



**ST. MARY'S**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 1, 2024

*The Fourteenth Sunday of Luke*

## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### *Commemoration*

Fourteenth Sunday of Luke; Nahum the Prophet; Philaret the Merciful of Amnia; Ananias the Persian; Holy Father Theocletus the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Lacedaemonia; Our Holy Fathers Ananias and Solochon, Archbishops of Ephesus.

*Morning Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20*

*Tone: Plagal Second*

### **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, 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 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!

Ἐν τῇ γενήσει τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ κοιμήσει τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες,  
En ti gennisi tin parthenian efilaxas en ti kimisi ton kosmon u katelipes,

Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν, μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις  
Theotoke. Metestis pros tin zoin, mitir iparhusa tis zois, ke tes presvies

ταῖς σαῖς λυτρομένη ἐκ θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.  
tes ses litrumeni ek thanatu tas psihas imon.

**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 2:4-10***

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

***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.*



**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 8) is to send greetings from you to fellow parishioners and the flowers donation (deadline is December 22) can be made in memory of departed loved ones. Drop your envelope in the stewardship box.

## Litany for the Catechumens

Deacon: Catechumens, pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That the Lord will have mercy on them.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That He will teach them the word of truth.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That He will reveal to them the gospel  
of righteousness.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That He will unite them to His holy,  
catholic, and apostolic Church.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Save them, have mercy on them, help them, and  
protect them, O God, by Your grace.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Catechumens, bow your heads to the Lord.

**People: To You, O Lord.**

## Prayer for the Catechumens

Priest: Lord our God, Who dwells on high and  
watches over the humble, You sent forth  
Your only-begotten Son and God, our Lord  
Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human  
race. Look down upon Your servants, the  
catechumens, who have inclined their necks  
to You, and grant them at a proper time the  
baptism of rebirth, the remission of sins, and  
the garment of incorruption. Unite them to  
Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,  
and number them among Your chosen flock.

Priest: So that with us they also may glorify Your  
most honorable and majestic name, of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**People: Amen.**

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# Today

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Prosforo is provided by **Presbytera Alexandra Houck**.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for  
**John Karmalis (10 years); Katerena Karmalis (9 years);  
Georgia Papagiannopoulos (4 years); Bill K. Nicklow (4 years)**

The coffee hour today is hosted by  
**the Hadjiyanis family in celebration of Demos' 101st birthday.**  
*May God continue to bless you, Demos!*

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## Welcome visitors and guests!

Members of our Missions and Outreach Committee are at the welcome and information table in the Great Hall after Liturgy this morning to welcome you and answer your questions about St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church and the Orthodox faith. Join us for a cup of coffee and always enjoyable refreshments.

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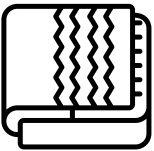
## Announcements

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### Urgent FOCUS Clothing Needs

FOCUS is in desperate need of men's winter clothing, including jackets, boots, warm socks, and gloves. Cold weather is upon us and the men's closet is very bare of these essential articles of clothing. Please bring these needed items to church and place them by the FOCUS sign in the hallway leading to the office.



### FOCUS Opportunity

Winter's cold temperatures have arrived! The FOCUS drive is for all types of NEW blankets, up to the size of a full bed. Roll it up and tie it with a ribbon. Put the blanket at the church FOCUS sign by the church school doors or take to FOCUS at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. FOCUS clients will appreciate the warmth this winter.



*Saint Mary's Digital Donation Options*  
**Text to Give\***: Text **smgoc** to **73256** • **or Scan to Give**  
*\*This number will never send unsolicited texts.*



## **Today's Stewardship Speaker: Therese Leckas**

Once, there was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. He loved them all and knew them all by name. There was one small lamb who had a hard time following Him, She had a hard head, and decided to take one small step away from Him. Just a small step...the world seemed so exciting, and surely she could navigate this path on her own. She loved the shepherd, but thought she didn't need Him. She took another step away, and another, until she was so far away from the shepherd who loved her so much, she just couldn't find Him. She was really scared. But the shepherd NEVER STOPPED looking for her. He left the 99 sheep and did EVERYTHING POSSIBLE to bring her back to Him. He picked her up, and instead of punishing her, He put her up on His shoulders as a prized possession; loved and cared for.

