

The Messenger

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church | 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408 | 612.825.9595 | www.stmarysgoc.org

January 2023

Inside This Issue

Bookstore.....	9
Children and Youth.....	10
Education and Fellowship.....	3
Missions and Outreach	6
Our Life Together.....	2
Parish News and Events	4
Philoptochos	5
Stewardship.....	7
Worship Schedule.....	3

St. Mary's

Mission Statement

To proclaim, celebrate, and share
the good news of salvation in
Jesus Christ in accordance
with the Orthodox Tradition.

The Five Tasks of Our Parish Vision

Hear
Pray
Grow
Serve
Share



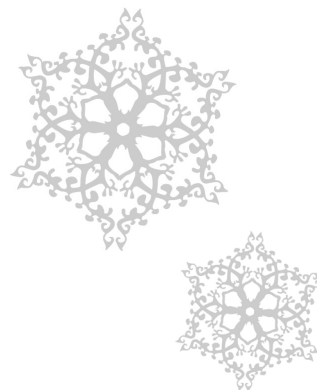
METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

Church Cancellation Procedures for Winter

Winter has arrived in Minnesota, and we want to remind all our parishioners to stay safe and not to attempt to travel during icy or severe conditions. Here is how we plan to keep you informed during this winter season.

- Cancellations of events, activities, and services will be announced a minimum of two hours prior to the start time.
- Committee/Ministry Heads only are the ones who can cancel on behalf of their group.
- All individual group leaders (choir, church school, senior citizens, etc.) must notify the church office of the decision to cancel so the necessary notifications can occur.
- Should a cancellation happen after office hours or on the weekend, you are encouraged to contact our Parish Administrator (612.503.0653) to inform them of the decision.
- We will update our website and social media platforms announcing the cancellation as another opportunity for you to be notified. We encourage you to take time now to follow us on Instagram and Facebook.
- The Parish Council President must also be notified of any cancellations, and no cancellations will occur without the blessing of our priests.
- For any scheduled Worship Services, only the Proistamenos has the authority to cancel.

We plan to serve all the scheduled worship services but urge you to use your best judgment to determine if the road conditions near you are safe for travel. We will live-stream our worship services to allow all to watch and pray along from your homes.



Our Life Together

Baptisms

Carson and Kalliope
Parents: George & Rachel Chronakos
December 3, 2022

Elias Stennes
Parent: Susan Stennes
December 3, 2022

Chrismation

Susan Stennes
December 3, 2022

Death

Efstratios Atsidakos
November 19, 2022
May his memory be eternal.

Our Sympathy

Marye Georgiades Finsand, mother of Kathryn Finsand, passed away in Kentucky on November 8. Marye was 99¼ years old at the time of her passing. Our sympathy to the Georgiades and Finsand families. *May her memory be eternal.*

In appreciation and thanksgiving



It's hard to believe I will no longer have the honor of coming to St. Mary's each weekday (and many other times as the need arose), venerating the Dormition icon, and serving as your Parish Administrator. It has been a joy to work alongside the rest of the staff, past and present, the parish council, ministry leaders, volunteers, and all of you – our parishioners and coworkers in the vineyard to Christ.

Together we have achieved many things and I'm confident the next chapter of St Mary's will be just as bright and successful as the past five years have been.

We read in the Gospel of Luke "A little while, and you will see me no more; again a little while, and you will see me." I am confident our paths will cross again, whether at a MEOCCA Lenten Vespers, St. Mary's Summer Camp, or the annual IOCC Fundraiser, to name just a few of the many Pan-Orthodox events we have here in the Twin Cities.

I pray that your lives will continue to be enriched by our faith and I thank you for enriching my life. While you may be sad, or even angry, by hearing this news, if we continue reading from the 16th chapter of Luke, we hear the words of our Lord, "but your sorrow will turn into joy." May that same joy which Christ brought into this world guide our lives in the coming year.

