

# SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

March 26, 2023

*Sunday of Saint John Climacus*

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## The Divine Liturgy

**Commemoration:** Sunday of St. John Climacus; Synaxis in honor of the Archangel Gabriel; 26 Martyrs in Crimea; Irenaeus the Hieromartyr of Hungary.

*Morning Gospel: Eighth*

*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 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!

***Kontakion of the Theotokos, Plagal Fourth Tone***

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

**Epistle.....** *Hebrews 6:13-20*

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Gospel.....** *Mark 9:17-31*

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And

he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

### ***Megalyrnarion, instead of “It is truly meet”***

In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the races of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, he who is God from all ages. By making your womb his throne he made you more spacious than all heavens. In you, O woman full of grace. All creation, all creation rejoices. Glory to you!

***The Communion Prayers are found on page 40 of the hymnal.***

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## **Today**

Prosforo is provided by Yana Patridge and Presvytera Alexandra Houck.

40-Day Churchings:

***Declan Daniel***, parents: Cooper & Jessica Buss

***Constantine William***, parents: Brock & Christina Cash

***Noura***, parents Jonathan & Dina Williams

Memorial Prayers today are offered for ***Sophia Mihas*** (40 days); ***Yuri Ivaniuk*** (5 years) father of Olga Berkovskaya, ***newly departed John Bitterman and Eugenia Molchanova***; ***Karen Kolas*** (5 years); ***George Rouman*** (1 year) father of Sam Rouman; ***Victor Demetrious*** (35 years), ***Evangelos Demetrious*** (32 years), ***Neofytos Iacovou*** (32 years), ***Yahnnis Okontojionys*** (62 years).

The coffee hour today is hosted by Olga Berkovskaya and Peter Karachunski in memory of departed loved ones.

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## **Sacraments This Week**

### ***Baptism***

Milena Demos, Sunday, March 26, 2023

*Granddaughter of Don and Barbara Vanover*

## Prayer Ministry

*Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially:* The family of Doris Demou; 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; Helena, Elpis Fotini, Byrdie, 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, 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, Rick, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, 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.



## Stewardship Update

To date, we have received 253 pledges totaling \$686,755.00 which only covers 49% of our 2023 ministries and operations budget of \$1,389,820.00. The goal is to have pledges covering 100% of the budget, so please submit your pledge form at your earliest convenience. If you need a form, you'll find additional ones, and a drop box, at the display in the narthex.

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*Text to Give*

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

*This number will never send unsolicited texts.*

# Calendar of the Week

## Sunday, March 26: Saint John Climacus

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
  - 11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach Meeting, Fireside Room
  - 11:30 a.m. – Philoptochos Meeting, Terrace Room
  - 5:00 p.m. – Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers
- St. Michael & St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church

## Tuesday, March 28

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

## Wednesday, March 29

- 4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession
- 5:30 p.m. – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- 6:30 p.m. – Lenten Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. – Church School Confessions, Grades 5 and 6
- 6:30 p.m. – Senior GOYA, Youth Room
- 7:10 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

## Friday, March 31

- 4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession
- 6:00 p.m. – Akathist Hymn

## Saturday, April 1

- 9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Fireside Room and on Zoom

***Great Vespers will not be held during Great Lent***

## Sunday, April 2: Saint Mary of Egypt

- 8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
  - 5:00 p.m. – Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers
- Holy Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church



## MEOCCA-Sponsored Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

- Each Sunday during Great Lent at 5:00 p.m.

**March 26** St. Michael and St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
505 - 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

**April 2** Holy Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church  
703 W. Center Street, Rochester, MN 55902

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# Announcements

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## Food Shelf Needs for April

Individually wrapped bars of soap, individually wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo

*April's recipient will be Community Emergency Service (CES).*

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

## The "Other" Coffee Hour: Realm Connect



Coffee hour is a great place to come together, catch up with friends, and perhaps get information for an upcoming event. Think of our new online community, Realm Connect, in the same way. It's a new place for us to meet, get news and information anytime we're not in church, all with the touch of a button on your phone or computer. You will, however, have to bring your own coffee. Coming soon in April - stay tuned for more details.

