



THE MESSENGER

APRIL 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

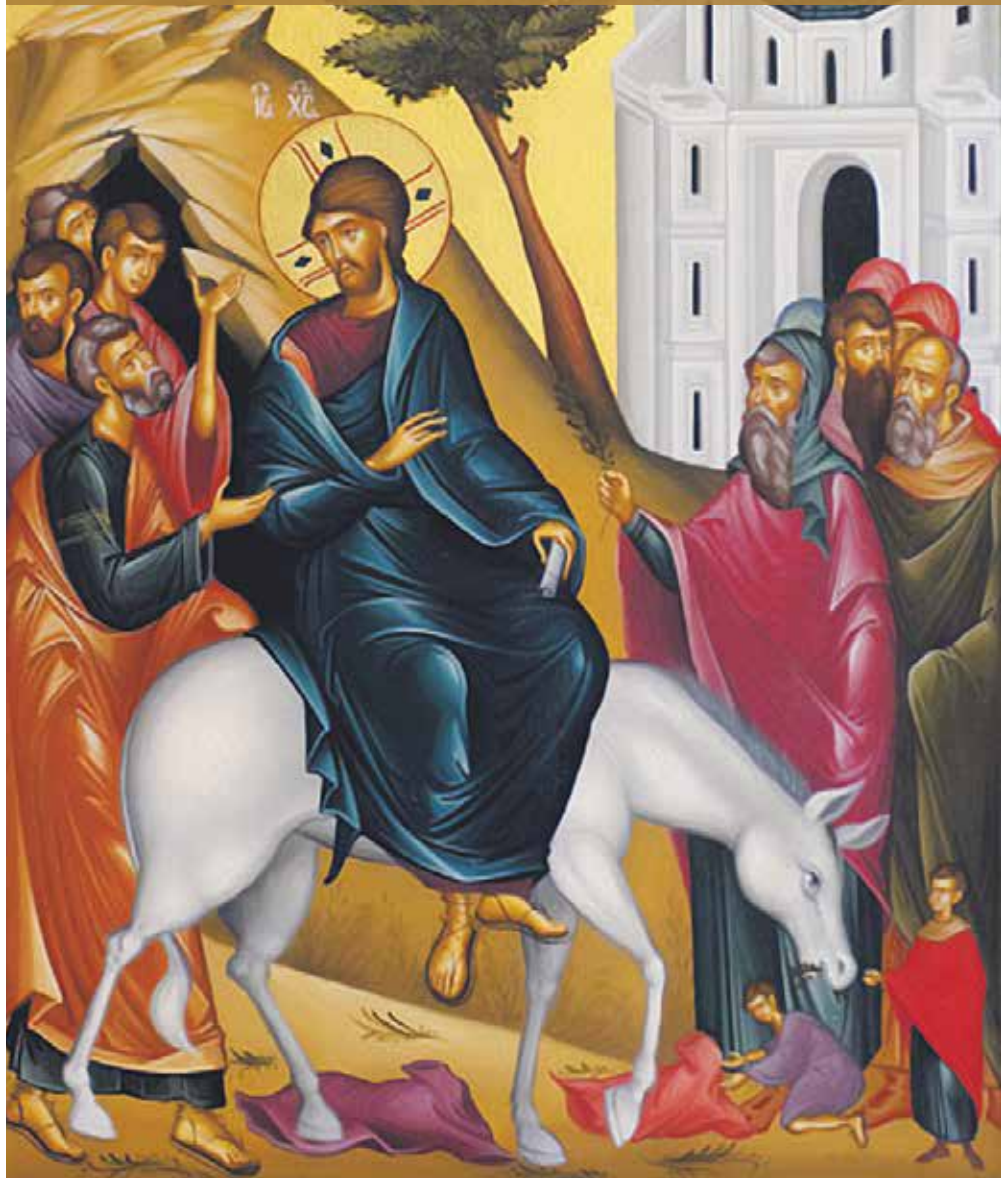
- Hear
- Pray
- Grow
- Serve
- Share



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

—John 12:13



Palm Sunday is April 13. See page 5 for our Holy Week worship schedule. ➔



PRAYER,



FASTING,



AND ALMSGIVING.

