

THE MESSENGER



APRIL 2026

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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



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

—John 12:13

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



PRAYER,



FASTING,



AND ALMSGIVING.

Our Life Together

Baptism

Charles

Parents:

Patrick & Alexandra Carroll

February 21, 2026

Death

Nicholas Everhart

February 22, 2026

Study Groups

Koinonia

(Tia Muchulas, host)

Thursday, April 16

6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Men's Fellowship

Fridays, April 3 and 17

7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study

Saturdays, April 18 and 25

9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Senior Citizens' Bible Study

Tuesday, April 28

11:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Womens' Bible Study

Saturdays, April 18, May 2,

16, and 30—8:30 a.m.,

Patty Christopoulos' home

5312 Highwood Drive W., Edina

Holiday Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, April 10, in observance of Great Friday. The Church and Office will be closed on Monday, April 13, in observance of Bright Monday.

"With great joy does Christ fill our hearts by His Resurrection... He gives us gladness... He also gives us salvation through His Passion, immortality through His Death, healing for our wounds, and resurrection from our fall!"

—Saint Proclus of Constantinople

"When one gives, two get happy."
—Amit Kalantri, *Wealth of Words*.

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 5

Individually wrapped bars of soap

Sunday, April 12

Diapers (Size 5)

Sunday, April 19

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

Sunday, April 26

Individually wrapped toothbrushes

www.cesmn.org



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



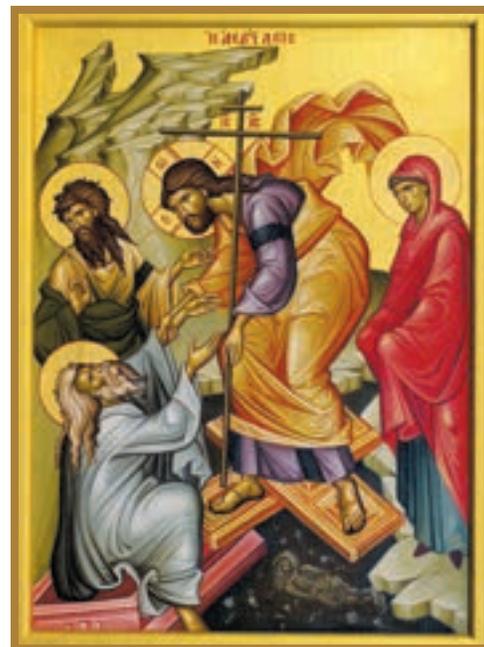
Previous issues of
THE MESSENGER
are available to view
on our website

VIEW NOW.



SCAN THE CODE.

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



GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA IS SUNDAY, APRIL 12. SEE THE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ON PAGE 5.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers

*Saturdays April 4, 18, and 25

Sundays (live-streamed)

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 14:

Bright Tuesday

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 17:

Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 23:

Saint George

Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

1111 Summit Avenue (at Lexington

Parkway), St. Paul

Saturday, April 25:

Saint Mark

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Parish News & Events

St. Mary's Church Staff

Proistamenos

Fr. Timothy Sas

Associate Priest

Fr. Jason Houck

Deacons

Fr. Paul Kalina

Fr. Luke Twito

Fr. Stephen Wehr

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

Church Facilities and Construction Manager

Dean Psychogios

St. Mary's Parish Council

President

Nicholas Santrizos

Vice President

Andrew LeRoy

Secretary

Justin Theodotou

Treasurer

Cristina Nicklow

Assistant Treasurer

Athena Mihas

Members

Benjamin Amundgaard

Jennifer Coin

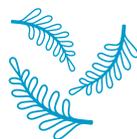
Vasilios (Billy) Daravingas

Louis Ellis

Andrew Gatchell

Chrissie Hoffman

Heather Koutroupas



Palm Sunday Spaghetti Lunch

Our beloved choir will once again host the annual Palm Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon hosted on Sunday, April 5, following Liturgy. Enjoy a delicious meal with the special sauce made by John Legeros and crew. A suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$6 per child under 10 (credit card, cash, check, or Venmo) is accepted at the door. Proceeds benefit the choir's trip to the Federation Choir Conference in the fall. Come and help support our choir.



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.



