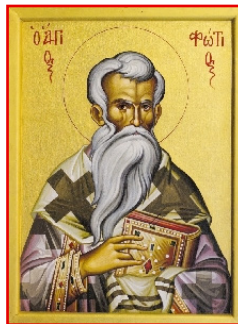
## A Message from Father Jason

Father Jason Houck, Associate Priest

### It's none of my business...

A common complaint we often hear is that others don't care for the common well-being of other people. They don't care about this or that person, group, issue, etc. This, of course, is no new problem to the world or even to our Church. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Byzantine Empire was mostly Christian. Those outside its borders were largely not Christian. Scholars tell us that the Byzantines of the 9<sup>th</sup> century were generally unconcerned with mission work. With limited reach outside their borders, many looked inwardly. Some even thought that attempting to preach the gospel to non-believers was "casting pearls before the swine" (see Matthew 7:6). In short, in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Byzantine Christians were generally inwardly focused and were not concerned with outsiders.

Today, too, we may have the same problem. We may not care about missionary work. We may not care about those on the outside of our church, country, or sphere of influence. We may just think... "it's none of my business."



Saint Photios the Great

Thankfully, others thought differently! Thankfully, others were more outward-looking in their thinking! Thankfully, we celebrate the memory of Saint Photios the Great on February 6!

St. Photios was famous for his brilliance and for his missionary zeal. St. Photios became Patriarch of Constantinople in 858. As Patriarch, he immediately supported missions. During his first five years as Patriarch, St. Photios supported Saints Cyril and Methodios in missions in the Middle East and among the Khazars (missions that generally failed), before famously sending them to Moravia to preach the Gospel to the Slavic people. St. Photios supported Saint Cyril in his developing an alphabet for the Slavonic people—the Glagolitic alphabet—to help spread the Gospel to Moravia. Moravia was composed of parts of modern-day Czech Republic and other surrounding countries.

As a result, the other Slavic peoples eventually embraced Orthodox Christianity. St. Photios didn't think, "it's none of my business." Rather, his support of missions changed the course of history! We may not be called to be traveling missionaries, but let's take action by supporting missions with our volunteer hours, encouragement, and donations, as did St. Photios! Yes, spreading the light of Christ is our business! May St. Photios be an example to all of us!

In Christ,

Fr. Jason Houck

# Our Life Together

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## Deaths

Samir Saleh

December 1, 2021

Katina Kondile

December 28, 2021

May their memories be eternal.



## Share YourShelf

February's recipient of Share Your-Shelf contributions is Simpson Food Pantry.

### Sunday, February 6

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

### Sunday, February 13

Potatoes – boxed, canned, or instant

### Sunday, February 24

Pancake mix and syrup

### Sunday, February 27

Hygiene items

He who gives when he is asked has waited too long. — Seneca

## 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

## Education • Fellowship • Worship

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### Fellowship and Study Groups

#### Intercessory Prayer

Wednesdays, February 9 and 23  
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

#### Men's Fellowship

Friday, February 4: *Exodus*  
Friday, February 18: *Psalms 13*  
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

#### Saturday Bible Study

Every Saturday  
9:00 a.m., Lecture Room

#### Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, February 9 and 23  
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

### 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

#### Tuesday, February 1

*Eve of Presentation*  
Great Vespers – 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 2

*Presentation of Our Lord*  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

#### Thursday, February 10

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

#### Thursday, February 17

*Saint Theodore the Tyro*  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

#### Saturday, February 26

*First Saturday of Souls*  
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

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### St. Mary's Parish Council

#### President

William M. Hoeft

#### Vice President

John Beauchamp

#### Secretary

Maria Smith

#### Treasurer

Thomas Hainlin

#### Members

Daniel Buss  
Ina Dunham  
Sam Hanna  
Nicholas Legeros  
Cristina Nicklow  
Jeannie Possis  
Dean Psychogios  
Andrew Twito



# Parish News & Events

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## House Blessings

During January and February, Fr. Tim and Fr. Jason are conducting house blessings. To schedule a blessing, please contact the Church Office: [stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org) or call 612.825.9595.

It is also within our Orthodox tradition for laypeople to bless their own homes with bottled Holy Water, as it states in the Great Blessing of the Waters service: "For those who are sprinkled with it and take it for the blessing of homes; let us pray to the Lord."

