



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Our 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



SEPTEMBER

8 **FRIDAY**
2:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

9 **SATURDAY**
NOON – 9:00 P.M.

10 **SUNDAY**
NOON – 5:00 P.M.

MPLS
**TASTE
OF
GREECE
FESTIVAL**

Hosted By



DETAILS AT:

mplsGreekFest.org



@mplsgreekfest



Our Life Together

Births

Mia Kathryn

Parents:

James & Maggie Menter

July 11, 2023

Theo

Parents:

Andrew & Amy Gruber

July 14, 2023

Michael Themistocles

Parents:

Parker & Anastacia Mullins

July 18, 2023

Baptism

Elena and Alexios

Parents:

Bryan & Katherine George

August 13, 2023

Chrismation

Styliani (Alicia) Kouzes

August 13, 2023

Marriages

Megan Workman to

Joshua Jyring

July 29, 2023

Katherine Kohnen to

Theodore Boosalis

July 30, 2023

Deaths

Peter Pappas

August 10, 2023

Nicholas C. Boosalis

August 11, 2023

Demetrios (Jim) Villas

August 12, 2023

Share YourShelf

September's recipient is

Joyce Food Shelf

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

Diapers and wipes, toothbrushes
and toothpaste, Ramen Noodles

Sunday, September 3

Ramen Noodles

Sunday, September 10

Cereal (both hot and cold)

Sunday, September 17

Canned Meal – large cans
(i.e. Chili / Pork and Beans)

Sunday, September 24

Hygiene items
(toothpaste, soap, shampoo,
conditioner)

Good Shepherd, we pray for cooperation
and support for life-saving assistance to
people struggling from food insecurity
and hunger around the world. Send
life-giving rains at just the right time,
create good conditions for families to
grow food for their survival, and cease
conflict so Your children will no longer
go to bed hungry each night.

Donate Online:

<https://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org>
then "Donate"

Fellowship and Study Groups

Men's Fellowship

Friday, September 1, 7:00 a.m.

Joshua 9-10

Friday, September 15, 7:00 a.m.

Psalm 11 (Septuagint Psalm 10)

Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

9:00 a.m.

September 16, 23, and 30

Fireside Room

Edina Koinonia

Thursday, September 28,

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Room 1

Worship Schedule

Weekend

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 16

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 23

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Bring-a-Friend Vespers

and Reception

Saturday, September 30

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Weekday

Friday, September 1

The Beginning of the
Ecclesiastical Year

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, September 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.



Our Life Together

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

Office Manager

David Mertesdorf

Communications & Marketing

Nikolas Kouzes

Finance (interim)

Peggy Sperides

Ministry Support

Doria Saros

Youth Director

Jonathan Klein

Music Director

Thespina Macres

Organist

Mark Macres

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Jeannie Possis

Vice President

Sam Hanna

Secretary

Maria Smith

Treasurer

Andrew Twito

Assistant Treasurer

Cristina Nicklow

Members

Daniel Buss

Libby Cheolis

Alex Dascalos

Ina Dunham

Dean Psychogios

Sophia Rouman

Louis Tiggas

WANTED



For Help with the
St. Mary's Taste of
Greece Festival

REWARD:

(See Colossians 3:23-24)

OTHER REWARDS:

Helping your Church, Being part of something great, Meeting people, Getting to know your fellow parishioners through a shared experience, Making memories with your family

We need to fill approximately 900 work shifts to make this year's festival a smooth success. Currently, we still need shifts covered (as of 08/16/23). If each person from our parish signed up for two shifts, we would be covered. Please, if you haven't done so, sign-up to volunteer today. This year we are using our new platform, Realm Connect, for festival volunteer sign-ups. All you need is your active Realm Connect account to make the process smooth. If you do not have an active Realm Connect profile, or if you need assistance, sign-up stations are available at the coffee hour following liturgy. All you will need is your email address.



Scan for
Volunteer
Sign-up



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

(Consider asking a friend to help, too!)

Parish News & Events



Senior Citizens' Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

St. Mary's Seniors' meeting and social will be held Tuesday, September 19, the third Tuesday of September, at noon in the Terrace Room. We will celebrate Sept. birthdays and anniversaries with a group photo, a luncheon, and delicious cake from Queen of Cakes. The program features Seniors' member and author Peter Georgas who will speak about his new book entitled *Mayhem at the Manor*. This book as well as his other books will be available for purchase. A short meeting and announcements will follow. All St. Mary's seniors (55+) are welcome to join our lively group. Dues are \$15. For further questions, please contact President Tessie Bourdamis.



The Return of Parea Potlucks!

Tuesday, October 3, 10, and 17

Monday, October 30

Parea, meaning company, Potlucks are a great opportunity to get connected to other members of St. Mary's! We're looking for parishioners who would be willing to host a dinner for 4-10 others this October. Hosts provide the space for gathering and the main entree for the potluck. If you are interested, please email jessica.e.buss@gmail.com with your name and which evening you'd be available to host.



Women's Pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery

January 23-27, 2024

Planning is underway for our annual women's pilgrimage to the St. Paisius Women's Monastery, scheduled for January 23-27, 2024. Space is available for ten women on a first come first, served basis. We fly to Phoenix, then travel by van for 3 1/2 hours to Safford, Arizona. Tickets must be purchased by mid-October. Prices are not yet available at this time (approximately \$500-\$650). Transportation, room, and board are included in the price. Please visit the monastery website, stpaisiusmonastery.org, and click on Visitor Information for rules and dress codes. Contact Sandra Anderson with questions, 612.940.8933 The deadline to register is October 20.

Intro to Orthodox Christianity Course - Fall 2023

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join us for our MEOCCA catechism course, Intro to Orthodox Christianity, beginning on Tuesday, September 12, from 7-9 p.m. Catechism is open to all; people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well! Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in person (1111 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN) or online via Zoom. Register online and learn more at:

www.meocca.org/our-faith/cooperative-catechism

Youth News & Events

Church School Kickoff Party

Saturday, September 16 (Parents and Students)

3:00-5:00 p.m. – Nursery through 6th grades

5:30-7:30 p.m. – 7th-12th grades

Come meet your teachers, play games, socialize, eat, and drink - ice cream bar and treats. Parents: please attend to learn about several new events, protocols, and what your child will be learning this year. At the Tortorelis home: 7441 West Shore Drive, Edina.

First Day of Church School

Sunday, September 17

Please register your children on Realm for all youth activities for the school year. This will help us plan for teachers, books, and other resources for the year and you are assured of getting e-mails and notices of upcoming events.

Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. We have a new 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

 THE GREEK CORNER

παρουσία Parousia

Pronounced:

pah-RU-SEE-ah

Meaning:

Present, presence, appearance, attendance, a being present, a coming to a place; presence, coming or arrival. A technical term used of the coming of Christ.



The Last Event of Summer!

September 21, Thursday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Como Zoo and Picnic

1225 Estabrook Drive St. Paul, MN 55103

Pack and bring your own picnic meal.

We'll meet at the Cafesjian's Carousel.

The Palm Lot is the closest parking lot.

Please contact Fr. Jason to RSVP

or if you have questions:

frjason@stmarysgoc.org

612-401-0660



Philoptochos



September Meetings

We are excited to meet in person for our annual September Kick-Off Dinner and Meeting. Please watch for details to RSVP.

Tuesday September 21

Board meeting at 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Tuesday, September 26

General meeting at 5:30 p.m., Terrace room

Upcoming Activities

2023 Greek Festival Bake Sale Preparation

We are in need of helpers as we prepare for the Festival Bake Sale. Tasks include powdering kourambietes, assembling 4 and 6-packs, and setting up the bake sale area.

Packaging and Set Up Times:

Tuesday, September 5

Cut Baklava and package, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 6

Bake Sale Set up, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

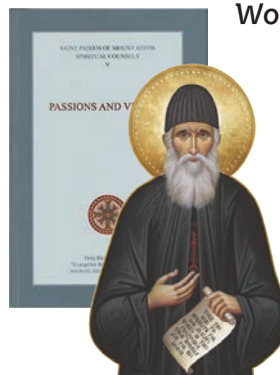
Sign up at the Philoptochos Table in the Great Hall after Sunday Liturgy or [SIGN UP HERE](#). Questions or suggestions? Contact Bake Sale chairs Cathy Forchas or Paulette Hastings.

Luncheon, September 23, In Chicago

The September Luncheon and Raffle is the biggest fundraiser of the Metropolis Philoptochos. If you're unable to attend, please consider buying a raffle ticket. Tickets were mailed to all Philoptochos members, and a few are available for purchase at the Philoptochos table after liturgy. The raffle tickets are due Sunday September 17th. Grand prize is \$1000 with 4 smaller cash prizes, too. Donation \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The raffle benefits, St. Iakovos Retreat Center, IOCC and Metropolis philanthropic endeavors.

Service Day Project

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Meet in the Lecture Room. The project we will work on is TBD. Watch for a sign-up sheet at the Philoptochos table.



Women's Book Club Discussion

Passions and Virtues, the fifth volume of the *Spiritual Counsels of Saint Paisios the Athonite*, is our next reading for the Book Club. This book will be discussed in the September, October, and November meetings. Copies are available for purchase in the bookstore.

Thank You

Dormition Celebrations, August 14 & 15

Philoptochos hosted light reception after Vespers on Monday, August 14, and the coffee/brunch hour after morning Liturgy on Tuesday, August 15. Thank you everyone who volunteered to make this a beautiful event for the church.

Back to School

Thank you, Sandra Anderson and team, for purchasing, assembling, and delivering backpacks filled with school supplies for all the children of Healing House.

Thank you, Carol Smith, for organizing the school supplies drive for Bancroft School; our "Operation Classroom" school.

2023 Greek Festival Baking Sessions

We thank everyone who was able to help—for all or for part of the days—to assemble, bake, and enjoy great fellowship. A very special thanks to our chair persons Cathy Forchas and Paulette Hastings.



Koulourakia Baking on August 24

Thank you everyone for twisting and baking the koulourakia. it was fun!



Thiples Frying on August 30

Thank you to chairs, Tina Menter and sisters, and all who volunteered to fry. We had a great team and, of course, great fun!



Every gift of time is valued. Thank you so much for helping with the festival baking.

Missions & Outreach

Bring-a-Friend

September 23, 2023, Saturday Vespers

I asked a first-time visitor what they thought about St. Mary's. They replied, "it seems that everyone knows one another. No other church gave us that feeling."

I am sure you would like to hear how a visitor looks at St. Mary's. Look for a friend, neighbor, co-workers, or family members to "come and see." A great way to spend a Saturday evening, at a Vespers service with a short presentation afterwards including refreshments. Come and meet those who have questions about the ancient Christian church and faith. In this way, we are sharing our faith as it is written in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples," by inviting others to learn more about our ancient Christian Faith.

And if you think of someone within our church community that you have not seen in a long while, what a thoughtful opportunity to invite to "Come and See."



**Saturday,
September 23, 2023**

5:00–7:00 p.m.

Come experience the ancient
Christian Church and learn
about the faith.

A short evening Vespers service followed
by a presentation and refreshments.

— St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church —

Fundraiser

Sunday, October 8, after Liturgy



Come for this fundraiser after Liturgy to meet the Jones family: Michael, Meghan, and their children Catherine (10), Anastasia (9), Cecelia (7), and Elliot (4).

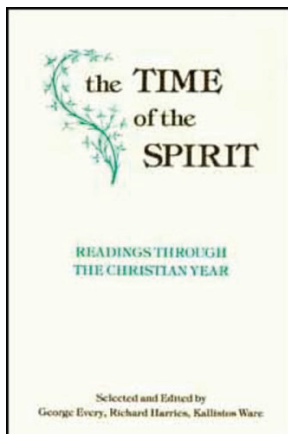


Michael and Meghan are sharing their apostolic ministry in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa - how being encouraged, Michael and Meghan truly believe that God is at work in our lives and in our world, and that in whatever ways we can, we just say "Yes" to Him. They are working to complete the Church of St. George and to walk with the small group of Orthodox Tongans to "share our life in Christ and thereby participate in building the true church – the body of Christ – as well as the new temple." Please come and help with this fundraiser.

In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



The Time of the Spirit: Readings Through the Christian Year is a creative ecumenical collaboration by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, George Every, and Father Richard Harries. They write in the introduction:

The purpose of this anthology is to show how time—the sequence of days, months and seasons—can be taken up into Christ, and so be sanctified and transfigured.

Of the three editors one is Roman Catholic (Avery), one Anglican (Harries) and one Orthodox (Ware). We have embarked on our task in an ecumenical spirit, hoping that the book will widen the horizon and enrich the prayer of our readers, opening their eyes to unfamiliar treasures in Christian traditions other than their own. We have sought to convey some inkling of the amazing variety that exists within Christianity. Yet this variety is at the same time a diversity in unity. As we made our selection, again and again we were struck by the manner in which the different texts—ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, Catholic and Protestant—do not so much contradict as complement each other. Working together as a team, with each editor

suggesting material not only from his own tradition but from that of the other two, we have repeatedly discovered in unexpected ways how much we share in common. (vii)

The Time of the Spirit is divided into chapters, one for each month, with each month having a theme or themes of its own. The book starts in September, the ecclesiastical new year in the Orthodox tradition and the theme is creation, which is given special emphasis in Orthodoxy this month. Each month begins with readings related to the theme of the month followed by a section on saints celebrated on specific days in the month. The editors provide brief biographical notes about the saints to help the reader.

This is a book for anyone wanting spiritual edification day by day with a broader and greater appreciation of and for the gifts in other Christian traditions in addition to and together with one's own. Jesus tells us in John 14:2, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Reading and reflecting on passages in The Time of the Spirit is a helpful way to become aware of and see some of the treasures not only in one's own dwelling place, but also in the places where others dwell, making this a good book for families with members of different Christian traditions and people with friends in other dwelling places.

Recently Featured Books

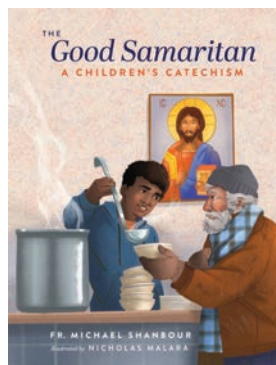
If you missed out on picking up these good summer reads or are looking for something specific from the bookstore, stop in on Sunday, after Divine Liturgy, to browse our selection. If we do not have it in stock, some items may be available for special order.

August



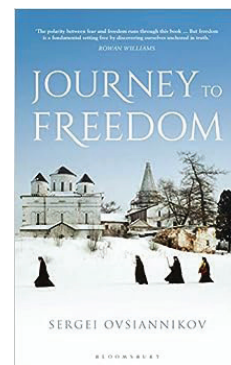
Praying in Time
Vassa Larin

July



The Good Samaritan:
A Children's Catechism
Fr. Michael Shanbour

June



Journey to Freedom
Sergei Ovsiannikov

Stewardship

St. Mary's 2023 Stewardship Campaign Update

OWNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, GENEROSITY

Thank you for your participation in our 2023 Stewardship Campaign and your on-going support of St. Mary's through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

As of August 14, we have received **\$684,354** in Stewardship Income payments.

- This represents only 51% of this year's budget for ministries and operating expenses and is ahead by \$79,887 when compared to where we were last year at this time.
- An additional \$648,046 is needed by year-end to cover all our costs.



Although our deadline to have a pledge form completed has passed, we encourage everyone to complete a pledge form this year. The form is available online and also available at Church if you need one. Completing either the Pledge Form or the Time and Talent Form is required to be considered a "member in good standing" of St. Mary's and in order to vote at General Assemblies. In addition, the Stewardship Appreciation Glendi is complimentary for all "members in good standing."

2023 Offering Income YTD vs Annual Budget

Offering Income As of August 14	2023 YTD Actual	2023 Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Additional Needed by December 31
Payments Received	\$684,354	\$1,332,400	51%	(\$648,046)

REMINDER
The goal is to cover 100% of ministry and operating costs with Stewardship Income rather than relying on rental and festival income.

2023 Offering Income vs Prior Year as of July 17

Offering Income As of August 14	2023 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	Increase vs. Prior Year
Payments Received	\$684,354	\$604,467	\$79,887
Average per Week	\$21,197	\$18,722	\$2,475
Average per Month	\$80,973	\$71,521	\$9,452

2023 Pledge Forms Completed to Date

Pledges To Date	# of Pledges	Pledges to Date	% of Budget
2023	343	\$954,547	71.6%
2022	154	\$432,738	34.1%
Increase vs. Prior Year	189	\$521,809	

Thank you to all parishioners that have made a pledge for 2023. We have had a significant increase compared to prior years in the number of pledge forms completed as well as the dollar amount of pledges. With gratitude,

—The St. Mary's Stewardship Committee



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

∞nnect

orthodox young adult conference

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2023

THEME: REFUGE
MATTHEW 11:28

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 17
CONNECTORTHODOX.ORG



GALA ON THE FARM 2023

Sunday, September 24

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Korluka Equestrian Farm
Stillwater, MN



In 2020, LOMCP moved its gala to the Korluka Equestrian Farm. We had so much fun, it's been the 'Gala on the Farm' ever since. Dress is casual, boots are optional! A golf cart shuttle is available to take you from your car to the horse arena and dining tents.

Freddy, Manuel, and their beautiful horses are back for an encore performance of their traditional Spanish horse show. If you missed last year, check out the link on our website to see videos of the dancing horses. Bet it will make you smile! Bring the kids and grandkids. Accompanied children under 18 attend free. Tickets are limited this year so purchase them early.

Purchase tickets at www.lomcp.com

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit #3735

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**“The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me, because
he has anointed
me to preach good
news to the poor.
He has sent me to
proclaim release
to the captives and
recovering of sight
to the blind, to set
at liberty those
who are oppressed,
to proclaim the
acceptable year of
the Lord.”**

Luke 4:16-22



The Ecclesiastical New Year
Begins September 1



THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2023

The Messenger is published
monthly by Saint Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The Messenger

First Sunday of each month

Sunday Bulletin

Preceding Thursday, 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT

3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
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612.825.9595 | 612.825.9283 Fax

stmarysgoc.org



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year</i> 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	2 
3 Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	4 Labor Day <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	5 4:00pm-Hummus Preparation	6 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice	7 6:00pm-Great Vespers	8 <i>Nativity of the Theotokos</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Greek Festival 2:00-9:00 p.m. 	9 Greek Festival 12:00-9:00 p.m. 
10 Sunday before Holy Cross 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Greek Festival 12:00-5:00 p.m. 	11	12 12:00noon-Senior Citizens	13 6:00pm-Great Vespers	14 <i>Elevation of the Holy Cross</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:15pm-Parish Council	15 Men's Retreat	16 Men's Retreat 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers Church School Kick-off Parties Healing House Dinner and Bible Study
17 Sunday after Holy Cross 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy First Day of Church School 11:45am-Missions & Outreach Men's Retreat concludes	18	19 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board Meeting	20 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing	21 10:00am-FAITH Playgroup at Como Zoo	22	23 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers Bring-a-Friend Vespers and Reception
24 First Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	25	26 5:30pm-Philoptochos Kick-off Dinner and Meeting	27	28 6:30pm-Edina Koinonia 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	29 YAL Connect Conference	30 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Philoptochos Service Day Project 5:00pm-Great Vespers YAL Connect Conference