When I married John, Orthodoxy and St. Mary's were two of the great fringe benefits I got. It would take me 30 years to realize this treasure, and now I cannot imagine my life without the comfort and direction that I find in both. I was married for 43 years and loved him with all my heart. We raised three sons, Vasilios, Fotios, and Gianni. We were blessed with five grandchildren: Gianni, Vasi, Evangeline, Naomi, and Nico. John & I put our pennies together, stirred in our work ethic, and opened a cake shop. We worked hard, and the years flew by. We put church on the back burner...for years. One day, we realized that we were just not satisfied. In fact, empty would be a better word. John said we should "pick up where we left off". He was always right. We came back to worship, to repent, to partake of the Sacraments, and to the Fellowship of our St. Mary's family.

John has "fallen asleep" now, He left me here, as part of the St. Mary's flock. In the care of the Shepherd.



## **Help Decorate the Church for Christmas!**

**Tuesday, December 3**

We warmly invite anyone available on Tuesday, December 3, to join us in decorating the Nave and the remaining trees in the church. We plan to start about 10:00 a.m. and anticipate finishing around 2:00 p.m. Whether you can stay for the entire day or just a portion of it, your presence will certainly brighten the occasion!



## **Parish Night**

**Wednesday, December 4, 6:15 p.m.**

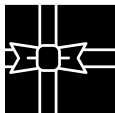
Parish Night is a monthly parish-wide event and everyone is welcome to attend! Our next Parish Night is Wednesday, December 4, beginning at 6:15 p.m. We'll discuss the major feast days of the Church. Parish Night has something to offer all ages. We wrap up for the evening at 8:00 p.m.



# Philoptochos News

## Christmas Gifts for Healing House Families

Our annual Christmas gift collections for Healing House families is underway. This holiday season, you can buy a \$20 child's gift or a mom's \$25 Target gift card. Gifts will be distributed at the AHEPA Children's Christmas Party, to which AHEPA graciously invites the families. Stop by the Philoptochos table and pick up a gift tag, purchase a gift, and return it by next Sunday, December 8. Let's make this Christmas special for the women and children of Healing House! Healing House is a residential, Christ-centered, drug and alcohol recovery program for women and mothers with children which St. Mary's has supported for decades.



## Saint Mary's Seniors' Meeting

**Tuesday, December 10**

Saint Mary's Seniors will end the year with a festive Christmas holiday celebration on Tuesday, December 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Terrace Room. (Please note the earlier start time). Festivities include a celebration of December birthdays and anniversaries, a group photo of our entire membership in attendance, a delicious meal catered by Tony Nicklow, beverages, a holiday cake by Terri Leckas, entertainment by pianist extraordinaire, David Mertesdorf, along with a sing-along of Christmas carols, as well as door prizes and games. Please RSVP to Tessie Bourdamis.



## AHEPA Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 14**

Saint Mary's children and their parents are invited to a festive Christmas party with Santa on Saturday, December 14, at 11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. Highlights include a Christmas photo with Santa, gifts, caroling, entertainment, and lunch for all. The cost is only \$12.00 per child - no charge for parents. Sponsored by the Minneapolis AHEPA. Please see the flyer for registration. For questions contact Mark Alevizos at [mark.alevizos@gmail.com](mailto:mark.alevizos@gmail.com) or 612.990.4211



Scan to Register

## Winter Camp 2025

*Made in the Image and Likeness: Seeking to understand our true self in Jesus Christ.*

Winter Camp is for kids in 6th-12th grades. It takes place Friday-Monday, January 17-20 at Friends at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, Minnesota. The cost is \$270. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/registerwintercamp>. Registration deadline is December 30. There is a \$30 late payment fee. Or send a check to St. Mary's Cathedral, c/o Lisa Tucci 414 17th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 For more information, contact Matushka Lisa Tucci, lisatucci71@gmail.com or 612.599.0814



Scan to Register

## Midwest OCF College Conference

December 27-30, 2024

The Midwest Orthodox Christian College (OCF) Conference is happening December 27-30, at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. Registration is open for ages 18-25. Registration closes December 1 (or sooner if space fills up). There are needs-based scholarships offered by the National OCF. Additionally, St. Mary's will partially reimburse active members of our parish who plan on attending. Please first apply to the National OCF scholarship before requesting reimbursement from St. Mary's. Partial reimbursements will be issued at the end of December. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Fr. Jason at 612.401.0660.

