

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 11, 2022

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Eleventh Sunday of Luke; Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople; Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon; Martyrs Acepisus and Aeithalas; Holy Martyrs Miracus and Barsabas; Leontios the Righteous of Monemvasia; The Glorious King Nikephoros Phokas.

Morning Gospel: Fourth

Tone: First

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Small Entrance

Resurrection Hymn, First Tone

Although your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, you rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise you: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom. Glory to your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

Hymn of Entrance

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

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above

Hymn of the Forefathers, Second Tone

By their faith you justified your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old you betrothed to yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave you birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Ἐν τῇ γενήσῃ τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ κοιμήσῃ τὸν κόσμον
En ti gennisi tin parthenian efilaxas en ti kimisi ton kosmon
οὐ κατέλιπες, Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζώην, 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.
psihas imon.

Kontakion of Preparation for the Birth of Christ. Third Tone

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, Oh universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify him who by his will shall become a new-born babe and who is our God before all ages.

Epistle..... Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel..... Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another

said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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



Today

Prosforo is provided by Presvytera Alexandra Houck.

40-day Churching: *SusieMarie*, parents: Briana and Greg Maimares

Memorial Prayers today are offered for **Samir Saleh** (1 year).

The coffee hour today is hosted by Jeff, Sonia, Alex, and Mira Bjork, and Samira Saleh in memory of Samir.



Parish Council Elections Today

Parish Council elections take place today in the Great Hall following the Divine Liturgy. Parishioners who are running for office are: Libby Cheolis, Alex Dascalos, Sophia Rouman, and Louis Tiggas. All members in good standing are invited to cast a ballot. Information regarding being a member in good standing is found at the back of the green candidates' brochure at the voting table.

THE COMMUNION PRAYERS

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for life eternal. Amen.

Behold, I approach for Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, for You are fire consuming the unworthy. But cleanse me from every stain.

Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper; for I will not betray Your mysteries to Your enemies, nor give You a kiss as did Judas, but as the thief I confess You: Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as you behold the divine Blood. It is a burning coal that sears the unworthy. The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: It deifies the spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine eros You have changed me. But burn up my sins with spiritual fire, and grant me to be filled with delight in You, so that, leaping for joy, I may magnify, O Good One, Your two comings.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

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

Approaching to receive, each makes a reverence and says:

✠ Behold I approach Christ, our immortal King and God.

Prayer 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; John S., Becky, Kristina, 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, Chrysanthi, Estelle, Justine, Melissa, Megan, Dallas, Lenzie, Lisa, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Theodora, Mary, Irene Maria, Marion, Apostolos, Olivia, Lincoln, Carole, Patty, Karris, 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.

Christmas Worship Schedule

This year, due to Christmas Day occurring on Sunday, the Christmas worship schedule in the Orthodox Church is somewhat different from other years. Saint Mary's schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 23

9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

Saturday, December 24: Eve of Nativity

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

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 25: Holy Nativity

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

Text to Give

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

This number will never send unsolicited texts.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 11: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- after Liturgy – Parish Council Elections, Great Hall
- 11:45 a.m. – Missions and Outreach Meeting, Fireside Room
- 12:45 p.m. – JOY Basketball Practice, Great Hall
- 2:00 p.m. – Girls' GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Monday, December 12: Saint Spyridon

- 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 13

- 11:00 a.m.** – Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, Terrace Room
- 6:00 p.m. – Adult Open Gym, Great Hall
- 6:15 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, December 14

- 9:30 a.m. – FAITH Playgroup, Great Hall and Terrace Room
- 6:15 p.m. – Senior GOYA, Terrace Room and Great Hall
- 6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Thursday, December 15: Saint Eleutherios

- 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- 11:00 a.m. – Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 7:00 p.m. – Stewardship Committee Meeting, Fireside Room

Friday, December 16

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

Saturday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 11:00 a.m. – AHEPA Children's Christmas Party, Terrace Room
- 5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 18: Sunday before Nativity

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
- Church School Christmas Program*
- 12:45 p.m. – JOY Basketball Practice, Great Hall
- 1:00 p.m. – Baklava Baking Workshop, Kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. – Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Announcements

Food Shelf Needs for December 11

Immediate needs are:

~ canned fruits, canned chili, pasta sauce, hygiene products ~

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

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

Upgraded Plants and Planters

We hope you are enjoying the new plants and planters we have selected for St. Mary's. These new planters are considerably larger and heavier than our previous ones, and this is exactly by design. We ask that our parishioners do not move the plants, as either you, the planters, or the plants themselves, could be damaged or injured. In addition, we have purchased new containers for our candle stands in the narthex. These are designed to be easily stored on the sides of the stands to avoid people tripping over or running into the containers. We thank all of those who have assisted with these enhancements as we continue to look for ways to increase the beauty of our parish.

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 Contribution Statement 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.

Stewardship 2023

Our 2023 Stewardship Drive is underway. Please take a few minutes to fill out the 2023 time, talent, and treasure form and return it to the church as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of St. Mary's!

Christmas Decor Contributions

Forms and a drop box for your submission and contribution for our parish Christmas decorations are available in the narthex. Contributions toward the decorations are due next Sunday, December 18.

In the Bookstore

Please visit the bookstore for your Christmas gift giving. You will find a large selection of books, icons, and many other items from which to choose gifts that are truly meaningful for people of all ages.

Of special note is the arrival of *Wisdom from the Holy Mountain: Life Lessons from the Monks of Mt. Athos* by Dr. Steven Rakes. This small book is an immense treasure trove of spiritual wisdom. It is a collection of the life lessons Dr. Rakes heard from monks on Mount Athos during the many pilgrimages to the Holy Mountain he made with other men from St. Mary's. Organized by topic with wisdom, stories, and counsels for people who live "in the world," this book is permeated with much that is relevant to all of us. 100% of the proceeds from this book sold in the bookstore goes to St. Mary's, so when you buy it as a gift (for yourself and/or others) you are also giving a gift to the church.

More new arrivals in the bookstore—

- * Two new children's books written and illustrated by Presvytera Angela Alatzakis: *The Church* and *The Light*.
- * The CD "Nativity Fire" by Graham Sparkman, a parishioner at Twelve Holy Apostles. (*Fr. Tim provided/recorded all the chanted liturgical prayers on the album.*)

Philoptochos News

At the Philoptochos Table This Morning...

- ***Preorder Christmas/New Year's Vasilopita*** – The St. Basil Sweet Bread can be purchased for \$15 per loaf. All proceeds benefit St. Basil Academy for Children.
- ***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.

Basketball Practices

To be ready for the upcoming basketball tournament in February, we've scheduled the following youth basketball practices:

JOY Practices: Co-Ed ages 7-12 – 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11 and 18

Girls' GOYA Practices: Girls ages 12-18 (High School)

Sunday, December 4: 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Boys' GOYA Practices: Boys ages 12-18 (High School)

Sunday, December 4: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 18: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

2023 Basketball Tournament

Saint Mary's is hosting the 2023 Western Region Family Basketball Tournament this February 3-5 and we are looking for athletes, both young and old! If you or your child are interested in playing, please complete the designated interest form.

Adult Interest Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BballAdult>

Youth Interest Form (ages 7-18 in High school):

<https://tinyurl.com/BballYouth>

If you have any questions, please contact either Jon Klein (jon@stmarysgoc.org) or Theo Boosalis (theo@boosalis.net).

All the links above can be found in the Weekly Update e-mail.

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

Baklava Baking Workshop



SUNDAY, DEC 18 @ 1PM

BAKERS OF ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS WELCOME
BRING YOUR OWN PAN | LENTEN LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP BY DEC 14 AT [TINYURL.COM/BAKLAVA2022](https://tinyurl.com/BAKLAVA2022)

telos
PROJECT



FAITH Playgroup

Wednesday, December 14

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Great Hall and Terrace Room

*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*

Join Us!



From the Fathers...on Christ

The person who listens to Christ fills himself with light;
and if he imitates Christ, he reclaims himself.

—*Saint Thalassios the Libyan*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 12: Saint Spyridon

Ephesians 5:8-19 • John 10:9-16

Tuesday, December 13

I Timothy 5:11-21 • Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday, December 14

I Timothy 5:22—6:11 • Mark 8:30-34

Thursday, December 15: Saint Eleutherios

II Timothy 1:8-18 • Mark 2:23—3:5

Friday, December 16

II Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18 • Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 17

Hebrews 11:33—12:2 • Luke 14:1-11

Sunday, December 18: Sunday before Nativity

Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 • Matthew 1:1-25

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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