Our Life Together

Birth

Artemis

Parents:
William Pappas &
Adele DeNicola
February 26, 2025

Baptisms

Frederick Zachary

Parents:
Zachary Johnson &
Joyce Xinwei Sun
February 16, 2025

Morgan Rune

Parents:
Jacob & Heidi
(Wendland) Fishstrom
February 16, 2025

Theadora

Parents:
Jacob & Alexandra
(Hoeft) Hill
February 22, 2025

Evangeline Mae

Parents:
Harry & Michaelene Spell
February 23, 2025

Dimitri

Parents:
Jon & Eleni Klein
March 8, 2025

Deaths

George Caloviras

February 26, 2025

Kosta Papadakis

March 2, 2025

Lisa Marie (Maria) Lind

March 10, 2025

Stanley Wendland

March 16, 2025

May their memories be eternal.

Lisa (Maria) Lind

It is with deep sadness, but hope in the Resurrection, that we inform you of the repose of Lisa (known as Maria to fellow Orthodox Christians) Lind, mother to Nina, Sophia and Helena Lind.

Lisa passed away surrounded by those she loved on March 10th, 2025. The family finds some solace in her death knowing she is no longer in pain. Although few words can aptly describe what she meant to her family and to all who knew and loved her, it seems right to take a moment to remember that Lisa touched people with her unwavering kindness, infectious positivity, unassuming modesty, and low-key humor. She was an inspiring role model to her daughters, a steadfast friend, and a compassionate yet resolute person to anyone who had met her.

We know Lisa played a part in the lives of many people; we also acknowledge the role that so many of you have played in hers. We are confident that it was the prayers of everyone near and far that kept her alive and ahead of her cancers for so many years. We thank you for including her in your prayers- she always recognized that it was the prayers of others that produced all the miracles she experienced.

Most importantly, her passing shows how precious every breath is for each one of us in the present moment. The family hopes you will celebrate her memory, celebrate those around you, and celebrate life itself.

April Worship Schedule

Saturday evening Great Vespers will not be held during Great Lent.

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 23

Saint George
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.
Liturgy at St. George Greek Orthodox Church Summit Avenue at Lexington Parkway, St. Paul

Friday, April 25

Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Lenten Weekday Schedule

Wednesdays

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession
(No Appointments Taken)
5:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6:45 p.m. – Lenten Dinner and Youth Activities
7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Fridays

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession
(No Appointments Taken)
6:00 p.m. – Salutations to the Theotokos

Minnesota Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Lenten Vespers will be held at various Orthodox churches. Please see the location details on page 4.



GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA IS SUNDAY, APRIL 20. SEE THE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ON PAGE 5.

Our Life Together

Fellowship and Study Groups

Men's Fellowship

Fridays, April 11 (1 Samuel 7-8) and April 25 (Psalm 31/Psalm 30 in the Septuagint)
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Women's Bible Study

Saturday, April 26,
8:30 a.m., Patty Christopoulos home
5312 Highwood Drive W., Edina

Women's Book Club

Thursday, April 1
7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Women's Bible Study Invitation

Women's Bible Study, led by Patty Christopoulos, will resume studies after Pascha on select Saturdays, 8:30-10:00 a.m., at her home, 5312 Highwood Drive W., Edina, MN. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, April 26

Our God-given Identity as Women

Saturday, May 10

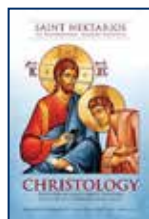
The Liturgy after the Liturgy

Saturday, May 17

How to Distinguish and Offer our Spiritual Gifts

Saturday, May 31

How to Make Good Decisions
Guided by the Holy Spirit



Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. The book

for this session is: **Christology: Discovering Jesus Christ Through the Eyes of a Contemporary Saint** by Saint Nektarios and is available in our bookstore.

