



ST. MARY'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 31, 2023 — *Sunday After Nativity*

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Sunday after Nativity; Apodosis (Leave-Taking) of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome; The Martyr and Presbyter Zoticus of Rome, Patron of Orphans.

Morning Gospel: John 20:11-18

Tone: Plagal First

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who was born of the Virgin,
save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Third Antiphon

Your birth, O Christ our God, did shine upon the world, and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship, did through a star learn to worship you, the Sun of Righteousness, and came to know you the Light from on high. Glory to you, O Lord.

Hymn of Entrance, *Second Tone*

From the womb before the morning star I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent: You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. (Psalm 109:3-4). Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

At the Small Entrance

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 of the Nativity of Christ, Fourth Tone

Your birth, O Christ our God, did shine upon the world, and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship, did through a star learn to worship you, the Sun of Righteousness, and came to know you the Light from on high. Glory to you, O Lord.

Hymn of Joseph, David, and James, Second Tone

O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of God, the good news of the miracles you witnessed; you saw a virgin give birth; you worshiped with the Magi; you gave glory with the shepherds; you conferred with an angel. Beseech Christ our God to 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 gives birth to him who is above all being; and a cave is offered by earth, to him who no one can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory, and Magi journey with a star. For our sake was born, a young child, the eternal God!

Epistle.....II Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel.....Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey.

And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Megalynarion, First Tone

O magnify, my soul, her higher in honor, greater still in glory, than all the hosts of heaven! Fearing that our praises of you are not worthy, far easier it is, O Virgin, to keep silence. Weaving harmonious praises makes us weary and is difficult indeed, but give us strength, O Mother, that we may fulfill our noble intentions.

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

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent redemption, the Lord has sent redemption to His people.

(After Communion)

Instead of “We Have Seen the Light,” we sing the Hymn of the Great Feast

Your birth, O Christ our God, did shine upon the world, and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship, did through a star learn to worship you, the Sun of Righteousness, and came to know you the Light from on high. Glory to you, O Lord.

Today

Prosforo is provided by **Dena Angelos**.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for **Margo Kosmas** (40 days);
James N. Boosalis, Susie Boosalis, Chresafo Dovolos, Cosmos Dovolos,
Greg Dovolos, Thespo Dovolos, Nick Dovolos, Eugenia Canellos,
John Canellos, John Felegy, Dorothy Felegy.

The coffee hour today is hosted by **Chris and Melina Dillon and family.**

Sacraments

Baptism

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Walter, parents: Paul and Krisanthi Sommerstad

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; Cleopatra, 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.

Stewardship



2024 Stewardship Pledges

Please take a moment to prayerfully complete a 2024 pledge form and return it to the church office as soon as possible. All members should have received their 2024 Stewardship packet. If you need a form, it is available online (scan the code), or contact the church office.

Digital Donation Options

Text to Give*: Text smgoc to 73256 • **or Scan to Give**

**This number will never send unsolicited texts.*



Announcements

Food Shelf Needs for January 7

Ramen Noodles

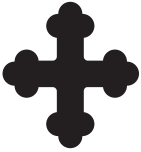
January's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

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



Farewell for Jon Klein

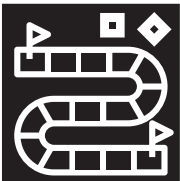
Next Sunday, January 7, we will bid farewell to our Youth Director, Jon Klein, who will be moving to Portland, Oregon, the following week. After Liturgy, we will proceed to the Great Hall for a lunch and program. In keeping with a campfire/youth theme, the menu will consist of pizza, salad, cuties, lemonade, cake, and s'mores. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Parish Night

Wednesday, January 10

Our January Parish Night is coming up on Wednesday, January 10. The evening begins at 6:15 p.m. with a brief prayer service in the Nave, followed by dinner, breakout sessions for the adults and kids, and wraps up by 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is: "Understanding the Liturgy." The remaining dates are: Wednesdays, February 21, and March 13. Everyone of all ages is welcome!



Orthodox Game League

Saturday, January 20

The fun continues! The next gathering of the Orthodox Game League is Saturday, January 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis (across the street from the Cathedral). Bring a munchie or dessert to share. Please call Nikki Beauchamp with any Game League questions, 612.910.2943.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 31: Sunday After Nativity

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

Church School classes will meet

Monday, January 1: Circumcision of our Lord; Saint Basil

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

Tuesday, January 2

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

Thursday, January 4

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

6:00 p.m. – Theophany Royal Hours

Friday, January 5

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship, Fireside Room

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters

Saturday, January 6: Holy Theophany

9:00 a.m. – Matins; 10:00 a.m.–Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters

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

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

Sunday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist

“The Messenger” News Item Deadline.

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy followed by Vasilopita Service after Liturgy – Farewell Luncheon and Celebration for Jon Klein, Great Hall



Registration

Intro to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Course

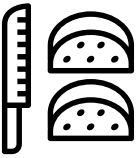
Join us for our MEOCCA catechism course, Intro to Orthodox Christianity, **beginning on Monday, January 22**, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Catechism is open to all; people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well! Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in person (1111 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN) or online via Zoom. Register today by using the code or learn more at www.meocca.org

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.

YAL News



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. Register today!



YAL Ball — Mark your Calendar

Saturday, January 13, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Young adults, ages 18–35, are invited! Watch for details in upcoming emails and on social media.

On Knowledge...

“The knowledge of God is a mountain steep indeed and difficult to climb—the majority of people scarcely reach its base.”

— Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, January 1

Saint Basil; Circumcision of our Lord
Colossians 2:8-12 • Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Tuesday, January 2

Hebrews 5:4-10 • John 3:1-15

Wednesday, January 3

Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-10 • John 1:18-28

Thursday, January 4

I Corinthians 4:9-16 • John 1:18-28

Friday, January 5

Eve of Theophany

I Corinthians 9:19-27 • Luke 3:1-18

Saturday, January 6

Holy Theophany

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 7

Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist

Acts 19:1-8 • John 1:29-34



Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408-3399

612.825.9595 | stmarysgoc.org



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

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