## YAL News



### YAL Vespers and Dinner

Join us on Saturday, December 7, at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1250 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, for vespers at 5:00 p.m. YAL will have a classic vespers and dinner outing (location TBD but close to church). We will also be doing a small service project for the Nativity season.



### YAL 2025 Board Application

We are so excited for this next calendar year and would love to have you join our team! Please consider this ministry prayerfully and apply if you are interested. Positions and their descriptions can be found within the application. Feel free to contact us or speak to a current board member with any questions you may have about the application.



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## Prayer Ministry

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*Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially:*

The family of Maria Andrews; 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 and Jassir; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Sylvia, Pete, Maria, Karen, Steve A., Athena, Betty, Sean, Krisanne, Ann, Mark, Kostantinos & Georgia, Andreas, Jonathan, Jeanette, Mary, Ann, Marilyn, Donna, Dawn, Don, Nancy, Brad, Vangie, Jolene, Mikey, Aphrodite, James, Peter, Lyda, Owen, Michael, Johnny, Jaclyn Jereczek, Dena, Chris, Joy Rose, Nick, John, Demos and Eugenia, Ron, Matt, Laura, Susan, Elias, Constance, Marina, Dion, Annali, Sofia, Juan Cruz & family, Charlie, Stan, Helena, Byrdie, Jennifer, John S., Becky, Noel, Stephen, Alexey, Alexandra, Ray, Christina, Joanne, Charlie, Nuala, Pamela, Avgi, Elena, Speranta, Liz, Efstratia, Jordan, David, Nino, Joe, Donnarae, Samira, Mary K., Monte, Bethany, Mark, Owen, Chrysanthy, Estelle, Justine, Melissa, Megan, Lisa, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Theodora, Irene Maria, Olivia, Lincoln, Carole, Patty, Karrisa, Corina, Tom, George R., Ken, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Bo, Lynn, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Pat, Dave, Pam, Gilbert, George P., Danielle, Jenny, John L., Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Rick, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, Phil, Karen, Linda, 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, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

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## Food Shelf Needs for December 8

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### *Diapers (Size 5)*

December's recipient is **Community Emergency Service**.  
*Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.*

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# Calendar of the Week

## **Sunday, December 1: Fourteenth Sunday of Luke**

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

## **Tuesday, December 3**

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

6:30 p.m. – Byzantine Chant Class, *Classroom #2*

## **Wednesday, December 4: Saint Barbara**

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

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

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

6:15 p.m. – Parish Night

6:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, *Nave*

## **Friday, December 6: Saint Nicholas**

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

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. – Holy Unction, *St. Mary’s Romanian Orthodox Church*

## **Saturday, December 7**

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, *Fireside Room and on Zoom*

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## **Sunday, December 8: Tenth Sunday of Luke**

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

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



### **Cancelled:**

### **Women’s Book Club Year End Potluck**

Due to scheduling issues, we are cancelling our December 5 get-together. Watch for invites to our next book club meeting in February 2025. We will be reading *Journey to Simplicity: The Life and Wisdom of Archimandrite Roman Braga* by Daniel Hinshaw. The book is available in our bookstore.

“Those who do not have Christ in them are full of anxiety. But when man grasps the deepest meaning of life, then all his anxiety goes away and the divine consolation comes and heals. And when a man is freed from stress then all kinds of people rest near him. Do not worry about anything. Anxiety is the devil. When you see anxiety, know that it’s the devil’s work. When we feel anxious in our struggle, let us know that we are not moving in the space of God. God is not a tyrant to drown us.”

— *Saint Paisios the Anthonite*

## Daily Bible Readings

### *Monday, December 2*

I Thessalonians 2:20-3:8 • Luke 20:27-44

### *Tuesday, December 3*

I Thessalonians 3:8-13 • Luke 21:12-19

### *Wednesday, December 4: Saint Barbara*

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

### *Thursday, December 5*

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

### *Friday, December 6: Saint Nicholas*

Hebrews 13:17-21 • Luke 6:17-23

### *Saturday, December 7*

II Corinthians 11:1-6 • Luke 13:19-29

### *Sunday, December 8: Tenth Sunday of Luke*

Ephesians 2:14-22 • Luke 13:10-17



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

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

Weekly Bulletin Submissions to: [Communications@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:Communications@stmarysgoc.org)

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