Share YourShelf

April's recipient is

Community Emergency Service (CES)

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

pasta sauce, ground coffee, canned fruit (peaches, mixed fruit), hygiene (Individually wrapped toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, razors, shampoo)

Sunday, April 6

Individually wrapped bars of soap

Sunday, April 13

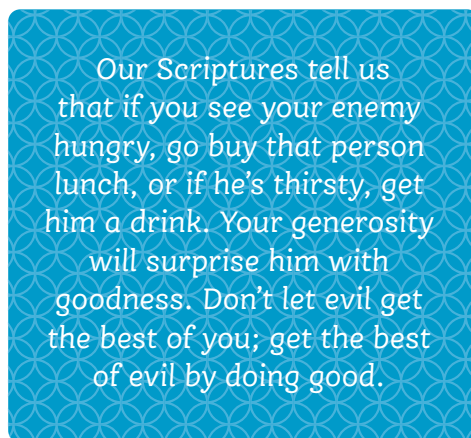
Diapers (Size 5)

Sunday, April 20

Hygiene items (Individually wrapped toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors)

Sunday, April 27

Individually wrapped toothbrushes



www.cesmn.org



Donate Online
Visit the site, then
"Make Donation."

Previous issues of



THE MESSENGER
are available to view
on our website

VIEW NOW.  SCAN THE CODE.

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

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Fr. Luke Twito

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Assistant Treasurer

Athena Mihas

Members

Benjamin Amundgaard

Alex Dascalos

Louis Ellis

Andrew Gatchell

Andrew LeRoy

Chris Menke

Sophia Rouman

Parish News & Events



Senior Citizens' Meeting April 8, 11:00 a.m.

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 at 11:15 a.m. 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 with a group photo of all celebrants, 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

Saturday, 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! We'll also provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the kids. A sign-up will be available soon.

Pascha Lambs Available

Parishioners George and Samantha Asselanis raise sheep on their Wisconsin farm and have lamb for sale. Lambs will be processed and ready for pickup prior to Holy Week and perfect for your Pascha dinner. For details, please see them after church or call George at 702.540.9867, or email asselanis@gmail.com



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

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

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 Avenue S, Minneapolis, 55412



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.*

*April 6 in the Fireside Room, after
Communion, about 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.*



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



HOLY WEEK AT ST. MARYS

Saturday, April 12: Lazarus Saturday

9:00 a.m. - Orthros; 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Family Service Day follows Liturgy
5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 14: Holy Monday

6:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 15: Holy Tuesday

9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 16: Holy Wednesday

3:30 p.m. - Holy Unction
6:00 p.m. - Orthros of the Mystical Supper; Holy Unction

Thursday, April 17: Holy Thursday

9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper
6:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Passion

Friday, April 18: Great Friday

9:00 a.m. - Royal Hours
Church School Retreat continues until 1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - Vespers of the Descent from the Cross
6:00 p.m. - Lamentations

Saturday, April 19: Holy Saturday

10:00 a.m. - First Resurrection Divine Liturgy
11:30 p.m. - Midnight Office, Resurrection Service, Matins, Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 20: GREAT and HOLY PASCHA

12:00 noon - Agape Vespers



St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Nicholas Santrizos

Vice President

Louis Tiggas

Secretary

Elisabeth (Libby) Cheolis

Treasurer

Cristina Nicklow

Assistant Treasurer

Athena Mihas

Members

Benjamin Amundgaard

Alex Dascalos

Louis Ellis

Andrew Gatchell

Andrew LeRoy

Chris Menke

Sophia Rouman

COUNCIL CORNER

First, a special "thank you" to...

- **Joseph Karos** for inventing and orchestrating an intensive, 15-week Byzantine Chat class (BYZN 101). Has anyone noticed how wonderful the chanters sing for our Lord lately? If he offers this class in the future, I would encourage those interested to sign up.
- **Philoptochos** for hosting and serving two delicious meals in March: the Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Reception and the Lenten Meal after Presanctified Liturgy.
- **Our ushers** - **Jim Geogleris, Don Vanover, Dean Dovolis, Lisa Rose, Tony Patridge, Ernie Konstas, Denny Withers, Dean Psychogios, and George Tortorelis** - for their work each and every Sunday in organizing the Communion lines, to welcoming parishioners into the church, and for making sure the pews are tidy for the next service.

