



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 15, 2024

The Eleventh Sunday of Luke

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Eleventh Sunday of Luke; Eleutherios the Hieromartyr,
Bishop of Illyricum, and his mother Anthia.

Morning Gospel: Mark 16:9-20

Tone: Plagal Fourth

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 Fourth Tone

From on high you descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Ancestors of Christ, Second Tone

By their faith you justified your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old you betrothed to yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave you birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of Saint Eleutherios, Plagal First Tone

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint Eleftherius, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. Therefore cease not interceding for us who loyally honor your blessed contest of martyrdom.

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 λυτρουμένη 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*.....*II Timothy 1:8-18

TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

Gospel*.....*Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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

Today

Prosforo is provided by **Ruta Kubits**.

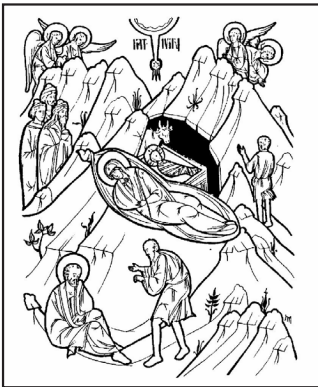
Memorial Prayers today are offered for
Barbara Apostolou (3 years).

The coffee hour today is hosted by
the family of Barbara Apostolou in her memory.

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.

Announcements



Christmas Week Worship Schedule

Monday, December 23

Royal Hours – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24: Eve of Nativity

Vesperal Divine Liturgy – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25: Holy Nativity

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

Friday, December 27: Saint Stephen

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

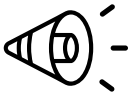


Saint Mary's Digital Donation Options

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

**This number will never send unsolicited texts.*





Help Wanted This Wednesday!

Our annual Christmas mailing is this coming Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Terrace Room. We can use as many folks to help assemble the mailing as possible. This is a mailing to the entire parish and consists of the newsletter, Christmas card and letter, and the 2025 Orthodox calendar. If you can help, please let us know by calling the office either on Monday or Tuesday. Walk-ins welcome!



Coffee Hour Host Needed

Would you like to host a coffee hour? We have an opening for next Sunday, December 22. Please contact David in the Church Office if you'd like to host.



Toys for Tots and Teens

The Legion Squadron 129 is sponsoring Toys for Tots and Teens again this year. Because of the great giving attitude by our Church community, we will try to fill up four boxes this year instead of three like we did last year. The drop boxes are located throughout the building. Please bring donations to St. Mary's no later than Sunday, December 15.



Gingerbread House Decorating Party

FAITH and HOPE kids (pre-school-grade 2) and parents/guardians: Don't miss the fun at the Gingerbread House Decorating Party on Saturday, December 21, 9:30-11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. Please RSVP by contacting Lea Hoefft at Angelea.hoefft@gmail.com.

COMMITMENT + 2025



2025 Stewardship Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has already completed a Time, Talent, and Financial Pledge Form for 2025. If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to prayerfully complete a 2025 pledge form and return it to the church office as soon as possible. If you need a form, scan the code or contact the church office. *Please remember that to be considered a Steward in good standing for 2025, you must return your pledge forms by March 31, 2025.*



Christmas Flowers Donations

We are accepting memorial donations for Christmas flowers and decorations through December 22. These can be made in memory of departed loved ones. Drop your form and envelope in the stewardship box.



Visit the St. Mary's Bookstore

Please come visit the bookstore for truly meaningful Christmas gift giving. You will find a large selection of books, icons, and other items. If you don't know what specifically to give, gift certificates are also available.



Women's Book Club Book

The next book the Philoptochos Book Club will be reading and discussing is *Journey to Simplicity: The Life and Wisdom of Archimandrite Roman Braga* by Daniel Hinshaw. (In his later years, Father Roman was at Holy Dormition Monastery, where Mother Macrina is. For those new to St. Mary's, Mother Macrina is from our parish.) Copies are available in the bookstore.



Blood Drive

Saturday, January 25

Hellenic Sons Squadron 129, Sons of the American Legion will host a blood Drive at St. Mary's on Saturday, January 25, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Scan the QR code to sign-up or call MBC at 888.448.3253.



Year-End Giving Notice

Electronic donations, via online giving or Venmo, **must be made by Friday, December 27**. Online contributions take 3-5 days to process. Contributions made after December 27 cannot be guaranteed of being recorded as a 2024 contribution. Please plan ahead when making your year-end contributions. Contributions placed in the offering tray on Sunday, December 29, will be credited as 2024 contributions.



