



January 4, 2026

The Divine Liturgy

## Sunday before Theophany

**Commemoration:** Sunday before Epiphany; Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles; Our Righteous Father Theoctistus, Abbot of Curomo in Sicily; Nikephoros the Leper; Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios the Notary; Righteous Apollinaria the Senator; Martyrs Chrysanthos and Euphemia; Righteous Euthymios the Younger; New Martyr Onuphrios; Righteous Euthymios of Vatopedi; Righteous John Scholarios; Eustathios Archbishop of Serbia.

*Morning Gospel: John 20:11-18 ..... Tone: Plagal 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, Plagal First Tone**

To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For he willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

#### **Hymn of Entrance**

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

#### *Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above*

#### **Hymn for the Forefeast, Fourth Tone**

Announce the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save 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!

## Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, (Greek)

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 ζωήν, 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 Forefeast, Fourth Tone

To the flowing streams today of River Jordan comes the Lord and cries aloud to John the Baptist, and He says, “Be not afraid to baptize me now; for I have come to save Adam, the firstformed man.”

## Epistle ..... *II Timothy 4:5-8*

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## Gospel ..... *Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

# Today

Prosforo is provided by **Ruta Kubits** and **Maria Prassas**.

Stop by the Terrace Room after Liturgy for a cup of coffee and the presentation on the Glorification of St. Olga of Alaska given by Leo Proctor.

## Welcome Visitors and Guests!

After Liturgy this morning, stop by the welcome and information table located between the Bookstore and Great Hall. A couple parishioners are there to welcome you and answer your questions about St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church and the Orthodox faith. Join us in the Terrace Room for a cup of coffee.

## Announcements

### **Coffee Hour Host Needed for Next Sunday!**



Due to a change in plans, a host for coffee hour **next Sunday, January 11**, is needed. Please contact the church office early this week if you would like to host.



### **“Observations on the Glorification of Saint Olga of Alaska” –Today after Liturgy**

Six months ago, in a tiny village in the Alaskan tundra, “Matushka Olga” became the first female Orthodox saint in North America. But how is a new saint recognized in the Orthodox Church? Leo Proctor, an Orthodox Christian graduate student at the University of Oxford and Twin Cities native, was blessed enough to attend the services of her canonization or “glorification” in Western Alaska last summer as a pilgrim. In the Terrace Room after Liturgy today, he will offer a presentation on the life and legacy of Orthodoxy’s newest saint with photos from his pilgrimage and an explanation of Matushka Olga’s journey from a life of ministry to a fulfillment in sainthood.



### **Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Course – Winter 2026**

The MEOCCA-sponsored catechism course, Intro to Orthodox Christianity, begins tomorrow, January 5. Catechism is open to all: people interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity, inquirers, catechumens, and current Orthodox Christians as well. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in person at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, or online via Zoom. Details of the course as well as registration information is available at [www.meocca.org](http://www.meocca.org), under “Our Faith” tab.



## Prayer Ministry

*Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially:*

The family of Mary Anderson; 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 Jassir Conway; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Sophia and the students, staff, and parents of Annunciation Church and School, Kathie, Owen, Missy, Abby Grund, Anthony, Julie, Ann, Jim, Maria, Joan, Jason, Janet (Dimitra), Andrew and Mari, Constantine James, Lauren, Anna, Kathleen Wendland and Julie Alvin, Gabriel, Linda, John and Johnny, Anastasia, Diane, Nicki, Dino, George, Billie, Nino, Kate, Elena, Mechelle, Elaine, Vonda, Andrew, Susan, Elias, Imogene, Becky, Elizabeth, Yvonne, Fran, Jim, Kathryn, Tom, Gina M., Elly K., Thomas, Panos, Connie, Sylvia, Pete, Steve A., Athena, Betty, Mark, Kostantinos & Georgia, Andreas, Jonathan, Jeanette, Mary, Marilyn, Donna, Dawn, Don, Nancy, Brad, Vangie, Jolene, Mikey, Aphrodite, James, Peter, Lyda, Michael, Jaclyn Jereczek, Dena, Chris, Joy Rose, Nick, John, Eugenia, Ron, Matt, Laura, Constance, Marina, Annali, Sofia, Juan Cruz & family, Charlie, Helena, Jennifer, John S., Becky, Noel, Stephen, Ray, Christina, Joanne, Charlie, Nuala, Pamela, Avgi, Elena, Speranta, Efstratia, Jordan, David, Nino, Joe, Donnarae, Mary K., Monte, Bethany, Mark, 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, Vicki, Diana, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Amy, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Toni, Gina, R.J., Allie, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Joseph, Christopher, Elizabeth, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