Thank you again for your support, prayers, and love,
Julia A. Moricz

Share YourShelf

January's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Immediate needs for January are:
Diapers and wipes
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Ramen noodles

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. —Isaiah 58:10

Donate Online

www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org
then click on "Donate"

St. Mary's Church Staff

- Proistamenos**
Fr. Timothy Sas
- Associate Priest**
Fr. Jason Houck
- Attached Priest**
Fr. John Kostas
- Deacons**
Fr. Paul Kalina
Fr. Luke Twito
- Administrator**
Julie Moricz
- Parishioner Support Communications**
David Mertesdorf
- Ministry Support**
Doria Saros
- Youth Director**
Jonathan Klein
- Facilities Coordinator**
Bob Yang
- Music Director**
Thespina Macres
- Organist**
Mark Macres

St. Mary's 2022 Parish Council

- President**
William M. Hoeft
- Vice President**
John Beauchamp
- Secretary**
Maria Smith
- Treasurer**
Thomas Hainlin
- Assistant Treasurer**
Andrew Twito
- Members**
Daniel Buss
Ina Dunham
Sam Hanna
Nicholas Legeros
Cristina Nicklow
Jeannie Possis
Dean Psychogios
Andrew Twito

Education • Fellowship • Worship

Fellowship and Study Groups

Intercessory Prayer

Wednesdays, January 4 and 18
11:00 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men's Fellowship

Friday, January 13 (note date change)
The Book of Numbers
Friday January 20
Psalms
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

Every Saturday
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, January 4 and 18
11:30 a.m., Fireside Room



Iconography Classes

Iconographer Debra Korluka will be offering iconography classes this winter. The classes are:

Session 1

The Holy Face
St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Zoom
Tuesdays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Session 2

Protection of the Theotokos
St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Zoom
Hosted by Wet Paint
Tuesdays, February 7, 21, 28, and March 7
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Session 3

Mother of God of Sorrows
The Basilica of Saint Mary
Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
For more information, contact
Deb Korluka: akorluka@aol.com or
612.889.5868

Weekend Schedule

Saturday

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday (live-streamed)

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

Weekday Schedule

Thursday, January 5

Eve of Theophany
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Vespers and Divine Liturgy with
Great Blessing of Waters – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6

Holy Theophany
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy with
Great Blessing of Waters – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 9

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

Monday, January 16

Akathist to the Mother of God,
Nurturer of Children – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17

Saint Anthony the Great
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 18

Saints Athanasios and Cyril
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 21

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters
Hidden Falls Park
1313 Hidden Falls Dr., St Paul
– 12:00 noon

Wednesday, January 25

Saint Gregory the Theologian
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 30

The Three Hierarchs
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thank You...

The clergy and staff of St. Mary's wish to thank everyone who remembered them with prayers, thoughts, cards, and gifts during this past holiday season, as well as throughout the year. Your thoughtfulness is so much appreciated!

A blessed New Year to all.

Parish News & Events

Orthodox Game League

The first Game League night for 2023 will take place on Saturday, January 14, 7:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 956 Forest Street North, St. Paul. We will meet in Archangel Michael Hall across from the street from the church. Please bring a munchie or dessert to share! Any questions, please contact Nikki Beauchamp, 612.910.2943

Parish Timberwolves Game Outing



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/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

Pan-Orthodox Dance

The 2023 Pan-Orthodox Dance is a dance event for EVERYONE! Bring the whole family! Parents, kids, and grandparents are all welcome to participate in the different cultural dances of the Orthodox faith.

The Pan-O dance will be held Saturday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. For food, there will be a potluck. Please bring a dish and/or dessert to share!

If you have any questions, please contact Francine Perry: fsperry1@comcast.net

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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.

Online Giving for 2023

Beginning Sunday, January 1, our long-time online giving platform will retire. 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.

Western Region Family Basketball Tournament

We are hosting the 2023 Western Region Family Basketball Tournament February 3-5, 2023. There are several ways to get involved by volunteering, submitting an ad for the ad book, and more! If you have any questions, please contact Krisanthi Sikkila, Jon Klein, or Mike Possis by emailing athletics@chicagometropolis.org! For up to date information, visit www.greekbball.com.