Special Assembly Meeting Re-cap

For those that could not attend the Special Parish Assembly on March 9, the PC and Parish discussed the following orders of business:

- Elected **Jeannie Possis** and **Andreas Hoeft** as our two Parish Delegates to upcoming Clergy-Laity conferences for the Chicago Metropolis. Their terms will run through 2026.
- Approved an anonymous donation of \$400,000 that follows the donor's wishes that the funds be used for capital projects to improve and repair St. Mary's.
- Approved a new programmable thermostat for the Nave that replaces the original system from 1956! The new system will allow Father Tim to control the Nave temperature from his iPhone and the office from their computer dashboard.
- Provided an update that the next building project will be the restoration of both the adult and children's restrooms at the South end of our building.

The Spring Assembly will take place on Sunday, May 4 after church. Please join us for more building updates and our progress towards our 2025 top priorities for stewardship, our ministries, and parish engagement.

Please approach me or any PC member on any given Sunday. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Blessed Lent,

Nick Santrizos

St. Mary's Parish Council President

viewfromthepew@stmarysgoc.org

Philoptochos



Upcoming Activities

No Philoptochos meetings this month!

The Myrrh-bearing Women were the first to witness the empty tomb and proclaim the joy of the Resurrection.

Like them, the women of Philoptochos continue to serve with faith, love, and devotion. This Holy Pascha, may we be inspired by their courage and selflessness, embracing our calling to bring light, hope, and compassion to those in need. *Χριστός Ανέστη!* Truly He is Risen!

Board Elections Are Coming

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!

Women's Book Club Discussion

April 1

Book Club will meet on April 1 from 7pm - 9pm. 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.)

Philoptochos to Serve Dinner at FOCUS

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 watch for the Sign-Up Genius link to contribute a part of the meal or to volunteer to serve. If you have questions, contact Mary Ellis, 3ellism@gmail.com, or Paulette Hastings, pmg.hastings@gmail.com.

Tandem Baby Bottle and Needs Drive Through April 13

Once again this year we are partnering with a Tandem Resource Center to support families in need. Along with our Baby Bottle Drive, we are expanding our efforts with a "Needs Drive" that runs through Palm Sunday. Along with our monetary donations, 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 may also go to: **wearetandem.org** for more information about the wonderful work they are doing.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Holy Week and Pascha

Watch the bulletin for opportunities to help decorate the sanctuary for Holy Week and Pascha. Sign up at the Philoptochos table after liturgy.

Festival Bakery Prep Begins Next Month

May marks the official start to festival baking! As in past years, many hands make light work when making thousands of cookies, so please join us when you can! The schedule is being finalized and will be published in all church materials and at our table after liturgy. Thank you!

Philoptochos Table Coverage

Each Sunday after liturgy, volunteers provide friendly faces and information on how to participate in various activities. If you enjoy talking about Philoptochos, we welcome you to stop by the Philoptochos table to sign up for A Sunday (or Sundays) that work for you!

Thank You...

...to Sacred Baking Chair **Toni Bazakos** and team for the Prosforo Workshop in March

...to **Carol Smith** for organizing yet another successful supply drive for Bancroft Elementary School as part of Operation Classroom!

...to the Membership Committee, **Lisa Gallmeyer, Sandara Anderson, Maria Smith** and **Kathy Wendland**, for a wonderful Membership Drive dedicated to engaging our members!

...to volunteers who helped with the Lenten Dinner and the MEOCCA Vesper Meal!

...**Andrea Tiggas** for once again managing filo and coffee sales!

...**Sandra Anderson** for coordinating the Tandem Family Resource Center Baby Bottle and Needs Drive!

