



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2025

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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



Happy New Year! Καλή Χρονιά!



Image: Blessing of the Waters at the harbor of Thessaloniki, Greece, January 6, 2018

The feast of the Epiphany, or more accurately Theophany, is celebrated on January 6 and marks the manifestation of the Trinitarian God during the baptism of Jesus Christ in the river Jordan. On this day, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, and the voice of God the Father proclaimed Christ as His beloved Son. For Orthodox Christians worldwide, this feast is also known as the Blessing of the Waters, a time when Christ is called upon to sanctify not only the water but all of creation, restoring it to its original goodness. Blessed water, known as *αγιασμός (agiasmós)*, is distributed among the faithful as a reminder of Christ’s presence and the sanctification of the world.

The feast is often followed by the blessing of seas, lakes, or rivers, with a priest immersing a cross into the water as the Troparion of the Feast is chanted: “When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest...” Afterward, young men and boys dive into the water to retrieve the cross. The one who retrieves the cross is believed to be especially blessed for the year.

Holy Theophany Worship Schedule

Friday, January 3, Royal Hours for Holy Theophany
 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 5, Sunday Before Holy Theophany
 8:30 a.m., Orthos – 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters

Monday, January 6, Holy Theophany
 8:30 a.m., Orthos – 9:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters

(Complete worship schedule for January on next page)

Our Life Together

Birth

Cora Anne

Parents:
Joshua and Ellen Richter
December 5, 2024

Baptism

Collette Christine

Parents:
William and Lisa Wahlers
December 1, 2024

Vincent David

Parents:
Jack and Natalie Wahlers
December 1, 2024

Deaths

Peter C. Boosalis

November 30, 2024

Larry Dunham

December 6, 2024

Edward Atcas

December 8, 2024

May their memories be eternal.

Fellowship and Study Groups

Byzantine Chant Class

Classes resume on
Tuesday, January 14
6:30 p.m., Classroom #2

Koinonia

Thursday, January 16
6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Men's Fellowship

Fridays, January 3 and 17
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

On winter break. Watch the
bulletin for 2025 schedule.

Intercessory Prayer

On break during January

Women's Bible Study

On break during January

“Make us worthy,
Lord, to serve those
throughout the world
who live and die in
poverty or hunger.
Give them, through our
hands, this day their
daily bread; and by our
understanding love, give
peace and joy. Amen.”

—Mother Teresa

Share YourShelf

January's recipient is

JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

diapers and wipes, toothbrushes and
toothpaste, Ramen Noodles

Sunday, January 5

Ramen Noodles

Sunday, January 12

Cereal (both hot and cold)

Sunday, January 19

Canned Meal – large cans (i.e. chili /
pork and beans)

Sunday, January 26

Coffee and Tea

www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org



Donate Online
Visit the site, then
“Donate.”

Note from the Office

The church office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1, in
observance of New Year's Day.
Have a blessed New Year!

Weekend Worship Schedule

Saturdays

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Schedule

Friday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 5

Sunday before

Holy Theophany

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy and Blessing of
the Waters – 9:30 a.m.

Great Vespers for

Holy Theophany – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 6

Holy Theophany

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy and Blessing of
the Waters – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 17

Saint Anthony the Great

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 18

Saints Athanasios and Cyril

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.



Thursday, January 30

The Three Hierarchs

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Parish News & Events

St. Mary's Church Staff

Proistamenos

Fr. Timothy Sas

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

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

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

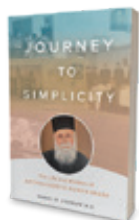
Nicholas P. Santrizos



General Assembly

January 26, 11:30 a.m.

Saint Mary's Winter General Assembly will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 26, in the Great Hall. The sole agenda item is the approval of the 2025 budget. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend.



In the Bookstore...

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.



Greek Dance Practices Resume

Tuesday, December 10

The Greek dance program will resume practices starting Monday, January 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and going through March 22. We will be practicing for the Greek Independence Day program on Sunday, March 23. All children, ages 6 to 18 years old are welcome to join this program. Please register by January 10 to Tessie Bourdamis or Jim Canelake.