Remember and Commemorate Your Departed Loved Ones

Once again this year during Holy Friday evening service we will have luminaries (white bags with votive candles) line the walkway as we process with the Kouvouklion. Each memorial will have one name on it, each one is \$5. This is a wonderful way for many prayers to be offered of "Memory Eternal" to our Lord from our parish family. See Dena Tortorelis after Liturgy at a table in the Great Hall.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will resume meeting this spring. Mark your calendars for the following dates: Saturdays, April 18, May 2, 16, and 30, beginning at 8:30 a.m., at Patty Chrisopoulos' home, 5312 Highwood Drive W., Edina. This spring's topic will be the Letters of Saint Peter. All women of the parish are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Patty at: 952.200.9566 or patty@light-n-life.com. Direct questions to Patty at above cell or email as well.



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

SEEKER SUNDAY
May 9, 2026 • Following Vespers
Fireside Room

For those seeking to become an Orthodox Christian, we are here to help guide the way. There will not be a meeting in April, but please plan to join our next session with clergy for a Q&A session on May 9.

Submit a question in advance. Send it to: welcome@stmarysgoc.org



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

42ND ANNUAL
SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
Oratorical and
Fine Arts Festival



Diamanto Mesiacos, 1st Place Iconography - Senior Division St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL

**Bright Saturday,
April 18, 2026**

Host Parish:
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church,
Minneapolis, MN

For more information, please contact:
oratoricalfestival@gmail.com

2026 RESTORATION PROJECT
CAMPAIGN UPDATE
FOR THE
DOME



\$345,000
still needed

\$655,000
in commitments

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.

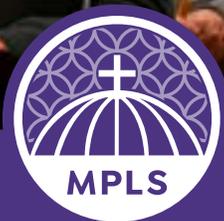
Questions? Reach out to Nick Santrizos at:
ViewFromThePew@stmarysgoc.org



Electronic payment donations can be made by scanning the code.

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

www.stmarysgoc.org/For-The-Dome



HOLY WEEK AT ST. MARYS

Saturday, April 4: Lazarus Saturday

9:00 a.m. - Orthros; 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Luncheon hosted by the choir follows Liturgy
6:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 6: Holy Monday

6:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 7: Holy Tuesday

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

Wednesday, April 8: Holy Wednesday

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

Thursday, April 9: Holy Thursday

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

Friday, April 10: Great Friday

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

Saturday, April 11: Holy Saturday

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

Sunday, April 12: GREAT and HOLY PASCHA

12:00 midnight - Resurrection Service; Orthros; Divine Liturgy; Paschal Celebration
12:00 noon - Agape Vespers



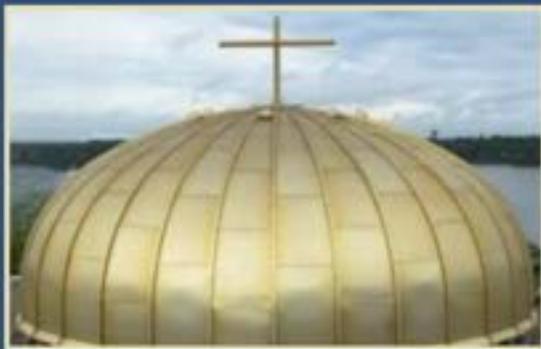
St Mary's Philoptochos Presents

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Watch one of four great movies!

APRIL 17TH @ 6:00 PM



*Free will donation to enter.
Pizza, popcorn, and
beverages for purchase.*

**"ONE NIGHT AT THE
MOVIES—ONE STEP
CLOSER TO A
SHINING DOME."**

Do it
**FOR THE
DOME**





PHILOPTOCHOS MEETINGS

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!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Tandem Drive

Runs through Palm Sunday April 5

This Lent, we're again partnering with the Tandem Family Resource Center to support families in need. The Tandem Center (formally Tapestry) provides resources for women in crisis. Learn more at <https://www.wearetandem.org>. Please stop by the Philoptochos table to make your donation. Venmo (@MplsPhilo) and Realm (Fund: Philoptochos, Memo Tandem) donations are also being accepted

Women's Book Club Discussion

Thursday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

The women's book club will not meet in April. The May book club meeting is Thursday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. in the 6th grade classroom. May's book is a wonderful and practical guide titled "Toolkit for Spiritual Growth: A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving" by Fr. Evan Armatas. The book is available in the bookstore. Please join us even if you have not read the book. You will find the conversation inspirational.

