



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

February 2, 2025

Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple;
Gabriel the New Martyr of Constantinople; Jordan the New Martyr;
Agathadoros the Martyr of Cappadocia

Morning Gospel: Luke 2:25-32

Tone: Grave

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, carried in the arms of Simeon the Just,
we sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Small Entrance

Hymn of the Presentation of the Lord, First Tone

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from
you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You
too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the
Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

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!

Resurrection Hymn, Grave Tone

By your cross, O Lord, you destroyed death; to the thief you opened
paradise. The myrrh-bearers' sorrow you transformed into joy, and you sent
your apostles forth to proclaim that you had risen from the dead, Christ our
God, bestowing on all the world your great mercy.

Repeat the Hymn of the Presentation of the Lord, above

Kontakion for the Presentation of the Lord, First Tone

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your
presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You
saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at
war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.

Epistle..... Hebrews 7:7-17

BRETHREN, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel..... Luke 2:22-40

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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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Megalynarion
(Instead of “It is truly meet...” on page 69)

Theotokos, as the hope of us Christians, one and all,
guard and shelter and protect those who put their hope in you.
In the shadow and the letter of the Law, we the faithful perceive the decree:
Consecrate to God every male, the first-born opening the womb.
Now the unoriginate Father’s first-born Logos and Son is also
first-born of a virgin Mother, and we magnify Him.

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

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Communion Ushering Changes – Starting February

Beginning in February, we will implement two ushering changes for Communion:

1. **Children’s Communion Line:** After the children’s sermon, ushers will direct children to form two lines in the center aisles of the north and south sections. Parents needing to assist their children should meet them there. Teachers should take communion first via any available line.
2. **Revised Communion Flow:** We are returning to the previous communion flow for the north and south sections. You will be directed to the aisles between the two sections to receive communion (where children will be staged). Your return path depends on the priest’s location:
 - By the corner of the solea: Exit via the aisle in front of the north/south pews.
 - In the center section: Exit down the center aisle and return via the perimeter.

Please remain standing reverently until an usher directs you forward. Fr. Tim will provide a reminder before communion. Thank you for your cooperation!

Today

Prosforo is provided by **Barbara Nichols**

40-Day Churaching: **Eleni**
Parents: **Benjamin & Matina Laiti**

The coffee hour today is hosted by
several Parish Council members.

*If you would like to host a Sunday coffee hour,
please contact the church office. There is an
abundance of Sundays available!*

Announcements

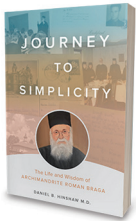
Welcome visitors and guests!

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.



Seniors' Bible Study

Please join us for our Seniors' Bible Study! We will be studying the *Epistle to Titus* on Tuesdays, 11:00 to noon, February 4 and 18 and March 4 and 18. Zoom will also be available, but you must sign up for the distribution through Realm.



Women's Book Club Book

The Women's Book Club will resume book discussions on Tuesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. Our book for discussion is, *Journey to Simplicity: The Life and Wisdom of Archimandrite Roman Braga* by Daniel B. Hinshaw, MD. It is available in our bookstore. This gathering will not be a potluck dinner as earlier advertised.



OCMC Fundraiser Date Change

The OCMC fundraiser scheduled for Thursday, February 6, has been postponed until after Pascha. The rescheduled date for the fundraiser is **Saturday, May 3.**



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. **Please place all donated items in a plastic garbage bag for ease of handling. Paper bags tear too easily.**

FOCUS' clothing closet is looking for volunteer help for either Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. if you can offer some time, Please contact: lbaker-pennington@focusna.org



*Scan to
Sign-up*

OCF U of M Meal Hosts Wanted

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at the University of Minnesota is seeking meal donations from parishioners in the Twin Cities area for their bi-weekly meetings. Anyone interested in signing up to provide a meal is invited to do so by scanning the code. For more information, email John Taylor at: tayl1998@umn.edu



*Scan to Help
Support the
Conference*

YAL Chicago Conference Support

The YAL Chicago Conference needs your support! Our goal is to bring together young adults from across the country for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and community service. This year's conference will occur February 14-17, 2025, and it is our fifth year. The weekend aims to help attendees renew their commitment to faith and heritage through spiritual workshops, guest speakers, community service projects, and social events. Your donation will empower us to subsidize registration costs, fund our service project with Project HOPE and facilitate a rewarding weekend.

A general donation to our conference will be broken down as so:

- 50% towards subsidizing registration costs
- 25% towards the Project HOPE Service event
- 25% towards transportation, venue rental and meals for attendees

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity. Together, we can create a transformative experience for our young adults and strengthen their bonds to our Greek Orthodox Church.