1. Purchase a meal plan: All are welcome to attend the weekend activities, including the banquet on Saturday night! You can purchase the full weekend meal package or just the banquet meal. To do so, visit: <https://www.greekbball.com/tournament-to-do>. The meal purchasing timeline is December 15-January 4 for the regular fee and late fee from January 5-15. No meals can be purchased after January 15.
2. Submit an ad to the Ad Book: Placing an ad in the ad book is an excellent way for families and individuals to support the tournament while promoting a business, memorializing a family member, or communicating well wishes to our Metropolis community. The submission deadline is January 15. To submit, visit: www.greekbball.com/ad-book for more information.
3. Play in the tournament: We have teams in all age groups from 7 years old to adults! If you are interested in playing, please complete the Participation Form and purchase your weekend meal package.
 - a. Youth Participation Form: www.tinyurl.com/BballYouth
 - b. Adult Participation Form: www.tinyurl.com/BballAdult
4. Attend the games: All basketball games on Friday and Saturday will be played at Bloomington Kennedy Activity Center. On Sunday, the championship games will be played in the Great Hall of St. Mary's.
5. Volunteer during the weekend: More information to come in January. Be on the lookout in the bulletin and weekly emails.
We hope to see you there!

Philoptochos



Philoptochos would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2023!

God bless you and your families in the New Year.

Philoptochos meetings for January:

- Budget Planning meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.
- Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m., in the Terrace Room
- General Meeting is Sunday, January 23, in the Terrace Room after the Liturgy with a guest speaker from Bancroft School. We will be approving the budget for 2023 at this meeting.



New Year's Day Vasilopita

New Year's Day Vasilopita, our annual fundraiser for St. Basil Academy, is here! Pre-ordered delicious Vasilopita (Sweet Bread) will be available for pickup on Sunday, January 8. Loaves are \$15 each. The bread will be frozen and will include thawing and powdering instructions. A limited number of additional loaves will be available for purchase on Vasilopita Sunday, January 8. Chairs: Toni Bazakos and Tina Menter.

The National Philoptochos Society purchased the estate that became St. Basil Academy in 1944 and has responded to the needs of the Academy and its children for more than 70 years. Located in Garrison, New York, St. Basil Academy is a home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.



Philoptochos Membership Drive

January is the start of our Philoptochos membership drive. Letters will be going out this January to all the women of our parish. Watch for more details on the upcoming membership drive. The drive will conclude at the end of March.

Volunteer Opportunity

Help undecorate our church - The date is yet to be determined. Please stop by our Philoptochos table to sign up in the coming weeks.



Women's Book Club Discussion

The Book Club will meet in February, the date and time are yet to be determined. The book this month will be *How Are We Saved* by Bishop Ware. Then, in April, our book will be *Saint Nectarios*. The books are available in the bookstore.



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who helped with volunteering in December:

- Thank you to those who helped staff the Philoptochos table.
- Operation classroom for Ella Baker School and Bancroft School winter clothing drive. Thank you everyone for your donations and also those who delivered the winter clothing to the schools. This project was a great success.
- Thank you to all those who purchased gifts for the Healing House mothers and children and also those who helped at the party on December 17. Thank you also to Donna Psihos for chairing the event this year.
- Vasilopita Baking: Thank you to our Chairs: Toni Bazakos and Tina Mentor for assisting her. Thank you also to all those who helped with baking and cutting the breads.
- Thank you to those who hosted coffee hour on Christmas Day. Chair: Connie Kouzes

Mission & Outreach

20% of members volunteer for 80% of service.

There are many, many good people who help others and they are like angels. They come swooping in and help when help is most needed. To give an example, when having trouble filling a tire with air, this young man pulled up, jumped out of his car and asked to help put air in the tire. He said "you just looked like you needed help". Our "angel" was amazing and we were so very, very grateful. Further examples, a few youths volunteered for Harvest Pack since they had time before the start of basketball practice. A few people arranged to volunteer their time on hearing about Harvest Pack from Father Jason.

Happy and Blessed New Year! Thank you! You are like an "angel" helping with the Harvest Pack, helping to pack 15,100 meals for those with the need of food shelves. This year is even more of a need than previous years as stated in news articles. You all helped to bring a bit of Christmas to many families, and a little bit better New Year 2023.



Enjoy seeing these photos showing your angel wings swooping in to help those with a delicious, nutritious breakfast. AND, this is a good way to meet and greet each other while packing meals.

