



ST. MARY'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 17, 2023 — *Eleventh Sunday of Luke*

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Eleventh Sunday of Luke; Daniel the Prophet and Ananias, Azarias, and Misail, the Three Holy Youths; Dionysius of Zakynthos

Morning Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Tone: Third

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, Third Tone

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of his arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world his great mercy.

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 of the Ancestors of Christ, Second Tone

By their faith you justified your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old you betrothed to yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave you birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

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 Preparation for the Birth of Christ, *Third Tone*

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description.

Rejoice, therefore, Oh universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify him who by his will shall become a newborn babe and who is our God before all ages.

Epistle.....Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel..... Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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





Prayer Ministry

Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially:

All victims of wars throughout the world; 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; Demetra, Milton, Maureen, Andrea, Bryan, Haben (Matthew), Nausika, Ron, Phillip Hibberd, Maria, Matt, Laura, Dorla, Susan, Elias, Constance, Peter, Evdoxia, Marina, Dion, Annali, Sofia, Juan Cruz & family, Charlie, Stan, Helena, Byrdie, Jennifer, John S., Becky, Noel, Stephen, Alexey, Alexandra, Ray, Christina, Joanne, Athena, the Muñoz family, Charlie, Nuala, Pamela, Avgi, Elena, Speranta, Liz, Efstratia, Jordan, David, Nino, Joe, Gigi, Zossima, Donnarae, Samira, Mary K., Monte, Bethany, Mark, Owen, Chrysanthy, Estelle, Justine, Melissa, Megan, Dallas, Lisa, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Theodora, Mary, Irene Maria, Apostolos, Olivia, Lincoln, Carole, Patty, Karrisa, Corina, Tom, George R., Ken, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Bo, Lynn, Deb, Sarah, Maia, Travis, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, Annie, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Pat, Nancy, Dave, Pam, Gilbert, George P., Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Rick, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, 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.

Today

Prosforo is provided by **Yana Patridge** and **Terri Leckas**

The coffee hour today is hosted by
Paul & Paulette Hastings.

Enjoy some holiday cheer with performances and song at the
Church School Christmas Program following the Divine Liturgy.

Sacraments

Baptisms

Sunday, December 17, 2023

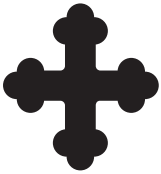
The Cash family: Brock, Christina, Milena, and Constantine

Announcements

Food Shelf Needs for December 24

Individually wrapped toothbrushes

*December's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES).
Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.*



Year-End Giving Notice

Electronic donations, via online giving or Venmo, **must be made by Tuesday, December 26.** Online contributions take 3-5 days to process. Contributions made after December 26 cannot be guaranteed of being recorded as 2023 contribution. Please plan ahead when making your year-end contributions. Contributions placed in the offering tray on Sunday, December 31, will be credited as 2023 contributions.



Pumpkin Bars to Support a Mission Priest

You can help subsidize an Orthodox Mission Priest serving in a far away land! Stop by the Missions and Outreach table after Liturgy for a pan of freshly baked pumpkin bars for only \$10.00. They will be available every Sunday at the Missions and Outreach table until December 20, or by special order from Terri Leckas, 612.710.0609. 100% of the proceeds go directly to OCMC's Support a Mission Priest Program!

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 17: Eleventh Sunday of Luke

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy – Church School Christmas Program

12:30 p.m. – JOY Basketball Practice, Great Hall

2:00 p.m. – Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

Monday, December 18

6:00 p.m. – Greek Festival Wrap Up Meeting, Terrace Room

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 a.m. – FAITH Play Group, Great Hall and Terrace Room

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

Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Newsletter Mailing, Terrace Room

11:00 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer, Nave

11:30 a.m. – Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room

6:15 p.m. – Senior GOYA Christmas Party, Great Hall and Terrace Room

Friday, December 22

Church Office closes at noon.

6:00 p.m. – Nativity Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 24: Sunday before Nativity

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; *No Church School Classes*

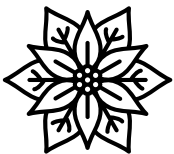
4:00 p.m. – Vespers of Nativity

Monday, December 25: Holy Nativity

9:00 a.m. – Matins; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 26: Synaxis of the Theotokos

Church and Office closed.