*Scan for
Application*

CrossRoad 2.0 Young Adult Conference

Application Deadline: February 15

Join fellow Orthodox young adults from across North America (ages 21-35) for a special 5-day experience from Wednesday, March 26th – Sunday, March 30th, 2025, at Pompano Beach, Florida. Participants will engage in fellowship, learning and moments of retreat and introspection. Don't miss this unique opportunity to deepen your faith and develop a leadership mindset that can support your engagement in your parish. The Registration Deadline is February, 15. Registration includes hotel, meals, and all conference supplies. The Registration cost is \$499 per person for a single occupancy and \$299 per person for double occupancy. Scan the code to apply or learn more about the conference at: crossroadinstitute.org

Philoptochos News



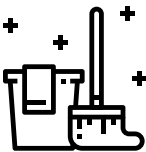
Philoptochos Membership Drive

This year, our membership theme is “engagement.” You can be involved with Philoptochos in many ways, and one of them is by joining a committee. We are highlighting one committee a week during our drive! First up is the Board of Directors. This may not technically be considered a “committee,” but it comprises the elected officers and directors who provide leadership, guidance, and strategic direction to advance our mission and ensure the successful execution of our initiatives. If you have an interest in participating on the Board of Directors, it’s a wonderful opportunity to serve in a leadership role. Board elections are coming up this May, so watch for more information! As a reminder, all women of the Greek Orthodox faith who are at least 18 years of age are eligible to join Philoptochos, even if you are brand new to our parish! For all renewing and new members, be sure to visit the Philoptochos table to receive a small token of appreciation and make your engagement as a member official!



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.



Church Kitchen Refrigerator Monthly Clean Up

More volunteers are needed to help with keeping our church kitchen refrigerators clean. We need individuals to sign-up to clean out old and expired food and clean up any spills each month. Please stop by our table to pick a month you would be able to help.



Sweet Sunday - Next Sunday, February 9

Sweet Sunday is a cherished Philoptochos fundraiser where we host coffee hour after Liturgy and collect donations to support charitable organizations. All proceeds this year will go to benefit the Philoxenia Charities in Rochester, Minnesota. Philoxenia Charities offers free lodging to patients/families of Mayo Clinic who are facing serious medical conditions or undergoing major surgery. This is a charity that has been and continues to be used by our parishioners. There are many Sweet Sunday volunteer opportunities, so please plan to help with this event by signing up at the Philoptochos table on Sundays. You can help with set-up, serving, and cleanup as well as bringing a sweet treat, breads, fruit, nuts, etc....and plan to wear red that day!



Koliva/Sitari Workshop - Friday, February 21

If you are interested in our koliva/sitari making workshop, please sign up at the Philoptochos table within the next two weeks. The class will be on Friday, February 21, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. In this hands-on workshop, you'll create a koliva/memorial wheat tray. Koliva is boiled wheat combined with ingredients such as almonds, walnuts, pomegranate seeds, raisins, parsley, and powdered sugar. Koliva is used during the first Saturday of Lent and the two Saturdays of Soul services prior to the start of Lent. Koliva is also used during memorial services. Our first Saturday of Souls will be Saturday, February 22, so we will be holding this workshop the evening before. Participants: please bring a small bowl or tray.



Prayer Ministry

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; Kathryn, Tom, Gina M., Elly K., Thomas, Panos, Connie, Stan, Evdoxia, 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, 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, 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, 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 February 9



Peanut Butter

February's recipient is **Simpson Food Pantry**.

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

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, February 2: Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

* *“The Messenger” News Item Deadline, March Issue*

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

10:45 a.m. – Seekers’ Class, *Fireside Room*

Tuesday, February 4

11:00 a.m. – Seniors’ Bible Study, *Fireside Room*

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

7:00 p.m. – Women’s Book Club, *Fireside Room*

Wednesday, February 5

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, *Nave*

Thursday, February 6: Saint Photios

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

The OCMC Fundraiser has been postponed until Saturday, May 3

Friday, February 7

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

Saturday, February 8

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

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

Sunday, February 9: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Triodion Begins

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

after Liturgy – Sweet Sunday Coffee Hour hosted by Philoptochos

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 form by March 31, 2025.*

POCM CHOIR PRESENTS

LET US
draw near
IN FAITH

A CONCERT OF LENTEN MUSIC

SATURDAY 7PM
FEB 22, 2025

FREE-WILL OFFERING TO BENEFIT FOCUS MN
ST MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
3450 IRVING AVE S, MINNEAPOLIS

Quick Links

Stay in Contact



To join our mailing list or update your contact information, scan the code.

Digital Donation



To make a donation or stewardship offering, scan the code.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, February 3

Hebrews 9:11-14 • Luke 2:25-38

Tuesday, February 4

I Peter 3:10-22 • Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday, February 5

I Peter 4:1-11 • Mark 12:28-37

Thursday, February 6: Saint Photios

Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 • John 10:9-16

Friday, February 7

II Peter 1:1-10 • Mark 13:1-8

Saturday, February 8

Ephesians 2:4-10 • Matthew 10:16-22

Sunday, February 9: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Hebrews 7:7-17 • Luke 2:22-40



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