

March 30, 2025 Sunday of St. John Climacus

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Commemoration

Sunday of Saint John Climacus; John Climacus the Righteous, author of The Divine Ladder of Ascent; Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Caesar, and Epaphroditos, the Apostles of the 70; Zacharias the New Martyr.

Morning Gospel: John 20:1-10

Tone: Grave

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, 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.

Hymn of Entrance

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above

Hymn of Saint John Climacus, Plagal Fourth Tone

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of 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!

Έν τῆ γενήσει τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῆ κοιμήσει τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες, En ti gennisi tin parthenian efilaxas en ti kimisi ton kosmon u katelipes, Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωήν, μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταις 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 Theotokos (Ti ipermacho), Plagal Fourth Tone

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

Gospel...... Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples

asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

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 Yourmost 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.

Megalynarion

In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, he who is God from all ages. By making your womb his throne he made you more spacious, more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation, all creation rejoices. Glory to you!

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

Today

Prosforo is provided by Ruta Kubits

Memorial Prayers today are offered for Nick Grammas (1 year)

The coffee hour today is hosted by Nancy Grammas and family in memory of Nick Grammas

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Members of our Missions and Outreach Committee are at the welcome and information table just inside the Great Hall, to the left, 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





Pledge Form Deadline is Tomorrow!

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 Monday, March 31, 2025.*



Clothes Closet Update

A Pause on Clothing: Continuing through April, there is a pause on accepting clothing donations to allow FOCUS to sort and hang what they have and to change over to the summer season. However, they do need purses, cosmetic bags, billfolds, backpacks, belts and closed-toed shoes.



focusmn.org Donate Online Visit the site, then "Donate Now."

Utility Assistance Program

One of the newer services at FOCUS is a Utility Assistance Program, now in its third year. Clients are referred to FOCUS through a case manager or social worker and May receive a one time grant up to \$500 to pay past due utility balance and avoid disconnection. If you would like to help in this Utility Assistance Program, please make a contribution to FOCUS MN, 550 Rice St., St Paul, MN 55103 or scan the code to donate.



Holy Week and Pascha Flowers

Contributions are being accepted for our Holy Week and Pascha flowers and greens. A form was recently sent with the April issue of The Messenger. Additional forms and envelopes are available at the stewardship table in the narthex. Please place the form and your donation in an envelope and drop it in the stewardship box. The deadline for contributions is Palm Sunday, April 13.



Saint Mary's Bookstore News

The bookstore will be having a book fair for church school families and friends on Sunday, April 6, in the hallway leading to the classrooms. Featuring gifts for Pascha, there will be lots of books and icons and other items for children of all ages and their parents.

Philoptochos / Women's Book Club Discussion



Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. The book for April will be *Christology: Discovering Jesus Christ Through the Eyes of a Contemporary Saint* by Saint Nektarios. It is available for purchase in the bookstore now! Need to sign up? Contact Katherine Boosalis (katherine@boosalis.net). (If you have declined a book club meeting invitation in the past, your email may have inadvertently been omitted in future invitations.)



Senior Citizens' Meeting – April 8

Saint Mary's Senior Citizens will meet on **Tuesday, April 8, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Terrace Room. **PLEASE NOTE the earlier start time**. We will enjoy a presentation by guest speaker Terri Leckas who will speak about her OCMC trip to Albania. Afterwards, we will celebrate all March and April birthdays and anniversaries, a delicious Lenten buffet luncheon hosted by all our officers, and a Lenten cake provided by Terri. A business meeting with announcements will follow. All St. Mary's seniors (55+) are invited to join our lively group. Dues are currently \$15 annually. For further information, please contact President Tessie Bourdamis or any current officer.



Lazarus Saturday Family Service Day April 12

We invite everyone to take part in our Lazarus Saturday Family Service Day. Matins begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Following Liturgy, we will join together for a potluck lunch. Please bring a Lenten dish to share. The Service Day projects will follow and include cleaning and preparing the church for Holy Week and plaiting palm crosses. It's a joy-filled day! *A sign-up will be available soon*.



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; FOCUS Minnesota; Our brothers and sisters serving in the Armed Forces throughout the world especially John Ellis and Jassir; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Elaine, Vonda, Susan, Elias, Imogene, George, Becky, Elizabeth, Yvonne, Fran, Kosta, Jim, Kathryn, Tom, Gina M., Elly K., Thomas, Panos, Connie, Evdoxia, Sylvia, Pete, 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, 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, Michael, Robbie, Judi, Evonne, James, Nichole, Constantine, Theodora, Irene Maria, Olivia, Lincoln, Carole, Patty, Karrisa, 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, 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 April 6



Individually wrapped bars of soap April's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES). Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, March 30: Saint John Climacus

- 8:30 a.m. Matins; 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 11:45 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting, Terrace Room
- 5:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers, Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church

Tuesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. - Philoptochos / Women's Book Club, Fireside Room

Wednesday, April 2

- 10:00 a.m. Housekeeping
- 4:00 p.m. Holy Confession, Nave
- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

6:45 p.m. – Lenten Dinner, *Terrace Room* Hosted by the Hellenic Post 129 American Legion Auxiliary

7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, Nave

Friday, April 4

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

4:00 p.m. - Holy Confession, Nave

6:00 p.m. - Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, April 5

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, *Fireside Room and on Zoom* 10:00 a.m. – FAITH Play Group, *Great Hall*

Sunday, April 6: Saint Mary of Egypt

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

10:45 a.m. - Seekers' Class, Fireside Room

5:00 p.m. – Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers, Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, West St. Paul (please note updated location this week.)