You all accomplished our goal to "share the harvest." You have helped a parent feed a child and showed kindness to the elderly and assistance to veterans. *Thank You!*



St. Mary's Missions and Outreach is committed to serve a dinner at Simpson House on Tuesday, January 17. We have not been invited to be on-site since the pandemic. This continues a tradition of four dinners per year for the last twenty years. Hope Kennedy has responsibility for the dinners and is assisted by William Fazio. St. Mary's is known among staff of Simpson House for our excellent food and hospitality. There will be further details regarding sign-ups in the Sunday bulletin.



MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life), March for Life will be on Sunday, January 22, 2023. However, it will begin with the march at 2:00 p.m. and a program following at 2:30 p.m.

It is an annual reminder that over 60 million tiny unborn human lives have been lost. This caring event brings to light thoughts about respect and protection for all the unborn children and their mothers. In previous years, the crowds have been made up of mostly younger people and a great many had signs: "I Regret Lost Fatherhood," "I Regret My Abortion," "Protect Life." Even though it may be cold out, this gathering is very touching. Photo from MCCL website.

Stewardship

On November 13, we were fortunate to hear parishioner Sasha Nicolle's testimony as part of our 2022 Stewardship Campaign.

"Good morning. It's an honor to have the opportunity to share a bit about what this parish community means to me. It won't be easy to express it in five minutes - but I will do my best!

To fully express what this community has meant for me, I need to share a couple of details that I don't typically share so publicly, but if I don't, the significance will be lost.

The first being an event that happened about a year before I started attending St. Mary's. I had been going to a protestant church that I loved for about three years and was really invested in the community. Until I started to realize that the teachings of that church didn't fully align with scripture or historical Christian doctrine. I was torn about what to do as this would have been the third time, I had left a church due to theological differences and to be honest, I was tired of it. One Sunday during the sermon, I grew exasperated with the teaching, sighed, and looked up when I had a vision.

In the vision I was here in the nave. I was sitting in the front row (point) looking up at the Icon of Christ. The alter and pews were completely empty, but then 3 women came in and sat in the pew behind me. They seemed to recognize that I was new. One very kindly asked, "What brings you here?" And I responded, "I didn't know where else I could go."

You would think I would have come straight to St. Mary's after that vision - but it took me about a year afterwards to finally acquiesce to the nudge from the Holy Spirit. To be honest, I was nervous that as a Scandinavian redhead I would stick out like a sore thumb amongst a sea of Mediterraneans!

Finally, one morning I said to God, "Fine, I'll go, and I'll get it out of my system and then I'll find a nice Baptist church to join." Well, here we are, nearly four years later, I haven't had a desire to go anywhere else.

I was very touched by the warm welcome I received here, and in particular by a handful of women who were so kind to always greet me and introduce me to others. What's more, some of these women have become very

dear friends and mentors to me. Some of them have laughed with me during good times and have prayed with and for me during challenging ones.

It occurred to me one day that perhaps these women were represented in the vision I had that morning about five years ago. But to fully express why these friendships have meant so much to me, I have to share something about my childhood that I rarely bring up so publicly.

As a young girl I watched my mom battle some pretty intense illnesses. When I was 11 she went to be with the Lord. She certainly wasn't perfect, or always able to care for me as most healthy mothers do, but the best thing she ever did for me was to share her faith. I honestly don't know if I would know the Lord as intimately as I do, if I had not had her influence in my life. So when she passed, I not only lost my mom, but my spiritual compass. Throughout my adolescent years I felt pretty lost without an older and wiser female guide to look up to. Fortunately, I could go to scripture for direction - and found the Epistles to be particularly helpful as I tried to navigate what it meant to really live out my faith on a daily basis. But the lack of a Godly female presence was apparent.

Later, as I began college, I noticed that many of my peers were close with their moms, they enjoyed going for coffee or shopping, and could talk to their moms about so many different things. In that season of my life, I found myself grieving her in a whole new way - I realized that I would never have the opportunity to know her as a friend.

I certainly am not looking for someone to replace my mom, no one could, but I have been touched by the handful of women in this Parish who have come alongside me as living role models and guides in the faith. These women have generously embraced me as family and have encouraged me in my spiritual growth and in other facets too. Their presence and influence in my life has been a tremendous gift, and I am deeply grateful to know these beautiful, classy, kind, intelligent and Godly women thanks to this parish community."

