



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2024

Inside This Issue

- Bookstore 8
- Missions and Outreach7
- Our Life Together..... 2
- Parish News and Events..... 4
- Philoptochos..... 6
- Stewardship.....5
- Youth News 9
- Worship Schedule 2

Our Mission Statement

TO PROCLAIM, CELEBRATE, AND SHARE
 THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN
 JESUS CHRIST IN ACCORDANCE
 WITH THE ORTHODOX TRADITION.

The Five Tasks of Our Parish Vision

- Hear
- Pray
- Grow
- Serve
- Share



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO



The Tree

Written By Scott Hoffhines

On Thursday of Holy Week, before we hear the gospel reading about Jesus' crucifixion, we chant the hymn "Today, he is hanging on the tree" ("Σήμερον κρεμάται επί ξυλου ό έν ύδασι").

This tree is the same one St. Paul preaches in Galatians 3:13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree'" ("κρεμάμενος επί ξύλου").

St. Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 21:22-23: "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is accursed by God; you shall not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance" ("κρεμάμενος επί ξύλου").

But what is this tree? Hymns from the Feast of the Cross give us a clue. One hymn tells us, "The breaking of the law of God came through disobedience, and the...

(continued on page 5)

Our Life Together

Baptism

Augustus Basil

Parents: James & Julia Lee

August 4, 2024

Kemal Hadley

August 10, 2024

Death

Donna Psihos

July 23, 2024

May her memory be eternal.

Memorial Prayers

Sunday, September 1

Theo Gruber (1 year)

Maria Nashopoulos (1 year)

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to John Lake and family on the passing of his brother Nicholas in Johns Island, South Carolina, on Saturday, August 3. May his memory be eternal.

Fellowship and Study Groups

Intercessory Prayer

September dates to be announced.

Koinonia

Thursday, September 19

6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Men's Fellowship

Friday, September 13 – Judges 17-19

Friday, September 20 – Psalm 24

7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Women's Bible Study

September dates to be announced.

Saturday Bible Study

Every Saturday,

beginning September 21

9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Share YourShelf

September's recipient is

JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

Diapers and wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, Ramen Noodles

Sunday, September 1

Ramen Noodles

Sunday, September 8

Cereal (both hot and cold)

Sunday, September 15

Canned Meal – large cans (i.e. Chili / Pork and Beans)

Sunday, September 22

Hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner)

Sunday, September 29

Coffee and Tea

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:6-9)

www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org



**Donate Online,
Visit the site, then
select "Donate"**

Weekend Worship Schedule

Saturdays

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
(Beginning September 7)

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Schedule

Saturday, September 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthros – 9:00 a.m.

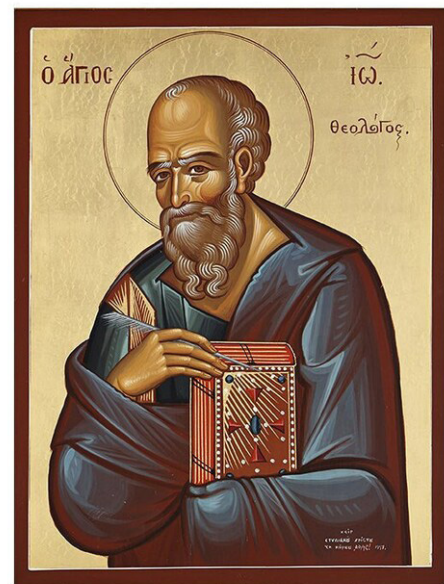
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 24

Falling Asleep of

St. John the Theologian

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy



Previous issues of



THE MESSENGER

are available to view
on our website

VIEW NOW.



