



# THE MESSENGER

MAY 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



“...And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8

Holy Ascension is Thursday, May 29. See page 2 for our worship schedule. ➔

# Our Life Together

## Births

### Mila Mada

Parents:  
John & Emilia Paulson  
February 24, 2025

### Vara Anne

Parents:  
Stephen & Katherine Selinsky  
March 1, 2025

## Baptism and Chrismation

### Cory (Dionysios) Stockwell

April 12, 2025

### Charles (Moses) Shedd

April 12, 2025

## Chrismation

### Makia (Xenia) Conway

April 12, 2025

### Bethany (Grace) Lee

April 12, 2025

## Engagement

Congratulations to **Joseph Menter and Katilyn Lamb** who were recently engaged.

## Study Groups

### Koinonia

Thursday, May 15  
6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

### Men's Fellowship

Fridays, May 2 and 16  
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

### Saturday Bible Study

Saturday, May 3 and 10  
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

### Senior Citizens' Bible Study

Tuesday, May 20  
11:30 a.m., Fireside Room

### Women's Bible Study

Saturday, May 10, 17, and 31  
8:30 a.m., Patty Christopoulos home  
(see article for more information)

## Share YourShelf

May's recipient is

### JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF

#### IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

diapers and wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, Ramen Noodles

#### Sunday, May 4

Ramen Noodles

#### Sunday, May 11

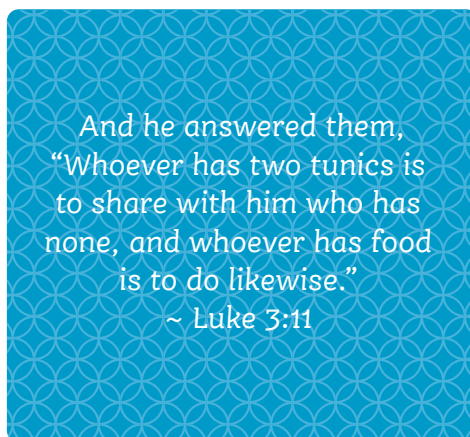
Cereal (both hot and cold)

#### Sunday, May 18

Canned Meal – large cans  
(e.g. Chili / Pork and Beans)

#### Sunday, May 25

Peanut Butter



[www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org](http://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org)



#### Donate Online

Visit the site, then  
"Donate."



## Worship Schedule

### Saturdays

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

### Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

## Weekday Schedule

### Wednesday, May 14

Mid-Pentecost

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

### Wednesday, May 21

Saints Constantine and Helen

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

### Sunday, May 25

Memorial Day Weekend

12:00 noon (approx.) –

Cemetery Service

Saint Mary's section at

Lakewood Cemetery

### Wednesday, May 28

Leave-Taking of Holy Pascha

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Great Vespers for the Eve of

Ascension – 6:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 29

Holy Ascension

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

## A Note on Giving

When making a contribution of any type to St. Mary's with a check, the check must be made payable only to St. Mary's. As a safety precaution, our bank does not accept checks from us that are made out to specific funds or individuals. This includes memorials, donations for holiday flowers, meals, and the like.

Additionally, checks made out to individuals, such as memorials, cannot be endorsed over to St. Mary's.

If you have questions about this, please contact the Church Office.

# Parish News & Events

## St. Mary's Church Staff

### Proistamenos

Fr. Timothy Sas

### Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

### Deacons

Fr. Paul Kalina

Fr. Luke Twito

### Office Manager

David Mertesdorf

### Office Assistant

Giulia Chatfield

### Communications & Marketing

Nikolas Kouzes

### Finance

Michael Rakes

### Ministry Support

Doria Saros

### Youth Director

Scott Rudquist

### Church School Director

Dena Tortorelis

### Chanter

Joseph Karos

### Choir Director

Emily Skoutelas

## St. Mary's Parish Council

### President

Nicholas Santrizos

### Vice President

Louis Tiggas

### Secretary

Elisabeth (Libby) Cheolis

### Treasurer

Cristina Nicklow

### Assistant Treasurer

Athena Mihos

### Members

Benjamin Amundgaard

Alex Dascalos

Louis Ellis

Andrew Gatchell

Andrew LeRoy

Chris Menke

Sophia Rouman



## Senior Citizens' Meeting

**May 13, 12:00 noon**

Saint Mary's Senior Citizens will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 12:00 noon in the Terrace Room. We will celebrate all May birthdays and anniversaries with a group photo of all celebrants, a delicious buffet luncheon, and a scrumptious cake by Terri Leckas. Afterwards, we will be entertained by musicians, Cathy and Steve Selin who will play the trombone and piano and lead us in a sing-along of 40s, 50s and 60s songs. Who knows, there may be some impromptu dancing, too! We will end with a short meeting and announcements. All St. Mary's seniors (55+) are invited to join our lively group. Dues are currently \$15. For further information, please contact President Tessie Bourdamis or any current officer.

## Greek Dance Program to Resume Practices

### Register by May 30

The Greek dance program will resume dance practices on Monday, June 9 and running through September 3. Practices take place on Monday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m., with added practices from time to time on Sunday afternoons. We will focus on preparing to perform for our Greek Festival, September 5-7. All youth of St. Mary's, ages 6 to 19 years, are welcome to join this fun cultural program. For further details on schedule, please contact Tessie Bourdamis, tbourdamis@comcast.net or Jim Canelake, agrimi01@gmail.com. Please register by May 30.

## FOCUS Is Hiring a Part-time Program Coordinator

FOCUS Minnesota is in search of a Program Coordinator to help with our day-to-day operations. This 16-18 hours per week role will help oversee the Food Shelf, Daily Lunches, and Clothes Closet programs in coordination with the center director. The Program Coordinator will have high levels of interaction with our guests, including unhoused, impoverished, and vulnerable members of our community, as well as the volunteers, donors, and others who support our ministries. If interested visit the FOCUS hiring page to learn more and to apply: <https://www.focusmn.org/now-hiring>

*(More Parish News & Events on page 6)*

# COUNCIL CORNER



## 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

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

- **Becky Myerly** and her team in the St. Mary's Bookstore including Kemal Hadley, Sophia Patane and Maria Smith. Becky assured the bookstore was well-stocked and also ordered extra books upon request for our parishioners during the Lenten season. Her team also coordinated a special book fair for our Sunday School on April 6 to introduce our youth to more study on Orthodoxy and the Church Fathers.
- **Toni Bazakos** and her group of prosphoro bakers, some of whom include Olga Berskoya, Pres. Alexandra Houck, Sofia Johnson, Barbara Nichols, Maria Prassas, and Ruta Kubits. Did you know that between eight to ten loaves are required for each Sunday Divine Liturgy?
- **Stephen Wehr** for his long-time dedication (19 years and counting) in running the Men's Fellowship group of over twenty men. They meet bi-monthly at church for Biblical discussions from an Orthodox perspective and general camaraderie. All men, young and old, are welcome to join this dynamic ministry!

## Updates

Your Parish Council made progress on a number of items pertaining to the functional operations of St. Mary's in April, that should set us on a solid course as we look forward to a busy second half with activities including the Taste of Greece and our 125th year Anniversary (more on these events in subsequent Council Corners). Specifically:

### Security Task Force

**Louis Tiggas** has launched an initiative to look at all aspects of St. Mary's security including safety plans for our parishioners and personnel, our building, events, the parking lot, cyber-security and our overall insurance coverage. He has assembled a team of parishioners knowledgeable in these specific aspects of security. Stay tuned for updates as the planning gets put into action.

### Fire Alarm

Work on the Fire Alarm system approved at last Fall's Parish Assembly to get the church up to code with the Minneapolis Fire Marshal, was expected to start the week of April 21, so by the time you receive this update, we should be in the midst of this project with completion date looking at the late May/early June timeframe.

### Ministries Update

Our team has thus far interviewed 20 St. Mary's ministry leads with approximately 12 more to complete. The information gathered along with feedback from each of the ministry leaders will be shared at the Spring Assembly.

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

Christ is Risen!

Nick Santrizos

St. Mary's Parish Council President

[viewfromthepew@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:viewfromthepew@stmarysgoc.org)

# Philoptochos



## Philoptochos Meetings

**Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m.,**

Board Meeting, Fireside Room

**Tuesday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m.,**

80th Anniversary Celebration/ Spring Finale/Board Elections, Terrace Room

### Spring Finale/80th Anniversary Celebration

May 20, 5:30 PM: Appetizers and social

6:00: Dinner, program and meeting

Join us at our annual Spring Finale for a special evening as we honor eight decades of fairy, philanthropy and fellowship! 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](mailto:yiayiaerline@gmail.com). Attendee RSVP requested! Watch for a SignUpGenius via email or stop by the Philoptochos table after Liturgy!

### Philoptochos Board Elections

**May 20**

Philoptochos Board elections will be held on May 20, 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.

**Paulette Hastings, Lisa Gallmeyer, Carol Smith and Dka. Mary Kay Twito** 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!

### Taste of Greece Festival Baking Starts this Month!

**May 9 and May 16**

It's that time again — baking is beginning for our beloved Taste of Greece Festival, and we need your help to make it a sweet success! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just love to bake, all bakers are welcome to join in on this crowd-favorite fundraiser. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the fun, connect with others, and contribute to one of our most cherished events. Watch your email for a SignUp Genius, or stop by the Philoptochos table after Liturgy to sign up. As of now, mark your calendar for the following:

**May 9: Koulourakia**

**May 16: Kourambietes**

Coming up in June, we'll focus on Baklava as follows:

**June 3: Assembly**

**June 9: Assembly**

**June 11: Cut, clove and bake**

Any future baking updates and needs will come from our dedicated festival baking leads: **Cathy Forchas, Paulette Hastings, Tina Menter, and Photine Saar**. Let's bake up something amazing together!

### Spring Chapter Connect Meeting

**Saturday, May 10**

All Philoptochos members are invited to attend the **Spring Chapter Connect Meeting**. This is a Metropolis event and will be held in person at St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI. A Zoom link may be provided closer to the date. The agenda includes:

- How to file for 501c3, tax exemption etc.
- Discussion on the book, **Membershift**, by Sarah Sladek.
- Much, much more!

Contact Connie Kouzes, [kouzes@q.com](mailto:kouzes@q.com) or 612.804.2239 if interested in attending. More info to come!

### Twin Cities Pan-Orthodox Tea

**Saturday, May 17, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

The 19th Twin Cities Pan-Orthodox Tea will be hosted by **St. Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church, 2200 Franklin Avenue SE, Minneapolis MN 55414** on Saturday, May 17. Come together for fellowship and share ideas toward our common goals to learn from each other, share ideas from our parishes and to serve to be Christ-like. A service project grew out of our fellowship to serve those in need. **Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Questions: Contact Ellada at [ellada\\_agadjanova@yahoo.com](mailto:ellada_agadjanova@yahoo.com)** (St. Panteleimon Church is St. Mary's original building! It was located on the U of M campus where the Weisman Art Center currently is. At some point after 1910 it was moved to its current location.)

### Service Day

**June 5**

Join for a day of service in the Terrace Room to sew simple items for various items for organizations like Tandem Family Resource Center and general health care centers. NO NEED TO KNOW HOW TO SEW to attend! We'll have plenty of needs for ironing and cutting, so all are welcome! Come for an hour, two hours or whatever works for you! If you plan to attend, please bring a pair of scissors, or if you are a sewer, bring your sewing machine or serger. Donations of new or gently used hand towels to sew baby bibs are welcomed!

### Clean Philoptochos Refrigerator

We're still looking for volunteers to take on Refrigerator Duty once a month! Our monthly fridge cleanup is quick, clean, and surprisingly satisfying—bonus points if you discover a mystery container! It only takes about 15 minutes on the last Sunday of the month to keep the Philoptochos fridge fresh, organized, and ready for all the good work we do. The task is simple: toss expired items, wipe up any spills, and make sure everything is in order. A tidy fridge means fewer surprises and more room for what really matters—feeding others with love. You can find the sign up sheet on the refrigerator.