Saint Mary's 2022 Stewardship Campaign Update

Our Church, Our Spiritual Home

Thank you for your participation in our 2022 Stewardship Campaign and your on-going support of St. Mary's through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

As of November 7, 2022, we have received \$812,076 in Stewardship Income.

- This represents only 64% of this year's budget for ministries and operating expenses and is slightly behind compared to where we were last year at this time.
- An additional \$457,724 is needed by year end to cover all our costs.

2022 Offering Income YTD vs. Annual Budget

Offering Income As of Nov. 7, 2022	2022 YTD Actual	2021 YTD Budget	Additional Needed by December 31
Payments Received	\$812,076	\$1,269,800	\$457,724

* REMINDER: Goal increased this year to cover 100% of ministry and operating costs with Stewardship Income rather than relying on rental and festival income.

2022 Offering Income YTD vs. YTD Budget

Offering Income As of Nov. 7, 2022	2022 YTD Actual	2021 YTD Budget	Variance from Budget
Payments Received	\$812,076	\$1,074,446	(\$262,370)

Compared to the year-to-date budget, we are behind by \$263,370.

- Church costs per day for operating and ministries = \$3,479
- Actual average gifts per day = \$2,611

This means we are short each day by \$868 based on amount received year-to-date.

2022 Offering Income vs. Prior Year as of November 7

Offering Income As of Nov. 7, 2022	2022 YTD Actual	2021 YTD Budget	Variance from Budget
Payments Received	\$812,076	\$1,074,446	(\$262,370)
Average per Week	\$18,456	\$18,632	(\$176)
Average per Month	\$79,977	\$80,739	(\$761)

As we approach the end of the year, please prayerfully consider St. Mary's in your holiday giving, and also consider increasing your Stewardship contribution this year to help us reach our goal. Your stewardship giving to St. Mary's is one way to exhibit the principle of generosity.

Prior Year Metrics – 2021 Average and Median Gifts

- Total Gifts = \$1,128,098
- Number of Gifts = 538
- Average Gift = \$2,097
- Median Gift = \$717

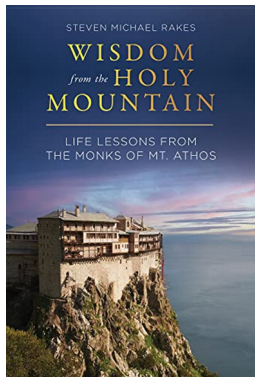
Thank you again for your on-going support of St. Mary's through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The St. Mary's Stewardship Committee

In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



Dr. Steven Rakes has made many pilgrimages to Mount Athos together with other men from St. Mary's under the guidance of Dr. Harry Boosalis.

While on the Holy Mountain, the men had many opportunities to be in conversation with monks living there. Dr. Rakes made it his mission to take notes, and these notes have

now become a book titled *Wisdom from the Holy Mountain: Life Lessons from the Monks of Mt. Athos*. He writes in the prologue:

It was a miracle to me that I was able to remember so much of what was said. I always believed that these notes would be for my friends, family, and me alone. It was not my intention to publish these gems. But during one of my visits, I shared some of this with a monk from Iviron and he said, "Do not hide what you have learned; share it with everyone." Although these thoughts were delivered by monks to men, I believe these teachings are not for men only but can enrich the lives of everyone who reads them.

What you will read in this collection is a summary of the notes I took on these visits....Some of this is repetitive, and that reflects the number of times the monks emphasized a particular point. I want you, the reader, to be able to experience the information as I did. Just as we were able to ask the monks questions about different topics in our minds and hearts, the notes are presented here by topic in the hope that you might be able to read their wisdom about a topic close to your mind and heart, instead of feeling the need to read the story from beginning to end. (2-3)

There is a comprehensive table of contents to facilitate access to specific topics. But note to readers: topics are often so rich in meaning and relevancy that they overflow and pour into other topics, so reading widely within the book multiplies the blessings the wisdom imparts.

Although most of the life lessons are given by monks who remain anonymous (Monk 1, Monk 2, etc.), Dr. Rakes provides brief biographies so one can perhaps appreciate

more what—and perhaps the context from which—a specific monk is sharing with those listening.

