

August 23, 2026



The Divine Liturgy

Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration: Twelfth Sunday of Matthew; Apodosis of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary; Our Holy Father Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons; Lupus the Martyr; Our Righteous Father Nicholas of Sikelion; Our Holy Father Kallinikos, Patriarch of Constantinople; Haralambos of Kalyviani; 38 Martyrs of Thrace; Our Holy Father Irenaeus, Bishop of Sirmium.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 Tone: Third

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

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!

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, *Third Tone*

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of his arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world his great mercy.

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!

Εν τῇ γενήσῃ τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ κοιμήσῃ 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 psichas imon.

Kontakion of the Dormition of the Theotokos, *Plagal Second Tone*

The Theotokos is undying in intercession. Immovable is our hope in her for protection. Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

Epistle.....I Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel.....Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Megalynarion

Now all generations call you blessed, O only Theotokos.

In you the laws of nature are defeated, O undefiled Virgin pure.

In virginity childbirth was accomplished, and death introduces life.

You, after bearing, are virgin, and after dying are living.

Mother of God, ever save your inheritance.

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

Communion Hymn

I will lift the cup, lift the cup of salvation, I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

Today

Prosforo is provided by **Barbara Nichols**

The coffee hour today is hosted by **James Newcomb**

St. Mary's parishioner James Newcomb is hosting a concert on **Monday, September 17** to raise funds for treatment for his son Gabriel who's recently been diagnosed with Crohn's disease. On the program are works by Gershwin and Copeland and also features special guest Manny Laureano, former principal trumpet with the Minnesota Orchestra! Visit **gabrielsaysthanks.com** for more information.



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.

Announcements



Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Classes

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity (catechism classes) will be offered beginning in September. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m., and continue through the fall. This year the location has been moved to Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1250 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118 or online via Zoom.

*Information can be found
on the MEOCCA website*



*Register
Online*



<https://meocca.org/our-faith/cooperative-catechism>



For all readers young and old: St. Mary's Lending Library

The St. Mary's Lending Library is open! Our collection features primarily children's books, along with a selection for adults. Explore longtime favorites and brand-new additions waiting to be enjoyed. The library is available every Sunday throughout the summer and during Christmas break. Look for the rolling book cart in the Great Hall, in the corner by Mrs. Tortorelis.

How it works: Borrow up to three books at a time and return them within two weeks, or sooner if you've finished them. Whether you're looking for a bedtime story, a family read-aloud, or a good book for yourself, come check it out!



Women's Bible Study to Resume This Fall

Women's Bible Study, hosted by Patty Christopulos, continues with I Peter and will conclude with II Peter. All women are welcome. For questions - please call or text Patty Christopulos: 952.200.9566 or patty@light-n-life.com

Mark your calendars for the following dates:
Saturdays, September 19, October 3, 17, and 31
beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Patty Christopulos' home.



St. Mary's Men's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the annual Men's Retreat scheduled for **September 26, 2026**. This "daytreat" will again be hosted at the home of Deacon Luke Twito from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Food provided by Sheff and Nouli Priest from their food truck. It will be a great day of fun activities and fellowship. Fr. Perry Kallis from St. George Greek Orthodox Church will be our featured speaker and discussion leader. Register on Realm. Suggested donation to help cover expenses is \$35.00 and can be paid through Realm when registering or by check to the church office. Please register as soon as possible to guarantee your spot. More information will be provided to those planning to attend as the day approaches. *Retreat is limited to 40 registrants.*



OCF Meal Volunteers Needed

The University of Minnesota's OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) is looking for volunteers to donate meals. They meet on select Thursday evenings this upcoming fall semester. Please contact Mary Rezcallah at 952.258.3047 if interested or scan this QR code.

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, August 23: Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Backpacks
after Liturgy – Church School Meet and Greet, *Terrace Room*

Monday, August 24

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

Thursday, August 27

6:00 p.m. – Church School Teachers' Meeting, *Dena Tortorelis' home*

Saturday, August 29: Beheading of John the Baptist

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 30: Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew

8:30 a.m. – Matins; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Backpacks
11:30 a.m. – Acolyte Training Workshop
12:00 noon – Salad Dressing Preparations, *Kitchen*



Upcoming Church Festivals

St. Mary's Coptic Festival

501 – 6th Avenue South, South St. Paul
Saturday, August 29: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 30, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Rochester Greek Festival

703 West Center Street, Rochester
Friday and Saturday, August 28 and 29: 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 30: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Romanian Festival

854 Woodbridge Street, St. Paul
Saturday, September 19: 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.

St. Sahag Armenian Orthodox Church Festival

203 N. Howell Street, St. Paul
Saturday, September 19, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church — Harvest Festival

Sunday, September 20: 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Dinner, bake sale, bazaar, kids' games, raffle
Dinner menu: Cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cheese, salad, pumpkin and apple pies, beverages.
Adults (12+) - \$15.00, Youth (5-11) - \$8.00, Children (0-4) – free.



mplsgreekfest.org

Spread the word and tell your friends!