## Godparent Sunday

**Sunday, February 13**

Godparent Sunday is February 13! We invite godparents to join their godchildren during Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together. Godchildren: invite your godparents to join you in your Church School class. Paper invitations will be available in class for children to send out and a digital invitation will also be sent to families to forward to godparents. If your godparent is unable to attend you may ask a special adult to join you this day at church. Contact *Dena Tortorelis*, Church School director, with questions: [churchschool@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:churchschool@stmarysgoc.org)

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

**Sundays, February 6, 20, 27**

Do you enjoy the after-Liturgy social time? How about taking a Sunday to host? It's not a huge responsibility, but one that is well worth it! Anyone can do it. If you would like to host, or want to find out more about hosting, contact the Church Office. We have a step-by-step sheet available that will guide you through the process from set up through clean up.

### Thank You...

The clergy and staff of St. Mary's wish to thank everyone who remembered them with prayers, thoughts, cards, and gifts during this past holiday season, as well as throughout the year. Your thoughtfulness is so much appreciated!



## Helping Those around the Globe

In October during our Annual Missions Breakfast, close to 75 parishioners learned about the Orthodox Church in Kenya from Bishop Neofitos, the first bishop of the Diocese of Nyeri and Mount Kenya.

A graduate of Holy Cross, and a classmate of our own Fr. Jason, Bishop Neofitos is no stranger to the Twin Cities having visited us in the past also participating in St. Mary's Summer Camp.

Our parishioners, after learning of the many projects and good works happening in Kenya, raised over \$12,000. If we recall the parable of the talents in the Gospel of Matthew, several servants were able to increase their

talents and heard the glorious words "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master."

Since we understand the talent included in the parable to be a sum of money, we are pleased to announce that the contributions of our own faithful were doubled by a year-end donation from the St. Mary's Foundation.

It was indeed a joyous day when St. Mary's was able to **send \$24,700 to the Church in Kenya**. We are truly blessed and thank everyone who contributed. "For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance."

# Philoptochos



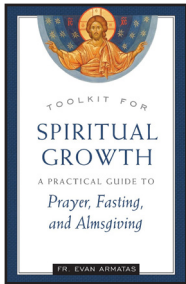
**Philoptochos friends share the best of their faith.**

## Membership Drive Has Started

Our annual membership drive has started. Letters from the Membership Committee have been sent out to all women in the parish. Watch for more details on the upcoming events for the membership drive which will conclude at the end of March.

## Women's Book Club Discussion

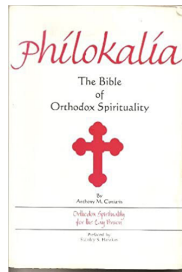
**Thursday, February 3, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**



Don't miss the next Book Club Discussion on Thursday, February 3! The location will be determined closer to the date. The book this month is *Toolkit for Spiritual Growth: A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving* by Father Evan Armatas and is available for purchase

in the church bookstore.

The next book club discussion takes place on Thursday, April 7. The book will be *Philokalia* by Father Anthony Coniaris. The book is available in the church bookstore.



## Sweet Sunday/Membership Drive

**Sunday, February 13**

Please plan to support our annual Membership Drive by signing up to bring a sweet treat, breads, fruit, nuts, etc. To help with this event, watch for the signup sheets at the Philoptochos table on Sundays.



## Philoptochos General Meeting

**Sunday, February 27**

Join us for our monthly meeting on Sunday, February 27, 11:30 a.m., in the Terrace Room. We will have a brief program along with treats.

## Thank You!

**...to Toni Bazakos for chairing the baking of 225 loaves of Vasilopita, and for all her helpers**

Jamie Amacci, Giannoula Bakritzes, Sofia Johnson, Tina Menter, and Carrie Petrou

We are grateful to all who helped sell bread on Sundays and to all who purchased a loaf (or two!).

**...to the team of people who worked at the December 4 and 5 Greek Bake Sale and Boutique**

Cathy Forchas, Vicki Hanson, Paulette Hastings,

Jayne Klatt, Mary Kleve, Connie Kouzes,

and Joanna Morgan, plus everyone who supported the event through bake sale packaging, promoting the event, and buying merchandise.