Philoptochos News



Vasilopita Sales Today

Our Vasilopita bakers have baked our annual New Year's bread for 2025 and we are selling loaves every Sunday until January 12. Loaves are \$15 each on a first come first served basis...so buy them early!!



Our Little Orthodox Library Needs You in 2025

We are looking for more volunteers in 2025 to help with the management of our 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.



Volunteers Needed –

Help Host Christmas Day Coffee Hour

Philoptochos is looking for volunteers to help with coffee hour on Christmas morning following Liturgy. We need people to help, set up, serve, and clean up after. Treats will be provided. If you can help, please stop by the Philoptochos table to sign up.



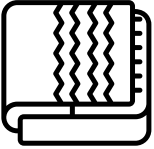
Philoptochos Annual Membership Drive Begins in January!

As in previous years, all women aged 18 and older will receive membership details at their home address. If your contact information has changed, please take a moment to reach out to David in the church office to update your phone number, email, and mailing address to ensure you receive the information needed to join or renew your membership. We are truly grateful for your support and dedication, which enables us to continue fulfilling the Philoptochos mission of faith, charity, and community service. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and carry on this vital work. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission!



Urgent FOCUS Clothing Needs

FOCUS continues to need men's winter clothing, including jackets, boots, warm socks, and gloves. The men's closet continues to need these essential articles of clothing. As we move further into winter, the need increases all the more. Please bring these needed items to church and place them by the FOCUS sign in the hallway leading to the office.



FOCUS Blanket Drive

The FOCUS blanket 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.



*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

YAL News



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.



Prayer Ministry

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

All victims of wars throughout the world; The family of Edward Atcas; The family of Larry Dunham; 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.

Food Shelf Needs for December 22



Individually wrapped toothbrushes

December's recipient is **Community Emergency Service**.

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

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, December 15: Eleventh Sunday of Luke;

Saint Eleutherios

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

11:30 a.m. – Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting, *Fireside Room*

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

Tuesday, December 17: Prophet Daniel; Saint Dionysios

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

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

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Mailing, *Terrace Roo*

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

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

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Program Party, *Youth Room*

6:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Edward Atcas;

Visitation from 10:00 a.m., Saint Mary’s Church

*Koinonia, facilitated by Tia Muchulas, is canceled
because of the visitation for Larry Dunham.*

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Visitation for Larry Dunham;

Trisagion Service at 5:30 p.m.

Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel,

West 50th Street and Vernon Avenue

7:00 p.m. – Stewardship Committee Meeting, *Terrace Room*

Friday, December 20

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

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Larry Dunham;

Visitation from 10:00 a.m., Saint Mary’s Church

Saturday, December 21

No Saturday Bible Study

9:30 a.m. – FAITH/HOPE Gingerbread House Decorating Party,
Terrace Room

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22: Sunday before Nativity

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

Church School Christmas Program



December 2024

MESSAGES *from* the METROPOLIS

www.chicago.goarch.org

LATEST NEWS



SCAN FOR
MORE NEWS

11/22 Campus of Annunciation Cathedral of Chicago chosen as proposed site of new Metropolis Center

11/07 His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael's 5-year vision continues to gather momentum across the Metropolis of Chicago

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/08 Metropolis of Chicago Community Christmas Party

12/26 YAL Chicago Christmas Party

12/30 Fanari Reunion Dance



SCAN FOR
MORE
EVENTS

sign up to receive email updates:
www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up

“God gave man a mind so that he can become aware of his fault, repent, and ask forgiveness. Unrepentance is a cruel thing. The unrepentant person is very foolish in not wanting to repent and thus be spared from the small hell in which he is now living, and which will lead him to eternal hell.”

— *Saint Paisios the Athonite*

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, December 16

I Timothy 1:1-7 • Mark 9:42-50; 10:1

Tuesday, December 17: Prophet Daniel; Saint Dionysios

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2 • Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday, December 18

I Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15 • Mark 10:11-16

Thursday, December 19

Timothy 3:1-13 • Mark 10:17-27

Friday, December 20

Hebrews 10:32-38 • Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 21

Galatians 3:8-12 • Luke 13:19-29

Sunday, December 22: The Sunday Before Nativity

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 • Matthew 1:1-25



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

Weekly Bulletin Submission Deadline: Mondays