Last Day for Christmas Flowers Donations

Today we wrap up our collection for donations toward our Christmas decorations. A form and envelopes are found in the narthex. The flower donations can be made in memory of departed loved ones.



Toys for Tots Donations

Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Toys for Tots collection boxes are available throughout the building. Please help those children in need during the upcoming Holiday season. You may also bring your toy donations to the church during weekday office hours. The last day to drop off toys is Monday, December 18.



Visit the St. Mary's Bookstore

Please visit the bookstore for your Christmas gift giving. You will find a large selection of books and icons and other items that will be truly meaningful presents. Gift certificates are also available.



Registration

Intro to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Course

Beginning on Monday, January 22

The MEOCCA (Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Christian Clergy Association) catechism course, *Intro to Orthodox Christianity* will be starting next month. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. starting January 22 and continuing through April 15. Catechism is open to all: People interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well. Learn more at www.meocca.org or register today by using the code.



Registration

Register for the Annual YAL Conference February 16–19, 2024 in Chicago

Registration is underway for the annual YAL conference open to young adults ages 18–35. Limited spots remain for the early registration pricing. There is also a need for sponsorship/donation to help keep conference ticket prices low. If you are interested in helping, use the code for registration and click on the support button or reach out to Sia Tortorelis at: yalchicagoconference@gmail.com



YAL Ball — Mark your Calendar

Saturday, January 13, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

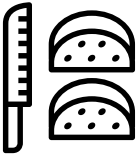
Young adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Twin Cities YAL for our YAL Ball and dance the night away! The Ball will be held in the Terrace Room here at St. Mary's. Tickets will be available soon. Watch for it in upcoming emails and on social media.

Philoptochos News



Vasilopita Sales and Pickup Today

Philoptochos is selling loaves of Vasilopita (sweet bread) for the New Year. Proceeds from the sales of the bread helps support St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, New York. The cost is \$15 per loaf. Cash and checks are accepted. Stop by our table to purchase a loaf or two.



Vasilopita Cutting—Saturday, January 6

Following the *Blessing of the Waters* Divine Liturgy on January 6, we will be cutting the loaves of bread for distribution on Sunday. Please stop by the Philoptochos table to sign up to help. Many hands lighten the load! All volunteers are welcome.



Our Little Orthodox Library Needs You

We are looking for several volunteers to help with the management of our new Little Library outside the church. Sign up for a month, check it weekly, make sure it is stocked and that only Orthodox materials are there. Please stop by the Philoptochos table on Sundays to see how you can help. We would also love additional Orthodox books to help keep our stock full.



Registration

Register for Winter Camp Today!

January 12 – 15, 2024 at Camp Courage

Winter Camp is for kids grades 6 through 12. It will be held at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, MN. This year's theme is, "Relentless, In our pursuit of faith, spiritual discipline, and seeking God." Use the registration code to register online. **The deadline to register is December 30.** The cost for attendance, per student, is \$270. Payment can be made through Venmo or send a check to:

St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral
c/o Lisa Tucci
414 – 17th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413



Venmo
Payment

For questions contact Matushka Lisa Tucci at 612.599.0814 or at lisatucci71@gmail.com

On Repentance...

“God gave man a mind so that he can become aware of his fault, repent, and ask forgiveness. Unrepentance is a cruel thing. The unrepentant person is very foolish in not wanting to repent and thus be spared from the small hell in which he is now living, and which will lead him to eternal hell.”

— Saint Paisios the Athonite

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 18

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 • Mark 9:42-50; 10:1

Tuesday, December 19

Hebrews 4:1-13 • Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday, December 20

Hebrews 10:32-38 • Mark 9:33-41

Thursday, December 21

Hebrews 7:1-6 • Mark 10:17-27

Friday, December 22

Hebrews 7:18-25 • Mark 10:24-32

Saturday, December 23

Galatians 3:8-12 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 24

Sunday Before Nativity

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 • Matthew 1:1-25



Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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[@stmarysgoc](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysgoc)

Fr. Timothy Sas, Fr. Jason Houck, Fr. John Kostas
Fr. Paul Kalina, Deacon; Fr. Luke Twito, Deacon