Wisdom from the Holy Mountain: Life Lessons from the Monks of Mt. Athos is physically a small book, but it is huge in wisdom and guidance for people living in the world. It is also remarkably encouraging. Dr. Rakes notes:

One beautiful aspect of the monks I encountered was the positive encouragement that I received from them. Whenever I spoke negatively about myself or the way I was conducting my life, they always spoke words of encouragement, pointing out to me the good in my life and reminding me that life in the world is difficult and that my efforts toward spiritual growth were honored by God. (3)

This is a book for people of all ages teenage and above. No matter what one's life circumstances are, one will find relevant wisdom and guidance from the monks. Their messages are alive in the tradition of Scripture and the Holy Fathers. One of the notes included aptly describes this book: "The Holy Spirit comes to the reader from holy books." (8)

Dr. Rakes is donating 100% of the proceeds from his book to the Church. Whether you buy the book as a gift for yourself or for someone else, you are also giving a gift to St. Mary's.

For people reading this article at a geographic distance from St. Mary's, the bookstore can mail the book if you e-mail your request to bookstore@stmarysgoc.org. The book is \$12 and the shipping charge is \$4. Payment can be made online. The physical book is not currently available from a public forum, but the ebook is available from Amazon.

Children & Youth

Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: **Liturgia** (Worship), **Diakonia** (Service), **Martyria** (Witness), and **Koinonia** (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.

Parish Night

January 18, 2023

We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30 p.m.
Eat dinner from 6:30-7:00
Lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups:
HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults)
Wrap up from 7:45-8:00.
All are welcome to attend!

Faith Playgroup

0-5 Year Olds and Parents

- ▶ Wednesday, January 11
Thursday, January 26
9:30-11:00 a.m. – Great Hall and Terrace Room

HOPE and JOY

Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5

- ▶ Wednesday, January 18; 6:15-8:00 p.m.
HOPE and JOY at Parish Night.
See above for details
- ▶ Sunday, January 22; 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Ice Skating at Centennial Lakes.
RSVP to Jon, jon@stmarysgoc.org, by Wednesday, January 18 if you would like to attend. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their child and welcome to join us! Bring your own skates. If you don't have any skates, St. Mary's will pay for the HOPE/JOY kids (grades K-5) and 1 parent or guardian. Any additional family member will have to be covered by the family (\$8.00 rental).

Junior GOYA

Grades 6-8

- ▶ Friday, January 13-16, 2023
Winter Camp at St. Croix with St. Mary's OCA
See article on next page.
- ▶ Wednesday, January 18; 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Junior GOYA at Parish Night.
See above for details

Senior GOYA

Grades 9-12

- ▶ Friday, January 13-16, 2023
Winter Camp at St. Croix with St. Mary's OCA
See article on next page.

- ▶ Wednesday, January 18; 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Senior GOYA at Parish Night.
See above for details

Godparent Sunday

January 22, 2023

Mark your calendars and invite your godparents or godchildren to sit with you during Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together. Many of the Church School classes invite their godparent or any special adult to join them in class that day.

Oratorical Festival

Oratorical Festival topics are now posted on the Archdiocesan website, goarch.org. Start thinking and planning now. Our parish festival will be on Sunday, March 12. Contact the Church Office for the link to the site for information and topics

Basketball Practices

JOY Practices: Co-ed ages 7-12

- Sunday, January 8: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 15: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 29: 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Girls' GOYA Practices: Girls ages 12-18 (high school)

- 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)

- 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

More youth news on next page.

Winter Camp 2023

January 13-16, 2023 (MLK Weekend)

Pan-Orthodox Winter Camp at Camp St. Croix in Wisconsin for the GOYAns (grades 6-12). Registration closes December 28! Transportation is not provided. The cost is \$200 per child and payable by January 3. St. Mary's GOC will subsidize \$100 for St. Mary's GOC youth, but you will have to pay for Camp up front. Contact Jon@stmarysgoc.org for more information. Registration information can be found on <https://linktr.ee/stmarysgoya>

Greek Dance Classes

Greek dance classes will resume on Monday, February 13, 2023. All youth of St. Mary's ages 6 to 18 are invited to join this fun Greek cultural program. We will be practicing weekly in February and March to perform at the Greek Independence Day program at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 19, after Liturgy. We welcome new students as well as anyone who would like to help instruct Greek dances. For further details, please contact Tessie Bourdamis or Jim Canelake.

Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. To access our formal feedback process, go to our St. Mary's home page-Click on "Youth," then "Youth Program Feedback." Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: **St_Marys_GOYA**



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)



venmo



Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #3735

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*A Blessed Christmas
and the
Healthiest and Happiest of
New Years to All*

**St. Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church**

The Messenger is published
monthly by St. Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church,
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
January 2023

Telephone

612.825.9595

Fax

612.825.9283

Email

stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org

Website

www.stmarysgoc.org

Facebook

 www.facebook.com/stmarysgoc/

Publication Deadlines

The Messenger—

First Sunday of each month.

Sunday Bulletin—

Preceding Thursday,
12:00 Noon

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Saint Basil the Great "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3	4 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-Women's Bible Study	5 Eve of Theophany 9:00am-Royal Hours 6:00pm-Vespers and Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Waters	6 Holy Theophany 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	7 Saint John the Baptist 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-Girl's GOYA BBall (T) 2:00pm-Boy's GOYA BBall (T) 5:00pm-Great Vespers
8 Sunday after Theophany Vasilopita Sunday 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:45pm-JOY BBall 2:00pm-Girl's GOYA BBall	9 9:15am-Akathist	10 6:00pm-Philoptochos Budget 6:15pm-Parish Council	11 9:30am-FAITH Playgroup	12	13 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	14 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers 7:00pm-Game League Night
15 Twelfth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:15am-Prayers for the Unborn 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:45am-Missions/Outreach 12:45pm-JOY BBall	16 7:00pm-Akathist	17 Saint Anthony the Great 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Philoptochos Brd.	18 Saints Athanasios & Cyril 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Women's Bible Study 6:15pm-Parish Night 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00pm-Timberwolves Game	20 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	21 9:00am-Bible Study 12:00pm-Outdoor Blessing of Water 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Healing House Dinner</i>
22 Fifteenth Sunday of Luke Saint Timothy the Apostle Godparent Sunday 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Philoptochos Mtg. 12:45pm-Girl's GOYA BBall 2:00pm-Boy's GOYA BBall	23	24	25 Saint Gregory the Theologian 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30am-FAITH Playgroup 7:00pm-Edina Koinonia 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	27	28 9:00am-Bible Study 12:00pm-Girl's GOYA BBall (T) 2:00pm-Boy's GOYA BBall (T) 3:30pm-Baptism Class 5:00pm-Great Vespers
29 Sunday of the Canaanite 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:45pm-JOY BBall 2:00pm-Girl's GOYA BBall	30 The Three Hierarchs 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	31				

Christmas Flowers

Saint Mary's Christmas decorations have been made possible through the generosity of the following people:

Anonymous (2)

Efstratia and George Bakritges in memory of Christos A. Bakritges

The Barakos Family

Nick T., Katherine, Gina and Theo Boosalis in memory of Theodore & Theodora Boosalis

Tessie Bourdamis in memory of Manuel, Irene, and George Bourdamis

Joan Calott in memory of Peter

Athena Dascalos in memory of Kaliope & James Dascalos

Sandy & Alex Dascalos

The DiGiovanni Family - Joe, Vicky, Nico, and Marina

John & Dianne Dovolis in memory of Jimmy and Nicky Dovolis

Cheryl Dragotis

Sam & Kathy Economou in memory of Pete & Tacia, John, Dina, Mike and loved ones

Marshall, Maria, Theodore, and Alexandra Estep in memory of Theodore N. & Theodora Boosalis

Ben & Julie Frothingham in memory of Roy & Etta Frothingham; Cliff & Elfie Carlson; Jane Ellen Brown; John & Jennie Maganas; Annie Swanson; George & Margaret Maganas

The Gabor Family in memory of Lamona Legeros

Jim Geogleris in memory of George & Sandy Geogleris

The Hanna Family in memory of our parents: Haleim & Samira Awad; Louis & Georgia Kokinis

Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Chad, Brynna, and Claire Hartwig in memory of our loving husband and father, Bryn Hartwig