SCAN THE CODE.

www.stmarysgoc.org/resources/the-messenger/

Parish News & Events

St. Mary's Church Staff

Proistamenos

Fr. Timothy Sas

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

Attached Priest

Fr. John Kostas

Deacons

Fr. Paul Kalina

Fr. Luke Twito

Office Manager

David Mertesdorf

Office Assistant

Giulia Chatfield

Communications & Marketing

Nikolas Kouzes

Finance

Michael Rakes

Ministry Support

Doria Saros

Youth Director

Scott Rudquist

Church School Director

Dena Tortorelis

Chanter

Joseph Karos

Choir Director

Emily Skoutelas

Organist

Mark Macres

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Jeannie Possis

Vice President

Louis Tiggas

Secretary

Elisabeth (Libby) Cheolis

Treasurer

Cristina Nicklow

Assistant Treasurer

Athena Mihas

Members

Benjamin Amundgaard

Alex Dascalos

Sam Hanna

Andrew LeRoy

Dean Psychogios

Sophia Rouman

Nicholas P. Santrizos



Young Women's Bible Study

Fall 2024

Young Women's Bible Study for ages 23-37 will begin this fall. The study will be "Topical" - such as: *What do we do with our Disappointments?; Why is Peace so Elusive?; What does it mean to be Holy?; Some of the biggest Lies about God.* All the lessons will be based on Scripture according to the Orthodox understanding, along with supplementary materials, as needed. The sessions meet from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Patty Christopoulos' home, 5312 Highwood Drive West, Edina, MN 55436. The schedule is as follows: Tuesdays, September 17, October 1, October 15, and October 29.

New this season: Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study (age 38+) with the same exact lesson as Tuesday. This class will meet from 8:30-10:00 a.m., also at the home of Patty Christopoulos. The dates are: Saturdays, September 21, October 5, October 19, and November 2.

Please sign up by texting Patty at 952.200.9566 by September 3.

Materials to prepare for each session will be emailed in advance by Patty Christopoulos who will lead the study.



Pan Orthodox Grief and Loss Support Group

If you are looking for some support with grief and loss, please join us for our Grief and Loss Support Group. Our four-week grief and loss sessions are Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The location will be determined by who signs up. Dates: October 22 and 30 and November 5 and 12. Each week consists of discussion and education. Learn about what grief is, how to ease the pain, and the impact of grief on the mind and body. For questions or sign up, email Joni at: stmarysgriefgroup@gmail.com



Intro to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Course

MEOCCA catechism course, Intro to Orthodox Christianity, begins on Tuesday, September 10. The catechism classes are open to all: people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in person (St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul) or online via Zoom. Register online by scanning the code. Learn more at www.meocca.org.

Parish News & Events



Georgian Music Ensemble Zedashe to Appear in Twin Cities

September 6, 7, and 8

World-class ensemble Zedashe of the Republic of Georgia will be in Minnesota this fall to share the sacred music of the Georgian Church with us. Zedashe Ensemble will offer concerts drawing on the stunning traditions of ancient Caucasus polyphony. You will want to be there for this. The local concerts are Friday, September 6, at Augsburg University, Saturday, September 7, in St. Paul (location to be announced), and Sunday, September 8, 7:30 p.m., at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral in Northeast Minneapolis.



Saint Mary's Seniors' Meeting

Tuesday, September 17

St. Mary's Seniors will meet on Tuesday, September 17 (the third Tuesday of the month), at 12:00 noon

in the Terrace Room. We will celebrate September birthdays and anniversaries followed by a group photo of celebrants, a delicious buffet luncheon, and cake by Terri Leckas. Our program will feature speaker/author, Ben Kyriagis, who will talk about his book, *Don't Marry an American-A Memoir of Coming to America*. There will be a short meeting and announcements after our program. All St. Mary's Seniors (55+) are invited to join our lively group. Dues are currently \$15 annually. For further information, please contact President Tessie Bourdamis or any current officer.



Gala in the Vineyard

Sunday, September 22

Support the Lyn Olson Medical Crisis Program (LOMC) and enjoy an afternoon filled with live music, laughter plus the tastes Rustic Roots wines and our favorite

Ladies of St. George caterers. Rustic Roots Winery is located at 20168 St. Croix Trail North in Scandia, Minnesota. The event is Sunday, September 22, 2024, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at lomcp.com: \$40 adults, includes meal and 2 drinks; accompanying children under 16 free.



Women's Pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery

Tuesday, January 28 – Saturday, February 1, 2025

A small group pilgrimage to visit the St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona, is being planned for the end of January 2025. There is room for 8 pilgrims. The monastery does not charge us for our stay, however, it is proper to leave a donation if you can. The cost of airfare right now ranges from \$400 – \$550 and is subject to change. Tickets will be purchased at the end of October. There is also a cost for a rental van for the group. The cost of this van is determined by how many pilgrims attend. The Monastery website is: stpaisiusmonastery.org. Please familiarize yourself with visitor information. Contact Sandra Anderson with any questions: asformess69@gmail.com or 612.940.8933.



Orthodox Adult Game League

Saturday, October 12

Game League is back for a new season! Our upcoming get together will be

Saturday, October 12, 6:00 p.m., in St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Lecture Room. Want to learn a new game? Want to play a classic? Want to teach a game? Then this is for you! Do you have questions? Contact Fiona Lotti at 651.470.8994. Plan to bring a munchie or dessert to share!

"That was a great sermon!"



Missed a homily? Want to share a sermon with a friend? Or just want to rewatch?

Watch previous services and sermons now on our YouTube channel.

WATCH NOW.
SCAN THE CODE.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CHANNEL.



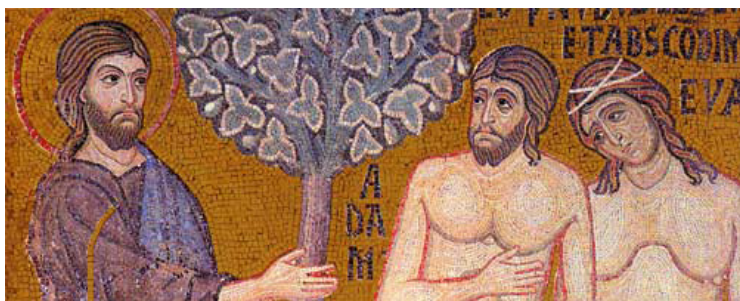
www.youtube.com/@StMarysGreekOrthodoxChurch

Cover Story Continued

(continued from page 1)

untimely partaking of the fruit of the tree brought death to mortals. From that time, the tree of life was guarded, until the confession of the good thief opened the way to it once more” (“έντεῦθεν ζωῆς τὸ ξύλον εἶργετο”).

This hymn points us to Genesis 2:8-9: “And the LORD God planted a garden (παράδεισος or *paradise*) in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life (ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς”) was in the midst (middle) of the garden (παράδεισος or *paradise*), and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”



The tree of life in the Garden (παράδεισος or *paradise*) is the same tree that St. Paul preaches, Christ crucified. While the path to the tree of life in the Garden was lost because man disobeyed the only command given by God, through Christ crucified, this path is restored.

It is this restoration, this renewal through the cross, that calls us once again to hear and follow the command given by God through his Word found in the scripture.



Kalo Taxidi 8 Concert

Sunday, October 13, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Chris Granas (Dr. G), along with fellow composers and musicians will be performing a benefit concert on Sunday, October 13—the Eighth Annual Kalo Taxidi Concert! It will be an evening of original music with Dr. G and friends including the Augsburg Global Harmony Choir, Rebecca Heyn, Benji Flaming, Douglas Ewart, Reverend Nicholas and Mary Greanias, Andrea Kloehn, and Judith Eisner. The concert is Sunday, October 13, 4:00 p.m., at St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church. The funds we raise will help the Multiple Sclerosis Society to fund cutting-edge research, drive change through advocacy, facilitate professional education, and provide programs and services to help people with MS move their lives forward. Donate today: <https://tinyurl.com/54bt7jry>

- It is a free event, donations are welcomed!
- Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$5,000!
- All proceeds will benefit the National MS Society!

Stewardship Update

Thank you for your participation in our 2024 Stewardship Campaign and your on-going support of St. Mary’s through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We thank the many parishioners for committing to Christ and His Church!

As of August 9, 2024, we have received a total of \$664,227 in Offering payments.

- This represents 44.6% of this year’s budget for ministries and operating expenses
- The goal is to cover 100% of ministry and operating costs each year with Stewardship Income rather than relying on rental and festival income.



2024 Annual Budget

\$1,486,537

Pledges to Date: \$1,093,017

Actual Offering Payments to Date: \$664,227

Philoptochos



Tuesday September 17, 6:30 p.m.
Board Meeting, Fireside Room

Tuesday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.
General Membership Meeting and
Dinner

We are excited to meet in person for our annual September Kick-Off Dinner and Meeting. Please watch for details to RSVP.

Upcoming Activities

Taste of Greece Festival Baking

We're in the final stretch for the Festival Baking! Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who have already dedicated their time this spring to create over 3,400 koulourakia, 3,100 kourambiethes, and 4,000+ pieces of baklava for the Taste of Greece Bake Sale! Let's keep this incredible momentum going with our final baking sessions:

- **Tuesday, September 3: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Cut and package baklava
- **Wednesday, September 4: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Package of kourambiethes, melomakarona and amygdalota, set display tables



We invite all bakers of all levels to volunteer for part or all of these sessions whether you can give an hour or an entire day. Every minute counts! Sign up at the Philoptochos table during Sunday social hour or on our Sign Up Genius page. Thank you for your continued support!

Women's Book Club Discussion September 12

The next Women's Book Club discussion will be held Thursday, September 12, with the book, **The Ascetic of Love** by Nun Gavrilia. All women are welcome. More information and a link will be sent to the distribution list. To have your name added to the list, contact Katherine Boosalis (katherine@boosalis.net). Books are available in the church bookstore.

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Annual September Luncheon and Raffle Saturday, September 28

Check your mail for an invitation to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos' Annual September Luncheon on Saturday, September 28. This is the Metropolis Philoptochos' largest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds will benefit Lemons of Love, The Saint Iakovos Retreat Center, and the Metropolis

Philoptochos Philanthropic Endeavors. Support these beneficiaries by purchasing raffle tickets which were sent with the invitation or stopping by the Philoptochos table after Liturgy (a limited supply will be available). Tickets are \$10 each or \$25 for three. Prizes include a grand prize of \$1,000 and other cash prizes! Winners will be drawn at the luncheon, but you do not need to be present to win.

Sunday Table Coverage Reminder

We ask for your assistance in ensuring that the Philoptochos table remains staffed after Liturgy each week. We're looking for a minimum of two members to manage the Sunday table, providing updates on current volunteer opportunities and addressing general inquiries about our mission and membership. Ideally, this should involve one board or chair member and one general member. Please consider joining us after the Liturgy and committing approximately one hour to this vital task. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank You...

- The Philoptochos hosted a light reception following Dormition Vespers on August 14, and also organized the coffee/brunch hour after the morning Liturgy on August 15. We extend our sincere thanks to **Mary Kay Twito** for leading the event and all the volunteers who contributed to making this event a beautiful occasion for the church community.
- A heartfelt thank you to **Carol Smith** for organizing the fall back-to-school drive for Bancroft Elementary School in South Minneapolis. We also extend our gratitude to everyone who supported this ministry by donating supplies, backpacks, and gently used winter coats, mittens, hats, and boots for the kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Additionally, thank you for your financial contributions, which enabled the purchase of tennis nets for gym classes and after-school programs!
- Once again, thank you from the bottom of our mixing bowls to **Cathy Forchas** and **Paulette Hastings** for their strategic leadership through the Festival Baking!
- Continued grateful appreciation to everyone who generously supports Our Little Orthodox Library with materials. Your contributions are invaluable! Please continue to share your resources and help us grow!

Follow Saint Mary's Philoptochos on Social Media



Missions & Outreach

FOCUS

written by Cheryl Dragotis

Give what you can, a loaf of bread, a cup of wine, a piece of clothing. On the FOCUS website, a quote from St. Gregory of Nyssa reads, “Nevertheless, give what you can; God asks nothing above your powers. You can give a loaf yourself, another will give a cup of wine, another clothing; thus one man’s hardship will be relieved by your combined aid.” One of the ways to help and give aid at FOCUS is their food program. Volunteers are desperately needed to make bag lunches and hand them out in the FOCUS neighborhood. Commitment starts at 10:00 a.m. with the making of sandwiches and filling paper bags with sandwiches, chips, cheese, applesauce and other available goodies. Handouts to neighbors start at 11:30 and continue until bags are gone or 12:30 p.m. Choose your day, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., once a week, once a month or whatever time you have. Fridays are especially in need of help. Other food help opportunities are:

- Prepare groceries for monthly food shelf and handing them out. This happens on the third Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..
- Transport fresh food in your truck or van from local food banks to FOCUS House.
- Transport bags of food to vulnerable older neighbors or families who are unable to come to FOCUS House. Two volunteers can go together.
- Help Philoptochos with a hot Sunday meal and handout. Visit the Philoptochos table in the Great Hall after Liturgy for dates.

Any of these opportunities are easy and fulfilling. Please consider volunteering. To find out more information, call 651.222.0712 or send an email. (Focustwincities@gmail.com)



A flyer for an event titled "COME SEE". The background is dark red. On the left, there is a small inset photo of a priest in white vestments. The text "COME SEE" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below the text, there is a photo of two people holding a glowing cross. At the bottom, there is a gold banner with the text "GREAT VESPERS • PRESENTATION • REFRESHMENTS". To the right of the banner, the event details are listed: "Saturday, September 21 5:00-7:00 p.m." in white text.

Do reach out to invite someone to “Come and See” the Orthodox way. The flyer reminds us to share our faith, a wonderful way to introduce Orthodoxy to friends and family and a way to grow our faith as well.

Please reach out and “Bring a Friend,” this coming **September 21, 2024**, on a Saturday Vespers with refreshments after the short Vesper service. What a great way to introduce Orthodoxy to your friends and family.

In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



The Orthodox Church has long been a leader in addressing ecological concerns and creation care. In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarchate chose September 1st, the beginning of the liturgical year, as the “Day of Protection for the Environment”—a day of gratitude to God for “the great gift of creation” and also of supplications for its preservation.

This initiative was well received and adopted by many other Christian traditions, including the Catholic and Anglican Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. (cf. 242)

Also in 1989, Patriarch Demetrios issued the very first Patriarchal Encyclical in which he

asserted that the Church could not remain indifferent before the ecological crisis and called “all those entrusted with the responsibility of governing the nations to act without delay taking all necessary measures for the protection and preservation of the natural creation.” (241)

“That same year, the Conference of European Churches and the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences in the First European Ecumenical Assembly included the safeguarding of creation as a topic of common commitment.” (157)

Since then there has been an ongoing ecumenical initiative to address environmental concerns and the vital importance of protecting “our common home”—planet earth and “the whole of creation.” Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis have been working together in this prophetic ministry.

In 2015, Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* (“Praised Be”) was published, in which he credits Patriarch Bartholomew for his leadership in this matter:

Patriarch Bartholomew has spoken in particular of the need for each of us to repent of the ways we have harmed the planet....He has repeatedly stated this firmly and persuasively, challenging us to acknowledge our sins against creation....At the same time, Bartholomew has drawn attention to the ethical and spiritual roots of environmental problems, which require that we look for solutions not only in technology but in a change of humanity; otherwise we would be dealing merely with symptoms. He asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which “entails learning to give, and not simply to give up.” (242-243)

This mutual concern of Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis for the environment led to Halki Summit V held in Istanbul in June 2022, hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It was organized and co-sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Sophia University Institute. *Sustaining the Future of Our Planet Together: The Prophetic Ministry of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew* is a compendium of the talks given at this summit, edited by John Chryssavgis and Angela Caliaro.

In his brief yet powerful keynote address to the summit, which is included in this book, Patriarch Bartholomew explains two concepts from Orthodox theology and spirituality

that we have repeatedly emphasized in our effort to discern ways of promoting environmental awareness and action. The first of these words is “eucharist.” In calling for a “eucharistic” spirit, the Orthodox Church is reminding us that the created world is not simply our personal possession, but rather it is a sacred gift—a gift from above, a gift of wonder and beauty. The proper response to such a gift is to accept and embrace it with gratitude and thanksgiving. This precludes any attempt at possessing or controlling the planet and its resources as human beings.... Humans are called to be eucharistic beings—grateful to the Creator and respectful toward all creation. The second word is “ascetic.” The ascetic ethos or worldview is the intention and effort to protect the sacred gift of creation. It is the struggle for self-restraint and self-control, whereby we...manifest a sense of frugality and abstinence. Both of these attitudes of protection and self-restraint are expressions of love for God, humanity, and the natural creation. (xxiv-xxv)

He closes his keynote address by emphasizing the vital importance of connectedness to sustain the planet. Connections are a key and core element in the presentations given by the summit participants.

Sustaining the Future of Our Planet Together presents a broad range of ecological and environmental concerns the Orthodox and Catholic traditions are addressing, approached and explained from many different perspectives in both traditions. The main sections of the book are divided into three broad perspectives: theological; ethical, legal, and ecumenical; and social. This is a collaborative effort of great importance in which the reader will find much information together with guidance and encouragement. “It is about the fundamental idea that everything is connected and closely related at every possible level in the world in which humans live...” (203)

Children and Youth News

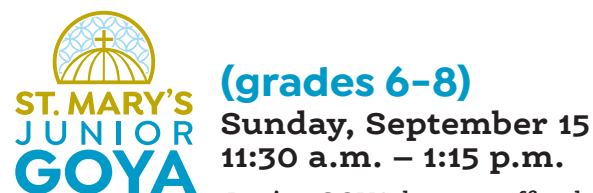
Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: Liturgia (Worship), Diakonia (Service), Martyria (Witness), and Koinonia (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.



Sunday, September 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

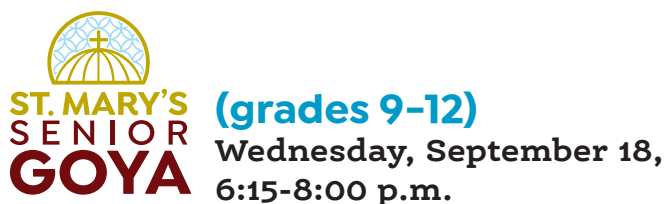
HOPE and JOY Kickoff in the Youth Room.
To RSVP and find out more information, please to go St. Mary's Realm.



Junior GOYA hosts coffee hour!
Come and enjoy a cold Greek frappé and support the Orthodox Church in Kenya at the same time! All funds will go to the Diocese of Eldoret in northern Kenya. To RSVP and find out more information, please go to St. Mary's Realm.

Sunday, September 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m

Junior GOYA Kickoff in the Youth Room. To RSVP and find out more information, please to go St. Mary's Realm.



Senior GOYA Kickoff picnic. Meet at St. Mary's. To RSVP and found out more information, please go to St. Mary's Realm.



