



# ST. MARY'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 3, 2023 — *Fourteenth Sunday of Luke*

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## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### *Commemoration*

Fourteenth Sunday of Luke; The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah);  
Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast; Holy Martyrs Agapius and  
Seleucius; Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria; Angelis the New Martyr;  
Karpos the Hieromartyr.

*Morning Gospel: Luke 24:1-12*

*Tone: First*

### **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, First Tone**

Although your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, you rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise you: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom. Glory to your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

#### **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 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 new-born babe and who is our God before all ages.

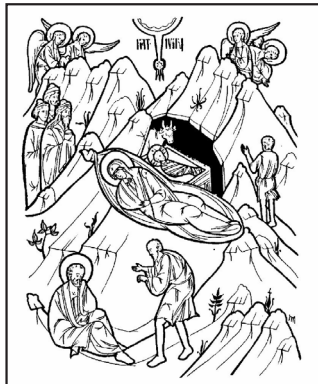
**Epistle..... Ephesians 5:8-19**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**Gospel.....Luke 18:35-43**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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





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## Prayer Ministry

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*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.

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### **Holy Unction**

**Friday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.**

We will offer the Sacrament of Holy Unction on Friday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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# Today

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Prosforo is provided by **Ruta Kubits**

40-Day Churching

**Augustus Basil**, parents: **Justin & Julia Lee**

Memorial Prayers today are offered for

**Bill K. Nicklow** (3 years);

**Orva Wayne Byers** and **Mary Elizabeth Byers Jereczek**,  
father and sister of **Connie Byers**;

**Katherine Tena Zahariades** (5 years) mother of **Stephanie Stephenson**

The coffee hour today is hosted

**in memory of Bill K. Nicklow by his family.**

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## Announcements

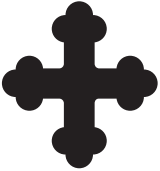
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### Food Shelf Needs for December 10

#### Diapers (Size 5)

*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.



### Christmas Card and Flowers Donations

Our annual collection for the parish Christmas card and Christmas decorations begins today. A form and envelopes are found in the narthex. The Christmas card (deadline is December 10) is to send greetings from you to fellow parishioners and the flowers donation (deadline is December 17) can be made in memory of departed loved ones.

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# Calendar of the Week

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## Sunday, December 3: Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

*“The Messenger” news item deadline*

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

11:30 a.m. – Harvest Pack, Terrace Room

11:45 a.m. – HOPE/JOY Christmas Party

12:30 p.m. – Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

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

## Monday, December 4: Saint Barbara

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

## Tuesday, December 5

6:00 p.m. – Edina Koinonia, Fireside Room

## Wednesday, December 6: St. Nicholas

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

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

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

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

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

## Thursday, December 7

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

6:00 p.m. – Women’s Book Club, Terrace Room

## Friday, December 8

6:00 p.m. – Holy Unction

## Saturday, December 9: The Conception of the Theotokos

*Bible Study is on break and will return January 13, 2024*

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

12:30 p.m. – Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

2:15 p.m. – Boys’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## Sunday, December 10: Tenth Sunday of Luke

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

after Liturgy – Greek Consulate Presentation, Terrace Room

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

2:30 p.m. – Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice, Great Hall



## Saturday Bible Study is on Break

Classes will resume on Saturday, January 13, 9:00 a.m.  
in the Fireside Room and on ZOOM.



## Help Pack Meals

### Today After Liturgy

St. Mary's Missions and Outreach Ministry is again sponsoring a Harvest Pack meal packing event in the Terrace Room after Liturgy. If you have not signed up, we can still use help to pack 15,000 meals. We plan on finishing by 1:30 p.m.

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## Book Fair Today

The Saint Mary's Bookstore will have many children and teen books and gifts for everyone for sale on large carts outside of the Church School Hallway after Holy Communion. Find great gifts for your children, godchildren, grandchildren, or yourself for Christmas, name day gifts, or the upcoming Godparent Sunday!

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## 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!

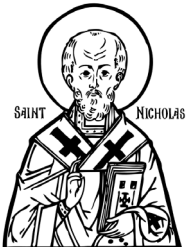
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## Toys for Tots Donations

Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Toys for Tots collection boxes are located 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.

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## Saint Nicholas Celebration

### Sunday, December 10

We will celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas! Children: please bring a \$5.00-\$10.00 unwrapped toy. We will process in the Great Entrance and offer our gifts to St. Nicholas to donate to the children at FOCUS Minnesota. Also, remember to wear clean, no holey socks to church as we will put out our shoes to see if St. Nicholas will give us a gift!

## Orthodoxy on Tap

Thursday, December 7



Join the St. Mary's Young Adult Ministries for fellowship and discussion, with guest speaker, Fr. Tim Sas, this coming Thursday, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Davanni's in Golden Valley. Appetizers will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase. This event is fueled by Telos. RSVP using the code.

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## Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 12

Saint Mary's Seniors Christmas celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. A delicious luncheon will be catered by Tony Nicklow. We will be entertained by the Edina Singing Seniors. Festivities will also include door prizes, group photo, cake from Queen of Cakes, and December birthday and anniversary celebrations. Flyers with further ticket price and information will be distributed to all Seniors members, or check at our Seniors table at church for further details.

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## 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.

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## Read *Whatever Happened to Truth*

by Anthony M. Coniaris

*Whatever Happened to Truth* examines the moral relativism of our age with the multitude of clashing truths. The message is powerful and relevant in today's secular society. Now available in print in the Saint Mary's Book Store. Pick up your copy today!

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## Church School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

Church School Christmas Program for the congregation will be on December 17 following Divine Liturgy. All students from age 3 to grade 12 are in the program with readings, singing, chanting, and acting. Contact Dena Tortorelis with any questions.

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# Philoptochos News

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## Vasilopita Pre-Sales Start Today

Philoptochos will be selling loaves of Vasilopita (sweet bread) for New Years. Proceeds from the sales of the bread will be going to St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY. They are a national nonprofit philanthropic center, for children and young adults in need, run by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. They have been in operation since 1944. Starting today, we will be pre-selling loaves. Pickup will start December 17 and remaining loaves will be available for sale at that time until sold out. The cost will be \$15 per loaf. Payment requested when ordering. Cash and Checks accepted. Place your order early at the Philoptochos table!



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## Women's Book Club Discussion and Potluck Dinner Thursday, December 7

Join the Women's Book Club on Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Terrace Room to recap *Passions and Virtues* by St. Paisios the Athonite. Following the discussion, we will enjoy a Lenten potluck dinner. You may bring a Lenten-appropriate dish to share (fish is allowed). Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend! New or renewed interest? Contact [katherine@boosalis.net](mailto:katherine@boosalis.net). (If you have declined a book club meeting invitation in the past, your email may have inadvertently been omitted in future invitations.)



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## Nativity Blanket Drive The Count is Growing!

FOCUS Minnesota is collecting NEW blankets for distribution at the December 16 Food Shelf. They've already received 81 -- Help them meet their goal of 200 blankets! Size: Best is twin size, approximately 60/65" x 80/90". Type: Commercial or handmade. NEW gifts only, please. Style: Tied fleece, wool blanket, quilt, or comforter...any style so long as it's cozy! Wrap It: Roll it up and tie it with a festive ribbon. Deliver It: Due to FOCUS House by Monday, December 11. Bring it yourself or leave it at St. Mary's Church drop-off area (in hallway to the office).





## **Greek Consulate General to Visit St. Mary's Sunday, December 10**

The Greek Consulate General in Chicago will be with us at St. Mary's next Sunday, December 10. After Liturgy he will make a presentation in the Terrace Room regarding Greek citizenship and other consular matters.

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*Registration*

## **Orthodox Christian College Conference Midwest—Ages 18-25 December 27–30, St. Iakovos Retreat Center**

Registration is open now! There are scholarships offered by the National OCF. In addition to the needs-based scholarships from the National OCF, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church will partially reimburse members or active attendees of our parish. Please first apply to the National OCF scholarship before requesting reimbursement from St. Mary's. If you have any questions regarding reimbursement, please contact Fr. Jason at [frjason@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:frjason@stmarysgoc.org)



*Scholarship*

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*Registration*

## **Winter Camp Registration is Open!**

**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 link below 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 Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55413



*Venmo  
Payment*

For questions contact Matushka Lisa Tucci at 612.599.0814 or at [lisatucci71@gmail.com](mailto:lisatucci71@gmail.com)

## On Love...

“If you find there is no love in you, but you want to have it, then do deeds of love, even though you do them without love in the beginning. The Lord will see your desire and striving and will put love in your heart.”

— *Saint Ambrose of Optina*

### Daily Bible Readings

***Monday, December 4***

***Saint Barbara***

Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5 • Mark 5:24-34

***Tuesday, December 5***

Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 • Matthew 11:27-30

***Wednesday, December 6***

***Saint Nicholas***

Hebrews 13:17-21 • Luke 6:17-23

***Thursday, December 7***

I Timothy 6:17-21 • Luke 21:28-33

***Friday, December 8***

II Timothy 1:1-2; 8-18 • Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8

***Saturday, December 9***

***The Conception of the Theotokos***

Galatians 4:22-27 • Luke 8:16-21

***Sunday, December 10***

***Tenth Sunday of Luke***

Ephesians 6:10-17 • Luke 13:10-17



***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*