Palm Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon - April 13

Mark your calendars for the annual Palm Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon hosted by the choir on Sunday, April 13, following Liturgy. Enjoy a delicious meal with the special sauce made by John Legeros and crew. A suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$6 per child under 10 (credit card, cash, check, or Venmo) is accepted at the door. Proceeds benefit the choir's trip to the Federation Choir Conference in the fall. *Come and help support your choir.*



SUNDAYS AT 5:00 P.M. DURING GREAT LENT

Following each service we will gather for a Lenten meal and Fellowship.

MARCH 30 St. John of the Ladder

Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church 601 7th Avenue S., St. Cloud, 56301

APRIL 6 St. Mary of Egypt

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church 1250 Oakdale Avenue, West St Paul, 55118

APRIL 13 Palm Sunday Bridegroom Matins

St. Herman's Orthodox Church 5355 38th Auenue S., Minneapolis, 55412

WHEN.YOU.CANNET

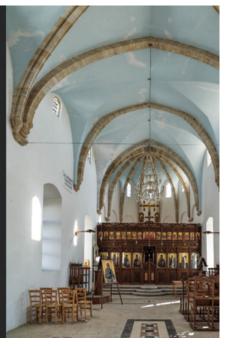
The restoration of St Charalambos' church in occupied Cyprus

Curated by Tasoulla Hadjiyanni Photographs by Antonis Engrafou Archival footage by David Hands

HGA Gallery, Rapson Hall, Univ. of Minnesota 89 Church Street SE, Minneapolis 55455 March 17 – April 23, 2025

Reception and film screening – Friday, April 4, 2025 – 5:00-7:00pm

For more information email tasoulla@umn.edu



This is the first church restoration project in any occupied territory. Agios Charalabos was built in Christian pre-occupied Cyprus and is now occupied by a Muslim community. Through decades of debates, requests and collaboration, this Christian church has now been restored in occupied Cyprus. History has been made.



Our Growing Church

2024 by the Numbers

2024 by the Numbers		
338	8	Stewards
154	٣Û»	Kids in church school
71	~	Families exceeded their pledge
28		Seekers & Catechumens
17		Churchings & Baptisms
7		Chrismations
6	\bigcirc	Weddings

We are so blessed to have such a thriving and supportive church family, that truly works to live in the light of Christ and His Gospel. We are grateful for our shelter and refuge at St. Mary's.

–St. Marys' Parishioner

As we grow, will you grow with us? Have you considered growing your pledge?

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. Forms are available in the narthex or on the church website and are due to the office by **March 31, 2025**.



St. Mary's Holy Friday Retreat Walk With Christ to The Cross

Friday, April 18, 2025 10:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.



Taking Down From the Cross Service starts at 1:30 p.m.Pre-K (4 year old) through 12th gradeRegister here: https://tinyurl.com/HolyFriday2025

Please join us for an engaging day at our Church in which children will learn about Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will have lessons, crafts, lunch, stations in the church, and gym time (to help get the wiggles out—even the big kids). **Retreat ends at 1:15 p.m. so please be here at that time to check out your child(ren) and accompany them for the Taking Down From the Cross Service.**

<u>Please register early</u> so we can plan accordingly for helpers, supplies, and food ordering/packaging. Adults, we could use additional help with set up/clean up and food prep. To volunteer or with questions, contact Dena Tortorelis churchschool@stmarysgoc.org

Philoptochos News



Philoptochos Membership Drive

Today is the last day of the Philoptochos Membership Drive! If you haven't already (re)joined, there's still time to engage in our meaningful mission of philanthropy, faith, and service. Philoptochos provides support to those in need, uplifts our community, and strengthens our Orthodox faith in action. Your involvement makes a real difference, now is the time to join and be part of something impactful! **We're making it easier than ever to join—we now accept credit card payments via Square! Stop by the Philoptochos table or General Membership Meeting today!** You will also receive a small token of appreciation and make your membership official. Dues are self-directed, with the first \$22.00 supporting National and Metropolis, and anything above that staying with our local chapter to further our mission. As a reminder, all women of the Greek Orthodox faith who are at least 18 years old are eligible to join Philoptochos, even if you are new to our parish!



Philoptochos General Meeting Today

Our next Philoptochos General Meeting is this morning at 11:45 a.m. in the Terrace Room. Our guest speaker will be Steve Rakes, who will be sharing about his recent trip to the Diocese of Kenya with Dan Christopulos. Come and hear about their experiences in Kenya. We will also be discussing items coming up in April and May. These will be very busy months for Philoptochos as we prepare for Pascha and after. Please come and see how you can help. Food will be provided.