The Minneapolis Taste of Greece Festival

Friday, September 11: 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 12: Noon-9:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13: Noon-5:00 p.m.



COUNTDOWN

19
DAYS

Festival Volunteer Sign-up Is Open!

The Minneapolis Taste of Greece Festival offers wonderful opportunities to get involved, and volunteering is one of the most rewarding ways to participate—especially with family and friends. This cherished tradition brings our parish together in faith, fellowship, and fun. Volunteers are the heart of the Festival, and your energy and generosity make everything possible. Thank you to those who have already signed up—we look forward to an amazing team effort! Signing up is easy:

- Scan the QR code below.
- Choose between Pre-Festival Set Up or Festival Weekend.
- Follow the prompts and select a spot or two to volunteer.
- Decide on dates/times that work for you.
- Lastly, verify your email address to confirm your selection. You only have to verify your email once. Without this, your selection will not be confirmed.

Please contact Krisanthi Sikkila with questions or assistance at: **763.227.6154** or [sikkila@comcast.net](mailto:ikkila@comcast.net)



Scan for **Festival Volunteer Sign-Up**



Greek Festival Boutique – Vicki Hanson Needs Your Treasures!

The Vintage Section of our Church Boutique is looking for donations of icons, linens, Greek artwork, and other quality vintage items in good condition. Every donated item makes a difference—100% of the proceeds from Vintage Section sales support our mission. Your generosity helps make our Greek Festival Boutique a success while giving new life to treasured items. To donate, please contact **Vicki Hanson at 612.327.0797**. Thank you for your kindness and support!!



The Taste of Greece is on Instagram and Tiktok!

The Taste of Greece is on Instagram and Tiktok! Please follow our new accounts (@[mpls.greekfest](https://www.instagram.com/mpls.greekfest) on both platforms), spread the word, and repost to help make the festival a success! If you would like to be featured in content please reach out to Sia Tortorelis or Marina Gabor or email mplsgreekfest.socials@gmail.com

Additionally, as we ramp up our social media presence, the Festival Social Media team is looking to do a series of “Throwback Thursday” posts and we need your help collecting photos from past years’ festivals! If you have photos (think working the souvlaki grill, baking melomakarona, enjoying loukoumades, or really any church baking or glendi photos for that matter!) that you are willing to have posted on the Instagram account please share them with us at mplsgreekfest.socials@gmail.com and include the year if you know it. Thank you for your support!



Blood Donors Needed!

On Friday, September 11, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Memorial Blood Center will have two buses on site during the Festival. Our goal is to collect 80 units. Sign up here!



Scan to
Sign Up

2026 Taste of Greece Bakery— *Philoptochos Invities you to help!*

Since May, Festival Cookie Captains led volunteers to fill St. Mary’s freezers with thousands of koulouria, kourambiethes, baklava, and melomakarona plus filled bins with baklava sundae topping. Thank you to the captains and the dozens of parishioners and friends for working toward a successful 2026 Taste of Greece Bakery!

- Friday, September 4, 8:30-11:30 a.m. – *Drizzle chocolate baklava*
- Tuesday, September 8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – *Cut and package baklava*
- Wednesday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – *Powder and package kourambiethes, package amygdalota, package melomakarona, assemble variety packs*
- Thursday, September 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – *Final set up of bakery and prepare kitchen*

Please also volunteer to work in the Festival bakery, Friday, September 11- Sunday, September 13! Stop by the Philoptochos Table in the Great Hall after Sunday Liturgies or use the online link/QRC provided in church materials.



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; Lukas N., Jolene, Sarah, Ivan, Greg, Matthew, Judy, Bettsy, Mr. Berscheit; Naira, Juliana, Beth, Mia, Deb, Dean, Tia, Kathie, Owen, Missy, Anthony, 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, George, Billie, Nino, 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, 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 August 30



Individually wrapped toothpaste

August's recipient is Community Emergency Service (CES)

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

Philoptochos News



Bancroft Elementary School Supply Drive

Today-August 23

Saint Mary's Philoptochos is once again supporting Bancroft Elementary School in South Minneapolis through the Operation Classroom initiative. We are collecting school supplies for kindergarteners through fifth graders to help them start a successful school year. Please bring your donations to the Philoptochos table on Sundays now through August 23.