Please also note that we are planning to offer a Zoom link for those who can't make it in person. Please try and attend if you are able in person. Contact Katherine Boosalis at katherine@boosalis.net if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Holy Week and Pascha

Watch the bulletin for opportunities to help decorate the Sanctuary for Holy Holy Week and Pascha. Sign up at the Philoptochos table after Sunday Liturgy.

Please consider a donation of koulourakia for the Anastasi celebration after the Midnight Resurrection Service.

Family Movie Night ~ For the Dome

Friday, April 17

Help is needed for our movie night, on Bright Friday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m. There will be several "theaters"! Come celebrate the resurrection! Watch for volunteer opportunities.

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!

FOCUS Meal Date Change

The FOCUS meal scheduled for Sunday, April 19 has been changed to Sunday, May 10. Watch for details.

THANK YOU

...to the Membership Committee: Annette Legeros, Eleni George, Kathi Wendland, Kathy Pinger, and Maria Boosalis for a wonderful Membership Drive dedicated for members to step up and make a difference!
...to volunteers who helped with the Lenten Dinner and the MEOCCA Vespers Meal!
...Andrea Tiggas for once again managing the filo and coffee sales
...Continued grateful appreciation to everyone who generously supports Our Little Orthodox Library with materials. Your contributions are invaluable! Please continue to share your resources and help us grow.

Watch for more postings of events in the parish weekly bulletins and sign up to attend!

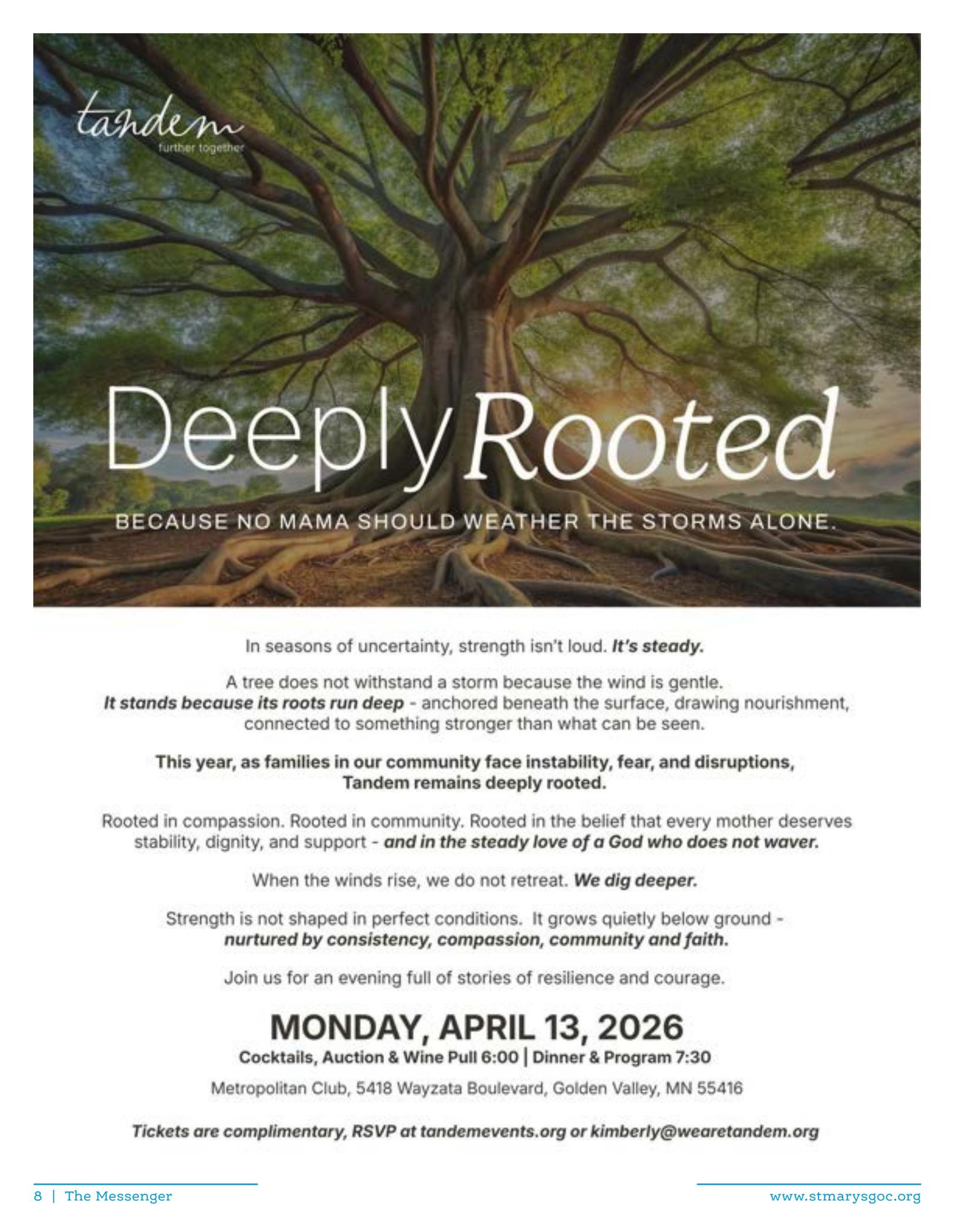
Follow Saint Mary's Philoptochos on Social Media

