



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

February 16, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Pamphilus the Martyr & his Companions;
Flavianos, Patriarch of Constantinople; Romanos the Younger.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Tone: First

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, First Tone

Although your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, you rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise you: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom. Glory to your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

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 Presentation, above

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

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

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

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

Kontakion of the Prodigal Son, Third Tone

I revolted senselessly out of Your fatherly glory; I have squandered sinfully all of the riches You gave me. Hence to You, using the Prodigal's words, I cry out, I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father. O receive me in repentance, I pray, and treat me as one of Your hired hands.

Epistle.....I Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

Gospel..... Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard

music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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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.
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Communion Ushering Changes

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 **Gina Nelson**

The coffee hour today is hosted by
**Donnarae Louricas, Joanna Morgan, Bea Murdakes,
Barbara Pappajohn, and Arlene Theros.**

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



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Sign up to host on an upcoming Sunday. It doesn't have to celebrate any special occasion. Do it for the joy of sharing! The available Sundays are: February 23, March 30, April 6 and 27. Contact the church office if interested or have questions.



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



Lenten Dinner Host Openings

Does your church group or family want to host a Wednesday Lenten dinner and raise some funds for a worthy cause? We have two dates this Lent that are still available. They are March 26 and April 9. Contact David in the church office (david@stmarysgoc.org) to get on the schedule.



Youth

Calling all Senior GOYAns! Please join us on Sunday, February 23, as we embark on a journey to visit Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in St. Paul. A van will be departing from St. Mary's GOC at 9:00 a.m. After our visit, we will be heading out for a delicious meal together.



Scan to
Sign-up

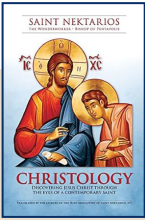
OCF U of M Meal Hosts Wanted

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



Attention Prophoro Bakers:

The bookstore has a good supply of proshoro seals to purchase. For all who have taken or will be taking a proshoro workshop with Toni Bazakos, please know these seals have her stamp of approval.



Christology: Discovering Jesus Christ Through the Eyes of a Contemporary Saint by Saint Nektarios is the next book the Philoptochos Book Club participants will be reading and discussing. Copies are available in the bookstore.

While Lent is a liturgical season of fasting, it is also a good season to feast on edifying reading for spiritual growth and development. Please visit the bookstore for a broad selection of books for people of all ages. Complimentary copies of "A Rule of Prayer for Great Lent" are available.



St. Mary's Night at the Timberwolves

Join us on, Monday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., for the Timber Wolves vs. Indiana Pacers 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 (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.

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.*

Philoptochos News



Philoptochos Membership Drive

Our membership drive is ongoing—thank you to those who have already joined! This year’s theme is **Engagement**, and we’d like to share some details about how to engage with our committees. This week, we’re focusing on the History Committee!

Did you know our Philoptochos chapter is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year? If you have a passion for history, consider engaging with our History Committee! This committee plays a vital role in preserving our chapter’s legacy through creative initiatives, such as collecting photos and documenting key milestones. Your contributions could help shape a commemorative “yearbook,” ensuring our story is shared for generations to come. Watch for further details soon, regarding a history project to help celebrate our 80 years, which you can possibly assist with.

Stop by the Philoptochos table to drop off your membership form, and we have extras if you need one! You can also pick up a small token of thanks to celebrate your engagement! As a reminder, the amount of your dues are self-directed with the first \$22.00 going to National and Metropolis. Anything above \$22.00 will stay with our local chapter, which will be used prayerfully and thoughtfully to fulfill our mission.



Koliva/Sitari Workshop - Friday, February 21

Please sign up at the Philoptochos Table Today!

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.

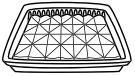
Philoptochos News



Philoptochos General Meeting

Sunday, February 23

Our next General Meeting is next Sunday, February 23, 11:45 a.m. Please plan to come if you are currently a member or if you are thinking about joining Philoptochos. Our guest speaker will be our own Terri Leckas, who will speak about her recent OCMC trip to Albania including her visit Home of Hope. Come hear about her experience as well as all the wonderful things coming up for Philoptochos in the next couple of months. Hope to see you there. Food will be provided.