**..to our Christmas Liturgy Social Hour Hosts**

George, Andrew, and Gilbert Atsidakos,

Jimmy Geogleris, and George and Connie Kouzes

**...to the Vasilopita slicers (and other chore completers!)**

Erline Holman, Fifi Kafkas, Mary Kafkas,

Connie Kouzes, Annette Legeros, Cathy Selin,

Roxanne Muchulas, Barbara Nichols, and Elaine Smith.

\* Please watch for updates on events or needs in the weekly bulletin, web page, and at our table on Sundays.



**Time spent with Philoptochos  
will change your life for the better.**

In Christ,

Wishing you a warm winter in your hearts.

# Mission & Outreach

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## Saint Mary's Generosity in Missions and Outreach

How would you describe 2021 and January and February 2022? What do you tell others about St. Mary's during times such as these?

Here are suggestions or examples to help tell the story of St. Mary's,



Those with a heart for missions gathered again this past October. We had a Missions Sunday luncheon by zoom with Bishop Neofitos, of Nyeri and Mount Kenya. Bishop Neofitos showed joys and challenges of St. Barnabas Orthodox Orphanage and school and the rewards in supporting the basic needs of those in the orphanage's care. We heard about improvements that are needed. We might think that thousands of dollars are needed to dig and operate a well that is dedicated to the orphanage. While they have few funds, the funds they receive accomplish much good. St. Mary's annual Missions giving luncheon allowed our Parish to contribute to their

need. These actions are your generosity to missions.



Our volunteers have donated the time to pack over 100,000 meals since 2019. Many of you ask "when will we do this again?" In December 2021, 20,000 breakfast meals

were packed for food shelves, such as Joyce Uptown, Simpson House, and Every Meal. Every Meal supports children who experience hunger through

hundreds of schools in the Metropolitan area including nearby Wisconsin. School staff quietly place meals in the student's backpacks.

We look forward to this year. St. Mary's visitors and converts often comment that they are drawn to St. Mary's for many reasons. Among those reasons is St. Mary's long-standing dedication to Missions. It is 2022. Look for updates from Missions and Outreach throughout the year.

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## We Offer These Gifts to Your Glory

We read in Psalm 112 – "It is well with the one who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. . . . He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

It is through this prism – with a steady heart, "trusting in the Lord" that the Parish Council approved to disburse over \$90,000 in charitable contributions during our last fiscal year.

While much of our giving is done at the end of the year, in conjunction with the tradition of giving gifts during Christmas, St. Mary's continues to provide needed funds and philanthropic support to organizations and activities throughout the year.

We are grateful to the St. Mary's Foundation Board who review all requests and bring forward opportunities, and grateful to our leaders who in 1979 had the foresight to begin the Foundation "to provide a perpetual source of spiritual and financial strength for our church."

At the end of each Divine Liturgy our clergy read the

beautiful Stewardship Prayer, and we are blessed with the opportunity to put those words – "that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts you have given us" – into action so our Lord's "name be glorified forever. Amen."

### Foundation Donations

\$21,700 - Faithtree Resources

\$10,000 each - Joyce Food Shelf and FOCUS Minnesota

\$5,000 each - IOCC, Simpson Food Pantry,

St. Stephen's Housing Services, Salvation Army

\$3,000 - OCF Mentoring Program

\$3,000 - Hellenic College Holy Cross

\$2,000 each - Minneapolis Police Foundation, Take Heart

\$1,500 each - Metro Hope and Philoxenia Charities

\$1,000 each - OCMC, Groveland Food Shelf, CES,

Mustard Seed Fund, St Iakovos Retreat Center

\$ 500 each - Every Meal

Ronald McDonald House Charities

# Thank You Notes

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Dear Fr. Dokos,

I write to you today to thank you for your generous donation to the **Metropolis of Chicago**. The love and support of our friends allows us to carry out our mission to bring Christ's peace and healing to each person who comes through our doors.

Through your contribution to the Metropolis of Chicago, you have become our partner in this ministry, shaping our youth, sustaining the poor, comforting the mourning, visiting the sick, and serving our neighbors. Together we are not only building a more vibrant Church, but we are also offering hope to all those in despair.