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



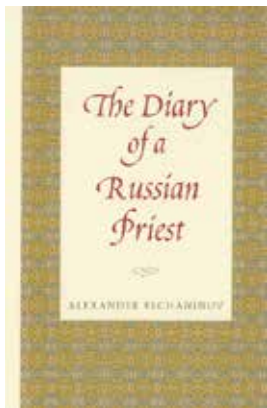
 Instagram



In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



Father Alexander Elchaninov (1881-1934) was a man of deep faith in Christ. His faith and knowledge are evident on every page of **The Diary of A Russian Priest**, which is a collection of his writings compiled by his wife after his early death. Far more than just a diary, it contains “some of the notes that he made for his own use,

together with excerpts from his letters, several outlines for sermons, and a few thoughts jotted at random on scraps of paper found among his writings.” (11)

Father Alexander brought a secular background into his priesthood and wove them together seamlessly in his life and writings. After studying history and philology at the University of St. Petersburg, he taught in the history department there while at the same time being involved in “the great cultural and religious ferment among the Russian intelligentsia.” (12) He was described as being “‘the voice of conscience’ to so many of those whom he encountered.” (12) He then moved to Moscow and studied at the Theological Academy for a year until he was drafted into the army and served in the Caucasus. After completing his military service in 1908, he remained in the Caucasus, doing educational work in a private school, where he taught literature and psychology before becoming the principal of the school. Father Sergius Bulgakov (1871-1944), Father Alexander’s older friend, teacher, and spiritual mentor noted, “Already, as a schoolmaster, Elchaninov was a true spiritual director, ‘a priest even before his priesthood.’” (15)

The Bolshevik Regime came to power in the Caucasus in 1920, nationalizing the school and removing Father Alexander from his post as principal. In 1921 he emigrated to Nice, France, with his wife and baby daughter where he started doing agricultural work and taught Russian children who were studying in French schools. In addition,

He gave lectures on a variety of topics to the Russian colony, and organized religious and philosophical discussion groups for the Russian youth. His house soon became a centre where many intellectual leaders of the emigration could be found, on a visit from Paris—professors and writers such as Bulgakov...and many others. (16)

Then, Father Alexander writes:

I received a letter from Father Sergius B. (Bulgakov) in which he urgently advised me to enter the priesthood....I understood immediately that this was something irrevocable, that this was indeed my destiny....I scarcely hesitated—I went out to meet it, and then I felt an immense joy and clarity in my soul. Along the old path—educating, lecturing—there was no longer anything to live for; along this new path, I feel revived and reborn. (17)

He became a priest in 1926. According to Father Sergius, “It was priesthood that revealed to the highest degree Father Alexander’s interior strength and his power over human hearts.” (18)

[His] interests were primarily moral, ascetic, and practical in character, rather than abstract and theological. His attention was centred on the human soul, on the application of Christianity to life. In his priestly work he concentrated especially on the work of hearing confessions and giving spiritual direction. ‘Confession’, Mother [now Saint] Maria (Skobtsova) has said, ‘was his priesthood’s essential calling.’

Another part of his priestly ministry that lay close to his heart was the task of preaching....his preaching was marked by clarity and conciseness. Each word was saturated with thought. (19)

Three examples of this in **The Diary of a Russian Priest** regarding the liturgical season of Lent are:

Lent strengthens the spirit of man. In Lent man goes out to meet the angels and the demons. (113)

I bid a sad farewell to the end of Lent. In Lent how much good is accomplished with greater ease, how much evil loses its power and fades away, what joy there is in observing those who pray, fast, approach the holy Chalice with devotion! However frequent the

In the Bookstore

disappointments and vexations during confession, however great the number of lazy, indifferent souls, blinded by sins and passions—there are yet many who possess a keenly sensitive conscience, who are merciless towards themselves, who love God and thirst for purification. Every confession is also a lesson and a spiritual gain for the priest who hears it. (112)

The ordinary year of a ‘normal’ Orthodox: a ‘good’ confession, a certain elation during half that day. The next day: he slips already, but stops and collects himself. An hour (or a day) later, he sins again. He recollects himself, but with less energy. And so one thing succeeds another, till he shrugs his shoulders and sinks into a hopeless callousness for the rest of the year, till Lent comes round again. Then he once more takes himself in hand, remembers the impending devotions, and so on. (115)

After Father Alexander’s passing at the age of fifty-three, Saint Maria summed up his life’s work:

In his earthly path among us, I would venture to claim, Father Alexander displayed the perfect fullness of humble Christian sanctity. After many years of brilliant educational work,...he attained to a wise, mature, humble, and simple priesthood. (22)

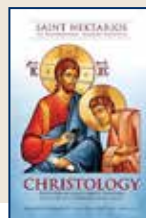
One sees in **The Diary of a Russian Priest** a man in Christ prayerfully pondering and processing his lived experience in the world. Father Alexander wrote perceptively and discerningly about faith, the Church, liturgy, human character, marriage, family life, children, education, and many other aspects of living as a Christian in the world.