Spring Fillo and Coffee Sale

February 23 – March 10

Orders for fillo and Sunday Best coffee will be taken on Sundays, February 23-March 9. Stop by the Philoptochos table and see Andrea Tiggas to place your order. The cost will be \$6.00 per pound for fillo and \$14 per pound for coffee and \$15 for K-cups. We will accept cash, checks, and credit cards (a small additional fee for cards). Pickup will be on March 16.



Church Kitchen Refrigerator Monthly Clean Up

More volunteers are needed again in 2025 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.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, February 16: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
after Liturgy – Newcomers’ Brunch, *Terrace Room*

Monday, February 17: Presidents’ Day

Church and Office closed.

6:00 p.m. – Greek Dance Practice, *Great Hall*

Tuesday, February 18

10:30 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer, *Nave*

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

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

6:30 p.m. – Philoptochos Board, *Fireside Room*

Wednesday, February 19

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Mailing, *Fireside Room*

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, *Nave*

Thursday, February 20

6:30 p.m. – Koinonia, *Fireside Room*

Friday, February 21

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

6:00 p.m. – Koliva Workshop, *Kitchen*

Saturday, February 22: Saturday of Souls

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

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

7:00 p.m. – FOCUS Benefit Concert, *Nave*

Sunday, February 22: Sunday of the Last Judgment

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

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

after Liturgy – Philoptochos Meeting, *Terrace Room*

1:00 p.m. – HOPE/JOY Basketball Event, *Great Hall*

“A passion which we allow to grow active within us through our own choice afterwards forces itself upon us against our will.”

— *Saint Mark the Ascetic*

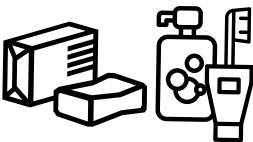


Prayer Ministry

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; Becky, Elizabeth, Yvonne, Fran, Kosta, Jim, 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, Karris, Corina, 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 23



Hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner; razors)

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

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

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

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



ST. MARY'S CAMP

EST. 1952

Saturday, June 28 – Friday, July 4, 2025
Camp Wapogasset • Amery, Wisconsin

A tradition of faith, fellowship, and joy.

By God's Grace, St. Mary's Summer Camp program has made a profoundly joyful impact on the lives of campers and staff. It is one week out of the year that provides a rare opportunity to live in true Orthodox community. **Youth entering school grades 3 through 12 in the fall of 2025 are eligible to attend.**

CAMP REGISTRATION WINDOW: MARCH 1-APRIL 15, 2025

Register between March 1-15 to get the early-bird reduced price.

For more information and to register, visit:

stmaryscamp.com



f Follow us @stmaryscamp on Facebook for updates
Email Questions to: **camp@stmaryscamp.com**

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ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Minneapolis, Minnesota

SAINT MARY'S VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



Just as the early settlers faced challenges on their journey west, Christians also encounter obstacles on the path to our heavenly promised land. At Vacation Church School, kids will learn what spiritual equipment they need, how to be courageous, who helps them along the way, and how to use grit and perseverance to stay on the Christian trail to paradise.

Join us for an unforgettable faith-filled adventure with lessons, crafts, snacks, and fun! Scan the code to register your child today!

For cowpokes 4 years old (and potty trained) through entering 6th grade in the fall
Helpers needed: 7-12th graders (in the fall).

REGISTER HERE



JUNE 16 - 20, 2025

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 17: Presidents' Day

II Timothy 2:1-10 • Luke 20:46-47; 21:1-4

Tuesday, February 18

I John 3:9-22 • Mark 14:10-42

Wednesday, February 19

I John 3:21-24; 4:1-11 • Mark 14:43-72; 15:1

Thursday, February 20

I John 4:20-21; 5:1-21 • Mark 15:1-15

Friday, February 21

II John 1:1-13 • Mark 15:20,22,25,33-41

Saturday, February 22

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 • Luke 21:8-9,25-27,33-36

Sunday, February 23: Judgment Sunday

I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 • Mark 16:1-8



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