 Facebook



 Instagram





tandem
further together

Deeply Rooted

BECAUSE NO MAMA SHOULD WEATHER THE STORMS ALONE.

In seasons of uncertainty, strength isn't loud. ***It's steady.***

A tree does not withstand a storm because the wind is gentle.
It stands because its roots run deep - anchored beneath the surface, drawing nourishment, connected to something stronger than what can be seen.

This year, as families in our community face instability, fear, and disruptions, Tandem remains deeply rooted.

Rooted in compassion. Rooted in community. Rooted in the belief that every mother deserves stability, dignity, and support - ***and in the steady love of a God who does not waver.***

When the winds rise, we do not retreat. ***We dig deeper.***

Strength is not shaped in perfect conditions. It grows quietly below ground - ***nurtured by consistency, compassion, community and faith.***

Join us for an evening full of stories of resilience and courage.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

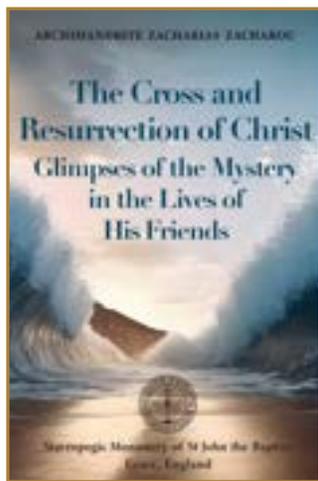
Cocktails, Auction & Wine Pull 6:00 | Dinner & Program 7:30

Metropolitan Club, 5418 Wayzata Boulevard, Golden Valley, MN 55416

Tickets are complimentary, RSVP at tandemevents.org or kimberly@wearetandem.org

In the Bookstore

By Rebecca Myerly
bookstore@stmarysgoc.org



Saint Sophrony said, “Knowledge of God comes from life in God, which is born in the deepest place of the heart.”* Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou, the spiritual son of Saint Sophrony, has written a meditation from this deepest place of the heart titled **The Cross and Resurrection of Christ: Glimpses of the Mystery in the Lives of His Friends**. While being all-inclusive in its scope and compass, it is also a focused edifying reflection especially appropriate for immersion in prayer during Holy Week and the Paschal season.

Father Zacharias begins:

Who can fathom the Cross of Christ? Who can measure its weight? The Cross of Christ comprises all the crosses of all men from the beginning to the end of time. Qualitatively, the Cross is incomprehensible, and its size infinite. Our minds are too limited to rush upwards. And our hearts are too poor, too narrow to embrace it. We are unable to grasp the height, and depth, and length, and breadth of this Cross, because we cannot bear the sufferings it entails. (29)

He explains:

A great and inconceivable Cross for Christ was the union of two natures diametrically opposed: of His divine Nature with the nature of man, which was so estranged from His glory. He who is Uncreated, Infinite, Incomprehensible and Eternal, united Himself with the created, finite, earthly, and mortal work of His hands. The Creator and Maker of all became a creature....God was well-pleased to unite His immaterial and spiritual Nature with the nature of man polluted by death. From the first moment that the Lord joined Himself to our being, the Cross accompanied Him and was at work in a prophetic way. (29-30)

In elaborating on this prophetic way, Father Zacharias leads the reader through Christ’s journey with the Cross so that we can understand more clearly and grow to deeply appreciate that “The event of the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the centre of our life in God.” (39) In this life we come to experience