ST. MARY'S 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.



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.

Other Featured Titles



The Way of the Lord Through the Triodion and Pentecostarion

Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou

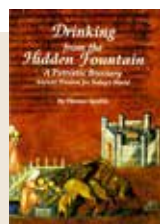
[Read the review on page 8 of the March 2025 Messenger](#)



Mother Theosemni

The Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Chrysopigi

[Read the review on page 7 of the February 2025 Messenger](#)



Drinking from the Hidden Fountain: A Patristic Breviary

Thomas Spidlik

[Read the review on page 7 of the January 2025 Messenger](#)



The Saint Mary's Bookstore is open on Sundays, after Liturgy, until 1:00 p.m. Please visit 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



FIRST Confession for 2nd graders

Wednesday, April 9

Following the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, second graders will go to Confession.

Holy Friday Retreat

Friday, April 18

The retreat begins after 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours service.



Lenten Mini-Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Following the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, Junior GOYANs will have a short meeting.

Holy Friday Retreat

Friday, April 18

The retreat begins after 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours service.



Lenten Mini-Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Following the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, Senior GOYANs will have a short meeting.

Bright Week Party

Friday, April 25, 5:30-11:00 p.m.

Dinner/ PickleBall Tournament/ Volleyball Tournament/ Movie Night.



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

Saturday, April 15,

10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall

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 Hoeft if you have questions:
Angelea.hoeft@gmail.com | 206.779.1354

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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

Church School News



Pascha Egg Hunt Sunday, April 20

After Agape Vespers, rain or shine, we will go egg hunting! Watch for more details.



Graduating Seniors

Watch for an email/letter to submit the information for graduation Sunday (May 18) including your plans after graduation – summer and fall, favorite Bible verse, and senior pictures.

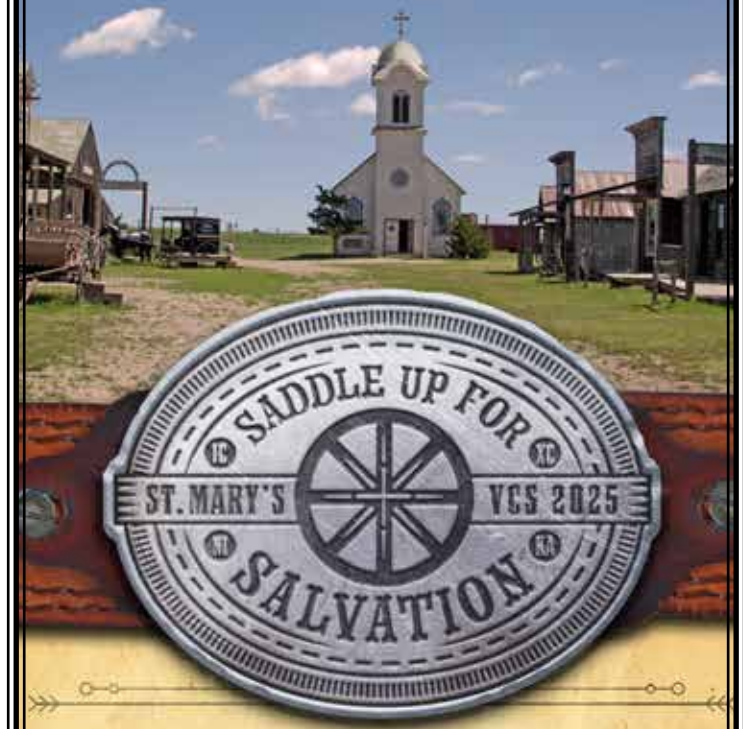


Get a Taste of Orthodox Campus Life!

