

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

November 20, 2022

Ninth Sunday of Luke

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Ninth Sunday of Luke; The Forefeast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple; Gregory the Righteous of Decapolis; Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Morning Gospel: First

Tone: Plagal Second

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 Second Tone

The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at your grave seeking, seeking your most pure body. But you made hell a captive; you were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to you.

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

Additional Hymn, Fourth Tone

Today righteous Anna solicits joy for us all, the opposite of pain and sorrow, having brought forth her fruit, the only ever-virgin Maid; and today in fulfillment of her prayer and her promise, to the Temple of the Lord she joyfully leads her who is truly the temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

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!

Ἐν τῇ γενήσει τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ κοιμήσει τὸν κόσμον
En ti gennisi tin parthenian efilaxas en ti kimisi ton kosmon
οὐ κατέλιπες, Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν, μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα
u katelipes, Theotoke. Metestis pros tin zoin, mitir iparhousa
τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη ἐκ θανάτου τὰς
tis zois, ke tes presvies tes ses litrumeni ek thanatu tas
ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.
psihās imon.

Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos, Fourth Tone

On this day, the universe, brimming with gladness, on this bright and hopeful feast of the Theotokos lifts its voice that it may joyfully cry aloud: This one is truly the Heavenly Tabernacle.

Epistle..... Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel..... Luke 12:16-21

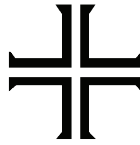
The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

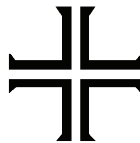
Stewardship Prayer

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.



We welcome Metropolitan Nathanael in our midst. His Eminence enjoyed a genuine Minnesota winter experience with the OCF students and parents at the U of Minnesota football game on Saturday. Today we are blessed with the tonsure of new readers for our parish. Additionally, we welcome Archdeacon Vasilios Smith and other deacons and Diaconate Program students who participated in a Liturgical Training Workshop yesterday. Many thanks to all who have participated in all these events.



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.

Today

Prosforo is provided by Ruta Kubits.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for **George Svolopoulos** (40 days); **Alexandra Kollias** (1 year) God sister of Nikki Beauchamp; **Jennie Pappas** (1 year); **Chloe Barnes** (12 years).

The coffee hour today is hosted by Parish Council in honor of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael's visit this weekend.

Jeanne Forchas celebrated her 98th birthday on Friday. *May God grant her many years!*

Sacraments This Week

Baptisms – Sunday November 20

Carson and Kalliope, parents: George & Rachel Chronakos

Prayer Ministry

Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: Those suffering from COVID-19 and those who care for them; for the people of Ukraine; our brothers and sisters living through the aftermath of disaster; for the victims of violence; Metro Hope Ministries; Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry; Families Moving Forward; FOCUS Minnesota; Our brothers and sisters serving in the Armed Forces throughout the world especially John Ellis; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Thanksgiving for George's healing, Elaine, Perry, Noel, Stephen, John K., Alexey, Alexandra, Ray, Christina, Joanne, Athena, the Muñoz family, Charlie, Nuala, Pamela, Avgi, Elena, Speranta, Maria, Dave Ruesink, Liz, Efstratia, Jordan, David, Nino, Joe, Tom, Gigi, Zossima, Donnarae, Samira, Mary K., 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, Carole, Patty, Karrisa, Corina, Tom, George R., Ken, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Bo, Tom, Lynn, Deb, Sarah, Maia, Travis, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, 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, Rick, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, 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, Christopher, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

Text to Give

Text **smgoc** to **73256**

This number will never send unsolicited texts.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, November 20: Ninth Sunday after Luke

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
- 12:30 p.m. – Basketball Practices, Great Hall
- 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers for the Entrance of the Theotokos

Monday, November 21: Entrance of the Theotokos

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- 7:00 p.m. – Akathist to the Mother of God, “Nurturer of Children”

Tuesday, November 22

- 6:00 p.m. – Philoptochos Service Projects, Terrace Room
- 7:00 p.m. – Philoptochos Meeting, Terrace Room

Wednesday, November 23

- 9:30 a.m. – FAITH Playgroup, Great Hall and Terrace Room

Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Day

Church and Office closed

Friday, November 25: Saint Katherine

- 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- Church Office closed*

Saturday, November 26

- 9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Fireside Room and Zoom
 - 5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers
- Healing House dinner and Bible study*

Sunday, November 27: Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Announcements

Food Shelf Needs for November 27

Canned meat (tuna, chicken)

November's recipient is FOCUS Minnesota.

