

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 24/25, 2022

Holy Nativity



*A
Blessed
Nativity
to All!*

Calendar of the Week

Saturday, December 24: Eve of Nativity

9:00 a.m. – Orthros; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 25: Holy Nativity

8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
No Church School

Monday, December 26

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 27: Saint Stephen

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 1: Circumcision of Christ; Saint Basil

8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
No Church School

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; Jennifer, John S., Becky, Kristina, 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, Karrisra, 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.

Food Shelf Needs for December 25

Baby Formula

December's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES).
Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.

January's recipient will be Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.
Immediate needs throughout January are: diapers and wipes,
toothbrushes and toothpaste, and Ramen noodles.

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. We hope to hear from everyone by December 31! Thank you for your support of St. Mary's!

Online Giving for 2023

This coming Saturday, December 31, our current online giving platform will be retired. Parishioners who set up an online giving subscription prior to October 1, 2022, will need to go to our website's giving page and set up a new subscription for 2023. We hope everyone will find the new site easy to navigate and use.

FOCUS Winter Needs

Thank you for all of the generous clothing donations over the past several months. We and our clients appreciate this abundance so very much.
We are now so well supplied that, effective immediately, **we will no longer be taking clothing donations until April 1. Two exceptions to this request are men's coats and boots.** We are essentially out of these items. Also, we continue to gratefully accept nonperishable food items. The demand for food continues to increase.

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.

Saint Mary's at the Timberwolves Game

Join us when the Minnesota Timberwolves take on the Toronto Raptors on Thursday, January 19. Tip-off is at 7:00 p.m.. ALL are welcome to join! Visit the link below and enter the promo code **22StMarys23** to purchase your tickets! Tickets are \$20.00 per person. After the game, we will go down to the court and shoot a free-throw! Make sure you select the **Post-Game Free Throw** when checking out!

Link for the tickets: www.timberwolves.com/groupoffers

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.

Text to Give

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

This number will never send unsolicited texts.

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.



Philo托ochos News



Cut Vasilopita on January 7

In preparation for Vasilopita Sunday, we're cutting dozens of loaves of St. Basil bread. Please plan to join us in the kitchen on Saturday, January 7, from 11:00 a.m. (after Liturgy) until about 1:00 p.m.



Youth News

2023 Winter Camp Save the Date!

January 13 - 16
At Camp St. Croix

Youth 6th – 12th Grade

A weekend discussing how we can become better Orthodox Christians through practicing our faith and becoming vessels of the Holy Spirit.

Register by December 28: <https://bit.ly/wintercampreg>

Cost \$200 – To pay visit: <https://bit.ly/paywintercamp>

Questions? Contact Mat. Lisa Tucci at 612-599-0814 or lisatucci71@gmail.com



St. Mary's Youth Group
[@stmarysocayouth](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysocayouth)



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.

Sundays, January 8, 15, and 29

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

Saturday, January 7: 12:00-2:00 p.m. **

Sunday, January 8: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 22: 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 28: 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

Sunday, January 29: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, January 7: 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Sunday, January 22: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 28: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

(** = Optional, coaches will let you know if practice is held.)



This Christmas night, peace was bestowed on the whole world;
so let no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One; let no one be cruel;

This is the night of the Humble One; let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy; let us not revenge.

Now is the day of goodwill; let us not be mean.

In this day of peace let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;
so you rich ones, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a gift for which we did not ask;
so let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present day's fast opens the heavenly doors to our prayers.

Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of our humanity,
in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

—*Nativity Sermon of St. Isaac the Syrian*



From the Fathers...on Jesus Christ
Christ saved us not with thunder and lightning,
but as a wailing babe in the manger
and as a silent sufferer upon the Cross.

—*Saint Jerome*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 26

Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

Hebrews 2:11-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

Tuesday, December 27

Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr

Acts 6:8—7:5, 47-60 • Matthew 21:33-42

Wednesday, December 28

Hebrews 5:11—6:8 • Luke 14:25-35

Thursday, December 29

***14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain
by Herod in Bethlehem***

Hebrews 2:11-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

Friday, December 30

Hebrews 7:18-25 • Mark 12:1-12

Saturday, December 31

I Timothy 3:13—4:5 • Matthew 3:1-6

Sunday, January 1

***Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
Saint Basil***

Colossians 2:8-12 • Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

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