Are you thinking about college and wondering what it's like to stay connected to your Orthodox faith on campus? Join us at Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at the University of Minnesota for Discover OCF on **Thursday, April 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**! Meet Orthodox college students, hear about campus life, and see how OCF helps keep Christ at the center of your college journey—all while enjoying **FREE FOOD!** Whether you're years away from college or heading there soon, this is a great chance to connect, ask questions, and see what OCF is all about!

University of Minnesota:
Tate Hall Room B55
John T. Tate Hall
116 Church St. S.E.,
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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—register today!

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

JUNE 16-20, 2025

REGISTER HERE



At Saint Mary's, June 16-20; 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 Noon



St. Mary's Stewardship at Work



Our Growing Church

2024 by the Numbers

- 338**  Stewards
- 154**  Kids in church school
- 71**  Families exceeded their pledge
- 28**  Seekers & Catechumens
- 17**  Churchings & Baptisms
- 7**  Chrismations
- 6**  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?**



Thank you to all the families that completed a 2025 Pledge Form. Forms were due to the office by **March 31, 2025**. If you did not complete one, or would like to grow your pledge, please scan the code to download the form, fill it out, and return it to the church office.



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 CLOSES: **APRIL 15, 2025**

Late Rate Registration Fee
April 1 –15

\$640 + Convenience Fee* / Camper

- The true cost of camp is \$640 per camper
- Registration will close on April 15 at 11:59 p.m.

***Reduce fees by paying with an Electronic Check (ACH):**
Electronic Check (ACH) Fee: 1.53% + \$0.50 per registrant versus the CampDoc Convenience Fee of 4.12% + \$0.30 per registrant

For more information and to register, visit:

stmaryscamp.com



Follow us **@stmaryscamp** on Facebook for updates

Email Questions to: **camp@stmaryscamp.com**

Sponsored by



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lazarus Saturday is April 12 and marks
our journey into Holy Week.



THE MESSENGER

APRIL 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

3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org
612.825.9595 | 612.825.9283 Fax

stmarysgoc.org



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm-Women's Book Club	2 10:00am-Housekeeping 4:00pm-Holy Confession 5:30pm-Presanctified Liturgy 6:45pm-Lenten Dinner 6:45pm-Sr. GOYA Mini-Mtg. 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	3	4 4:00pm-Holy Confession 6:00pm-Akathist Hymn	5 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-FAITH Play Group
6 Saint Mary of Egypt "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 10:45am-Seekers' Class 5:00pm-Pan-Orthodox Vespers	7 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	8 11:00am-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council	9 4:00pm-Holy Confession 5:30pm-Presanctified Liturgy 6:45pm-Lenten Dinner 6:45pm-Jr. GOYA Mini-Mtg. 6:45pm-Grade 2 Confessions 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	10	11 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	12 Lazarus Saturday 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy Family Service Day 5:00pm-Great Vespers
13 Palm Sunday 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Palm Sunday Lunch 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	14 Holy Monday 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	15 Holy Tuesday 9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	16 Holy Wednesday 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 3:30pm-Holy Unction 6:00pm-Orthros of the Mystical Supper; Holy Unction	17 Holy Thursday 9:30am-Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper 6:00pm-Service of Holy Passion	18 GREAT and HOLY FRIDAY <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00am-Royal Hours Church School Retreat 1:30pm-Vespers of the Descent from the Cross 6:00pm-Lamentations	19 Holy Saturday 10:00am-First Resurrection Divine Liturgy 11:30pm-Midnight Office Resurrection Service Matins Divine Liturgy
20 GREAT and HOLY PASCHA 12:00noon-Agape Vespers	21 Bright Monday <i>Church and Office Closed</i> 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	22 Bright Tuesday 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	23 Bright Wednesday Saint George <i>Divine Liturgy at St. George GOC in St. Paul at 9:30 a.m.</i> 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	24 Bright Thursday 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	25 Bright Friday Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 5:30pm-Senior GOYA Bright Week Party	26 Bright Saturday 8:30am-Women's Bible Study 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
27 Sunday of Saint Thomas 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Come and See Reception	28 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	29 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	30 10:00am-Housekeeping 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal			