



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

December 29, 2024  
*The Sunday After Nativity*

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## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### *Commemoration*

Sunday after Nativity; 14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem;  
Our Righteous Father Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones;  
Our Righteous Father Thaddeus the Confessor; Afterfeast of the Nativity;  
George, Bishop of Nicomedia, Poet of Asmatikons, Kanons, and Troparia.

*Morning Gospel: Luke 24:12-35*

*Tone: Second Tone*

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

#### *At the Second Antiphon*

Save us, O Son of God, born of the Virgin; save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

#### *At the Third Antiphon*

#### **Hymn of the Nativity of the Lord, Fourth Tone**

Your birth, O Christ our God, did shine upon the world, and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship, did through a star learn to worship you, the Sun of Righteousness, and came to know you the Light from on high. Glory to you, O Lord.

#### *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 Nativity of the Lord, above*

#### **Hymn of the Ancestors of God (Joseph, David, James), Second Tone**

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

### **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 psichas imon.

### **Kontakion of Theotokos, *Third Tone***

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born as a little child.

### ***Epistle*..... *Galatians 1:11-19***

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

### ***Gospel*..... *Matthew 2:13-23***

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet

Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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### **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.*

----- A SUPPLEMENT TO THE SERMON -----

## **My Spiritual New Year's Resolution**

Do one or more of these in 2025 that you haven't done before. Post it somewhere at home

- Go to confession
- Read the Gospel of Matthew
- Attend a weekday Liturgy
- Fast during the Apostles' or Dormition Fasts
- Go to Paraklesis
- Help at a food shelf
- Talk to someone at church you don't know
- Find out about a new Saint
- Fast on Wednesdays and Fridays
- Get a new prayerbook with different prayers
- Attend church while traveling



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



Prosforo is provided by **Nick Santrizos**.

Memorial Prayers today are offered for  
**Anthula and George N. Boosalis; Steve George;  
Yeoryia and Andreas Karageorgiou; Aristotle Pappajohn.**

The coffee hour today is hosted by  
**Georgia B. George, Stephanie George and Mark Flumerfelt,  
Paulette and Paul Hastings.**

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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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## Holy Theophany Worship Schedule

**Friday, January 3**

Royal Hours – 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 5: Eve of Holy Theophany**

Orthros – 8:30 a.m. • Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters – 9:30 a.m.

**Monday, January 6: Holy Theophany**

Orthros – 8:30 a.m. • Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters – 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist**

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

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# Announcements

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## House Blessings

During January and February, Fr. Tim and Fr. Jason will be doing house blessings. To schedule a blessing, please send an e-mail request to: [stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org) or call the parish office, 612.825.9595.



### January 6-13 Southwest Quadrant

*Bounded by Highway 394 on the north and 35W on the east.*



### January 14-20 Northeast Quadrant

*Bounded by Highway 94 on the south and 35W on the west.*



### January 21-27: Northwest Quadrant

*Bounded by Highway 394 on the south and 35W on the east.*



### January 28-February 1: Southeast Quadrant

*Bounded by Highway 94 on the north and 35W on the west.*



If the preceding dates do not work, we will have open scheduling will take place **February 3-22**. It is also within our Orthodox tradition for laypeople to bless their own homes with bottled Holy Water, as it states in the Great Blessing of the Waters service: *“For those who are sprinkled with it and take it for the blessing of homes; let us pray to the Lord.”*



## Saturday Bible Study

Saturday Bible Study is on break for a couple weeks. Watch the Sunday bulletin and your e-mail communications for startup date.



## 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.



## 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.

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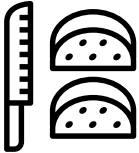
# Philoptochos News

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## 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!



## Vasilopita Cutters and Baggers Needed

We are looking for ladies to help cut and bag Vasilopita bread on Saturday, January 11, at 10:00 a.m. We will be distributing the bread after Liturgy as well as to the Sunday School children on Sunday, January 12. Please sign up at the Philoptochos table in the Great Hall.



## 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.



## Undecorating the Church – January 10 and 12

Mark your calendar to help undecorate the church. Friday, January 10, at 11:00 a.m., we will undecorate the trees and take down wreaths, etc. On Sunday, January 12, after Sunday school, we will join the St. Olympia girls in undecorating the nave. Please sign up at the Philoptochos to help or contact Andrea Tiggas, [adtiggas@msn.com](mailto:adtiggas@msn.com) or 612.239.1522. Many hands make light work.

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# Philoptochos News

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## **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!



*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](mailto:lisatucci71@gmail.com) or 612.599.0814

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# YAL News

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## **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:*

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 Jerezek, 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 January 5

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### *Ramen Noodles*

January's recipient is **Joyce Uptown Food Shelf**.

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

# Calendar of the Week

## **Sunday, December 29: Sunday after Nativity**

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

4:30 p.m. – Boys' GOYA Basketball Practice, *Great Hall*

6:00 p.m. – Senior GOYA Lock-In

## **Wednesday, January 1: Circumcision of Our Lord; Saint Basil**

*Church Office Closed.*

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

## **Friday, January 3**

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

6:00 p.m. – Royal Hours for Holy Theophany

## **Saturday, January 4**

*No Bible Study*

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## **Sunday, January 5: Eve of Theophany**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Waters

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

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## **Monday, January 6: Holy Theophany**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Waters

## 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.*



## Seeking the Faith

*Just learning about Orthodoxy? Relatively new to Orthodoxy?* Please join us for our Seekers group in the Fireside Room. This is a chance to get together to learn more. Led by Presvytera Alexandra Houck. This class is a supplement—not a substitute—to our MEOCCA Catechism Course\* that meets at St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

### MEETING DATES

- January 19
- February 2
- February 23
- March 16
- April 6

*Meet in the Fireside Room, after Communion, about 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.*

### Topics will include:



Prayer life, how we read the Bible, various services of the Church, living the Church year/seasons of the Church, Church culture and etiquette, Lent, saints, icons, and building an Orthodox mindset.



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

\*For the MEOCCA Catechism Course, visit: <https://meocca.org/our-faith/cooperative-catechism>

“Every stroke of the clock tells us: You now have one hour less until you must cross the threshold into life after death. Do not be seduced by the momentary sweetness of sin which vanishes like a dream, leaving the soul empty, ailing, anguishing.”

— Saint John of Kronstadt

## Daily Bible Readings

### *Monday, December 30*

II Timothy 2:20-26 • Mark 12:13-17

### *Tuesday, December 31*

II Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4 • Mark 11:11-23

### *Wednesday, January 1: Circumcision of Our Lord; Saint Basil*

Colossians 2:8-12 • Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

### *Thursday, January 2*

*Hebrews 5:4-10* • John 3:1-15

### *Friday, January 3*

Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-10 • John 1:18-28

### *Saturday, January 4*

I Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5 • Matthew 3:1-6


### *Sunday, January 5: The Sunday Before Theophany*

II Timothy 4:5-8 • Mark 1:1-8



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

3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408-3399

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

*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)

Weekly Bulletin Submission Deadline: Mondays