Once again, I express my deep gratitude to you and pray that God bless you and your loved ones abundantly with every good thing!

With paternal love and esteem in Christ,  
+ Nathanael Metropolitan of Chicago



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your significant support of **Groveland Food Shelf**. We received your generous gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 in January.

During these wintry months it's normal to reflect on the past year. The last 12 months have not lacked for challenges. As did most of the world, we looked forward with much hope that we could return to business as usual. Having previously experienced very little COVID illnesses, an even more transmissible version of the virus has been hitting closer to home.

We are still serving guests using the client choice model that other shelves abandoned during the past two years. This, in large part, is because of the many community based volunteers and our own staff working through the shortages as their co-workers stay home due to illness.

Groveland's payroll cost is almost 50 more than two years ago, fuel costs for our van (in use 7 days a week) have substantially increased as has our liability and workers compensation insurance premiums. In 2022, we expect our food costs to increase substantially as government subsidies return to normal.

Our client visits are still greater than before the pandemic and we are determined to continue to provide emergency groceries to those who experience food insecurity.

Groveland enjoys the support of many like you, making it possible for us to fulfill our mission.

Rich Maier Treasurer

Dear Father Timothy and Parish Council:

Loyal and faithful parish support like yours provide the core for our mission. Your belief in **St. Iakovos Retreat Center** enables us to work in bringing spiritual renewal, natural beauty, education, memorable programs and bonding opportunities for adults, children, churches, families, and businesses. Your generous gifts provide us with necessary funding to carry out this meaningful work for our Lord and make an impact on the lives of those we serve. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness!

We received your gift of \$1,000.00 on 12/31/2021. This gift is being applied to our unrestricted funding to assure we keep our mission growing and meet our goals to serve even more people through our beautiful facilities and grounds.

Thank you again for your trust and support, this vital work would not happen without you. In these challenging times we are continuing to prepare for our future, trusting in the lord to use our stunningly peaceful property, well equipped facilities, talented staff, engaged board, amazing children's camps, and educational programs for His Kingdom.

Health and Blessings,  
Jayne McGrath



Dear Friends at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox,

**You are giving hope and a path toward recovery and independence.**

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000.00 to **St. Stephen's Human Services/House of Charity**. Your support helps people like Shannon, and so many others, overcome personal and systemic challenges to achieve their goals.

In addition to mental health and substance use treatment, St. Stephen's / House of Charity offers daily community meals, public showers, shelter for single and partnered adults, support for the unsheltered, and a variety of housing programs to meet people's unique needs.

Your support ensures these resources are available. More importantly, your support truly changes people's lives and makes the community a stronger, more equitable place for everyone.

We look to the new year with renewed hope of even more lives changed because of you. Thank you.

Cheryl Jensen  
Interim Executive Director

# Stewardship

by Athena Mihas

## Our Church, Our Spiritual Home

**Our Orthodox Christian Church is our spiritual home.**

**We are brothers and sisters in Christ, a family.**

In a time when so many are moving away from things spiritual in search of all things secular, St. Mary's is here for all of us, providing not only services and religious education (adult and youth), but so many opportunities for fellowship and outreach. Our parishioners span the age spectrum, are of many ethnicities and nationalities, and of varying spiritual backgrounds. What a microcosm of society we are! Perhaps that is why in a time of shrinking church stewards and poor attendance, we have shattered the norm.

Of all our stewardship themes over the years, this year's focus on "our spiritual home" is possibly the most meaningful. The combination of a disconnect with church and increased anxiety through the pandemic have left many struggling and feeling "stranded on an island". We at St. Mary's want to be that beacon of light for those struggling with the darkness, and a warm place to hunker down for those looking for refuge from the storm.

How blessed we are to have met our 2021 Stewardship Financial goal! But we don't want to rest, we want to continue to forge new goals, growing our current programs and establishing new ones. The stewardship committee invites your participation as well as your suggestions.

We will continue to focus on several areas in 2022:

- o Donate more easily: St. Mary's now has a Venmo account, accessible on our website and through a QR code in the Sunday bulletin and the Messenger. As always, you can donate via the website or in person.
- o Connect more easily: via our newly designed website which provides an enormous amount of up-to-date information and many links to sites of interest. We are providing more in person opportunities for connections between parishioners as well; we are always adding new fellowship and spiritual education opportunities.
- o Better engage the youth and young adults: They need each other! St. Mary's is working diligently on increasing engagement of youth and young adults with each other and with the parish.

