

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Sunday before Theophany

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Sunday before Theophany; Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople; Juliana the Righteous; Theagenes the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Parios; Theopemptos; Theodota, the Mother of the Holy Anargyroi; Righteous Mark the Deaf; Basil the Martyr of Ankyra; Sergios; Theopistos the Martyr; George the New Martyr of Georgia; Nilos the Sanctified; Sylvester of the Kiev Caves.

Morning Gospel: Sixth

Tone: Third

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 Third Antiphon

Resurrection Hymn, Third Tone

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of his arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world his great mercy.

At the Small Entrance

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above.

Hymn of the Forefeast of Theophany, Fourth Tone (Joseph Marveled)

O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of God, the good news of the miracles you witnessed; you saw a virgin give birth; you worshiped with the Magi; you gave glory with the shepherds; you conferred with an angel. Beseech Christ our God to 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 the Forefeast of Theophany, Fourth Tone

To the flowing streams today of River Jordan comes the Lord and cries aloud to John the Baptist, and He says, "Be not afraid to baptize me now; for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Epistle..... II Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel..... Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

The coffee hour this morning is hosted by Stephanie Woolf in memory of departed loved ones.

Memorial prayers are offered today for **John Robert Woolf**, husband of Stephanie Pappas Woolf (1 year); **John Gus Pappas** (30 years), **Angeline Spell Pappas** (6 years); **William Brown** (52 years), **Catherine Spell Brown** (5 years).

Saint Mary's Giving Report

~ 2021 Offering Income ~

2021 Year to Date Actual: \$1,082,764

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

We reached our goal! Thank you to all who gave so generously this year.



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.

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.

Welcome Fr. Tim and Family!

We are overjoyed to welcome Fr. Tim and Presbyteria Gabriela and their beautiful daughters – Andrea, Casiana, Theodora, Sofia – to St. Mary's. Today celebrates their return to the Twin Cities as Fr. Tim begins as the proistamenos of our community. So much has happened over the past 17 years when they were last a part of our parish and we look forward to growing together as a parish family in 2022 and beyond.

As with any move, it will take a few weeks for things to settle and individuals to get acclimated. Should you have an urgent need, you are welcome to contact Fr. Tim at frtim@stmarysgoc.org or via cellphone at 218.343.5754.

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall bring forth understanding. Hear this all you nations; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world. —Prokeimenon, Feast of St. Basil

Prayer List

Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: The family of Katina Kondiles; 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; Amir, Tom, 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., 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.

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Cereals – hot and cold

January's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

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

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, January 2: Sunday before Theophany

Vasilopita Sunday

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

Vasilopita Service; Parish Council Oath of Office

12:45 p.m. – Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice

Tuesday, January 4

6:00 p.m. – Adult Open Gym

Wednesday, January 5: Eve of Theophany

9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

6:00 p.m. – Vespers Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

Thursday, January 5: Holy Theophany

Church Office Closed

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

and Great Blessing of Water

Friday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist

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

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

Saturday, January 8

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 9: Sunday after Theophany

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

12:30 p.m. – HOPE/JOY Skating, Centennial Lakes

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

Philoptochos News

Donate to St. Basil Academy — Members of Philoptochos will have collection baskets in hand at the end of Liturgy for your contribution in support of St. Basil Academy. If you prefer to make a donation instead of purchasing a loaf of Vasilopita, you may do so today. Please make checks payable to *Philoptochos*, noted “St. Basil” in the memo line.

Buy Vasilopita — There are plenty St. Basil’s Sweet Bread loaves for you to purchase, even if you didn’t preorder one. Each loaf is \$15, has a coin baked inside, and is perfect for New Year celebrations. All funds go to St. Basil Academy (stbasil.goarch.org), a home for children in need.

Announcements

2022 Basketball Tournament

Men’s Team Forming!

Any able-bodied men interested in playing on the St. Mary’s men’s basketball team in the tournament this coming February, please contact *Theo Boosalis*, theo@boosalis.net. Practices will be scheduled as we know more about who is interested in playing.

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.

February 4-6, 2022

Basketball Tournament in Minneapolis!

Mark your calendars! The Western Region Family Basketball Tournament will be hosted by St. Mary’s the weekend of February 4-6, 2022! Be on the lookout for communications from our parish for volunteer opportunities for the weekend.

For more information, visit: www.greekbball.com.

Our co-chairs are Georgia Andron, Lou Pappas, and Jon Klein.

From the Fathers...on Peace

Nothing is so characteristically Christian as being a peacemaker

—*Saint Basil the Great*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, January 3

I Timothy 3:13-16;4:1-5 • Matthew 3:1-6

Tuesday, January 4

I Corinthians 4:9-16 • John 1:18-28

Wednesday, January 5

Eve of Theophany

I Corinthians 9:19-27 • Luke 3:1-18

Thursday, January 6

Holy Theophany

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

Friday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist

Acts 19:1-8 • John 1:29-34

Saturday, January 8

Ephesians 6:10-17 • Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, January 9

Sunday after Theophany

Ephesians 4:7-13 • Matthew 4:12-17

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

Fr. John Kostas; Deacon Paul Kalina