

February 8, 2026



The Divine Liturgy

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**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

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**Commemoration:**

Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Theodore the Commander and Great Martyr; The Holy Prophet Zacharias (Zachariah); Nicephoros & Stephanos the Martyrs; Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple; Cuthman of Steyning.

*Morning Gospel: Mark 16:1-8 ..... Tone: Second*

**VARIABLE HYMNS AND READINGS IN THE LITURGY**

*At the Second Antiphon*

Save us, O Son of God, carried in the arms of Simeon the Just,  
we sing to you: Alleluia!

*At the Small Entrance*

**Hymn of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, First Tone**

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

**Resurrection Hymn, Second Tone**

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of 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 Hymn of the Presentation of the Lord, above*

**Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone**

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

## 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 ζωὴν, μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις  
Theotoke. Metestis pros tin zoin, mitir iparhusa tis zois, ke tes presvies  
ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη ἐκ θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.  
tes ses litrumeni ek thanatu tas psihas imon.

## Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord, *First Tone*

For our salvation you took flesh and you sanctified the Virgin's womb; you blessed the aged Simeon as you lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all your people, O only lover of mankind.

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

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

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

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and

ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf?' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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

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## Today

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Prosforo is provided by  
**Krissa and Aspasia Rovolis.**

Memorial Prayers today are offered for  
**George Dendias** (40 days); **Glenn Friesen** (1 year).

The coffee hour today is hosted by  
**Philoptochos. Today is Sweet Sunday!**  
**Your freewill donation benefits FOCUS Minnesota.**



### **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 Great Hall for a cup of coffee and always enjoyable refreshments.



## Prayer Ministry

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

All victims of wars throughout the world; Our brothers and sisters living through the aftermath of disaster; For the victims of violence; Metro Hope Ministries; Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry; 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, Bill & Marti, Mia, Dennis, Deb, Dean, Ioanna, Santina, Tia, Margaret, Kathie, Owen, Missy, 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, 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, Karris, Corina, George R., Ken, Nancy and Tim, Olga, Peter, Cora and family, Lynn, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Pat, Dave, Pam, Gilbert, George P., Danielle, Jenny, John L., Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Rick, Nancy, Alex, Eryn, 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 February 15



### *Pancake mix & syrup*

February's recipient is Simpson Food Pantry

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

# Calendar of the Week

## **Sunday, February 8: Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
after Liturgy – Philoptochos Sweet Sunday, *Great Hall*  
11:45 a.m. – Curriculum Meeting, *Classroom*  
12:00 noon – Seekers' Meeting, *Fireside Room*

## **Tuesday, February 10: Saint Haralambos**

9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
6:15 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting, *Fireside Room*  
6:30 p.m. – Byzantine Chant Class, *Classroom*

## **Wednesday, February 11**

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal, *Nave*

## **Friday, February 13**

6:00 p.m. – Kollyva (Memorial Wheat) Workshop, *Terrace Room and Kitchen*  
6:00 p.m. – GOYA Pre-Lent Bowling Party

## **Saturday, February 14: First Saturday of Souls**

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study, *Fireside Room and on Zoom*  
10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
after Liturgy – FAITH Playgroup Cookie Decorating, *Great Hall*  
5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

## **Sunday, February 15: Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare)**

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy  
after Liturgy – Pancake Brunch, *Great Hall*  
after Liturgy – Project HOPE, *Terrace Room*



*Please join us for the third Annual Church School*

# **PANCAKE BRUNCH**

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> | Great Hall | After Divine Liturgy 



**Decorations, food preparation and serving all done by students!**

# SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS



**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
MISSION CENTER**



Saint Mary's parishioner, OCMC Senior Development Officer, and first missionary, **Dan Christophulos**, is with us this morning to update us on the missionary efforts of OCMC around the world. Dan will present during the Divine Liturgy and have an information table set-up during the coffee hour for questions. *The fullness of faith. To the ends of the earth.*

**Scan and give online**

<https://www.ocmc.org/serve-from-home/give>



# Let's Bring Healing and Hope to Our Neighbors.

Join us next **Sunday, February 15, for Project HOPE Sunday** as we unite with our sister parishes in the metropolis for a day of service offering hope and healing to our neighbors in need.

