

March 15, 2026



The Divine Liturgy

Sunday of the Holy Cross

Commemoration:

Sunday of the Holy Cross; Agapius the Martyr and His Companions; Manuel the New Martyr of Crete; Holy Apostle Aristobulos of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain.

Morning Gospel: John 20:1-10..... Tone: Grave

VARIABLE HYMNS AND READINGS IN THE LITURGY

At the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

At the Third Antiphon

Save, O Lord, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith, and protect Your people through Your holy Cross, Your holy Cross.

At the Small Entrance

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!

Resurrection Hymn, Grave Tone

By your cross, O Lord, you destroyed death; to the thief you opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers' sorrow you transformed into joy, and you sent your apostles forth to proclaim that you had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world your great mercy.

Hymn of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, First Tone

Save, O Lord, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith, and protect Your people through Your holy Cross, Your holy Cross.

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!

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 psihias imon.

Kontakion of the Theotokos (Ti ipermacho), Plagal Fourth Tone

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

Epistle Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”; as he says also in another place, “Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

Gospel Mark 8:34 – 9:1

The Lord said: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

.....
Megalynarion

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

Communion Hymn

O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. Alleluia.

Instead of “*We Have Seen the Light*,” we sing the *Hymn of the Elevation of the Holy Cross*, on page 1 of the bulletin.

Today

Prosforo is provided by:
Barbara Nichols

The coffee hour today is hosted by:
The Bazakos family



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.



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.



“To deny oneself means to give up one’s bad habits; to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad thoughts and desires; to suppress every evil thought; to avoid occasions of sin; not to desire or to do anything out of self-love, but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself, according to St. Paul means ‘to be dead to sin. . . but alive to God.’”

— St. Innocent of Alaska



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, 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 March 22



Canned Meat (e.g., tuna/chicken)

March's recipient is FOCUS Minnesota

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

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, March 15: Sunday of the Holy Cross

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

12:45 a.m. – Volleyball Practice, *Great Hall*

5:00 p.m. – Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers,
Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Monday, March 16

6:00 p.m. – Greek Dance Practice, *Great Hall*

Tuesday, March 17

11:30 a.m. – Senior Citizens' Bible Study, *Fireside Room*

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 a.m. – “The Messenger” Mailing, *Fireside Room*

9:30 a.m. – Housekeeping

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession (no appointments taken)

5:30 p.m. – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

6:45 p.m. – Lenten Dinner, hosted by Philoptochos
in support of Philoxenia House, *Terrace Room*

7:00 p.m. – Senior GOYA Volleyball, *Great Hall*

Lenten Letter Making (HOPE/JOY Mini meeting)

Senior GOYA Confession

Choir Rehearsal, *Nave*

Tuesday, March 19

No Koinonia this evening

Friday, March 20

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

4:00 p.m. – Holy Confession (no appointments taken)

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

Saturday, March 21

No Bible Study

Healing House Dinner

Sunday, March 22: Sunday of Saint John Climacus

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

after Liturgy – Annunciation/Greek Independence Day Celebration, *Great Hall*

2:00-5:00 p.m. – Visitation for Nicholas Everhart

(son of Leslie & Mary Ellen (Zubulake) Everhart)

Trisagion Service, 3:00 p.m.

Thurston-Lindberg-Deshaw Funeral Home

2005 Branch Avenue, Anoka, MN

5:00 p.m. – Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers, *Saint Mary's Romanian Orthodox*

Monday, March 23

11:00 a.m. – Funeral Service for Nicholas Everhart,

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church



Greek Independence Day Celebration Sunday, March 22

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 22, for the annual Annunciation/Greek Independence Day Celebration. Join us in the Great Hall, following the Divine Liturgy, for a delicious luncheon a delightful program featuring our youth with singing, readings, instrumental performances, and Greek dancing by the St. Mary's Greek Dance Troupe. Cost and menu will be announced soon. Net proceeds will be donated to the AHEPA District #14 Educational Foundation and to the St. Mary's Greek Dance Troupe.

Spanakopita and Tiropita Sale

The Daughters of Penelope will be selling frozen spanakopita and tiropita (in packs of 4, 8, and full trays) during the Greek Independence Day program on Sunday, March 22.



Church School Teachers' Workshop

A Church School teacher workshop, including resources for Holy Week and Pascha, will be offered on **Wednesday, March 25, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** following Vespers. Teachers are asked to bring their Teacher Resource Binder and a personal laptop.