### Sunday Table Coverage Reminder

We ask for your assistance in ensuring that the Philoptochos table remains staffed after liturgy each week. We're looking for a minimum of two members to manage the Sunday table, providing updates on current volunteer opportunities and addressing general inquiries about our mission and membership. Ideally, this should involve one board or chair member and one general member. Please consider joining us after the liturgy and committing approximately one hour to this vital task. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### Our Little Orthodox Library

We're looking for volunteers to help manage the Little Orthodox Library for **October, November, and December**. If interested, please sign up at the Philoptochos table after Liturgy. Our Little Library is also running low, and we'd love your help keeping it filled with thoughtful, inspiring Orthodox books. If you've recently read something meaningful and would like to pass it along, we'd be so grateful for your donation. You can drop books off at the Philoptochos table after Liturgy or bring them to the church office during the week. Thank you for helping us share the joy of reading and the richness of our faith with others!

### A heartfelt thank you to:

- Co-chairs **Mary Ellis** and **Paulette Hastings**, along with the 54 dedicated volunteers who cooked and served 255 people at the FOCUS meal on April 7!
- **Andrea Tiggas** for leading the efforts and the volunteers who set up, served and cleaned up at the MEOCCA Vesper Meal on March 16.
- **Mary Kay Twito** for organizing and the generous volunteers who assisted with the Lenten Dinner on March 19.
- **Sandra Anderson** for coordinating the Tandem Family Resource Center Baby Bottle and Needs Drive, and to everyone who contributed!
- **Carol Smith** for organizing another impactful drive for Operation Classroom, benefiting Bancroft Elementary with both items and financial donations.
- The **Membership Committee** for leading another successful Membership Drive!
- All the Philoptochos ladies for their hard work in preparing St. Mary's for Pascha from decorating to baking to dyeing and bagging eggs—your efforts are truly appreciated. God bless you all!

### Healing House Meal Volunteers Needed

Healing House Mother's and Children Program began in 2006. It serves up to 20 women and 24 children in a 7-12-month program. It is the only Christ-centered recovery program in Twin Cities that allows mothers to live with their children (the family shares one room) full time to heal together and create a new life through power of Jesus.

St. Mary's have been involved with this program since its inception. Along with the school supply drive, Christmas AHEPA party (with presents) every other month we serve and share a meal with the moms and children. While some volunteers play, read books, and color with the children, we hold a Bible study for the moms.

We have had a faithful group of volunteers for all these years, however, as circumstances change, it's become clear we need to enlarge our volunteer base. Dates are every other month on the third Saturday of the month (except November). The time commitment is 5:00-7:30 p.m. Needs for the meal are shared among the volunteers, these include main dish, salad/side, drinks, dessert, plus tableware. Children are welcome, the kids of HH love the company!

The time has come for a new leader for this precious ministry, moving forward Erika Kensington has graciously accepted the task.

Our next dinner/Bible study will be Saturday, May 17. We ask that you prayerfully consider sharing your light with these moms and children who've had the courage to seek help in the depth of their difficulties. Contact Erika at: erika0404@pm.me

### 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, 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

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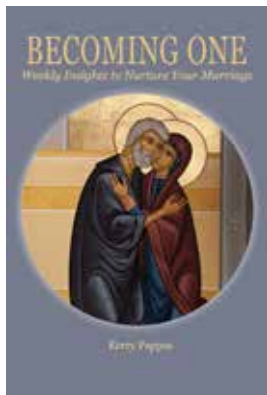
### Follow Saint Mary's Philoptochos on Social Media



# In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly

[bookstore@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:bookstore@stmarysgoc.org)



Presvytera Kerry Pappas has written **Becoming One: Weekly Insights to Nurture Your Marriage**, recently published by Holy Cross Orthodox Press. Many will remember her and Father Harry and their children because they lived in Minneapolis from 1995 to 2006 while Father Harry was the proistamenos at Saint Mary's. Presvytera Kerry has

been working for many years for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. She is the Coordinator for Clergy and Seminarian Couple Care and the author of the Center for Family Care's "Becoming One" and "Time Out for Marriage" series. This book is a compilation of articles she has written for "Becoming One."