With many thanks to His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael for the generous gift of \$10,000 from **Project HOPE** for this one-time event at St. Mary's to address the critical needs in our community. Project HOPE, a ministry of the Metropolis of Chicago specifically addresses essential food and housing needs. We invite parishioners to join us on Sunday, February 15, for three distinct opportunities to offer hope to our neighbors:

- 1. GROCERY PACKING EVENT** ~ Following the Divine Liturgy, join us in the Terrace Room to fill grocery bags with essential items to feed families in need.
- 2. RENTAL ASSISTANCE** ~ QR codes will be available for parishioners to provide direct support to vetted agencies providing our neighbors with housing support.
- 3. ESSENTIALS DRIVE** ~ Parishioners are encouraged to bring any of the following items on the 15th to meet requested needs of partners in service to our community:
  - **Joyce Uptown Food Shelf:** menstrual pads
  - **VEAP/ Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People:** laundry soap (easy to carry)



May His Eminence's message of hope and healing invite us all to follow Christ's example in offering comfort, hope, and healing to our neighbors.



**H**  **P** **E**  
Humanitarian Outreach & Philanthropic Engagement

# Philoptochos News



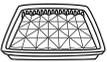
## Philoptochos Membership Drive

All women of the parish should have received a letter inviting them to *Step Up! Make a Difference!* with Philoptochos as a new or returning member. Let's renew and strengthen our efforts together, united in our mission to serve "the least of them." Membership dues are self-determined, with **the first \$22 supporting our Metropolis and National Philoptochos**, and the remainder directly benefiting our local chapter. Stop by our table to receive a small 'Thank You' gift for your donation.



## Sweet Sunday – Today

Sweet Sunday is a cherished Philoptochos fundraiser where we host coffee hour after Liturgy and collect donations to support charitable organizations. All proceeds this year event will be donated to FOCUS MN. Stop by and treat yourself to some sweets and make a donation (accepting cash, checks, and credit cards) to this very worthwhile organization.



## Spring Fillo Sale ~ Sundays, February 8-22

Fresh fillo is the best fillo! We are taking orders for fillo starting next Sunday, February 8, and continuing through Sunday, February 22. Stop by our table to place your order. The cost will be \$6.00 per pound. We will accept cash, checks, and credit cards (small additional fee is charged for credit card purchases). Pickup will be on March 1.



## Philoptochos Service Day ~ Saturday, February 21

Please join Philoptochos in the Lecture Room at St. Mary's between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, when we will be working on wheelchair bags, pillowcases, nightgowns, boxers, and feminine hygiene kits. We need volunteers for ironing, cutting, assembly and sewing. Come for an hour...or all day!

Please see Signup Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/Philo-serviceday-feb2026> for details or scan the QR code. Everyone is welcome! Bring your neighbor, friend, and/or high school students that may need volunteer service hours for school.

We are also in need of the following donations:

- bars of soap
- gallon size Ziploc freezer bags
- New women's underwear (small and medium sizes)

Donations should be dropped at the Philoptochos table by February 15 or brought with you to the Service Day on February 21

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## Philoptochos News (continued)

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### Church Kitchen Refrigerator Monthly Clean Up

We are looking for volunteers again in 2026 to help with keeping our church kitchen refrigerators clean. We need individuals to sign up for a monthly clean out of old and expired food and clean up any spills. Please stop by our table to pick a month you would be able to help.