## Orthodox Children and Young Adult Book Fair

~ Today ~

Shop for your children, grandchildren, godchild, or friends for their Pascha/Easter baskets. A large selection of gifts and books is available to purchase. There is a table in the Church School hallway right before and during classes with ladies to help you shop. The book fair is hosted by St. Mary's Bookstore.

## Palm Sunday Lunch

Our annual Palm Sunday lunch, hosted by the choir, takes place on Sunday, April 9, after Liturgy. This year is a fish lunch. Tickets are on sale today and next Sunday - \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for young people ten and under.

## Lazarus Saturday Family Service Day

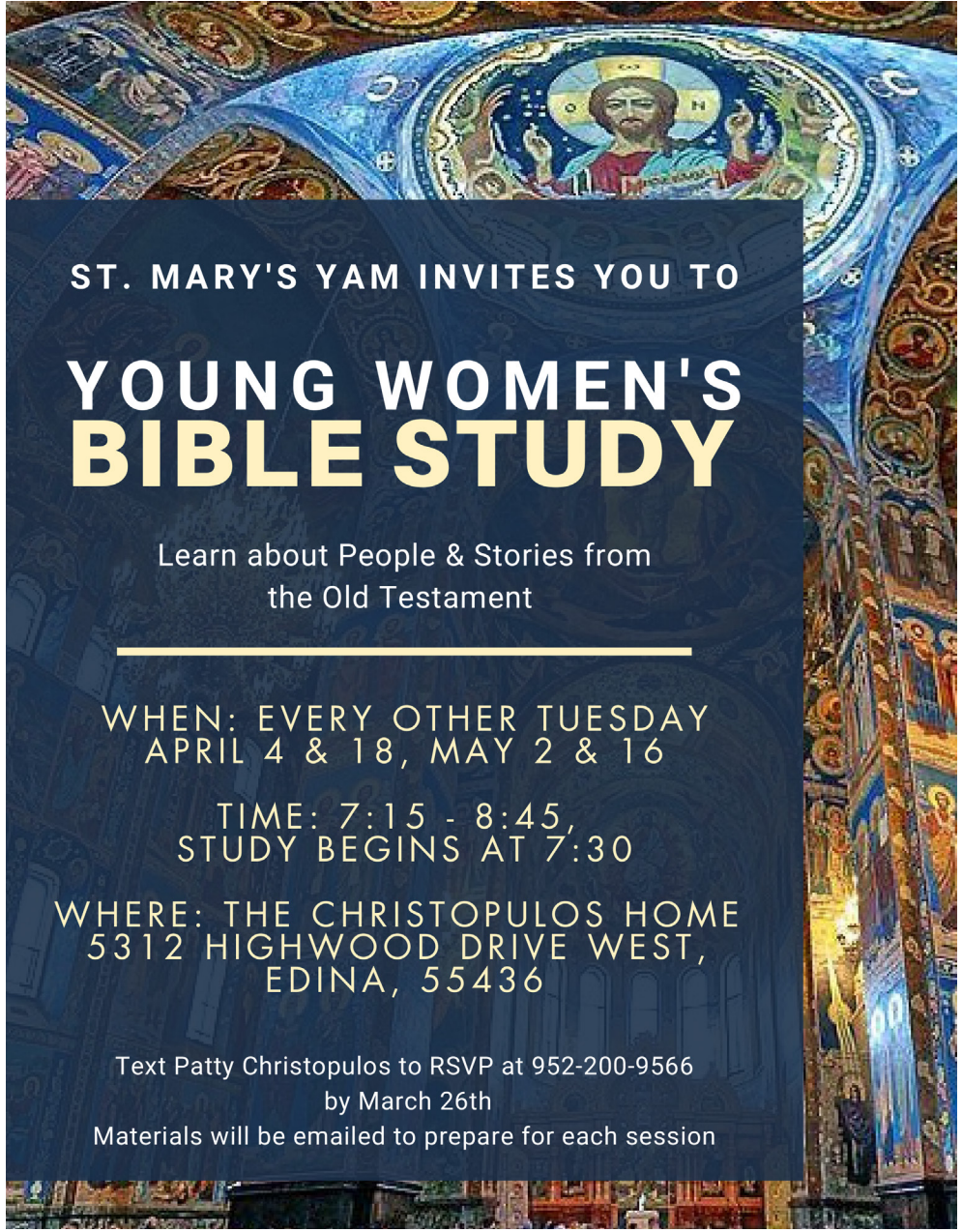
~ Saturday, April 8 ~

We invite everyone to take part in our Lazarus Saturday Family Service Day. Orthros – 9:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m. Following Liturgy, we will join together for a potluck lunch. Please bring a Lenten dish to share. The Service Day projects will follow and include cleaning and preparing the church for Holy Week and plaiting palm crosses. It's a joy filled day! We'll also provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the kids. A SignUpGenius will be available soon. Please stay tuned!



## Holy Week and Pascha Flowers

Donations are now being accepted for Holy Week and Pascha flowers. Your generous donation helps us beautify our worship space for this most holy season. A large number of flowers and greens is needed for the various services. Forms and envelopes are found in the narthex.



ST. MARY'S YAM INVITES YOU TO

# YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Learn about People & Stories from  
the Old Testament

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WHEN: EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
APRIL 4 & 18, MAY 2 & 16

TIME: 7:15 - 8:45,  
STUDY BEGINS AT 7:30

WHERE: THE CHRISTOPULOS HOME  
5312 HIGHWOOD DRIVE WEST,  
EDINA, 55436

Text Patty Christopulos to RSVP at 952-200-9566  
by March 26th

Materials will be emailed to prepare for each session