SAINT OLYMPIA
* THE DEACONESS *

A Ministry for Girls!

Saint Olympia Ministry Events

Mark your calendars for upcoming St. Olympic activity dates:

- **Saturday, January 11**
Help Undecorate Christmas Trees
- **Sunday, January 12**
After Sunday School: Undecorate the Nave

More dates and activities to come. We are looking forward to another year of serving our parish.



Blood Drive

Celebrating
National Blood
Donor Month



Hellenic Sons Squadron 129, Sons of the American Legion Blood Drive

Saturday, January 25
8:00AM - 1:00PM

Location: St. Mary's Greek
Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408

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



888.GIVE.BLD • mbc.org

Prepare to donate

-  Eat well and hydrate
-  Bring a photo ID
-  Feel good and symptom free
-  Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
-  Meet minimum weight requirements
-  Save time! Answer your health history at mbc.org/iDonate

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit mbc.org/eligibility.



Missions and Outreach

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who supported Missions and Outreach in 2024. We look forward to continuing our dedication to missions in 2025 and cannot do it without you. Here are some updates we'd like to share with you as we ring in the new year.

From FOCUS Minnesota

The holidays here at FOCUS are a truly beautiful example of the love and support we get from the Orthodox community here in the Twin Cities. This Thanksgiving we served 300 meals consisting of turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, a roll and pie. We had volunteers sign up to provide the food and their time, spending the evening connecting with the community and people we serve. We had FOX news channel 9 come down and film some of what we do and they wrote an article about us!

This December brings many opportunities to contribute in making someone's life a little better in the Capitol Heights neighborhood. December 21 will be our Christmas food shelf, where we expect to serve over 100 families. We also have our blanket drive where we hand out new blankets so people can stay warm. In addition to all of that, Sunday the 22 is our holiday meal! We will serve in the same style as the Thanksgiving meal and expect a large turnout.

Laraine Pennington, Administrative Coordinator
FOCUS Minnesota
(651) 222-0712

Thank You!

Thanks to all the St. Mary's parishioners and friends in Christ who donated food, clothing, blankets, and financial assistance to FOCUS for this well needed service to our neighbors.

March for Life



It is that time of year again. The Minnesota annual March for Life takes place at noon on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at the Capital Building in St. Paul.

From the MCCL website:

Mark your calendars now: The 2025 MCCL March for Life is coming soon, and we need you there! The March, held on the anniversary of abortion's legalization, will recognize the lives lost and women and families wounded by Minnesota's extreme

abortion policies—and call for respect and protection for everyone. More information about this year's March will be made available in the coming weeks.

Newcomers' and Ambassadors' Brunch

Sunday February 2, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

We are excited to announce the return of the St. Mary's Missions and Outreach Newcomer Ambassador program. The Ambassador Program pairs newcomers with an ambassador to help introduce them to various ministries and other activities St. Mary's has to offer. Please join us in the Terrace Room for brunch on Sunday, February 2, 11:30 a.m., in the Terrace Room. Please RSVP by January 29 to: missionsandoutreach@stmarysgoc.org to help us plan for food. Walk-ins are welcome. Questions? Come talk to us at the welcome table after Liturgy or send us an email.



Terri Leckas' Mission Trip to Albania

Christ's call to "Go and make disciples of all nations" came to life for me in Albania.

I experienced the ancient church made new again, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through human hearts and hands.

When Communism fell, the church was set free; but rebuilding the Orthodox Church in Albania meant reestablishing it from the ground up. New churches are being built, existing churches are being

(continued on page 11)

Philoptochos



Philoptochos extends warm wishes for a joyful and blessed New Year in 2025 to you and yours! May God bless you and your families with health, happiness, and peace in the coming year.

Blessings are like friends who love and labor with us. Let's raise our voices in praise and give thanks to the Lord so all Philoptochos friends can hear us.

Upcoming Activities

January Philoptochos Meetings

January 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – Fireside Room

January 19, 11:45 a.m.