Paul & Jenny Hibberd in memory of Judith Mary Hibberd (Paul's sister); Constance Amerine (Jenny's mother)

Adam & Chrissie Hoffman in memory of Michael & Pota Rakes; John Vicalis; Doris Hoffman

Naira Istephanous in memory of Naim Istephanous; Margaret Andrawes; Adib Andrawes

Fifi and Mary Kafkas in memory of Tom & Evangeline Kafkas; Peter & Hazel Chorakis; Ron Bannack; John Houpis

Fr. Dcn. Paul & Alexandria Kalina in memory of Stephen & Helen Campbell; Harold & Elaine Kalina

Theodora Karakatsanis in memory of Stamatis & Mimika Karakatsanis; John Karas; John & Eugenia, Tom Checheris; George & Helen Speliopoulos; George & Helen Yoshino

Carol Karos in memory of John Karos

Jayne Klatt in memory of Bill & Connie Alevizos

Connie & George Kouzes in memory of Christina Kouzes Houck; Aphrodite & Nicholas Kouzes

Terri Leckas in memory of John Leckas, *who loved to decorate our house with lights, his little "spiral" Christmas trees, lighted candy canes and manger scene. Miss him so much!*

Annette Legeros in memory of Lamona Legeros

Tia Muchulas and Family in memory of John Muchulas; Christ & Stamata Parthenios; George & Athanasia Grammas; Paul & Alexandra Muchulas; Jim Muchulas

Dean, Melpomeni, Nickolas, and Demo Murdakes in memory of our loved ones

Mary Muzetras and Family in memory of Chris (Zeke) Muzetras

Helen Nachicas in memory of Harry Nachicas

Nelson Family in memory of Alexei, Anastasia, Alla, Vladimir, Evdokia, Terentiy, Agrippina, Artiom

Vangie Nicklow in memory of John & Eugenia Checheris; Tom Checheris; John Karas; Mimika & Tom Karakatsanis; Ageliki & Leonidas Atheneou, Mihalis; Stamatis & Evagelia Tsetseris, Markos, Anastasi, and George

Eleni and Greg Nicklow in memory of Bill K. Nicklow

Gus Nicklow Family in memory of Bill K. Nicklow

Louis & Mary Pappas in memory of Pappas and Zarifis family members

Kevin & Anna Paulson in memory of John Regas; Dennis, Eleanor, and Kathi Paulson

Veula Possis in memory of Milt, Christos, Theano, Costandinos, Thalia, George, Paul, Carol, Zinon, Mary, Emmel, Della, Cleo, Robert, Virginia, Linnea, Rick, John, Joan

Margaret Psychogios in memory of Peter Psychogios; Judy Psychogios

Steve & Popie Rakes in memory of George & Emily Regas; Mike & Pota Rakes

Georgia, Sam, and Sophia Rouman in memory of Panayiota and Michael Dovolos; George Rouman

Leo & Cheryl Sioris in memory of Jim & Daphne Sioris; Paul & Pauline Peters; John, Rose, and Peter Mercury

Ann & Andrew Theodotou in memory of Chris Muzetras; Chris Theodotou; Helen Theodotou

Arlene Theros in memory of Peter (Bob) Theros; Frank & Eugenia Theros; Petrus & Dorothy Backlund

Louis & Andrea Tiggas and Family in memory of Constanine, Demetra, Andrew, Constantina, Elias, Ioanna, John, Pepitsa, Joy, George, Nicholas

Effy Triantafyllou in memory of Epaminondas "Peter," Koula, Betty, Andy, Triantafylos, Athena, Efthimnia, George, John, Vasiliki, John, George, Violetta, Andreas, Maria, Mary, Kyriakos, Ionna, Gianitsa, Panagiotis, Maria, Efsthios, Asimoula, Peter, Pearl, Daisy, Helen, and John

Fr. Luke & Diakonissa Mary Kay Twito in memory of Pantages, Twito, Nachicas, and Lulias families

Harry & Georgia Wiebe in memory of Aspasia & George P. Kosmas and Baby James; Marguerite & Peter G. Kosmas and Georgie; Elaine & Tony Kallas

Gregory & Harriet Witt in memory of Helen & Richard Hasselstrom; Steve and Donald Witt