

# SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

May 21, 2023  
*Sunday of the Blind Man*

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## The Divine Liturgy

**Commemoration:** Sunday of the Blind Man; Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles; Pachomios the Righteous New Martyr.

*Morning Gospel: Eighth*

*Tone: Plagal First*

### Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

#### *Christ Is Risen*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

#### *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*

#### **Hymn of PASCHA, Plagal First Tone**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

#### **Hymn of Entrance**

Bless God in the churches; the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O son of God who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia

#### **Resurrection Hymn, Plagal First Tone**

To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For he willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

***Hymn of Saints Constantine and Helen, Plagal Fourth Tone***

He beheld the image of Your Cross in the Heavens and, as Paul, he too did not receive the call from men. Your Apostle among Kings placed the care of the Royal City in Your hands. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Loving Lord, keep it ever in peace.

***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 Pascha, Plagal Fourth Tone***

Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the myrrh-bearing women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your holy apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

***Epistle.....Acts 26:1, 12-20***

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: “I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ “Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance.”

**Gospel**..... *John 9:1-38*

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner."

He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

***Megalynarion of Pascha, First Tone*** (instead of "It is truly meet")

The Angel spoke to her who is full of grace: Rejoice, O pure virgin, and again I say rejoice; your Son is risen from the grave on the third day.

Shine, Shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Now dance and be glad O Sion; and you, O pure Theotokos, exalt in the rising of your Son!

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

***Communion Hymn***

Receive the body, the body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality.

*Instead of "We have seen the light..." we chant "Christ is risen."*

# Today

Prosforo is provided by Barbara Nichols.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for *Andreas Psangarerides*.

**Fun Jam ~ Today after Liturgy.** Enjoy hot dogs and chips as well as cupcakes and ice cream (compliments of Harry Lejeros Memorial). There'll be all sorts of fun things for the kids.

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## 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; Sofia, George K., Juan Cruz & family, Kristina, Charlie, Stan, Helena, Byrdie, Jennifer, John S., Becky, 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, 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.

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### ***Congratulations to our high school seniors who are graduating this spring!***

Sydney Bakritztes • Samuel Balke • Josh Benbow  
Theodore Berkovski • Sophia Binning • Kirubel Birhane  
Alexander Bjork • Benjahmin Boyd • John Checheris  
Maria Hadjiyanis • Elizabeth Hafey • Kalli Halatsis  
Emily Hattling • Elena Hicks • Alexander Kauffman  
Yoel Kesseste Woldekidan • Ashlyn Kirou • Cole Kloek  
Alliyha Pakirtzis • Antonis Pappas • Gavriel Pappas  
Jacob Poolos • Sofia Sas • Helena Yiangou

# Calendar of the Week

**Sunday, May 21: Sunday of the Blind Man**

**Saints Constantine and Helen**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
after Liturgy – Fun Jam  
11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach, Fireside Room

**Tuesday, May 23**

5:30 p.m. – Philoptochos Spring Finale, Terrace Room

**Wednesday, May 24: Leave-Taking of Holy PASCHA**

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. – Paschal Hours and Great Vespers

**Thursday, May 25: Holy Ascension**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
6:30 p.m. – Edina Koinonia, Meeting Room 1  
7:00 p.m. – Stewardship Committee, Fireside Room

**Friday, May 26**

*Junior Olympics in Chicago, through May 29.*

**Saturday, May 27**

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

**Sunday, May 28: The Holy Fathers of the**

**First Ecumenical Council**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
after Liturgy – Special Presentation with Bishop Neofitos Kongai  
**12:30 p.m.** – Cemetery Service, Lakewood Cemetery,

St. Mary's Section (*Note time change*)

## **Bishop Neofitos Kongai to Visit St. Mary's**



Bishop Neofitos Kongai will be visiting St. Mary's next Sunday, May 28. He will be celebrating Liturgy and immediately afterwards offer a brief talk and slide show in the Terrace Room on his newly-formed Orthodox Diocese of Eldoret and Northern Kenya. His Grace is raising awareness, financial, and spiritual support for this newly-formed diocese and its philanthropic work. Donuts and coffee will be served.

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# Announcements

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## Food Shelf Needs for May 28

Peanut butter

*May's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.*

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

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## E-mail Scam Alert

This past week, number of parishioners notified us that an e-mail was received from someone posing as Fr. Tim asking if the recipient was open to an e-mail correspondence. This was not a legitimate request. Please note that our clergy and staff would never make such a request, nor would we ask for money or gift cards by this means. If you have any questions about this or other e-mails you might receive from the church or staff, please contact the church office BEFORE replying to any messages.

## Find Our New Online Directory in Realm Connect

Help us build our new online directory by joining Realm Connect and creating your profile. You can access the directory from the Realm Connect app. We want everyone included in the directory, so please create your profile today, including a photo. Need help setting up your profile? Stop by our table at coffee hour after Liturgy this morning.

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Coffee hour hosts are needed for the follow Sundays:

June 4 and 11

July 2, 9, and 30

all Sundays in August

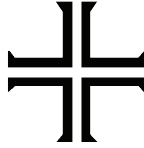
Please contact the Church Office if you'd like to offer to host.

## Greek Dance Practices Resume

Greek dance practices will resume in June and continue through the summer months with the final rehearsal in September before our Festival. All youth ages 6 to 18 years old, plus any Greek dance alumni (young adults) are welcome to join the Greek dance program and perform at the Festival, September 8-10. Please contact *Tessie Bourdamis* by May 31 to register students or if you have questions.

## Stewardship Update

To date, we have received 333 pledges totaling \$946,187.00 which covers 68% 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.



## Philoptochos News

### Spring Fun with Philoptochos!

*After Pascha, Philoptochos has just-for-fun activities plus ways to serve the church and others. Join us as you're able.*

- Tuesday, May 23 – Spring Finale: Dinner and Elections  
5:30 p.m., Terrace Room.
- Thursday, June 1 – Women's Book Club Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
- Day of Service, scheduled for June 9, has been postponed.

### Women's Book Club Discussion and Potluck

The discussion of Steve Rakes' book, *Wisdom from the Holy Mountain: Life Lessons from the Monks of Mt. Athos*, will take place on Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room. All women of the parish are welcome. Please bring a food item to share in our potluck. The book is available in the bookstore.



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!

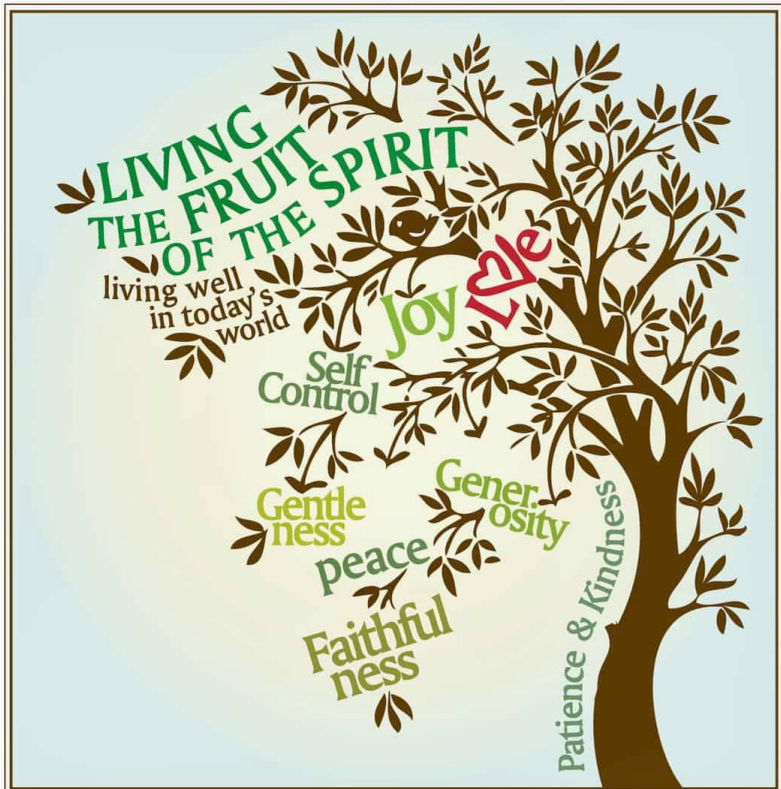
Questions? Contact Dena Tortorelis or Krissa Rovolis at...

[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...on Jesus Christ**

Unless He were true God, He could bring us no help;  
and if He were not true man, He could offer us no example.

*–Saint Leo the Great*

### **Daily Bible Readings**

***Monday, May 22***

Acts 17:1-9 • John 11:47-54

***Tuesday, May 23***

Acts 17:19-28 • John 12:19-36

***Wednesday, May 24***

***Leave-Taking of Holy Pascha***

Acts 18:22-28 • John 12:36-47

***Thursday, May 25***

***Holy Ascension***

Acts 1:1-12 • Luke 24:36-53

***Friday, May 26***

II Corinthians 4:6-15 • Matthew 11:2-15

***Saturday, May 27***

Acts 20:7-12 • John 14:10-21

***Sunday, May 28***

***Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council***

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 • John 17:1-13

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