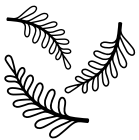
Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Would you like to host coffee hour? Sunday, March 29, is available to host. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to host.



Movie Night at Holy Trinity

Join us on Friday, March 27, at 7:15 p.m., for a Missions Movie Night at Holy Trinity OCA in St. Paul. We will watch a documentary about the 20th century Romanian Saint, Saint Arsenie of Prislop. Free popcorn and Twizzlers! Bring your friends! Holy Trinity is located at *956 Forest Street N. in St. Paul*. Complime begins at 6:00 p.m.



Holy Week and Pascha Flowers

Contributions are being accepted for our Holy Week and Pascha flowers and greens. Forms and envelopes are available at the stewardship table in the narthex. Please place the form and your donation in an envelope and drop it in the stewardship box. The deadline for contributions is Palm Sunday, April 5.

Let's Bring Hope to Our Neighbors

This Lenten Season



WEEK 2:

Almsgiving in **3** WAYS

In the spirit of Almsgiving this Lenten season, here are some ideas for you and your families:

CONNECT

- Visit a shut-in
- Reconnect with missed parishioners



THROUGHOUT LENT

BRING

School Supplies for Bancroft School

- School Supplies (*Pencils, Folders...*)
- Healthy Snacks (*Granola Bars...*)
- Paper Products (*Tissues, Wipes...*)



SUPPORT

Shop or donate to our ethnic stores. Your neighborhood store, **Bill's Imported Foods** ▶



SCAN TO SUPPORT ▼



PRAYER,



FASTING,



AND ALMSGIVING.

THE YIELD OF OUR FRUITS

125



Years of Saint Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church

80



Years of Saint Mary's
Philoptochos

50



Years of Service:
Thespina & Mark Macres

400+



Parishioners Attending
Weekly Divine Liturgy

347



Stewards

264



Kids at Summer Camp

157



Family Camp Attendees

199



Students in
Church School

31



Saint John Chrysostom
Oratorical and Art
Festival Participants

15



Junior Olympics
Participants

11



Koinonia Groups

90



31



12



8



1



11,000+



5,250



600+



580



We're so thankful for St. Mary's.



Reflections on a Bountiful 2025

Clergy Visits
to Our VIPs

42 

Choir
Members

Baptisms
(11 adults, 20 kids)

30 

Byzantine Music
Students

Chrismations

10 

New
Chanters

Weddings

New Clergy Member
Deacon, Fr. Stephen Wehr



\$160,000+

Taste of Greece Festival Proceeds

\$52,000+

Donated to Local Charities

\$10,000

Donated to Non-local Charities

\$10,000

Donated to Mpls. Police Foundation
(from the St. Mary's Foundation)

\$6,500

Donated to Orphanages

\$6,100

Donated to National Philoptochos



Cookies Baked For The
Taste of Greece Festival



Pieces of Baklava Baked For
The Taste of Greece Festival



Loaves of Prosforo Baked



FOCUS Meals Prepared



Membership Drive Ends Soon!

There are only two weeks remaining in our membership drive. If you have not completed your donation yet, please stop by our table and complete a form. *Step Up! Make a Difference!* with Philoptochos as a new or renewing 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.



Tandem Fundraising Drive: Now through April 5

This Lent Philoptochos is again partnering with the Tandem Family Resource Center to support families in need. The Tandem Center (formerly Tapestry) provides resources for women in crisis. Please stop by our table to pick up an envelope to make your donation. Learn more at: www.wearetandem.org



Philoptochos Hosting Lenten Meal after Presanctified Liturgy: March 18

Philoptochos will host the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 18, raising funds for Philoxenia House. We need your help! Please visit our table during coffee hour today and sign up to help with set up, serving, and clean up, or volunteer on Signup Genius by scanning the QR code. We look forward to sharing this meaningful meal with everyone!



Healing House Help Needed: Saturday, March 21

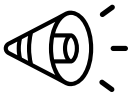
Metro Hope Ministries' Healing House is a beautiful ministry that offers long-term residence and a Christ-centered recovery program for women and mothers with children overcoming addiction. St Mary's Philoptochos has the honor of supporting Healing House six times throughout the year by providing a home-cooked meal and sharing in Bible study. Our next meal will be Saturday, March 21, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. We are in need of six adult volunteers to provide and serve the meal on site. Volunteer slots can be found on SignUpGenius by scanning the QR code.



Mark your Calendar!