Children's Glendi and Pizza Party

**Saturday, September 28,
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Scan to RSVP



Join us for a Greek glendi for the children of the parish (preschool and elementary aged children of the parish and their families are welcome), complete with pizza and dancing, on Saturday, September 28, 5:00-8:00 p.m.! The Sioris/Kempf family will provide music, pizza, and beverages with a recommended \$10 free-will offering per person attending. All proceeds will go towards future costumes and needs of future dance troupes to continue fostering Greek dancers at St. Mary's! Please RSVP by Sunday, September 22, to: <https://tinyurl.com/5yrce65t>

•Please note - this is not a drop-off event, and you are responsible for your own children.

Church School News

Meet and Greet Your Teachers

Sunday, September 15

Meet and greet your Church School teachers on Sunday, September 15, in the Terrace Room after Liturgy. There will be a table for each class with your teachers waiting to meet you and your parents. See what the theme/curriculum is, check to be sure you are on the class list, and that we have email addresses correct, sign up for snacks, and find out where your classroom is. The first day of Church School will be Sunday, September 22. New this year! A special drop-off toddler class for 2½-3 year olds. Come to the Meet and Greet to see which class your child fits into best - nursery, toddler, or 3 year olds.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram

@St_Marys_GOYA

Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. We have a new formal feedback process. Go to our St Mary's home page-Click on "Youth," then "Youth Program Feedback" Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.



THINK GREEK.

What are you doing the weekend after Labor Day? Why not make it Greek? Join us for authentic Greek food, music, and cultural experiences while supporting philanthropy!



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3450 IRVING AVE. SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS



DETAILS AT:

mplsGreekFest.org



@mplsgreekfest



SEPTEMBER 6

FRIDAY
2:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

7

SATURDAY
NOON – 9:00 P.M.

8

SUNDAY
NOON – 5:00 P.M.

WANTED



**For Help with the
St. Mary's 'Taste of
Greece Festival**

REWARD:

(See Colossians 3:23-24)

OTHER REWARDS:

Helping your Church, Being part of something great, Meeting people, Getting to know your fellow parishioners through a shared experience, Making memories with your family and friends



Scan for Volunteer Sign-up

We need to fill approximately 700 work shifts to make this year's Festival a smooth success. If each person from our parish signed up for two shifts, we would be covered. Please, if you haven't done so, sign-up to volunteer today!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

(Consider asking a friend to help, too!)

Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**“The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me, because
he has anointed
me to preach good
news to the poor.
He has sent me to
proclaim release
to the captives and
recovering of sight
to the blind, to set
at liberty those
who are oppressed,
to proclaim the
acceptable year of
the Lord.”**

Luke 4:16-22



The Ecclesiastical New Year
Begins September 1



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2024

The Messenger is published
monthly by Saint Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The Messenger

First Sunday of each month

Sunday Bulletin

Preceding Monday, 4:00 p.m.


CONTACT

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September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ecclesiastical New Year "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	2 Labor Day <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	3 4:00pm-Hummus Cups	4 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice	5 Festival Set Up - All Day	6 <i>Greek Festival: 2:00-9:00pm</i> 	7 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Greek Festival: Noon-9:00pm</i> 
8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy <i>Greek Festival: Noon-5:00pm</i> 	9	10 6:15pm-Parish Council	11	12 7:00pm-Women's Book Club	13 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 6:00pm-Great Vespers	14 Elevation of the Cross 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
15 Sunday after Holy Cross 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Church School Meet and Greet Junior GOYA hosting coffee hour	16	17 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board	18 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 6:15pm-Senior GOYA Kickoff Picnic	19 6:30pm-Koinonia	20 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	21 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers after Vespers-Bring a Friend Reception Healing House Dinner
22 First Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy First Day of Church School 11:30am-HOPE/JOY Kickoff	23	24 5:30pm-Philoptochos Dinner and Meeting	25	26 Falling Asleep of Saint John the Theologian 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	27	28 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers after Vespers-Children's Glendi
29 Second Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Junior GOYA Kickoff	30					