Suffering has value when endured in the presence of God....If we abide in the presence of Christ, follow His example and bless His holy Name, our sufferings will become the key that will open unto us the door of heaven. Then our sufferings have glory. (37)... We assimilate the life, the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ according to the ascetic strivings that each man undertakes in order to conform himself to the example that He has given us. When we take up our cross and suffer...; when we bear the pain of repentance with living faith in the mercy of God and with a good disposition; when we suffer the temptations of the devil; when

we become partakers of the Passion of the Lord; when the soul comes to extreme humility and despair and cleaves to the ground, deprived of all human consolation; then the great miracle takes place. The life-giving grace of the Holy Spirit descends on us, that grace which raises the dead, heals our wounds, and secretly works within us the mystery of Christ’s Resurrection in joy and unspeakable gladness. (45-46)

This meditation, brief as it is, is one the reader would benefit from throughout their life if it is pondered attentively and prayerfully as we read the Theotokos did in Luke 2:19 and 51b: “Mary kept all these things (*ῥήματα*— words) and pondered them in her heart.” May we follow her example in following Christ.

(**The Cross and Resurrection of Christ: Glimpses of the Mystery in the Lives of His Friends** contains the meditation of Father Zacharias in both Greek and English.)

*Words of Life, page 43.

“The event of the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the centre of our life in God.”

—Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou



The Cross and Resurrection of Christ: Glimpses of the Mystery in the Lives of His Friends 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



Sunday, April 26
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Volleyball Practice
Volleyball practice after coffee hour to prepare us for the Junior Olympics.

Friday/Saturday, May 1 and 2

GOYA Lock-in

We will begin the evening with dinner together, followed by prayer to start our time in a spirit of gratitude and fellowship. Afterward, we'll enjoy games including volleyball and basketball, with plenty of time for fun, activities, and free time together throughout the night.



Wednesday, April 1
7:00-8:00 p.m.
Q&A with a Priest
Following the Wednesday Presanctified

Liturgy we will eat dinner and have a Q&A with a priest. Make sure to bring your questions!

Tuesday, April 21

6:15-8:00 p.m.

Springtime Seed Planting

Meet at Church for dinner and participate in a flower planting activity together. As we plant flowers, we'll reflect on how tending a garden can teach us about nurturing and growing in our own spiritual lives.



Wednesday, April 1
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Lenten Confession
Following the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy the priests will be ready to offer confession for the second graders.

Wednesday, April 15

6:15-8:00 p.m.

Springtime Seed Planting

Meet at Church for dinner and participate in a flower planting activity together. As we plant flowers, we'll reflect on how tending a garden can teach us about nurturing and growing in our own spiritual lives.



CHURCH SCHOOL

No Church School on Sunday, April 12 - Pascha. Come to the Agape Vespers at noon on Sunday or try and stay up and celebrate Anastasi!

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.

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."