# Philoptochos News

## Philoptochos Meeting Today!

Join us in the Terrace Room at 11:30 to assemble IOCC Hygiene Kits and 11:45 for the start of the meeting. Lenten refreshments and fellowship will be served!

## Serve! Grow! Do!

### ***SERVE! The Parish and The Community***

Philoptochos is coordinating the free meal at FOCUS Minnesota on Sunday, April 2. We need volunteers to cook rigatoni, green bean casserole, or cookies (at home) and to help in person at St. Mary's in the afternoon and at FOCUS in the evening. All parishioners are invited to join us in these efforts. Sign up online (<https://tinyurl.com/hxkc7w2v>) or stop by our table after church. Questions? Contact *Mary Ellis*, 612.716.5658, [m.e.ellis925@gmail.com](mailto:m.e.ellis925@gmail.com), or *Paulette Hastings*, 952.564.8388, [pmg@sisyphuscafe.com](mailto:pmg@sisyphuscafe.com).

### ***GROW! Your Faith and Your Friendships***

1. ***Your Faith*** – Attend the hybrid Women's Book Club discussion of *Saint Nektarios: The Saint of Our Century* by Sotos Chondropoulos on Thursday, April 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Stop by the bookstore to pick up your copy.
2. ***Your Friendships*** – Working together to help others, support the parish, and grow in faith is a great way to build friendships. All these things happen in Philoptochos. To join, stop by our table during Sunday social hours, or send in the membership form (mailed to the homes of all women in the parish).

### ***DO! Hands-On Activities***

1. ***Operation Classroom: School Supply Drive for Bancroft Elementary School***

We are supporting this grade K-5 South Minneapolis school as it enters the final months of the school year by collecting Crayola Washable Markers, Crayola Crayons (16- and 24-packs), wide ruled spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, wooden lead pencils, pencil sharpeners, and kid sized Fiskars scissors.

- Place an Amazon order (<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/314WXCJ6YOTXV/guest-view>) and choose delivery to "Carol A. Smith's Gift Registry Address," or bring donations to our table during a Sunday social hour. Drive ends today.



