



# ST. MARY'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 4, 2024 — *Fifteenth Sunday of Matthew*

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## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### *Commemoration*

Fifteenth Sunday of Matthew; Isidore of Pelusium; Nicholas the Confessor; Hieromartyr Abramius; John the Righteous, Bishop of Irinopolis; Theodosios the Righteous; Joseph the New Martyr of Aleppo; Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple.

*Morning Gospel: Mark 16:1-8*

*Tone: Second*

### **Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy**

#### *At the Second Antiphon*

Save us, O Son of God, carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon;  
we sing to you, Alleluia!

#### *At the Third Antiphon*

#### **Hymn of the Presentation of Christ, First Tone**

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you  
the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You  
too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the  
Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

#### *At the Small Entrance*

#### **Resurrection Hymn, Second Tone**

When you descended into death, Life immortal, you vanquished the power  
of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when you raised the dead from the  
depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver  
of life, Christ our God, glory to you.

#### **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 Hymn of the Presentation 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 the Presentation of the Lord, First Tone**

For our salvation you took flesh and you sanctified the Virgin’s womb; you blessed the aged Simeon as you lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all your people, O only lover of mankind.

**Epistle..... II Corinthians 4:6-15**

Brethren, it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

**Gospel..... Matthew 22:35-46**

At that time, a lawyer came up to Jesus and asked him a question, to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.” Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet”? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?” And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

***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; The family of Georgia Fisher; Andrew, Dena, Chris, Joy Rose, Peter, Nick, John, Johnny, Demos, Kristina, Cleopatra, Demetra, Milton, Maureen, Andrea, Bryan, Nausika, Ron, Phillip Hibberd, Maria, Matt, Laura, Dorla, Susan, Elias, Constance, 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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## Stewardship

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### 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.

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### Digital Donation Options

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

*\*This number will never send unsolicited texts.*



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# Today

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Prosforo is provided by Barbara Nichols

Coffee and sweets are served in the Great Hall following today's Liturgy.  
Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment!

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## Announcements

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### Food Shelf Needs for February 11

#### *Peanut Butter*

*February's recipient is Simpson Food Pantry.*

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

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### Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) News

Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a club on many college campuses across the country aiming to connect Orthodox college students. The U of M is fortunate to have a large chapter including students from surrounding colleges. We have biweekly meetings that stand as an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth with each other, while enjoying a meal by family or local church parishioners. If you are willing and able, please consider donating a meal so we can continue to grow our community together. Scan the QR code to sign up or reach out to Vasili Nicklow with any questions, nickl093@umn.edu

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*RSVP Link*

### OCF Gathering for High School Juniors and Seniors

Thursday, February 22

Calling all high school juniors and seniors! The University of Minnesota Orthodox Christian Fellowship student group is inviting YOU to come to campus and experience what Orthodox faith in college looks like! On Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. in Tate Hall on the U of M campus, come for dinner, a spiritual discussion, and a look into the life of an Orthodox Christian young adult! Please RSVP on this link and invite your friends to come along. Go Gophers!

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# Calendar of the Week

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## Sunday, February 4: Fifteenth Sunday of Matthew

*“The Messenger” news item deadline - March 2024 issue*

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

## Monday, February 5

6:00 p.m. – Greek Dance Practice, Great Hall and Terrace Room

## Tuesday, February 6

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

## Wednesday, February 7

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

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

## Thursday, February 8

6:30 p.m. – OCMC Fundraiser, Terrace Room

## Saturday, February 10: Saint Haralambos

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

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## Sunday, February 11: Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew

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

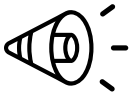
11:30 a.m. – Saint Olympia Event

after Liturgy – Sweet Sunday, sponsored by Philoptochos



## FOCUS Benefit Concert

Pan-Orthodox Choir Ministry (POCM) is performing a benefit concert, “My Soul, Arise!” for FOCUS at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at St. Mary’s OCA Cathedral. Anyone interested in singing in the concert, or would like more information, feel free to contact Mark Wesche at [POCM@stmarysoca.org](mailto:POCM@stmarysoca.org). Rehearsals begin Friday, January 19, 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral.



## Save the Dates! Vacation Church School

June 17-21, 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration coming soon! For children age 4 to those attending 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. Also, middle and high school youth are needed for staff support.

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# Philoptochos News

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## Sweet Sunday

**Coming Up Next Sunday, February 11**

We are looking for ladies to help this day with set-up, serving, and cleanup. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or at our table this morning.



## Membership Drive Is Starting

Our 2024 Membership Drive is underway! Check your mailbox for your form. You can drop your completed form and payment at our table in the Great Hall after Liturgy, by mailing it back in the enclosed envelope, or by going online at <https://stmarysgoc.org/giving/>. Select Philoptochos Contribution from the fund drop down menu.



*“Membership in Philoptochos has introduced me to extraordinary organizations doing good works within our community ~ from FOCUS to Tandem. The partnerships and impact Philoptochos has demonstrated & inspired our family’s philanthropic outreach. I’m grateful to the members and the mission of this ministry that is so central to the daily practice of our Orthodox faith.”*

—Melpomeni Murdakes



## Artoclasia Workshop

**Saturday, February 24**

Learn to bake the bread for the Artoclasia Service (blessing of the five loaves) that takes place at various times throughout the year. The workshop will be held at St. Mary’s on Saturday, February 24. More details will be in next week’s bulletin. In the meantime, save the date!

ST. MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH INVITES YOU TO



# SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR MISSIONS



Featured Speaker:

**Nathan Hoppe**

OCMC Missionary Serving in Albania &  
OCMC's Longest Serving Missionary



Latest OCMC Updates By:

**Dan Christopoulos**

OCMC Development Director  
OCMC's First Missionary



**Thursday, February 8**

Event Program 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**A Champagne Toast to Missions  
with Savory Appetizers and  
Valentine's Day Desserts**

(Proceeds will benefit OCMC ministries around the world.)

Come and learn about OCMC's missionary efforts around the world. Hear the latest news and happenings from the mission field and how you can answer Christ's call to "go and make disciples of all nations."

**Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 IRVING AVENUE SOUTH, MPLS, MN 55408**

**For Questions, Please Contact:**

Event Chair, Terri Leckas at [terri@queen-of-cakes.com](mailto:terri@queen-of-cakes.com)

or OCMC Event Coordinator Elaine Drikakis at [elained@ocmc.org](mailto:elained@ocmc.org)

**REGISTER FOR THE EVENT**

**OCMC.ORG/MINNEAPOLIS**



## On Faith...

“A believer is not one who thinks that God can do everything, but one who believes that he will obtain all things. Faith paves the way for what seems impossible.”

— *Saint John Climacus (Of the Ladder)*

### Daily Bible Readings

#### *Monday, February 5*

Hebrews 11:17-31 • Mark 9:42-50; 10:1

#### *Tuesday, February 6*

Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 • John 10:9-16

#### *Wednesday, February 7*

James 1:1-18 • Mark 10:11-16

#### *Thursday, February 8*

Ephesians 2:4-10 • Matthew 10:16-22

#### *Friday, February 9*

James 2:1-13 • Mark 10:24-32

#### *Saturday, February 10*

##### *Saint Haralambos*

II Timothy 2:1-10 • John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

#### *Sunday, February 11*

##### *Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew*

II Corinthians 6:1-10 • Matthew 25:14-30



***Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church***

3450 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408-3399

612.825.9595 | [stmarysgoc.org](http://stmarysgoc.org)



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