Follow the GOYAns on Instagram
@St_Marys_GOYA

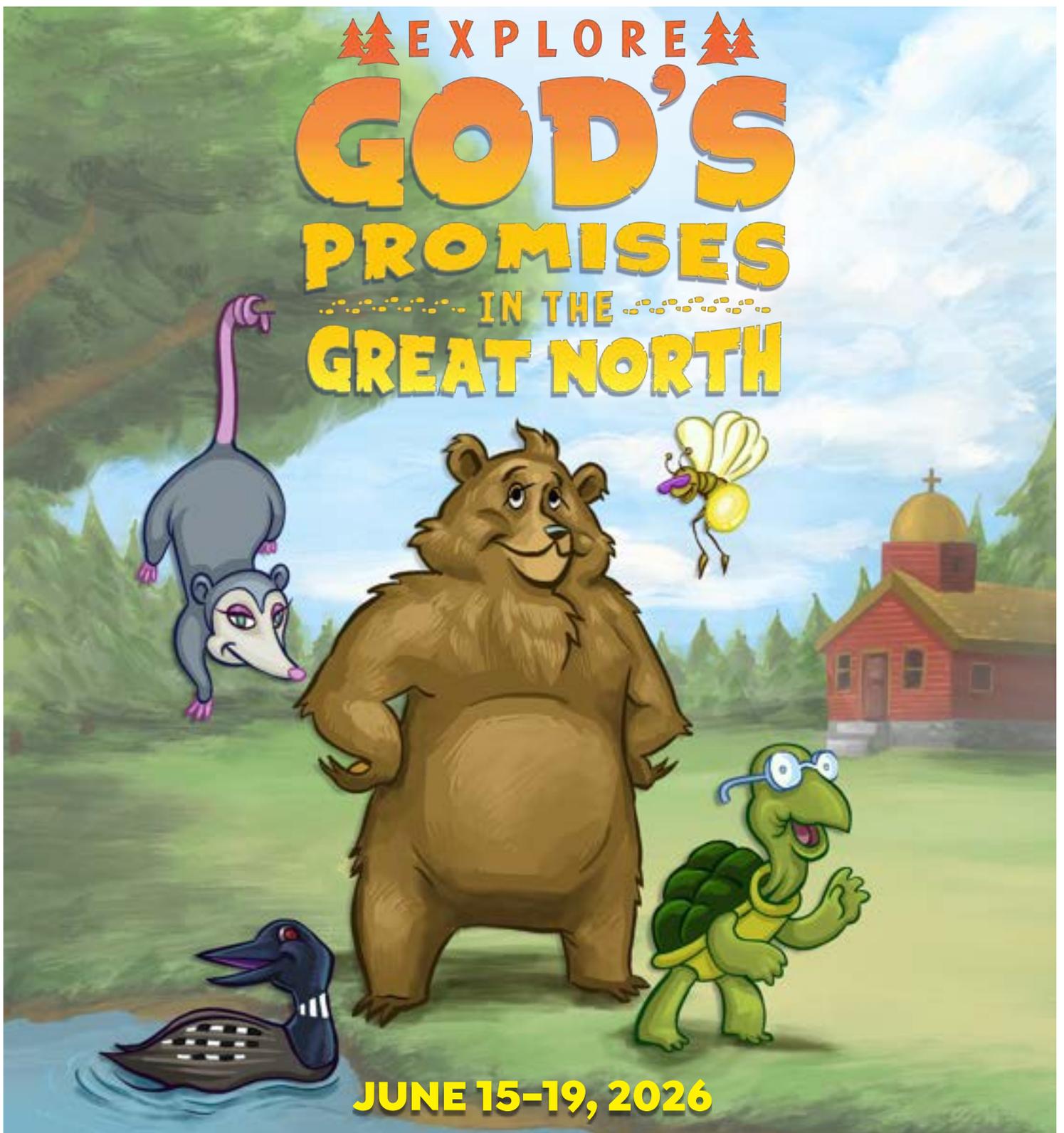
Saint Mary's Vacation Church School

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

JUNE 15-19, 2026

**SCAN THE CODE ON THE
NEXT PAGE TO REGISTER**

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.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lazarus Saturday is April 4 and
marks our journey into Holy Week.



THE MESSENGER



APRIL 2026

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 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am-Housekeeping 4:00pm-Confession 5:30pm-Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm-Lenten Dinner 7:00pm-Jr. GOYA Q&A 7:00pm-HOPE/JOY Confession 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	2	3 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	4 Lazarus Saturday 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Family Service Day 5:00pm-Great Vespers
5 Palm Sunday "The Messenger" Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Palm Sunday Lunch 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	6 Holy Monday 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	7 Holy Tuesday 9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy 6:00pm-Bridegroom Matins	8 Holy Wednesday 3:30pm-Holy Unction 6:00pm-Orthros of the Mystical Supper; Holy Unction	9 Holy Thursday 9:30am-Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper 6:00pm-Service of Holy Passion	10 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	11 Holy Saturday 10:00am-First Resurrection Divine Liturgy 11:30pm-Midnight Office Resurrection Service Orthros Divine Liturgy Paschal Celebration
12 GREAT and HOLY PASCHA 12:00noon-Agape Vespers	13 Bright Monday <i>Church and Office Closed</i>	14 Bright Tuesday 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council	15 Bright Wednesday 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 10:00am-Housekeeping 6:15pm-HOPE/JOY Event	16 Bright Thursday 6:30pm-Koinonia	17 Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-Movie Night	18 Bright Saturday <i>Metropolis Oratorical Festival at St. Mary's</i> 8:30am-Women's Bible Study 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers
19 Sunday of Saint Thomas 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	20	21 6:15pm-Junior GOYA Event	22	23 Saint George 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul 7:00pm-Stewardship Com.	24	25 Saint Mark 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Great Vespers 6:00pm-OCMC Fundraiser
26 The Myrrh-Bearing Women 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Curriculum Mtg. 12:30pm-Sr. GOYA Volleyball	27	28 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-Senior Cit. Bible Study	29 10:00am-Housekeeping	30		