We thank you for your 2022 pledge if you have given one and encourage you to fill out Pledge and Time/Talent forms if you have not yet done so. You should have received a stewardship packet already, but all the forms are also available on the St. Mary's website.

## Stewardship Campaign 2021 Final Results

**"...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 so thrilled to announce we have exceeded our 2021 stewardship goal. You made this possible!

Offering Income as of Dec. 3, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2021 Annual Budget	Exceeded Goal by
Payments Received	\$1,142,377	\$1,069,625	\$72,752

Offering Income as of Dec. 3, 2021	2021 YTD Actual	2020 YTD Actual	Increase or (Decrease) vs. Prior Year
Payments Received	\$1,142,377	\$1,045,421	\$96,957
Average per Week	\$21,969	\$20,104	\$1,865
Average per Month	\$95,198	\$87,118	\$8,080

### 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.

Increased giving in 2021 made it possible to revenue offset losses St. Mary's had due to decreased rental income and the cancellation of the Greek Festival in 2021.

Thank you for making 2021 a success!



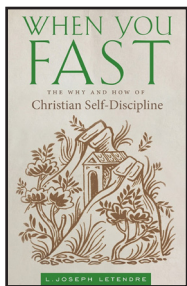
Scan the QR code to give through Venmo.

When giving through Venmo, please provide both your first AND last name in order to receive proper credit for your contribution.

# In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

[bookstore@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:bookstore@stmarysgoc.org)



L. Joseph Letendre has written a brief, succinct, edifying, and sometimes humorous book titled *When You Fast: The Why and How of Christian Self-Discipline*. In the introduction, aptly titled "Coming to Terms with Fasting," Letendre defines the term, locates it in the biblical context, addresses the "rules," and concludes:

Fasting is eminently practical—in the literal sense: it is something you put into practice, something you do. Putting this Christian discipline into practice in twenty-first-century North America presents its own set of difficulties. This book will attempt to face some of these difficulties while showing the continuing relevance and importance of practicing both fasting and other forms of Christian self-discipline. (11)

The author divides the book into two parts, first addressing why we fast followed by how we fast. We fast because of Christ and the Church.

Fasting, together with other forms of self-denial we will consider..., is a crucial component in the work of taking up our cross. But the question remains, Why? There are (at least) three reasons: We fast to prepare. We fast to be free. We fast to be fruitful. (17)

The reader is invited to fast with the Church and choose one's weapons, by which he means:

There's more to fasting than fasting. The word "fasting" is shorthand for the entire range of disciplines Christians have undertaken for centuries. For the Church, these are the tools, or more accurately, the weapons we use in our largely unseen warfare against the kingdom of Satan, the kingdoms of this world, and the kingdom of self....Along with fasting, the disciplines of abstinence include solitude and silence, self-restraint through frugality and chastity, and sacrifice—all performed in secrecy. These disciplines are the equipment we have been issued by the Church for our spiritual struggle. They are provided to help us build a life that is of service to our neighbors and pleasing to God. These disciplines are our weapons in

our resistance campaign against the three enemies of grace—the age in which we live (the world), our own fallen human nature (the flesh), and the one who wields these against us (the devil). The Church calls the proper and effective use of these weapons asceticism....The word "asceticism" is rooted in the Greek word *ascesis*, which means "exercise, training." (39, 41-42)

Letendre starts this ascetical exercise with fasting from food, learning and growing in the concept of denying oneself. He writes:

Asceticism is goal-oriented. Fasting, and all the other Christian disciplines, are tools...for specific purposes.... Asceticism is intended to increase our capacity to love God and our neighbor....The whole point of Christian asceticism is to increase our capacity to obey Christ. (49, 62)

From fasting from food the author moves on to fasting from talking and the vital importance of cultivating silence—interior, exterior, and in one's environment. After providing clear evidence for the importance of silence and guidance for clearing one's mind of toxic thoughts and thinking, Letendre concludes with an appendix titled "A Field Guide to Toxic Thoughts" which is a clarion call to any reader who has been really listening while reading *When You Fast: The Why and How of Christian Self-Discipline*.