If you prefer to contribute funds instead of physical supplies, please make checks payable to St. Mary's Philoptochos with "Bancroft Elementary School" in the memo line.

Shopping List:

- Plastic pencil boxes
- Crayola Washable Markers (8 or 10 count)
- Crayola Crayons (16 or 24 packs)
- Wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- Wooden lead pencils (Ticonderoga #2 preferred)
- Pink erasers
- Kid-sized Fiskars scissors
- Backpacks
- Reusable hot/cold packs (Amazon: Everlasting Ice or Revix)
- Mesh Bags (Amazon: Papejoon)
- 6x9 Heavy duty zip bags (Amazon: GPI)

Thank you for your continuous support of this ministry.



The Little Library Needs Books

Our supply of Orthodox books is getting low. If you happen to have any books that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Philoptochos table on Sundays or drop them off in the church office during the week.



Women's Book Club

The next book participants in the Women's Book Club will be reading and discussing is *Victory in the Unseen Warfare* by Father Jack Sparks. Copies are available in the bookstore. Our first meeting of the fall will be Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., at St. Mary's.



"The principal thing is to walk before God, or under God's eye, aware that God is looking at you, searching your soul and your heart, seeing all that is there. This awareness is the most powerful lever in the mechanism of the inner spiritual life."

—Saint Theophan the Recluse



ST. MARY'S FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND 2026

Camp Wapogasset
"Camp Wapo"
Amery, WI

Friday, October 16, 1:00 p.m. — Sunday, October 18, 1:00 p.m.



*"Let everything take second place to our care
for our children, our bringing them up in the
discipline and instruction of the Lord...Give
them the great things, not the little things."*

—St. John Chrysostom,
On Marriage and Family Life, Homily 21

If being an Orthodox Christian is a way of life, a participation in Christ, lived as a growing union with the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, participating in the Body of Christ as a full member of the Church, and fueled by the energizing grace of the All-Holy Spirit. What then does it mean to be an Orthodox Family or an Orthodox Home? How does being an Orthodox Family inform the rhythms of our communal life, direct the usage of our resources, help us navigate the struggles and disappointments of life, nurture a family dynamic that is healing and empowering, and lead us to salvation?

..... With Guest Speaker: Fr. David Hyatt



Rev. Fr. David Hyatt is the pastor of St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He and Khouryee BethAnn have three sons who were born and raised in northern Minnesota where he served as a Baptist pastor for more than twelve years before converting to the Orthodox Church at Twelve Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church under the guidance of Fr. Timothy Sas.

Register Today! Registration closes August 31, at 11:59 p.m.

Regular Rate Registration Period
AUGUST 16 –31

\$170 + Convenience Fee* / Camper

*Reduce fees by paying with an Electronic Check (ACH): Electronic Check (ACH) Fee: 1.53% + \$0.50 per registrant versus the CampDoc Convenience Fee of 4.12% + \$0.30 per registrant

To learn more about Family Camp or to register, visit the website.

stmaryscamp.com/family-camp/



BENEFIT CONCERT

AN EVENING OF

CLASSICAL & BYZANTINE MUSIC

FEATURING

Anna Pitsavas Wakely, *violin*
2025 Karin Larson YourClassical Prize Winner
with Miryana Moteva, *piano*

Samuel Dangerfield, *cello*

Brigham Dangerfield, *violin*

Performances by
Twin Cities Byzantine Choir
Directed by Joseph Karos

Christopher Atheneos
Byzantine Chanter, South Florida

TICKETS & INFO

SCAN QR CODE
TO PURCHASE



SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2026

7:00 P.M.
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
60 Kent Street, Saint Paul, MN

Supporting St. George Greek Orthodox Church and FOCUS MN

Quick Links

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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, August 24

II Corinthians 8:7-15 • Mark 3:6-12

Tuesday, August 25

Titus 1:1-5; 2:15; 3:1-2, 12-15 • Matthew 5:14-19

Wednesday, August 26

Hebrews 10:32-38 • Mark 3:20-27

Thursday, August 27

II Corinthians 10:7-18 • Mark 3:28-35

Friday, August 28

II Corinthians 11:5-21 • Mark 4:1-9

Saturday, August 29: Beheading of John the Baptist

Acts 13:25-33 • Mark 6:14-30

Sunday, August 30: Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew

I Corinthians 16:13-24 • Matthew 21:33-42



ST. MARY'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408-3399

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*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

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