### Upcoming Events

- **Sitari (Memorial Wheat) Workshop** – Friday, February 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

*Registration for the sitari workshop closes today.*

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



### Saint Olympia Ministry Events

Friday, February 13: 6:00-9:00 p.m. **Sitari (Memorial Wheat) Workshop** in the church kitchen. Bring mom and/or a friend. Sign up at the Philoptochos table on Sundays or call the church office, 612.825.9595, during the week. **Registration closes on Sunday, February 8.**



### IN THE BOOKSTORE

In the liturgical year, we are at the doors of Great and Holy Lent. As you look forward to this season of grace, please visit the bookstore for a good selection of Lenten reading to help you on your journey. Of special note is a book by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou titled ***The Way of the Lord Through the Triodion and Pentecostarion*** in which he provides brief yet succinct overviews and insights explaining each season and Sunday from the weeks before the Triodion begins through Pentecost to the Day of the Holy Spirit, all in a book of only 139 pages. Complementary copies of ***A Rule of Prayer During Great Lent*** are also available.



Stefana/wedding crowns and candles for weddings are now available in the bookstore. Additional styles will be added this spring. Shorter decorated candles are available for baptisms and chrismations. Made by Billie Savvas Slater.



## Renew Your Stewardship

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign is underway! Please prayerfully complete and return a time/talent/treasure form by **March 31**. This form must be completed, signed and returned yearly. *Note that ONLY those who have completed a pledge form for 2026 will be eligible to vote in the General Assembly and Parish Council elections.* If you do not have a form, they are available on the table in the back of the Narthex or by scanning the QR code. Thank you.



## Google Pay

We are now set up to accept Google Pay through Realm. When making a payment or your stewardship offering, select Google Pay at the top of the second screen where the payment options are found.



## Help to Welcome Our Newcomers!

Please stop by the Hospitality and Evangelism table outside the Great Hall to learn more about how you can be part of this important ministry of welcoming visitors, newcomers, and seekers to St. Mary's.

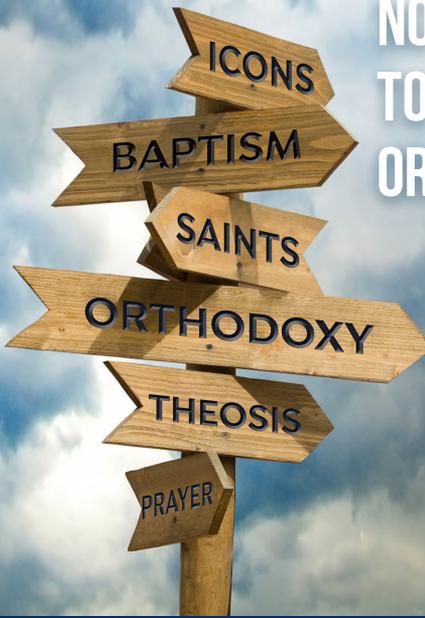


**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 15-19, 2026**



“Thank God every day with your whole heart for having given to you life according to His image and likeness - an intelligently free and immortal life...Thank Him also for again daily bestowing life upon you, who have fallen an innumerable multitude of times, by your own free will, through sins, from life unto death, and that He does so as soon as you only say from your whole heart: ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee!’ (Luke 15:18).”

— Saint John of Kronstadt



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

## SEEKER SUNDAYS

February 8 and March 8, 2026

12:00–1:00 p.m., *Fireside Room*

For those seeking to become an Orthodox Christian, we are here to help guide the way. Join our monthly Q & A with clergy on the 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](mailto: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, February 9: Presentation of Our Lord*

I John 2:18-29; 3:1-8 • Mark 11:1-11

### *Tuesday, February 10: Saint Haralambos*

II Timothy 2:1-10 • John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

### *Wednesday, February 11*

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 • Matthew 10:1, 5-8

### *Thursday, February 12*

I John 4:20-21; 5:1-21 • Mark 15:1-15

### *Friday, February 13*

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

### *Saturday, February 14: First Saturday of Souls*

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

### *Sunday, February 15: Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare)*

I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 • Matthew 25:31-46



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

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