

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 4, 2022

Tenth Sunday of Luke; Saint Barbara

The Divine Liturgy

Commemoration: Tenth Sunday of Luke; Barbara the Great Martyr; John the Righteous of Damascus; New Hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of the Phanar in Greece; Juliana the Martyr of Heliopolis; Alexander Hotovitzky, New Hieromartyr of Russia, Missionary to America.

Morning Gospel: Third

Tone: Plagal Fourth

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 Fourth Tone

From on high you descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to you, O Lord.

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 John of Damascus, Plagal Fourth Tone

Guide of Orthodoxy and a sacred teacher of piety and dignity, luminary of the world, and God-inspired jewel of monastics, O wise John, the Spirit's instrument: by your teachings you enlightened all.

Hymn of Saint Barbara, Plagal Fourth Tone

Let us honor the all-virtuous Saint Barbara; for she broke the snares of the enemy, and she escaped from them like a bird, with the Cross as her help and shield.

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 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.....Galatians 3:23—4:5

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Today's Gospel reading is in italics - fuller reading included for context.

There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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 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 members of the Possis family:
Milt, Emmel, Della, Zinon, Mary, Christ, and Theano.

The coffee hour today is hosted by the Possis family in memory of departed loved ones.

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, 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.

Sacraments This Week

Baptism

Elias Stennes, December 3, 2022

Christmation

Susan Stennes, December 3, 2022

We welcome Susan and her son, Elias, to St. Mary's!

Text to Give

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

This number will never send unsolicited texts.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 4: Tenth Sunday of Luke; Saint Barbara

- *“The Messenger” news item deadline, January issue*

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

after Liturgy – Harvest Pack event, Terrace Room

11:30 a.m. – HOPE / JOY Party, Youth Room

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

2:00 p.m. – Boys’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Monday, December 5

9:15 a.m. – Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children

Tuesday, December 6: Saint Nicholas

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. – Adult Open Gym, Great Hall

Wednesday, December 7

6:15 p.m. – Junior GOYA, Great Hall and Terrace Room

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Thursday, December 8

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

6:00 p.m. – Edina Koinonia, Fireside Room

Friday, December 9: Conception of the Theotokos

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 10

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Fireside Room

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 11: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

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

after Liturgy – Parish Council Elections

12:45 p.m. – JOY Basketball Practice, Great Hall

2:00 p.m. – Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

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

Sunday, January 8, 15, and 29

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.

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

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

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.

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

Sunday, January 29: 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.

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

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

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)

From the Fathers...on Faith

Interpreting matters of faith, one must speak after careful consideration, clearly, distinctly, as briefly as possible, otherwise your preaching will be of little success.

–*Saint Innocent of Moscow*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 5

Saint Savvas

Galatians 5:22—6:2 • Matthew 11:27-30

Tuesday, December 6

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

Hebrews 13:17-21 • Luke 6:17-23

Wednesday, December 7

I Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15 • Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday, December 8

I Timothy 3:1-13 • Luke 21:28-33

Friday, December 9

The Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos

Galatians 4:22-27 • Luke 8:16-21

Saturday, December 10

Galatians 3:8-12 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 11

Eleventh Sunday of Luke

Colossians 3:4-11 • Luke 14:16-24

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