Tandem Baby Bottle and Needs Drive until Palm Sunday

Our Lenten Tandem drive continues. We are again partnering with the Tandem Resource Center to support families in need. Along with our Baby Bottle Drive, we are expanding our efforts with a "Needs Drive" now through Palm Sunday. In conjunction with our monetary donations (cash, check or credit card), bins will be provided for essentials such as diapers, newborn clothes, socks, formula and hygiene products for the mothers. Information on Tandem and a detailed list of needs will be available at the Philoptochos table. You can also go to: **wearetandem.org** for more information about the wonderful work they are doing.

Philoptochos News



Attention All Philoptochos Members

This year our Philoptochos chapter is celebrating 80 years of promoting charitable, benevolent and philanthropic work for the Greek Orthodox church. We would like to celebrate past and present members at our May Spring Finale. If you have any stories, pictures, or other memorabilia from the past 80 years, we would love it if you shared them with us. We are also looking for ladies to assist in planning this event. If interested, please contact Erline Holman at 507.259.5443 or yiayiaerline@gmail.com.

Philoptochos to Serve Dinner at FOCUS: Sunday, April 6



Philoptochos is coordinating the Sunday night meal at FOCUS Minnesota on Sunday, April 6, and we need your help! Last time we served 300+ pasta dinners thanks to more than 50 volunteers. Please stop by our table after church or use the Sign-Up Genius here (code) to contribute a part of the meal or to volunteer to serve. If you have questions, please contact Mary Ellis, 3ellism@gmail.com, or Paulette Hastings, pmg.hastings@gmail.com.



Philoptochos Board Elections in May

Philoptochos Board elections will be held in May, with up to 19 women able to join the team. This is a two-year term, and women experienced and new to the organization are welcome! The board meets eight times during the year and members serve on two committees.

Lisa Gallmeyer, Carol Smith and Paulette Hastings are leading the effort to create a slate of nominees. Please give some prayerful thought to taking on this role, talk with these three (or anyone on the board) to learn more, and become a leader in the philanthropic arm of the church!

Help Prepare our Church for Holy Week and Pascha

Philoptochos is looking for many volunteers to help with preparing our church for Easter. Please stop by our table today to sign up to help on these dates:

Saturday, April 12 - Lazarus Saturday: after Liturgy, prepare the Nave for Palm Sunday Friday, April 18 – Holy Friday: after Royal Hours, adorn the kouvouklion with flowers Friday, April 18 – Holy Friday: after Lamentations, change purple to white Saturday, April 19 – Holy Saturday: after First Resurrection Liturgy, adorn for Pascha



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.**



For more information and to register, visit:

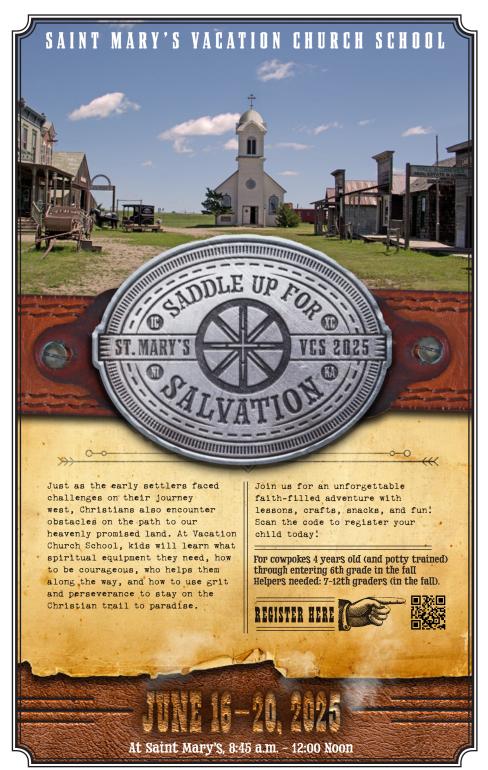
stmaryscamp.com

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

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April 2025 **MESSAGES** from the METROPOLIS www.chicago.goarch.org

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

LATEST NEWS

Metropolis of Chicago Pioneers New

Digital Registry to Better Support

Clergy and Laity

REAT LENT & HOLY WEEK 2025 SCHEDULE



SCAN FOR MORE NEWS His Grace Bishop Timothy Assumes Greater Responsibilities in the Care of Parishes and Clergy of the Metropolis of Chicago as Senior Advisor to Metropolitan Nathanael

Catechetical Homily for the Opening of Holy and Great Lent by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

UPCOMING EVENTS



MORE

EVENTS

- 4/1 Strengthen Stewardship Now & Forever April Zoom Meeting
 - Family Synaxis Lenten Retreat 2025

4/25 Annual Bright Friday Celebration -St. Iakovos Retreat Center

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



3/20

3/6

Ouick Links

Stay in Contact

D 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, March 31 Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday, April 1 Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday, April 2 Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday, April 3 Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday, April 4 Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday, April 5 Hebrews 9:1-7 • Luke 1:39-49, 56

Sunday, April 6: Saint Mary of Egypt Hebrews 9:11-14 • Mark 10:32-45



Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408-3399 612.825.9595 | 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 Weekly Bulletin Submission Deadline: Mondays