Philoptochos Meeting, Terrace Room

We will approve the budget for 2025

Vasilopita Cutting

January 11, 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers will cut Vasilopita on Saturday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m. which will be distributed on Sunday, January 12, after Liturgy. You can purchase your loaves during the Coffee Hour! Proceeds go to St. Basil Academy. The National Philoptochos Society purchased the estate that became St. Basil Academy in 1944, and has responded to the needs of the Academy and its children for more than 70 years. Located in Garrison, New York, St. Basil Academy is a home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.

Undecorate the Church

We will begin “undecorating” the church and halls in early January, following Holy Theophany, and would greatly appreciate your help!

Schedule:

Friday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Take down the decorations from the trees

Sunday, January 12 after Liturgy

Return the trees to storage

If you can lend a hand, please visit the Philoptochos table to sign up. Thank you in advance for your support!

Membership Drive Begins

Membership in Philoptochos is a wonderful way to connect with the women in our parish community as well as supporting our local community at large through our Orthodox ministry. Watch for how you can join or renew your Philoptochos membership beginning this month! Our membership drive will run through March 2025.

Book Club

The Book Club will take a break in January, but stay tuned for details about our next meeting in February! If you're interested in joining or reconnecting with the group, please reach out to Katherine Boosalis at katherine@boosalis.net. (Please note: If you previously declined a meeting invitation, your email might have been inadvertently omitted from future invitations.)

Thank You...

- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for the children and mothers of Healing House—your generosity means so much!
- Thank you to our volunteers who hosted the Christmas Coffee Hour!
- A big thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to beautifully decorate the church for our Christmas celebration. Your efforts really brought so much spark to our Christmas Celebration!

Watch for more postings of events in the parish weekly bulletins and sign up to attend!

Follow Saint Mary's Philoptochos on Social Media

 Facebook



 Instagram



Previous issues of



THE MESSENGER

are available to view
on our website



VIEW NOW.

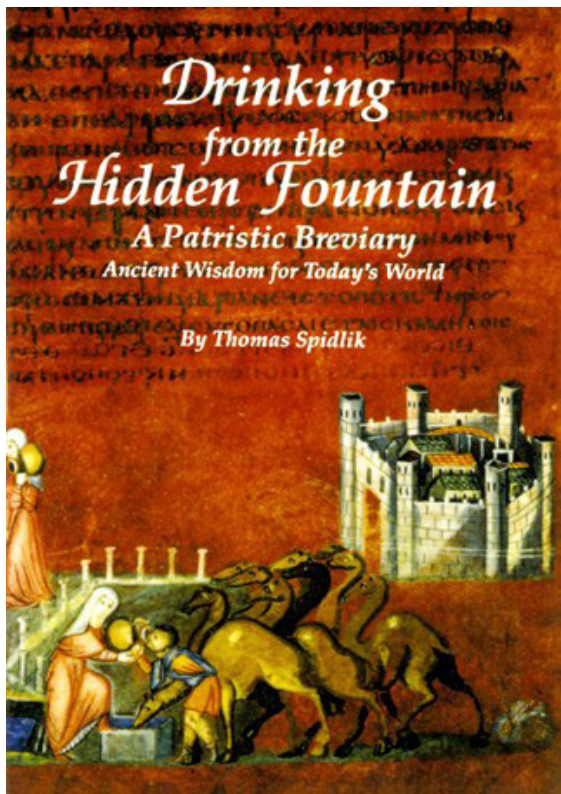
SCAN THE CODE.

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

In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



In Orthodox Christianity the Church Fathers are vitally important, being, following Scripture, the key sources the Church has looked to and drawn from for direction, guidance, clarification, and inspiration. We celebrate their feast days and acknowledge their great importance, but how many have actually read the Church Fathers? Reading them roots us and grounds us in the love of God, helping to make us firm in the faith.

Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary is, as the addendum attached to the title reveals—**Ancient Wisdom for Today's World**. This book contains a year of readings from the Church Fathers. Each month has an overarching theme and each daily passage is a page or less in length on a topic related to the reader's daily life, worship, and/or prayer. This is a great resource for meeting and learning from many Fathers of the Church whose texts are remarkably accessible and clearly relevant to readers today. A helpful addition to the core material is a section with a brief biography of each person quoted in this book.