Also, following social worker Cathy Todd's visit at our January Philoptochos meeting, a couple of people expressed an interest in volunteering at the school. Individuals, or small groups are welcome. If interested, please contact Carol Smith for details, 952.210.8618, [smithzc@hotmail.com](mailto:smithzc@hotmail.com).

2. ***Financially Support Mamas and Littles at Tandem***

Tandem "provides a community for women to pursue the struggle of life together" through educational classes, medical care, counseling and support, material needs like food, clothing and diapers, life coaching, and childcare. Stop at our table in the Narthex or Great Hall and take a baby bottle to fill with coins and dollars or put your gift in a provided envelope. Please return gift by Palm Sunday, April 9.

3. ***Assemble IOCC Hygiene Kits***

Plan to join us in the Terrace Room at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, March 26, to assemble 180 kits. The March Philoptochos meeting will follow.

***Philoptochos Spring Calendar***

Sunday, March 26 – Philoptochos Meeting, Bancroft School Supply  
Drive Ends

Sunday, April 2 – Serve Dinner at FOCUS MN

Thursday, April 6 – Women's Book Club Discussion

Sunday, April 9 – Tandem Baby Bottle Fundraiser Ends

Tuesday, May 16 – Board Meeting

Saturday, May 20 – Pan Orthodox Women's Tea in Lecture Hall

Tuesday, May 23 – Spring Finale and Elections



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## Youth News

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### **Fanari Regional Lenten Retreat**

Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to attend the Fanari Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 1, 2:00-8:00 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul. Registration is now open and is \$30.00 per camper. For more information and to register, go to: [fanari.com/retreat](http://fanari.com/retreat)

## Saint Mary's Holy Friday Retreat



# Walk with Christ to the Cross

**Friday, April 14 • 10:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

*Pre-K (4 year old) through 12<sup>th</sup> grade*

>> Register at <https://tinyurl.com/HolyFriday2023> <<

Please join us for an engaging day in which children will learn about Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will have lessons, crafts, lunch, stations in the church, and gym time.

*Parents:* The retreat ends at 1:15 p.m., so please be here at that time to check out your child(ren) and accompany them for the Taking Down from the Cross Vespers.

Please register early so we can plan accordingly for helpers, supplies, space, and food ordering/packaging.

*Adults:* we could use additional help with set up/clean up and food preparation.

To volunteer or with questions, contact Dena Tortorelis.

*Vacation Church School 2023*

## **The Fruits of the Spirit**

*St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church*

June 12-16, 2023 • 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kids ages 4 years old (and potty trained) through going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade (fall 2023) are welcome. Middle and high school students and adults are needed to help

Join us for a fun-filled tropical adventure as we learn about the wonderful fruits that the Holy Spirit gives us. We will have crafts, singing, gym activities, snacks, and interesting lessons!

Questions? Contact Dena Tortorelis or Krissa Rovolis at...

[Churchschool@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:Churchschool@stmarysgoc.org)

Hope to see you there!

To register: [tinyURL.com/Fruits-VCS-2023](https://tinyURL.com/Fruits-VCS-2023)

Or scan the code at the right on your phone.



## From the Fathers...

Do not be surprised that you fall every day;  
do not give up, but stand your ground courageously.  
And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.  
—Saint John Climacus

### Daily Bible Readings

#### *Monday, March 27*

Isaiah 37:33—38:6 • Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27—15:4

#### *Tuesday, March 28*

Isaiah 40:18-31 • Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19

#### *Wednesday, March 29*

Isaiah 41:4-14 • Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20—16:9

#### *Thursday, March 30*

Isaiah 42:5-16 • Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17—17:17

#### *Friday, March 31*

Isaiah 45:11-17 • Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17—18:5

#### *Saturday, April 1*

Hebrews 9:1-7 • Luke 1:39-49, 56

#### *Sunday, April 2*

#### *Saint Mary of Egypt*

Hebrews 9:11-14 • Mark 10:32-45

#### *Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church*

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Fr. Timothy Sas, Fr. Jason Houck, Fr. John Kostas

Fr. Paul Kalina, Deacon; Fr. Luke Twito, Deacon