General Meeting: Sunday, March 29

Our next Philoptochos General Meeting will be Sunday, March 29, at 11:45 a.m., in the Terrace Room. We will have a very informative presentation by our own Peter and Libby Cheolis on “Situational Awareness: Preparation equals Confidence”— a very timely, important topic. We will also be discussing items coming up in April and May which will be very busy months for Philoptochos as we prepare for Pascha and thereafter. Please come, be informed on a topic of personal safety, and see how you can help us going forward. Food and fellowship will be provided!



Bancroft School – Volunteer Appreciation Drive

Bancroft Elementary School was hit hard by Operation Metro Surge. Philoptochos would like to make donations to their Teacher Appreciation program. This year the teachers at the school would like the donations to go to their volunteers. These volunteers step up by taking the children to school and back, as well as helping out with groceries and medication. The volunteers have been a point of contact for families at Bancroft and thus, helping the school.

Philoptochos will be holding a drive for the next month and is requesting donations of \$20 gift cards for gas stations like Holiday and Speedway, as well as \$20 cards for Target or Walmart. Cash and check donations are welcome too. Your gift will be given to the kind souls who help and support the school through the cold winter. Collections start this Sunday and will end on Palm Sunday, April 5. Please drop off at the Philoptochos table on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Kouzes or Carol Smith.



MINNESOTA  PAN-ORTHODOX
LENTEN VESPERS

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

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

MARCH 15 **St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**
Veneration of the Holy Cross 1250 Oakdale Ave, West St Paul, 55118

MARCH 22 **St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church**
St. John of the Ladder 854 N Woodbridge St, St. Paul, 55117

MARCH 29 **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**
St. Mary of Egypt 956 Forest St. N, St. Paul, 55106

APRIL 5 **St. Herman Orthodox Church**
Bridegroom Matins 5355 38th Ave S, Minneapolis, 55412





2026 RESTORATION PROJECT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

FOR THE DOME



TARGETED GOAL: \$1M

Thank you to everyone who has pledged a contribution to the building improvements project. We have received **\$655,000** in commitments towards our goal of raising **\$1M**. In order for us to begin the dome restoration project this spring, we need to secure a remainder of **\$345,000**. We invite every member of our community to join this sacred effort through *prayer, participation, and giving*. Please prayerfully consider *if* and *what* you can donate to help restore this blessed and treasured landmark.

Questions? Reach out to Nick Santrizos at:
ViewFromThePew@stmarysgoc.org



Electronic payment donations can be made by scanning the code.

All contributions for this project will be placed into the Saint Mary's Capital Improvements Reserve.

www.stmarysgoc.org/For-The-Dome



ST. MARY'S CAMP

EST. 1952

Saturday, July 4 – Friday, July 10, 2026
Camp Wapogasset • Amery, Wisconsin

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING!

Early Bird Registration Fee
March 1 –15

\$590 + Convenience Fee* / Camper

Regular Rate Registration Fee
March 16 –31

\$665 + Convenience Fee* / Camper

- The true cost of camp is \$660.41 per camper
- Registration will close on March 31, at 11:59 p.m.

*Reduce fees by paying with an Electronic Check (ACH): Electronic Check (ACH) Fee: 1.50% + \$0.50 per registrant versus the CampDoc Convenience Fee of 3.95% + \$0.30 per registrant

REGISTER TODAY:

At 230 campers, the Waiting List will begin!

stmaryscamp.com



f 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 Vacation Church School

EXPLORE
**GOD'S
PROMISES**
..... IN THE
GREAT NORTH



JUNE 15-19, 2026

Register today and Get ready for a great adventure!

Vacation Church School is open to children, age 5 to those entering 6th grade in the fall. Five days of music, worship, activities, snacks, and games. Middle and high school youth are needed for staff support. If your teen is available and willing to help, please also sign them up. Scan the code to register your child.



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, March 16

Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6

Tuesday, March 17

Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday, March 18

Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Thursday, March 19

Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverbs 13:19-14:6

Friday, March 20

Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26

Saturday, March 21

Hebrews 6:9-12 • Mark 7:31-37

Sunday, March 22: Sunday of Saint John Climacus

Hebrews 6:13-20 • Mark 9:17-31



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408-3399

stmarysgoc.org | 612.825.9595 |   

*Fr. Timothy Sas, Fr. Jason Houck,
Fr. Paul Kalina, Deacon, Fr. Luke Twito, Deacon, Fr. Stephen Wehr, Deacon*

Weekly Bulletin Submissions to: Communications@stmarysgoc.org

Weekly Bulletin Submission Deadline: Mondays