Thomas Spidlik compiled this breviary and wrote a prologue that is an introduction and invitation to

read the Church Fathers. One could say that in many ways the prologue itself is inspired writing. Spidlik begins with the epigraph: Every believer is an 'amen' who will become an 'alleluia.' (7) His whole prologue, while being informative, is also formative with sections titled "Christians bring the Church to birth," "Dwarfs on the shoulders of giants," "Recapturing the experiences of the Church's youth," "We are God's workshop," "The finest exposition of the Bible is our life," and "Some things will pass away: some remain." In the last section of the prologue, Spidlik writes a—his—threefold wish:

A wish that every reader may rediscover that the thought and the witness of the Fathers is in his or her blood, as they are in the blood of the whole Church.

A wish that every reader may be referred by the Fathers back to the Bible. They are simply the shoulders of giants onto which we can climb to gain a deeper perception of the Old and New Testaments.

A wish that every reader may learn from the Fathers that the Bible is the book of life and that all life is discipleship in the school of the Word. (17)

Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary is an antidote to a type of near-sightedness that can occur when one only reads contemporary writing. It is a rich source of information and enlightenment and guidance from Church Fathers with wisdom that is timeless—and for all times.

A note about the compiler of this breviary:

Thomas Spidlik (1919–2010) was a Jesuit priest from Czechoslovakia with close ties to the Orthodox Church. He studied **The Philokalia** deeply and was strongly influenced by it. For many years he was a lecturer at the Pontifical Oriental Institute and also taught at the Pontifical Gregorian University, teaching with a strong focus on Eastern Christianity. He was ordained a Cardinal in 2003. He wrote extensively about Eastern Christianity.



**ST. MARY'S
BOOKSTORE**

Please visit the bookstore for a large selection of books and icons and many other items for people of all ages. Gift certificates are available.

Children and Youth News



Parish Night

Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

A prayer service precedes a meal and session on Feast Days. HOPE, JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and Adults are invited!

Basketball Practices

Sundays, January 5 and 12, after Coffee Hour

HOPE (Kindergarten – grade 2) and JOY (grades 3 – 5)

Sunday, January 19, after Coffee Hour
GOYA Girls' Basketball Practice

Sunday, January 26, after General Assembly Meeting
GOYA Boys' Basketball Practice

St. Mary's Night at the Timberwolves

Friday, March 21

Join us on Friday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m., for the Timber Wolves vs. Pelicans game at Target Center. After the game, you'll have the opportunity to step onto the court and try your hand at shooting free throws! The cost is \$40 per person (first come, first served - only 40 tickets are available!) Your spot will be reserved once you've submitted the \$40 to Scott Rudquist (cash or check made payable to St. Mary's). Reservations are due by March 1, but don't wait! For more ticket or outing information, contact Scott at 612.812.1216.

Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

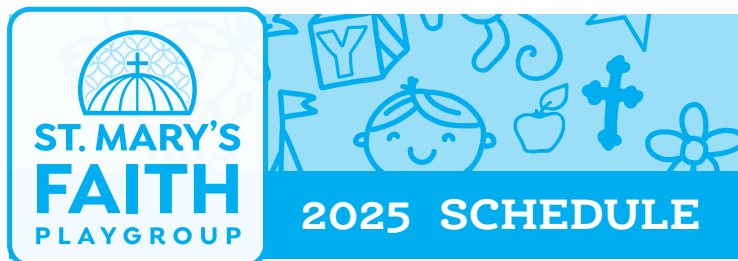
To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: Liturgia (Worship), 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.



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.



Dear St. Mary's families, join us for another great season of fun, fellowship, and faith.

Saturdays 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall
JANUARY 11, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 15, APRIL 15

FAITH Playgroup is for children birth and their parents/guardians through pre-K. Meet us in the Great Hall for social and play time. FAITH Playgroup is a wonderful time to play in the gym and meet fellow parishioners. Caregivers, grandparents, and older siblings are welcome!

