



ST. MARY'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

January 7, 2024 — *Synaxis of John the Baptist*

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, and Forerunner; Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; Cedd, Bishop of Scotland; Fursey, Abbot of Lagny

Morning Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tone: Plagal Second

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan,
to you we sing, Alleluia!

At the Third Antiphon

Hymn of Theophany, First Tone

When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan River, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. And the voice of the Father bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the Word as truth. O Christ our God, you have appeared and enlightened the world. Glory to you.

At the Small Entrance

Hymn of Entrance, Second Tone

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!

Resurrection Hymn, Plagal Second Tone

The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at your grave seeking, seeking your most pure body. But you made hell a captive; you were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to you.

Hymn of Saint John the Baptist, Second Tone

O Forerunner, the memory of the righteous is praised in song,
but the witness of the Lord was sufficient for you. For you were truly
shown forth as more honored than the prophets, since you were made
worthy to baptize in the streams him who was proclaimed. Therefore, since
you contended above all for the truth, with joy you preached the good news
even to those in Hades: God has appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin
of the world and granting to us great mercy!

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 Theophany, Fourth Tone

You have revealed yourself to the world today, and your light shines forth
on us, who sing your praise with full knowledge: You have come to us, O
Lord; you are made manifest, O inaccessible Light!

Trisagion Hymn (In place of Holy God)

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia!

Epistle.....Acts 19:1-8

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper
country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to
them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No,
we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what
then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John
baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one
who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized
in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the
Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There
were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three
months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

Gospel.....John 1:29-34

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb
of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me
comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know
him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."
And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it

remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Megalynarion (instead of *It is truly meet and right*), Second Tone

Verse: Magnify, O my soul, her who is greater in honor than the hosts on high.

O most pure Bride, O blessed Mother, the wonders of your birth-giving pass all understanding. Through you we have obtained salvation in all things, and, as is right and meet, we rejoice before you our Benefactor, bearing as a gift a song of thanksgiving!

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

Communion Hymn

The memory of the righteous will endure,
endure forever (*Psalm 111:7*). Alleluia!

(After Communion)

*Instead of "We Have Seen the Light," we chant the **Hymn of Theophany***

When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan River, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. And the voice of the Father bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the Word as truth. O Christ our God, you have appeared and enlightened the world.
Glory to you.

Today

The Oath of Office for the 2024 Parish Council will be administered at the end of today's Liturgy.

A farewell luncheon honoring our **Youth Director, Jon Klein**, will take place in the Great Hall immediately following Liturgy this morning. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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; Byron, Cleopatra, Demetra, Milton, Maureen, Andrea, Bryan, 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.*



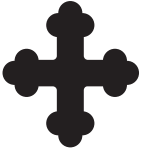
Announcements

Food Shelf Needs for January 14

Cereal (Both Hot and Cold)

January's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

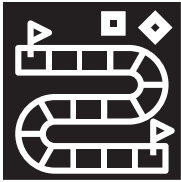
Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.



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.



Greek Dance Practices Resume

Monday, January 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All St. Mary's youth, ages 6 to 19, are welcome to join our Greek Dance program. Practices resume on Monday evenings, in the Great Hall, from January 29 to March 18, with final rehearsal on Saturday, March 23, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Our performance will be at the Greek Independence Day luncheon and program on Sunday, March 24. We also welcome adults who would like to assist with Greek dance instruction, as well as youth who play musical instruments or can recite or read Greek and/or English poems and prose. Contact Tessie Bourdamis (tbourdamis@comcast.net) by January 15 to register or for schedule details.

Calendar of the Week

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

Tuesday, January 9

6:15 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, January 10

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

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

6:15 p.m. – Parish Night

Saturday, January 13

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, Fireside Room

9:00 a.m. – Undecorate the Halls

10:45 a.m. – Women’s Basketball Practice, Great Hall

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

7:00 p.m. – YAL Ball, Terrace Room

Sunday, January 14: Leave-Taking of Theophany

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

after Liturgy – Undecorate the Nave with the St. Olympia Girls

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



Godparent Sunday

Sunday, January 21

Invite your godparent or godchild to join you at Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together. Godparents are invited to come to Church School class to see what the children are learning, play a game, have a treat, and perhaps tell stories from their baptismal day.



Registration

Intro to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Course

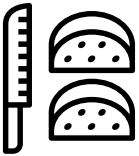
Join us for our MEOCCA catechism course, Intro to Orthodox Christianity, **beginning on Monday, January 22**, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Catechism is open to all; people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well! Classes will be 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 Bread Sales Today

Philoptochos is selling loaves of Vasilopita (sweet bread) for New Years. Proceeds from the sales of the bread 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.



Undecorating the Church and Trees

January 13 and 14

Philoptochos is looking for volunteers to help undecorate the Christmas trees on Saturday, January 13, starting at 9 a.m. On Sunday, January 14, after Liturgy, we will undecorate the Nave with the help of the St. Olympia girls. All are welcome to assist in these two events. Stop by our table to volunteer.



Our Little Orthodox Library Needs You

We are still 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!



RSVP

YAL Ball

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

Young adults, ages 18-35, are invited to attend the YAL Ball hosted in the Terrace Room! Dress up in your best cocktail attire and enjoy an evening of friends, refreshments, heavy appetizers, desserts, games, and dancing. Tickets are \$40. RVSP and purchase tickets using the code.

St. Mary's Young Adult Ministries presents:

Divine Liturgy

THE GREATEST INVITATION



By Faithtree Resources

Young Adults, ages 18-35, are invited to attend this vital educational series on the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is the single most important thing we can do in our lives. There is no better use of time, energy, or focus! No matter where you are on your journey to know God in the Divine Liturgy, this course is for you!

4 SESSIONS: SHORT VIDEOS • ACTIVITIES • DISCUSSION

At St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, in the Terrace Room.

SESSION 1

Thursday, January 25, 2024

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Dinner provided

SESSION 2

Thursday, February 1, 2024

After participation in Festal Vespers
at 6:00 p.m. • Dinner provided

SESSION 3

Thursday, February 15, 2024

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Dinner provided

SESSION 4

Thursday, February 29, 2024

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Dinner provided

Facilitated by Cindy Karos
Chairman of the Board,
Faithtree Resources



RSVP REQUIRED
for session
materials and
food.

RSVP HERE





METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

JANUARY 2024

MESSAGES *from* the METROPOLIS

www.chicago.goarch.org

LATEST NEWS



SCAN FOR
MORE NEWS

12/23 CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:

Patriarch Bartholomew's Patriarchal Encyclical
for Christmas (2023)

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast
of Christmas (2023)

Metropolitan Nathanael's Archpastoral
Christmas Encyclical 2023

12/20 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

receives Hierarchical dedication and blessing as
the parish begins a new chapter in its spiritual life

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/13 Orthodox Roots: Married Couples

Evening Retreat, *Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos*
Greek Orthodox Church

1/14 63rd Annual Metropolis-Wide Vasilopita

Celebration, *Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos*
Greek Orthodox Church

2/16-19 YAL Chicago Conference 2024

Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago (Rosemont, IL)



SCAN FOR
MORE EVENTS

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES:

www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up

On God's Mercy...

“It is impossible for God not to show mercy on one who is genuinely striving to be saved”

— *Saint Pachomios of Chios*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, January 8

Romans 6:3-11 • John 3:22-33

Tuesday, January 9

II Timothy 2:1-10 • Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, January 10

Ephesians 4:7-13 • Luke 3:19-22

Thursday, January 11

Hebrews 13:7-16 • Luke 4:1-15

Friday, January 12

Acts 18:22-28 • John 10:39-42

Saturday, January 13

Ephesians 6:10-17 • Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, January 14

Leave-Taking of Theophany

Ephesians 4:7-13 • Matthew 4:12-17



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*