*"We fast because we are loved, and we fast to be better able to love." (89)*



# 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, February 16

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!

### FAITH Group

#### 0-5 Year Olds and Parents

- ▶ FAITH Play Group

Wednesday, February 9 and Thursday, February 24  
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Playtime in the Great Hall; a lesson and treat in the Terrace Room

### HOPE and JOY

#### Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

- ▶ Wednesday, February 16, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

HOPE/JOY at Parish Night

HOPE/JOY Theme: Journey through the Parables:

The Parable of the Leaven

See above for the evening's details.

- ▶ Friday-Saturday, February 18-19, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.

JOY (grades 3-5) Lock-in at Church

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will have a sleep over in the Terrace Room! We will play games, watch a movie, and enjoy being in each other's company.

Please RSVP to [jon@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:jon@stmarysgoc.org) if your child plans on attending.

### Junior GOYA

#### Grades 6-8

- ▶ Wednesday, February 2, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Junior GOYA in the Great Hall/Youth Room

Watch for updates from Jon!

- ▶ Wednesday, February 16, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Junior GOYA at Parish Night

Junior GOYA Theme: Be a Bee

See above for the evening's details.

### Senior GOYA

#### Grades 9-12

- ▶ Wednesday, February 9, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Senior GOYA in the Great Hall/Youth Room

Watch for updates from Jon!

- ▶ Wednesday, February 16, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Senior GOYA at Parish Night

Senior GOYA Theme: Tending the Garden of Our Hearts

Mr. Paul Karos will lead the discussion.

See above for the evening's details.

### Winter Camp 2022 - Rescheduled

#### Friday, March 11 – Sunday, March 13

Winter Camp at Camp St. Croix with St. Mary's OCA:

The theme is Baptism and Salvation. We will be discussing 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 \$160 per child. St. Mary's GOC will subsidize \$100 for St. Mary's

GOC youth, but you will have to pay for Camp up front. 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.

### Orthodox Parent Talks

Parents of children 18 and under, please join us on Sunday, February 13, in the Terrace Room during Church School (approximately 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.) for our second in a series of talks about parenting! On February 13, Fr. Jason Houck will discuss with us the topic "Spiritual Life at Home with Your Kids." Parents: don't miss this important event. The next talk is scheduled for Sunday, March 27.

### Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. To access our formal feedback process, go to our St. Mary's home page-Click on "Youth," then "Youth Program Feedback." Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: [St\\_Marys\\_GOYA](https://www.instagram.com/St_Marys_GOYA)

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Permit #3735

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit the sick,  
console the distressed,  
and do not make your longing  
for prayer a pretext for turning  
away from anyone who asks  
for your help;  
for love is greater than prayer.

—Saint Maximos the Confessor

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

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**Publication Deadlines**  
**The Messenger**—  
First Sunday of each month.

**Sunday Bulletin**—  
Preceding Thursday,  
12:00 Noon

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:00pm-Great Vespers	<b>2 Presentation of Our Lord</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:15pm-Junior GOYA 6:30pm-Byzantine Matins Ens. Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 7:00pm-Women's Book Club	<b>4</b> 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	<b>5</b> 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<b>6 Sunday of the Canaanite "The Messenger" Deadline</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym 6:15pm-Parish Council	<b>9</b> 9:30am-FAITH Play Group 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer 11:00am-Women's Bible Study 6:15pm-Senior GOYA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	<b>10 Saint Haralambos</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<b>13 Publican and Pharisee Triodion Begins Godparent Sunday Philoptochos Sweet Sunday</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Parent Presentation	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 6:15pm-Parish Night 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	<b>17 Saint Theodore the Tyro</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	<b>18</b> 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 6:00pm-JOY Lock-in	<b>19</b> 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<b>20 Prodigal Son</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Missions & Outreach	<b>21 Presidents' Day</b> Church and Office closed	<b>22</b> 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym	<b>23</b> 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer 11:00am-Women's Bible Study 6:30pm-Byzantine Matins Ens. Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 9:30am-FAITH Play Group 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	<b>25</b>	<b>26 First Saturday of Souls</b> 9:00am-Bible Study 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<b>27 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Philoptochos General Meeting	<b>28</b>					