Please contact Lea Hoft if you have questions:
Angelea.hoelt@gmail.com | 206.779.1354

Stewardship



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In 2025, we are continuing our stewardship theme of “Ownership, Engagement and Generosity: Commit to St. Mary’s.” We thank the many parishioners who have already submitted their Time and Talent pledge forms for 2025. Thank you for committing to Christ and His Church!



Below is a beautiful testimony from one of our parishioners, Ben Wehr, who shared his message of Stewardship following the Liturgy on November 10, 2024

There is a phrase my brothers and I say often to our parents. Sometimes we say it to bug our parents, but sometimes it’s truly because we want them to recognize a certain situation. We say to them, “But, think about the children!”. To my parent’s disgust with groans and sighs, we are often right. But...what about the children?

Stewardship in Greek is *oikonomos*, which literally translates to “economics”, or “household management”. Stewardship is literally, “taking care of the house”. The aspect of the house that I will be touching on today is that of the young people- the next generation of the Church.

There is a reason in the Orthodox Church why we baptize, chrismate, and commune young people. The young people that seem young now, will be the ones serving the Church in many capacities in the future. They are the future chanters, presvyteras, priests, sacred bakers, youth mentors,

teachers, philoptochos members and leaders of the church. They are critical for the survival of the Apostolic Faith. If there are no young people, there will be no Church in the future. Young people are full members of the Church, and are just as valuable to the Lord Jesus as any other person God has created.

Before we go any further, I want to take a moment to recognize the importance of the Church. Why go to Church in the first place? What good does the Church community really do for a person? First and foremost, it is a requirement from scripture that we attend Church. Not only did Jesus Christ tell us “do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19), but Christ also says that “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I dwell with them” (Matthew 18:20). The Church community brings us closer to Christ not only through our gathering, but also through the holy services and sacraments of the Church. We are made for Union with God. Originally, all human beings were created to serve as priest and priestess rulers who would take care of the earth and offer it back to God in worship. Unfortunately, as we all know, that did not last. Thankfully, since God sent His Son to us, Christ established the Church not only for the foretaste of His Kingdom to come, but to learn about Him, and for our own healing and sanctification. Attending Church is not merely a rule to be followed, but it is putting the Lord in the center of our lives. When we attend Church and support its ministries, we are telling God, “I love you”. As our own Fr. George Dokos put it in his book, *Made for Union, an Introduction to the Spirituality of St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain*, “It is during the sacred services of the Church that proper worship and thanks are offered to the Holy Trinity.” Yes, individual prayer, worship, and Christian life is good and important, but we need a community. We need each other to grow closer to our Creator. As God said in Genesis, “It is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). This is the importance of having a Church community. So that we can become in Union with our God directly through our *koinonia* or community with one another in the holy services, and through the sacraments. We are all sick spiritually, and thankfully, we have a hospital- The Church.

Now, back to stewardship and youth. Today, more than ever, the youth need a well-functioning hospital for their souls. In this constantly shifting and changing world, that oftentimes can be filled with false imaginations and unholy things, young people need an example, a fixed point, so that the “gates of Hades shall not prevail against [them]” (Matthew 16:18).

Stewardship

Being a steward is yes, giving of your time, talents, and treasures. These are undoubtedly important and necessary in the Christian life. But another aspect of stewardship is caring for, and being an example to the young people of the community. As I mentioned earlier, they are critical for the future of the Church. If there are no young people, there will be no Church in the future. Young people more than ever need good, loving, Christ-like examples. We need to see love in action.

In this morning's gospel reading, we heard about the parable of the Good Samaritan. We heard that the priest and the Levite walked right past the man who was beaten. They may have had the love of God in their minds, but they didn't put the love of God into their actions. They avoided using their love of God for others. How often do we too have the gospel in our hearts and minds, but don't do anything about it? I know I'm guilty of doing so.

Young people are more observant than one might think, we learn by seeing, doing and habit. When an elder purposefully makes time to help a homeless person, so will we. When a parent stops their busy tasks to say a prayer, eventually a child will learn to do the same. And when a God parent is kind, eliminates foul language, participates in ministries like "Share your Shelf" food donations, receives the sacraments regularly, and loves others, we will quickly learn to do the same.

One of my favorite services is the Service of the Lamentations on Good Friday evening. Not only is that service beautiful with the hymns, the flower-decked

tomb and procession, but the Church is full. As a young person, it fills me with so much joy when the Church is full. I wish that the Church was that full for every Sunday and feast day. What's a better way to offer your time than to offer it to Christ by coming to Church to worship Him? In the Service of the Lamentations, one of the hymns says, "Every Generation offers at your burial". Every generation offers to Christ its love, devotion and service.

God has blessed us beyond any expectation. There is so much to be thankful for. He has given so many gifts to us. In the words of a deacon I met at Holy Cross Seminary in Boston, "The way to love God back, the way to express gratitude to God for the blessings of God's love, is to love all that God has created" (Fr. Andrew Bushell).

Being a steward is taking care of the future generations by teaching, encouraging, and expressing love and being a loving presence to the young people. St. Mary's has and God willing will continue to serve myself and other young people as a hospital for our souls. The ways that I have been loved by this community are so beautiful. May all of us- including me an 18 year old, remember that our stewardship is not just fulfilling our pledges, but preparing and setting up the next generation to be able to care for the Church, so that the gospel of righteousness may continue to serve as Light to all generations, and for the glorification of the One, True God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, from now until eternity. Amen.

Need a new Time, Talent, and Financial Pledge Form? Scan the Code.

Saint Mary's Stewardship

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.**

Missions and Outreach

(continued from page 5)

repaired. Under the inspired direction of Archbishop Anastasios, the church is training clergy, restoring damaged icons and writing new ones, carving and installing new fixtures like iconostasis and chant stands. Candles are being produced in a factory owned and operated by the church. The Diocese printing press and publishing company produces bibles in the local language, Liturgical texts and Orthodox books.



Father Anthony's book, **Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home** has become a foundation for Albanian families learning to bring our Orthodox faith into their homes. What a wonderful connection to our parish!

OCMC's role in this growth has been pivotal. Our missionaries are working directly with the Central Children's Office, children at the Home of Hope, students at Logos University, and are leaders in worldwide conversations across all faith backgrounds.



Please contact me if you would like to learn more about the resurrection of Orthodoxy in Albania, I would love to share this miracle with you, your group or your family.

Terri Leckas
612.710.0609



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* that meets at St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

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.

MEETING DATES

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

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



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

Saint Basil

Saint Basil the Great
is Commemorated
on January 1



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2025

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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Minneapolis, MN 55408
stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org
612.825.9595 | 612.825.9283 Fax

stmarysgoc.org



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Circumcision of Christ</i> <i>Saint Basil the Great</i> 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 6:00pm-Royal Hours	4 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
5 <i>Sunday before Theophany</i> "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters 12:30pm-HOPE/JOY Bball Practice 5:00pm-Great Vespers	6 <i>Holy Theophany</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters	7 <i>Synaxis of John the Baptist</i> 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	8 6:15pm-Parish Night	9	10	11 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-FAITH Play Group 5:00pm-Great Vespers
12 <i>Sunday after Theophany</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:30pm-HOPE/JOY Bball Practice	13	14 6:15pm-Parish Council 6:30pm-Byzantine Chant Class 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board	15 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing	16 6:30pm-Koinonia	17 <i>Saint Anthony the Great</i> 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	18 <i>Saints Athanasios & Cyril</i> 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Healing House Dinner</i>
19 <i>Twelfth Sunday of Luke</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:15am-Prayers for the Unborn 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 10:45am-Seekers' Class 11:30am-Missions/Outreach 11:30am-Philoptochos Mtg. 12:30pm-Girls' GOYA Bball Practice	20	21 6:30pm-Byzantine Chant Class	22 <i>Saint Timothy</i> 6:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	24	25 <i>Saint Gregory</i> 8:00am-1:00pm-Blood Drive 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers
26 <i>Fifteenth Sunday of Luke</i> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-General Assembly 12:30pm-Boys' GOYA Bball Practice	27 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice	28 6:30pm-Byzantine Chant Class	29 6:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	30 <i>The Three Hierarchs</i> 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	31	