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

Stewardship 2023

The 2023 Stewardship packets are available to be picked up. If you haven't picked yours up yet, stop by the stewardship table in the Great Hall this morning and get yours. Remaining packets will be mailed this week.

Daughters Bake Sale ~ Today

The annual Holiday Bake and Craft Sale sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope takes place this morning in the Great Hall following Liturgy. Come and stock up on delicious gourmet treats and craft items for the holidays. *Thank you for your support!*

Parish Council Candidate Applications

Deadline Extended

Application forms for prospective Parish Council members are available. They are in the narthex or can be downloaded from the link in this week's Weekly Update e-mail. Active sacramental members are encouraged to apply. An information sheet is attached to the application form. The Parish Council elections have been postponed until December 11. The deadline for application is next Sunday, November 27.

Harvest Pack Event



Save the Date – St. Mary's Missions and Outreach Ministry is hosting a meal pack event for Harvest Pack on Sunday, December 4, 2022, after Liturgy, and we can use your help. Online registration is underway! Scan the code at the left or look for the Signup Genius link on St. Mary's website and in the Weekly Update e-mail.

Christmas Card and Decorations

'Tis the season! Forms and a drop box for your submission and contributions for both our parish Christmas card and decorations are available in the exo-narthex. **NEW THIS YEAR:** both forms are on one sheet of paper (back-to-back!). Please note that we must receive Christmas card contributions *no later than Sunday, December 4.*

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Saint Mary's Seniors will gather in the Terrace Room on Tuesday, December 13, 11:00 a.m., for a festive Christmas celebration. This event will include a social hour, a delicious luncheon catered by Tony Nicklow, a no charge raffle for a variety of prizes, followed by entertainment with songstress Elena Biessener, accompanied by pianist Jon, who will perform holiday tunes. Stay tuned for further details from Tessie Bourdamis. We look forward to seeing all of our Seniors Club members at this holiday event.

Year-End Giving Guidelines

As we approach the end of both our calendar and fiscal year, it is important that the parish correctly record your stewardship gifts. Every dollar we receive before 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, will be recorded and reflected on your year-end Contribution Statement, and matched against your yearly pledge, as stewardship income for 2022. Electronic donations, via online giving or Venmo, **must be received by Monday, December 26**. Donations received after the deadline will be counted towards our budget for next year.

Parishioner Reimbursements

Saint Mary's has a policy that allows for reimbursements only within the year the expense happened and within 30 days of incurring the expense. Should you have made an approved purchase on behalf of the parish, please submit your request for reimbursement today. We are only accepting requests from October and November currently, as the deadline for previous months has passed. Reimbursements for December 2022 purchases must be received in the church office by January 20 - expenses submitted beyond January 20 will not be accepted.

Expenses are processed weekly on Wednesday mornings. If you submit an expense after 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, it will be held until the following week. Once all invoices are entered into the system, expenses are electronically approved, and checks are generated and mailed directly to your home.

2023 Basketball Tournament

The 2023 Western Region Family Basketball Tournament will be hosted by St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis from February 3-5. Registration information will be available soon. Make plans to attend, even if you don't play basketball. It will be a fun filled weekend of hoops and fellowship.

Philoptochos News

At the Philoptochos Table This Morning...

- *Pick Up a Gift Tag* – We're coordinating gifts for Healing House families who have been invited to the AHEPA Christmas Party. Return your wrapped gift by Sunday, December 11.
- *Buy a Cookbook* – The last few copies are for sale for \$20. They make a great gift for yourself and others, and support FOCUS Minnesota.
- *Winter Snow Gear Drop Off* – Through December 18, we're collecting winter gear for Ella Baker Magnet School (preschool through grade 8.) Thanks for bringing gently used or new jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens.
- *Fillo Pick Up* – If you haven't picked up your pre-ordered fresh fillo, it will be available during the social hour.

Today in the Terrace Room

Philoptochos is assembling 150 IOCC hygiene kits at 11:45 a.m. in Terrace Room. Join us!

Mark Your Calendar: Tuesday, November 22

- 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Make bouquets with Bluebirds and Blooms. Donations of small/medium canning jars, fresh flowers or greens, and fresh flower "food" welcome.
- 7:00-8:30 p.m.: November Philoptochos Meeting in Terrace Room.

Women's Book Club Discussion Continues

The October and November Women's Book Club discussion of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis were so robust, it will be continued on Thursday, December 1, followed by a Lenten potluck supper. The focus is Books 3-4. This will be a hybrid event with the in-person discussion at church and a call-in option. All women are welcome. Books are available in the church bookstore. Closer to the event date, an email will be sent to the distribution list.

Trim the Trees for Advent

Five Christmas trees will be trimmed on Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Come for part or all of the day!

FAITH Playgroup

Wednesday, November 23

9:30-11:00 a.m.

FAITH Playgroup is for children from birth through pre-K along with their parents, grandparents or caregivers.

We gather for play time in Great Hall, followed by a lesson and fellowship.

It is a great place to socialize with other young families in our church.

Questions?

Please contact Fr. Jason,
frjason@stmarysgoc.org



YAL News

2023 Twin Cities YAL Board Application Now Open

Twin Cities YAL is looking for committed, ambitious young adults who are excited and passionate about serving the local YAL community to be on the executive board in 2023! Applicants should be willing and able to meet in person once a month and virtually once a month, as well as committed to attending most YAL events. Young adults (ages 18-35) from all local Orthodox churches are invited to apply. The deadline to apply is November 30, 2022. To read about open positions and to apply go to linktr.ee/twincitiesyal (linked in the @twincitiesYAL instagram bio). For questions, email: twincitiesyal@gmail.com

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

November 21



According to Tradition, the Theotokos was taken – presented – by her parents Joachim and Anna into the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem as a young girl, where she lived and served as a Temple virgin until her betrothal to St. Joseph. One of the earliest sources of this tradition is the non-canonical Protoevangelion of James, also called the Infancy Gospel of James.

Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to become herself the “holy of holies” of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her. The Church also sees this feast as a feast which marks the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God.

On the eve of the feast, Vespers is served and contains Old Testament readings that are interpreted as symbols of the Mother of God, for she becomes the living temple of God. In each reading we hear, “for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord God Almighty.”

Sometimes Matins is served on the morning of the feast. The Gospel reading is from Luke 1:39-49, 56. It is read on all feasts of the Theotokos and includes the Theotokos’ saying: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”

Divine Liturgy is served on the day of the feast. The Epistle reading is from Hebrews 9:1-7, and speaks of the tabernacle of the old covenant. The Gospel reading is taken from Luke 10:38-42 and 11:27-28 together; this reading is also read on all feasts of the Theotokos. In it, the Lord says, “blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

—from Orthodoxwiki

From the Fathers...on the Theotokos

Your name, O Mary, is a precious ointment,
which breathes forth the odor of Divine Grace.

Let this ointment of salvation enter the innermost recesses of our souls.

—*Saint Ambrose of Milan*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, November 21

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Hebrews 9:1-7 • Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Tuesday, November 22

Philemon 1:1-25 • Luke 17:26-37; 18:8

Wednesday, November 23

I Thessalonians 4:1-12 • Luke 18:15-17, 26-30

Thursday, November 24

Philippians 3:20—4:3 • Luke 18:31-34

Friday, November 25

Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria

Galatians 3:23—4:5 • Mark 5:24-34

Saturday, November 26

II Corinthians 11:1-6 • Luke 10:19-21

Sunday, November 27

Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Ephesians 2:14-22 • Luke 18:18-27

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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