## Food Shelf Needs for January 11



**Cereal (both hot and cold)**

January's recipient is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf

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

# Calendar of the Week

## **Sunday, January 4: Sunday before Theophany**

*“The Messenger” News Item Deadline*

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

after Liturgy – St. Olga Canonization Presentation, *Terrace Room*

## **Monday, January 5: Eve of Theophany**

9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours

6:00 p.m. – Vespers Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

## **Tuesday, January 6: Holy Theophany**

8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters

## **Wednesday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist**

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

10:30 a.m. – Housekeeping

## **Thursday, January 8**

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

## **Friday, January 9**

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Mary Anderson;

Visitation from 10:00 a.m., *St. Mary’s*

## **Saturday, January 10**

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

10:00 a.m. – FAITH Playgroup, *Great Hall*

12:00 noon – Blessing of Waters at the Mississippi, *Hidden Falls Regional Park*

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## **Sunday, January 11: Sunday after Theophany;**

## **Godparents’ Sunday**

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

11:30 a.m. – Curriculum Meeting, *Fireside Room*

12:00 noon – Seekers’ Meeting, *Meeting Room 1*



## **Blessing of Waters at the Mississippi River**

The MEOCCA-sponsored Great Blessing of Waters at the Mississippi will take place next Saturday, January 10, 12:00 noon, at Hidden Falls Regional Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St. Paul. Everyone is invited to attend.

# Philoptochos News



## Vasilopita (New Year's Bread) Sale Continues Today

Vasilopita sales continue today through next Sunday, January 11, or until the loaves are all sold, after the Liturgy. The price is \$15 via cash or check (to Philoptochos) and \$15.50 via credit card.



## St. Mary's Women's Book Club

Thursday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.

Our next book for both January and March will be *Time and Despondency* by Nicole Roccas. The book is available in the bookstore. We will meet on January 8 in the Fireside Room at 7:00 p.m. for our first discussion. Please attend even if you have not read the book yet. We will schedule the rest of the 2026 dates shortly.



## Philoptochos Annual Membership Drive Begins in January!

As in previous years, membership details will be mailed to all women age 18 and older. If your contact information has changed, please contact David in the church office to update your phone number, email, or address. We are deeply grateful for your continued support, which allows us to carry out the Philoptochos mission of faith, charity, and service. Thank you for being an essential part of this work.



## Little Orthodox Library

Thank you to everyone who supported the Little Orthodox Library this past year through your time and book donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We are now scheduling volunteers for 2026. If you would like to help on a monthly basis, please sign up at the Philoptochos table during coffee hour. Volunteers simply check the library box weekly during their assigned month, remove any non-Orthodox books, and restock with materials kept behind the stage, adding a bookmark to each book.

## Upcoming Events

- Undecorate the Trees – Friday, January 9, 10:00 a.m.
- Cut Vasilopita for Parish Distribution – Saturday, January 10, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Undecorate the Nave – *Return trees to storage* – Sunday, January 11, 11:30 a.m.
- Prosforo Workshop – Friday, January 23, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
*Registration for the prosforo workshop closes on Sunday, January 18.*
- Sitari (Memorial Wheat) Workshop – Friday, February 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
*Registration for the sitari workshop closes on Sunday, February 8.*

\* Signup at the Philoptochos table for any of these events.



## Saint Mary's to Host the 2026 West Region Basketball Tournament!

January 30 - February 1, 2026 • Minneapolis, MN

We are thrilled to announce that St. Mary's is hosting this year's Metropolis Basketball Tournament! This is one of the largest family and youth events of the year and we need our whole parish community to make it a success.



*Scan to  
Volunteer*



*Scan to  
Visit the  
Website*

### Players and Volunteers Needed!

Whether you're playing, coaching, helping with hospitality, working the score table, or assisting with logistics, your participation is essential.

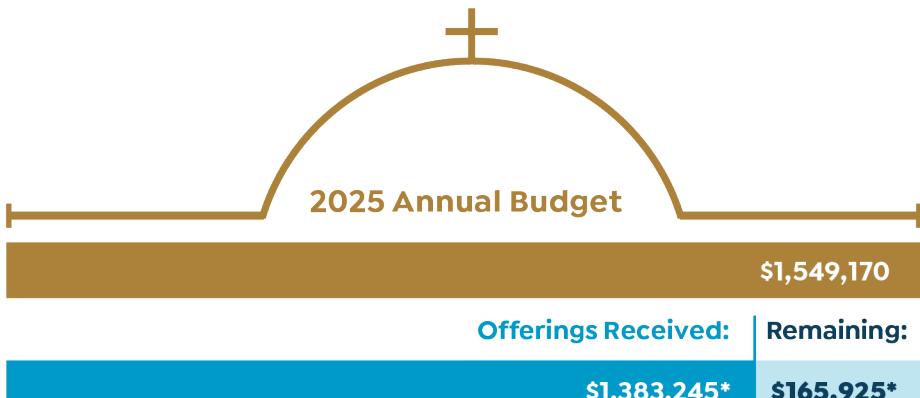
### Sponsorship Needed!

Want to support the Tournament? There will be a table set up during the coffee hour where you can sign up for sponsorship. Make sure to stop by.