**Becoming One** is a gift to and for all married couples in any and all stages of married life, from newly weds to couples well in their so-called retirement years—and all in between.

Presvytera Kerry explains:

The purpose of this small workbook is to offer couples a simple and doable 52-week (one year) framework for nurturing marriage and growing oneness and connection. Each entry is self-contained and offers a principle or theme applicable to marriage. (vi)

Each week's entry is only two pages in the book, beginning with a theme followed by a brief pertinent quote taken from a great variety of sources. Presvytera Kerry then offers a short reflection responding to and reflecting on the quote, followed by two to four questions for the couple to discuss. The questions are gentle yet clear, inviting each person to awareness, clarity, and consideration for their spouse while growing together in their

marriage with understanding and appreciation. For example, the theme for Week 23 (pages 46-47) is "Living with Ambiguity." The quote is "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) Presvytera Kerry's reflection is:

We live with ambiguity every day of our lives, not knowing what might happen minute by minute, let alone day to day and so on. Nevertheless, we like to feel secure and to order our lives in such a way that we have stability.

The questions she offers for discussion relevant to this theme are:

1. What experience(s) of ambiguity have you experienced together?
2. What does stability look like in marriage in times of ambiguity?
3. How does faith impact your marriage, particularly in times of ambiguity?
4. How can faith more fully provide stability in your marriage in times of ambiguity?

This book is genuinely welcoming. It is clearly the fruit of much deep listening. Presvytera Kerry is a person with great wisdom and compassion who longs, with Christ in God, for each married couple to grow and thrive in their love, affirmation, and appreciation of one another. She writes, "When husband and wife choose gratitude and emotional investment in what they love and appreciate in their spouse, they draw nearer to one another." (117) This is what married couples will discover as they spend quality time together each week in humble and heartfelt conversation. **Becoming One: Weekly insights to Nurture Your Marriage** is a simple and succinct resource to help learn and cultivate hospitality toward one's spouse, nurturing genuine love and seeing (the) beauty in one another.



**ST. MARY'S  
BOOKSTORE**

**Becoming One is available now**

Stop in to get this featured book and explore a wide selection of Orthodox Christian literature, icons, and gifts. **Sundays, after the Liturgy until 1:00 p.m.**

# Children and Youth News



## Springtime Seedling Activity

**Saturday, May 3; 10:00-11:45 a.m.**

Meet at church for brunch and participate in a flower planting object lesson on our own spirituality.

## Fun Jam

**Sunday, May 18**

Following Liturgy, there will be festivities in the Great Hall celebrating the beginning of summer and the completion of another great church school year.



## Springtime Seedling Activity

**Wednesday, May 7; 6:15-8:00 p.m.**

Meet at the church for dinner and a flower planting activity!

## Fun Jam

**Sunday, May 18**

Following Liturgy, there will be festivities in the Great Hall celebrating the beginning of summer and the completion of another great church school year.



## Junior Olympics

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26**

## River Tubing

**Saturday, May 3**

Tubing Trip Note: Locations and activities will be dependent on the on-water temperature (It may be too cold to swim in May). More information will be available in late April 2025. If tubing is unavailable, we will still go to Rochester for a day trip to do another fun activity.



**Sunday, May 18,**  
*After Divine Liturgy in the Great Hall*

This event is for kids who are currently enrolled in Church School and their families (including yiaiyas and papous and godparents). This is not an open carnival for non-parishioners. A light lunch will be served along with fun and games – and cake and ice cream compliments of the Harry Legeros memorial bequest.

## Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: Liturgia (Worship), Diakonia (Service), Martyria (Witness), and Koinonia (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram  
**@St\_Marys\_GOYA**

## Youth Feedback

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. We have a new formal feedback process. Go to our St Mary's home page-Click on "Youth," then "Youth Program Feedback" Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.





## Stewardship Pledge Forms Completed

Thank you to all parishioners that have completed and submitted a financial commitment form for 2025. Below is a summary of the number of pledges and dollar amount of pledges received in 2022, 2024, 2024 and year to date for 2025.

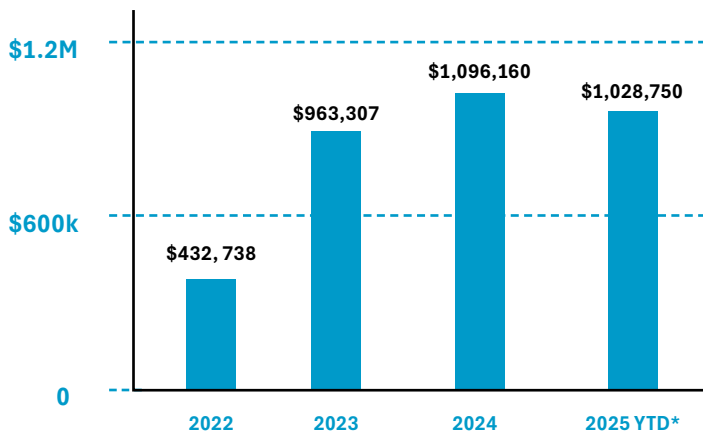
Pledges	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD*
# of Stewards	154	351	338	322
Total \$ Pledged	\$432,738	\$963,307	\$1,095,160	\$1,028,750
% of Offering Goal	34.1%	72.2%	73.7%	66.4%
Average Pledge	\$2,810	\$2,744	\$3,240	\$3,195
Median Pledge	\$1,422	\$1,200	\$1,250	\$1,200
Highest Pledge	\$20,800	\$37,500	\$50,000	\$100,000
Lowest Pledge	\$50	\$20	\$20	\$25

## Offering Income Summary

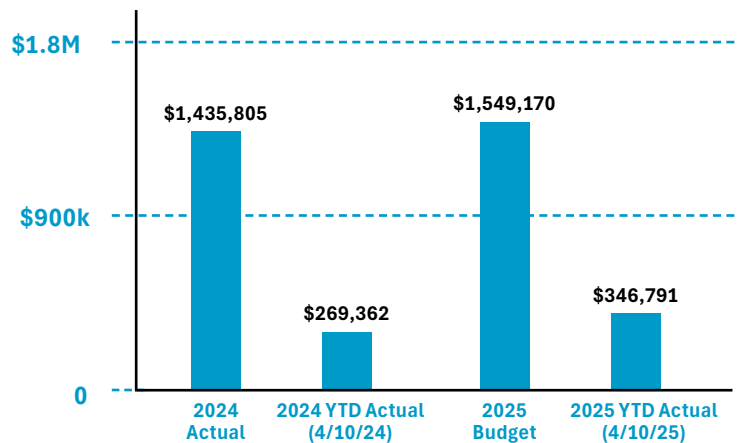
Below is a summary of offering payments received in 2024 and year-to-date in 2025 (both pledge payments and non-pledge offering payments).

Offering Income	2024 Actual	2024 Actual YTD as of 4/10/24	2025 Budget	2022 Actual YTD as of 4/10/25	2025 % of Goal
Pledge & Non-Pledge Offering	\$1,358,990	\$255,488	\$1,481,020	\$340,927	23.0%
Other Offering (i.e. Christmas, Easter, Dormition, Candles)	\$76,815	\$13,874	\$68,150	\$5,864	8.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,435,805</b>	<b>\$269,362</b>	<b>\$1,549,170</b>	<b>\$346,791</b>	<b>22.4%</b>

PLEDGES 2022 TO 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD)



OFFERING INCOME PAYMENTS



REMINDER: The goal is to cover 100% of ministry and operating costs with Stewardship Income rather than relying on rental and festival income.

With gratitude,

—The St. Mary's Stewardship Committee

\*As of 04/10/25



DIVINE LITURGY • PRESENTATION • RECEPTION

# Sunday, April 27, 2025

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Reception, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Come experience the Ancient Christian Church and learn about the faith.

The Saint Mary's Missions and Outreach Committee is hosting a **Bring-A-Friend-To-Liturgy** event. This is a great way to introduce our faith to those who are curious and interested. After the Divine Liturgy, one of our priests will speak on the Orthodox Christian Faith followed by a wonderful reception in the Terrace Room. Please extend the invitation to as many as possible. Please RSVP with the church office so that we can plan accordingly.

3450 IRVING AVE. SOUTH, MPLS, MN 55408 | 612.825.9595



**ST. MARY'S**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# ALL ARE INVITED

## Fullness of Faith to the Ends of the Earth

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

Social with Wine & Appetizers at 6:30pm;  
Dinner & Dessert at 7:00pm; Program at 8:00pm

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



### With OCMC Ambassador, Terri Leckas and St. Mary's parishioner, Dr. Steve Rakes

OCMC Ambassador, Terri Leckas, will share highlights from her trip to Albania and St. Mary's parishioner, Dr. Steve Rakes, will also present from his recent trip to Africa. Both will share stories and recount experiences that have impacted them personally as well how Orthodox Christian Mission Center served as the pathway to take this journey of faith.



For questions please contact Special Events Coordinator, Elaine Drikakis at [elained@ocmc.org](mailto:elained@ocmc.org) or Event Chair & Ambassador, Terri Leckas at [thereseleckas@gmail.com](mailto:thereseleckas@gmail.com).



**\$15 Per Person**  
**RSVP by April 27, 2025**  
**Sponsorship Opportunities!**  
[ocmc.org/minneapolis-dinner](http://ocmc.org/minneapolis-dinner)



[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)

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

Non-Profit  
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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit #3735

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The feast day of Saints  
Constantine and Helen is  
commemorated on May 21.



## THE MESSENGER

MAY 2025

The Messenger is published  
monthly by Saint Mary's  
Greek Orthodox Church.

### PUBLICATION DEADLINES

#### The Messenger

First Sunday of each month

#### Sunday Bulletin

Preceding Monday, 4:00 p.m.

### CONTACT

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# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	3 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-HOPE/JOY Activity 5:00pm-Great Vespers 6:30pm-OCMC Fundraiser
<b>4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> <b>"The Messenger" Deadline</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Spring Parish Assembly	5	6 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	7 10:00am-Housekeeping 6:15pm-Jr. GOYA Activity 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	8 <b>Saint John the Theologian</b>	9 Koulourakia Baking <i>time to be announced.</i>	10 8:30am-Women's Bible Study 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
<b>11 Sunday of the Paralytic Mother's Day</b> <b>AHEPA Sunday</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	12	13 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council 6:30pm-Philoptochos Board	14 <b>Mid-Pentecost</b> 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30pm-Koinonia	16 7:00am-Men's Fellowship Kourambiethes Baking <i>time to be announced.</i>	17 8:30am-Women's Bible Study 3:30pm-Women's Tea 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Healing House Dinner</i>
<b>18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Fun Jam 11:30am-Missions/Outreach	19	20 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-Sr. Cit. Bible Study 5:30pm-Philoptochos Spring Finale	21 <b>Saints Constantine &amp; Helen</b> 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Housekeeping 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	23 <i>Junior Olympics</i>	24 5:00pm-Great Vespers <i>Junior Olympics</i>
<b>25 Sunday of the Blind Man</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:00noon-Cemetery Service <i>Junior Olympics</i>	<b>26 Memorial Day</b> <i>Church and Office Closed</i> <i>Junior Olympics</i>	27 6:00pm-Adult Open Gym Basketball	28 <b>Leave-Taking of Pascha</b> 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-Vespers 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	29 <b>Holy Ascension</b> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	30	31 8:30am-Women's Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers