



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2023

Inside This Issue

Bookstore	10
Missions and Outreach	9
Our Life Together.....	2
Parish News and Events.....	3
Philoptochos.....	8
Stewardship.....	11
Youth News	6
Worship Schedule	2

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

The Saint with Cancer

On November 9, we celebrate one of the most popular saints of our time, St. Nektarios. St. Nektarios is especially known for his many miracles God has worked through him; thus he is among the “wonderworker” or “miracle worker” saints. Many people also know by reading his life story or by seeing the recent movie *Man of God* about his suffering due to slander. Because he was pushed out of Egypt due to slander, the beloved hierarch did not become Patriarch of Alexandria. He suffered from people—including fellow clergy—slandering him. But there is another aspect of Saint Nektarios’ suffering that is sometimes overlooked or glossed over. Saint Nektarios died of prostate cancer.



Nearly all of us know someone who has died from cancer. There are nearly two million cancer diagnosis every year in the United States. And we can ask ourselves, why? Sometimes we may ask, “what did he/

(continued on page 3)

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 1

Hosted by St. Mary's Parish Council and Stewardship Committee
in honor of your pledged time, talent, and treasure.



APPRECIATION GLENDI

Saturday, November 11, 2023 ~ 6:00-9:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

We are looking for help with a variety of projects throughout the day, from set up in the morning through dishwashing at night. We have something for everyone!



Our Life Together

Marriages

October 1, 2023

Phil Triantafyllou to
Denyse Madden

October 7, 2023

Peter Economou to
Jackie Duddingston

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy to **Athena Dascalos** on the passing of her beloved sister, Mary Georgantones, who died on September 15 in St. Paul. May her memory be eternal.

Fellowship and Study Groups

Men's Fellowship

Friday, November 3, 7:00 a.m.
Fireside Room

Friday, November 17, 7:00 a.m.
Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

9:00 a.m.
November 4, 11, 18, and 25
Fireside Room (and on ZOOM)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 15 and 29
11:30 a.m.

Women's Book Club

Thursday, November 2
7:00 p.m.



Note from the Office

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church and office will be closed November 23 and 24. A blessed Thanksgiving to all!

Share Your Shelf

November's recipient is
FOCUS MN

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

Pasta / Pasta Sauce, Canned
Veggies, Tuna, Cereal

Sunday, November 5

Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat

Sunday, November 12

Spam

Sunday, November 19

Boxed Pasta / Pasta Sauce

Sunday, November 26

Canned Meat (i.e., tuna / chicken)

"O God, our Creator, through our elected leaders and our government, you sustain all you have made. We pray especially for people who are seeking election to political offices in our country. Grant them integrity and wisdom to focus on matters that strengthen our government and provide help and opportunity to people in need. Give us courage to challenge candidates to address issues of hunger and poverty. As we prepare to cast our votes, may we be guided by vision of love, justice, and mercy. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen."

~ Bread for the World



Donate Online,
Visit the site, then
select "Donate Now"

www.focusmn.org



Worship Schedule Weekend

Saturdays

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday

Wednesday, November 1

Saints Cosmas & Damian

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 8

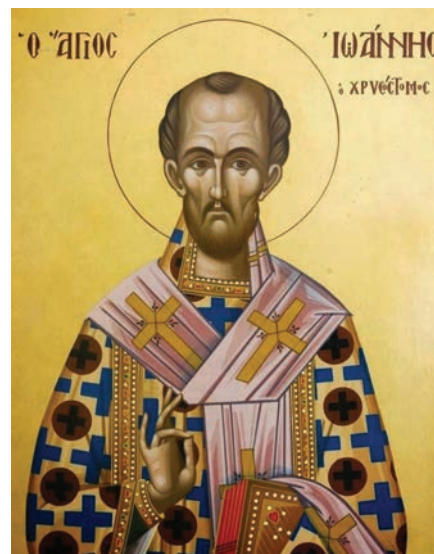
Synaxis of the Archangels

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 9

Saint Nektarios

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.