### Want to Learn More About the Basketball Tournament?

Scan the code to visit our website. There you can learn more about the weekend schedule, meal tickets, hotel reservations, and more!

## Stewardship Update



\*As of December 23, 2025

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



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# YAL News

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## **YAL Chicago Conference**

The Metropolis of Chicago's annual YAL conference will be taking place this Presidents' Day Weekend (February 13-16) in Downtown Chicago!

This conference is filled with inspiring speakers, fulfilling workshops, fantastic service projects, amazing glendies, and many opportunities to connect with Orthodox young adults from across the country.

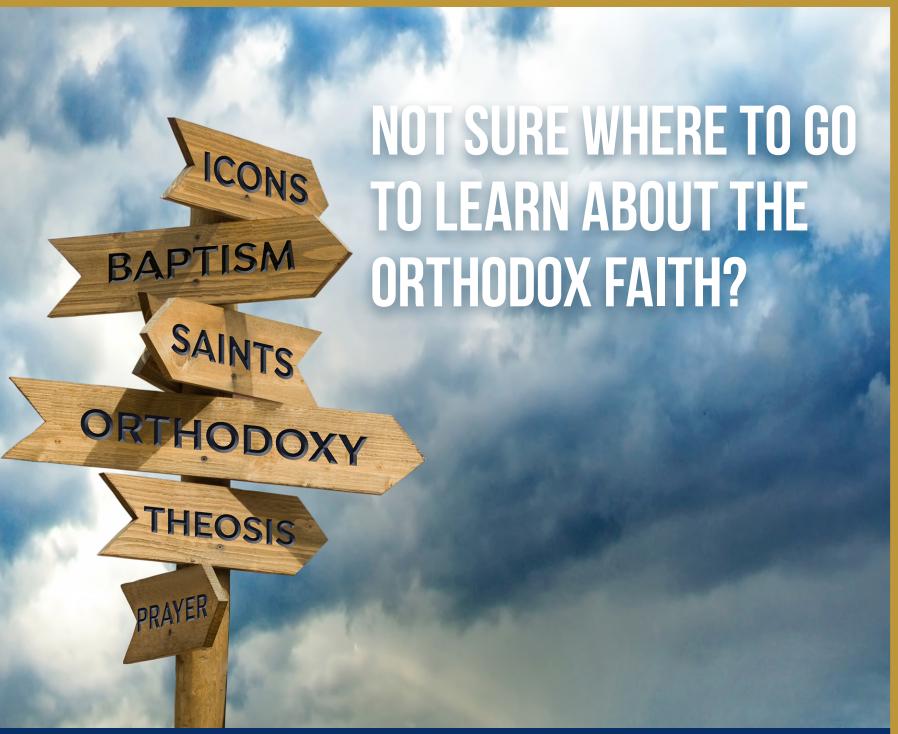
Registration is now open with limited spots remaining. Register now!



## **Support the YAL Conference**

Many of you attended conferences back in the day, met some of your closest friends, and maybe even met your spouse at a YAL event.

Oftentimes we hear the question, "where are the youth in the church?" The answer is here. There is a movement and desire to be connected with other Orthodox young adults and people in this age group look forward to these weekends each year. In order to keep ticket prices down (it costs YAL over \$500 per participant for food, entertainment, transportation, service project materials, etc.! ) We are looking for various forms of sponsorship and donations including: food and drink, merchandise, and monetary gifts. To donate or become a sponsor please visit the link in the QR code or reach out to Sia Tortorelis and the conference committee at [yalchicagoconference@gmail.com](mailto:yalchicagoconference@gmail.com)



NOT SURE WHERE TO GO  
TO LEARN ABOUT THE  
ORTHODOX FAITH?

## SEEKER SUNDAY

January 11, 2026 • 12:00-1:00 p.m.

*Meeting Room 1*

For those seeking to become an Orthodox Christian, we are here to help guide the way. Join our monthly Q & A with clergy on Sunday, January 11 (second Sunday of the month). Grab some refreshments at the Coffee Hour, then meet us at noon. Come early for social time.

If you would like to send a question in advance, send it to: **welcome@stmarysgoc.org**

# 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, January 5: Eve of Theophany

I Corinthians 9:19-27 • Luke 3:1-18

### Tuesday, January 6: Holy Theophany

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Matthew 3:13-17

### Wednesday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist

Acts 19:1-8 • John 1:29-34

### Thursday, January 8

Romans 6:3-11 • John 3:22-33

### Friday, January 9

II Timothy 2:1-10 • Mark 1:9-15

### Saturday, January 10

Ephesians 6:10-17 • Matthew 4:1-11

### Sunday, January 11: Sunday after Theophany

Hebrews 13:7-16 • Matthew 4:12-17



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

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Weekly Bulletin Submissions to: [Communications@stmarysgoc.org](mailto:Communications@stmarysgoc.org)

Weekly Bulletin Submission Deadline: Mondays