Monday, November 13

Saint John Chrysostom

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 21

Entrance of the
Theotokos in the Temple

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 21

Saint Katherine

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 30

Saint Andrew

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Parish News & Events

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

("The Saint with Cancer" – continued from page 1)



Saint Nektarios is commemorated on Thursday, November 9.

she/I do wrong?" We may try to make sense of it. One prayer from the service of the visitation of the sick quotes Matthew 5:45, "for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." In other words, bad and good things can happen to both moral and immoral people. Suffering is a part of this fallen world. Even extremely righteous people, like Saint Nektarios, suffer in this life. He died of prostate cancer.

Today, we have an opportunity to help those who are suffering. One way is to join the Visitation Team. At our upcoming November 5 training session, we organize, train, and equip volunteers to go and visit our parishioners who can no longer come to church due to age or a health condition. Our volunteers may visit our parishioners in

nursing homes or in their private homes. Team members help ease the suffering of those who ask, "why?" in a time of suffering. The time commitment is not big. Our training session lasts for about an hour after church on November 5. Then we would like each volunteer to choose one V.I.P., one Very Important Parishioner, and try to visit that V.I.P. about once a month. It is a great system...but we need your help! Help us visit our home-bound or nursing-home bound parishioners. We can do this by attending our training on November 5 where you will be equipped to help us with this beautiful ministry. There are many V.I.P.s would love to have you come visit! Visiting our V.I.P.s is more fun than "volunteer work." It is a joy to get to know our elderly or suffering parishioners, spend time with them, share some laughs, hear some great stories, and make a meaningful connection. We can do this, all the while, lightening the load—even if it is just a little—of an aging or suffering V.I.P. Please let us know if you can help us in this important and joyous ministry. Please contact Doria Saros at doria@stmarysgoc.org 612.825.9595 by October 27 if you can join us for the training session. If you cannot make our November 5 training session, but would like to join our Visitation Team, please let Doria know and she can train and equip you at your convenience.

In Christ,
Fr. Jason Houck

Parish News & Events

Join Our Visitation Team!

...for I was sick and you visited me... Matthew 25:36



Our annual Visitation Training Session will take place on Sunday, November 5, after Divine Liturgy (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) in the Lecture Room. Current Visitation Team members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be served. Our desire is to prepare our new visitors at this training session while current Visitation Team members simultaneously have a meeting and receive a short training session with Fr Jason. As we continue to build our team of Lay Visitors, more and more of our VIPs (Very Important Parishioners) will have multiple visits each month! Please help us bring our loving St. Mary's Community to their door by attending on November 5 and asking others to join our team! By God's grace and your help, we pray that one day soon every family at St Mary's will participate and adopt one VIP to visit once per month. **If you are ready to join our Visitation Team, and can attend the November 5 meeting, please respond to Doria@stmarysgoc.org or call Doria at 612.825.9595 by October 27 so that we can plan for food**

COMMON QUESTIONS

I can't drive, do phone calls and/or cards count?

YES! Phone calls and cards are a wonderful way to reach out and touch our VIPs, especially on snowy days!

Does it count if I happen to be related to the person(s) I visit?

YES! We're a Greek Orthodox parish! Most of us are related somehow!

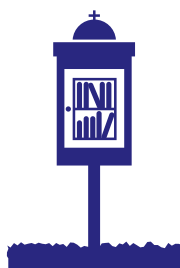
Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of this vital ministry!

Parish Night is Back!



Parish Night is back for another year! It is a parish-wide event for kindergarteners through adults and occur monthly on a Wednesday from October through March. The evening begins at 6:15 p.m. with a brief prayer service in the Nave, followed by dinner in the Terrace Room and breakout sessions for the adults and kids. Parish Night ends by 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Understanding the Liturgy." This year's dates are: Wednesdays, October 25, November 15, December 13, January 10, February 21, and March 13. Everyone is welcome!

Got Extra Orthodox Books?



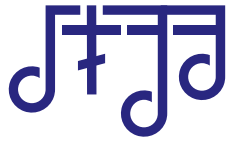
The Little Library seems to be a big hit! People are taking books and pamphlets. We will need more books so if you have some Orthodox books to donate, please bring them to the Philoptochos table after Sunday Liturgy or bring them to the church office during the week. Thank you.



Tuesday, November 14

Saint Mary's Seniors' meeting and social will be held Tuesday, November 14, at noon in the Terrace Room. We will celebrate November birthdays and anniversaries with a group photo and delicious cake from Queen of Cakes. This social will be a POTLUCK luncheon, and we respectfully request our members to please bring a potluck item to share, if possible. The program will feature historian and speaker, David Jones, who will make a presentation on the topic: "JFK Assassination: The Mystery and Legend." A short meeting and announcements will follow. All St. Mary's seniors (55+) are welcome to join our lively group. Dues are \$15 per year. For further questions, please contact President Tessie Bourdamis.

Parish News & Events



Pan-Orthodox Choir Ministry

Calling All Singers! The Pan-Orthodox Choir Ministry is

excited to host its first Composer's Showcase on Sunday, November 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at St. Mary's OCA Cathedral. Come and see (and sing) what our local composers have been working on! All singers welcome, whether they are adults or youth, experienced or not. Please reach out with questions to Mark Wesche at POCM@stmarysoca.org. Hope to see you there!



Daughters of Penelope Bake and Craft Sale

Sunday, November 19

The Daughters of Penelope's annual Holiday Bake and Craft Sale is Sunday, November 19, in the Great Hall following Liturgy. Come stock up on a variety of gourmet treats and holiday gift items! Sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope, with proceeds going to many benevolent projects. Thank you for your support!



St. Mary's Night at the Timberwolves

Thursday, November 30

Join us when the Minnesota Timberwolves take on the Utah Jazz on Thursday, November 30. Tip-off is at 7:00 p.m.. ALL are welcome to join! The cost is \$30 per person. After the game, we will go down to the court and shoot a free-throw!

Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets and then enter the promo code:

23STMARYSGREEK24



THE GREEK CORNER

Συνδιακονία Syndiakonia

Pronounced:

Scene-The-AH-co-KNEE-Ah

Meaning:

Co-ministry; The synergistic relationship between clergy and laity in the Orthodox Christian Church.



Youth News & Events



Church School News

Regular classes on Sundays, November 6, 13 (Stewardship lesson in all classes), and 20. No class on Sunday, November 27.



Dear St. Mary's families, join us for another great season of fun, fellowship, and faith.

NOVEMBER 2023

Thursday, November 2

Tuesday, November 14

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. - Great Hall

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday, December 17 - 4:30 p.m.

Live Animal Nativity Scene

Meet at St. Stephen Lutheran Church

1965 East County Road E White Bear Lake, MN 55110

St. Mary's FAITH Playgroup is a parent/child playgroup geared towards families with children ages birth through pre-K. It is a wonderful way to meet other young families at our parish. Grandparents, caregivers, and siblings welcome!

Please contact Fr. Jason to
RSVP or if you have questions:
frjason@stmarysgoc.org
612.401.0660



HOPE (K-grade 2) JOY (grades 3-5)

Saturday, November 11

11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: HOPE/JOY at Feed My Starving Children, Chanhassen. We will be packing meals at Feed My Starving Children. Please arrive 15 minutes early so we can get everyone signed in and RSVP in Realm by Friday, November 10. Parents are required to stay with their child.

Saturday, November 15

Wednesday, November 15: 6:15-8:00 p.m.: HOPE/JOY at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!

Sunday, December 3

Sunday, December 3: 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.: HOPE/JOY Christmas Party in Youth Room. 'Tis the season for joy, laughter, and making memories with our church friends! Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and join us as we celebrate the Nativity. RSVP in Realm! This is a child drop-off event.

Date Change: Wednesday, December 13

6:15-8:00 p.m.: HOPE/JOY at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!



Junior GOYA (grades 6-8)

Sunday, November 12

11:45-1:30 p.m.: Junior GOYA in Youth Room. Join us as we will make holiday cards for our VIP's down in the youth room! RSVP in Realm!

Wednesday, November 15

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Junior GOYA at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!

Youth News & Events

Wednesday, December 6

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Junior GOYA Christmas Party in Terrace Room. 'Tis the season for joy, laughter, and making memories with our church friends! Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and join us as we celebrate the Nativity. RSVP in Realm!

Date Change: Wednesday, December 13

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Junior GOYA at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!



Senior GOYA (grades 9-12)

Wednesday, November 8

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Senior GOYA in Terrace Room. We will be putting together the college student care packages and enjoying fellowship with one another. RSVP in Realm!

Wednesday, November 15

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Senior GOYA at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!

Date Change: Wednesday, December 13

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Senior GOYA at Parish Night. We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA, and Adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend!

Date Change: Wednesday, December 20

6:15-8:00 p.m.: Senior GOYA Christmas Party in Terrace Room. 'Tis the season for joy, laughter, and making memories with our church friends! Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and join us as we celebrate the Nativity. RSVP in Realm!

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.

Western Region Family Basketball Tournament and Practices

February 2-4, 2024

The Western Region Family Basketball Tournament is being hosted by Sts. Constantine & Helen in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, February 2-4, 2024. Your child must be at least 7 years old and no older than 12 before December 31, 2023, if they would like to participate in the JOY division. If your child is 12 years old on December 31, 2023, they have the option to play on the JOY team (co-ed), or on the Boys



GOYA/Girls GOYA. If your child is interested in participating in the tournament this year, scan the code and fill out the form. All players must purchase the weekend meal package and our parish will cover the cost of the team registrations.

JOY Practices: Co-ed ages 7-12

Sunday, November 5: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, November 19: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, December 10: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, December 17: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, January 7: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, January 14: 12:30-2:00
Sunday, January 21: 12:30-2:00

Girl's GOYA Practices: Ages 12-18 (High School)

Sunday, November 5: 2:00-3:30
Sunday, December 3: 12:30-2:00
Saturday, December 9: 12:30-2:15
Sunday, December 10: 2:00-3:30
Saturday, January 6: 12:30-2:15
Sunday, January 7: 2:00-3:30
Saturday, January 20: 12:30-2:15
Saturday, January 27: 12:30-2:15

Boy's GOYA Practices: Ages 12-18 (High School)

Sunday, November 19: 2:00-3:30
Sunday, December 3: 2:00-3:30
Saturday, December 9: 2:15-4:00
Sunday, December 17: 2:00-3:30
Saturday, January 6: 2:15-4:00
Saturday, January 20: 2:15-4:00
Sunday, January 21: 2:00-3:30
Saturday, January 27: 2:15-4:00

*All players and parents are expected to help take down the tables and chairs, whether you are practicing first or second. You can begin breaking down the tables and chairs after coffee hour (about 12:10 p.m.)



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram
@St_Marys_GOYA

Philoptochos



November Meetings

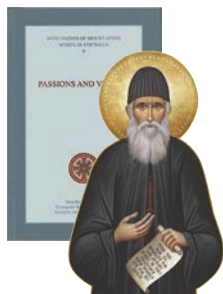
Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m.,
Fireside Room

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m., Terrace Room

Upcoming Activities



Women's Book Club Discussion November 2, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

We will continue the discussion of *Passions and Virtues* by St. Paisios the Athonite. We encourage everyone to attend in person but will set up a call-in option for those who are out-of-town or are unable to make the drive to church that

evening. All women are welcome. More information and a link will be sent to the distribution list. To have your name added to the list, contact Katherine Boosalis (katherine@boosalis.net). Books are available in the church bookstore

Twin Cities Pan-Orthodox Tea

November 4, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join us at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 956 Forest St N, St Paul, MN 55106, for fellowship and a cup of tea! Our own Pres. Alexandra Houck will be the speaker covering the topic, "Finding Wisdom in Children's Books." Please bring a savory or sweet item to share. RSVP not required.



Philoptochos Sunday November 5

We will celebrate our Patron Saints Cosmas and Damian with artoclasia, a special collection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and by hosting the social hour.

Fillo Orders Pick Up November 5

Stop by the Philoptochos table during the social hour to pick up your fillo order. Service Sunday will take place in the Terrace Room.

FOCUS MEAL

November 5

Philoptochos is coordinating a community meal for FOCUS Minnesota, a charitable outreach of the Orthodox Church community in the Twin Cities Metro area. A hot, healthy meal will be provided for over 350 people. The whole Saint Mary's community is invited/encouraged to participate, as their needs are great. We need individuals to help provide a rigatoni entrée, green bean casserole, homemade cookies, and in-person volunteers at church and at FOCUS. Contact Paulette H. at pmg.hastings@gmail.com, 952.564.8388 or Mary E. at, 3ellism@gmail.com, 612.716.5658 with additional questions.

Sign up now with the code and/or stop by the Philoptochos table following Sunday service for recipes and baking pans.



Ministry Fair

November 12

Philoptochos will staff a table which will have information about our organization.

Volunteers Wanted:

Decorating the Nave for Christmas

Watch for more details on how to sign up to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

Vasilopita Sales

Watch for future updates! Funds raised will be donated to St. Basil's Academy.

Thank You

...to those who helped at the pancake breakfast fundraiser for Service Sunday on October 29 with our Church School Students!!

...to Maria Smith, Erline Holman, and Connie Kouzes for representing St. Mary's Philoptochos Chapter at the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Convention last month!

...Thank you to Andrea Tiggas for organizing our fillo sales!

...Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to our Winter Clothing Drive for Bancroft Elementary in October. Little ones attending Bancroft at 38th St. and 13 Ave. S will be toasty warm this winter thanks to your kindness.

Missions & Outreach

Look for the Next Harvest Pack Event!

Sunday, December 3 ~ After Divine Liturgy



Isn't it a good, and especially warm feeling, to be thinking about helping to provide a healthy breakfast for those who are struggling to have enough food for their day? You will be enjoying a fun time working beside someone you haven't seen

in a while, or you have asked someone to come with you to help, or a newcomer you enjoyed meeting while doing this wonderful event to help those with food needs. It is a joy to be a volunteer and see your hands creating meals and having a delightful time. Be on the lookout for info to sign-up and volunteer.

October Mixer, What a Joyful Blessing

"Everyone has been so friendly," "I want to learn more about Orthodoxy," and, also, I would like to attend the Chrismation classes," were some of the comments from the attendees of the Mixer held after Liturgy, October 8, 2023.

Bring-a-Friend Vespers and Reception and the Greek Festival helped to introduce newcomers to 'come and see.' Also, several younger fellows have been attending for a few months and it was wonderful to see them at the Mixer October 8 meeting ambassadors and other newcomers.

The Mixer events are a more one-on-one way to get to know each other and move from seeing faces to making friends. It is a privilege to feel more welcome at St. Mary's. This smaller event is a helpful way for learning about volunteer opportunities, and for learning about things that can be helpful in our personal life.

Every Sunday is a joy to see each new person, couples, and families coming to Liturgy - be sure to say, "Hello" to each new person.

St. Mary's will offer meeting opportunities with new visitors/members two times a year going forward. Again, be sure to stop by the Missions and Outreach Display to see the pictures and names so that you can welcome all to St. Mary's.

Follow-Up on Fundraiser



Thank you for coming to this fundraiser after Liturgy for the Zoom meeting with the Jones family: Michael, Meghan, and their children Catherine (10), Anastasia (9), Cecelia (7), and Elliot (4).

Michael and Meghan sharing their apostolic ministry in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. We are supporting to the Jones Family. Have dedicated their lives because they 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. We are part of the Tongan mission.

They are working to be an example to those who have not had a church that is a house of God. to "share our life in Christ and thereby participate in building the true church – the body of Christ – as well as the new temple."

Simpson Housing Services Meal



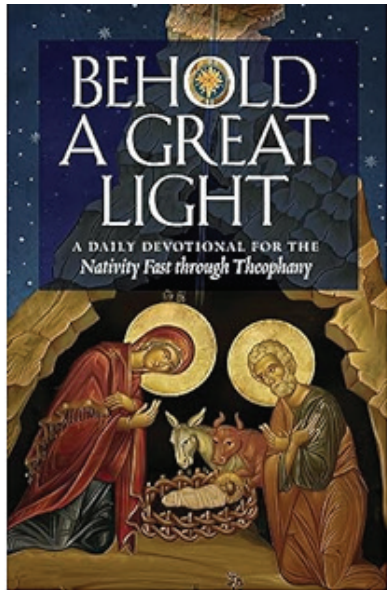
Thanks each of those who reached out to create a meal for those who are homeless and those volunteers who helped serve.

What a good way to say "Hello" with a warm smile as we serve those who do not have a home while getting their lives together. Simpson Housing Services provides this safe place with meals to help 'get back on their feet.' William Fazio thanks each of you for volunteering to help set up and with helping to serve. Please contact William to help with the next meal.

In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



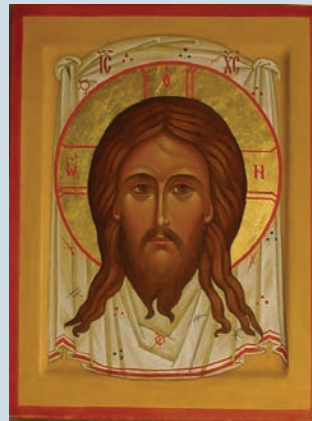
Behold a Great Light: A Daily Devotional for the Nativity Fast through Theophany is a new book from Ancient Faith Publishing. One could say this was an “in house” project because the editor, Lynette Horner, is a staff editor for Ancient Faith and the contributors are authors, bloggers, and podcasters for Ancient Faith. There are eight contributors and each provides a week of meditations.

The contributors, listed in the chronological order in which they are included in this book, are Fr. Stephen Freeman, Laura S. Jansson, Fr. Basil Ross Aden, Brandi Willis Schreiber, Elissa Bjeletich Davis, Fr. Michael Gillis, Nicole M. Roccas, and Fr. Stephen De Young. Each one writes from their gifted and cultivated perspective, so the reader is given a variety of daily companions for their journey through the Nativity Fast and the Christmas season to Theophany and the day following which is the Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist.

This is a book to help the reader keep focused on and in the heart of Christmas during the Advent fast when “the world” seems to be preoccupied with and focused on celebrating and the materialness of gift giving and all else that comes—or goes—along with the commercialization of Christmas and the Christmas season. *Behold a Great Light* is an antidote to the business and busyness that try to distract the person of faith during this holy season of grace.

2024 Winter Icon Classes

Presented by Icon Art Studios, Inc.



Session 1: The Holy Face

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30
6:00-9:00 p.m.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Summit Avenue, St. Paul, and on Zoom
Tuition: approximately \$299. Materials are approximately \$110. Material cost is excluded in the case of having your own.

Session 2: Icon of the Virgin Orans

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27
6:00-9:00 p.m.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Summit Avenue, St. Paul, and on Zoom
Tuition: approximately \$299. Materials are approximately \$110. Material cost is excluded in the case of having your own.

For sessions 1 and 2, please inquire at akorluka@aol.com or 612.889.5868 (Deb Korluka) or arsenault003@gmail.com or 612.206.7369 (Steve Arsenault)

Session 3: Icon of Saints Perpetua & Felicity

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
February 17, 24, and March 16 and 23
The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
Tuition: approximately \$299. Materials are approximately \$110. Material cost is excluded in the case of having your own.

For session 3, please inquire at akorluka@aol.com or 612.889.5868 (Deb Korluka) or kdhaemers@mary.org (Kathy Dhaemers)

Private sessions are ongoing throughout the year in the studio.

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 October 16, we have received **\$846,823** in Stewardship Income payments.

- This represents only 64% of this year's budget for ministries and operating expenses and is ahead by **\$82,195** when compared to where we were last year at this time.
- An additional **\$485,577** 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 Oct 16	2023 YTD Actual	2023 Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget	Additional Needed by December 31
Payments Received	\$846,823	\$1,332,400	64%	(\$485,577)

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

Offering Income As of Oct 16	2023 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	Increase vs. Prior Year
Payments Received	\$846,823	\$764,627	\$82,195
Average per Week	\$20,511	\$18,520	\$1,991
Average per Month	\$88,988	\$80,351	\$8,637

2023 Pledge Forms Completed to Date

Pledges To Date	# of Pledges	Pledges to Date	% of Budget
2023	347	\$956,232	72%
2022	154	\$432,738	34.1%
Increase vs. Prior Year	193	\$523,494	

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

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

Saints Cosmas & Damian are
Commemorated on November 1



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2023

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

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The Messenger

First Sunday of each month

Sunday Bulletin

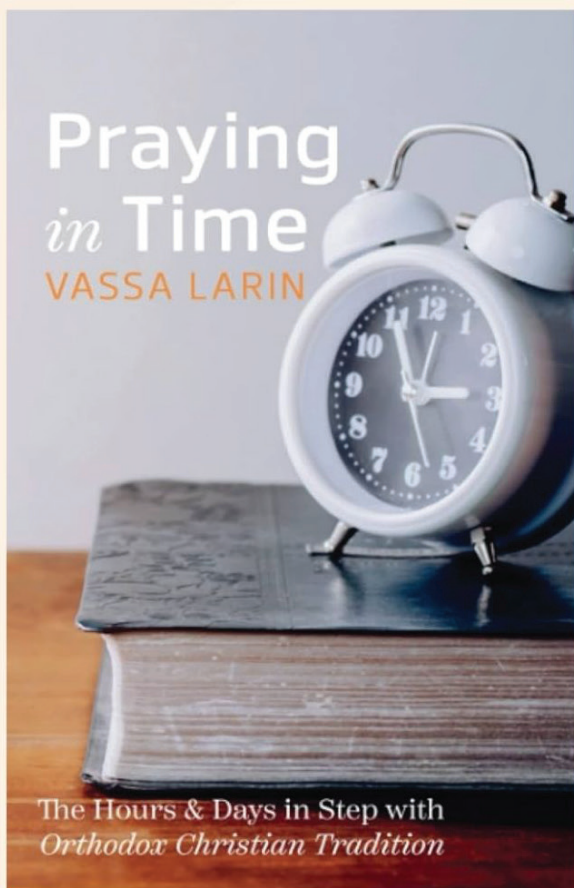
Preceding Thursday, 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT

3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org
612.825.9595 | 612.825.9283 Fax

stmarysgoc.org





BOOK TALK WITH **SISTER VASSA**

**SUN
NOV
5**

5PM

**ST. MARY'S GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Lecture Room
3450 Irving Ave S,
Minneapolis, MN 55408



Sister Vassa Larin

**Curious how the
“Liturgy of the
Hours” can help us
make sense of our
always-on, 24-7,
information-filled
lives?**

Join us!



**EVENT CO-SPONSORED BY MEOCCA,
ST. MARY'S GREEK & HOLY TRINITY OCA**

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Saints Cosmas & Damian 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30am-FAITH Play Group 7:00pm-Women's Book Club	3 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	4 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Set your clocks back one hour tonight.</i>
5 Fifth Sunday of Luke Philoptochos Sunday "The Messenger" Deadline Daylight Saving Time Ends 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:45am-Missions/Outreach 12:30pm-Basketball Practices 5:00pm-Sr. Vassa Presentation	6	7	8 Synaxis of the Archangels 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:15pm-Senior GOYA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	9 Saint Nektarios 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	10	11 9:00am-Bible Study 11:30am-HOPE/JOY at Feed My Starving Children 5:00pm-Great Vespers 6:00pm-Appreciation Glendi
12 Eighth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Ministry Fair after Liturgy-Junior GOYA	13 Saint John Chrysostom 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	14 9:30am-FAITH Play Group 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council	15 Nativity Fast Begins 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-Women's Bible Study 6:15pm-Parish Night 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Healing House Dinner and Bible Study</i>
19 Ninth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Parish Council Elections Daughters of Penelope Bake and Craft Sale 12:30pm-Basketball Practices	20	21 Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board	22	23 Thanksgiving Day <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	24 <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	25 Saint Katherine 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
26 Thirteenth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	27	28 7:00pm-Philoptochos Meeting	29 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-Women's Bible Study 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	30 Saint Andrew 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-Timberwolves Game		