ST. MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH www.stmarysgoc.org | 612.825.9595

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 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



Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

—Kontakion of Holy Nativity

CHRISTMAS 2026

Ecumenical Patriarchate Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
IC XC NI KA
Metropolis of Chicago

Our Life Together

Study Groups

55+ Bible Study
Tuesdays, December 1 & 22
11:30 a.m., *Fireside Room*
**Intercessory Prayer at 11:00 a.m. in the Nave.*

Koinonia (Tia Muchulas, host)
Thursday, December 17
6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Men's Fellowship
Fridays, December 4 & 18
7:00 a.m., *Fireside Room*

Saturday Bible Study
Saturdays, December 5 & 12
9:00 a.m., *Fireside Room*

Seekers' Gathering
Sunday, December 13
11:45 a.m., *Fireside Room*

Office Closure

Due to Christmas Day occurring on Friday this year, our Christmas closure days will be Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, December 25. The office will reopen on Monday, December 28, 8:30 a.m. We will also be closed on Friday, January 1, for New Year's Day. The main entry doors will open 30 minutes prior to services on these days.



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

VIEW NOW. *SCAN THE CODE.*

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

Share YourShelf

December's recipient is
Community Emergency Service (CES)

IMMEDIATE NEED:
pasta sauce, ground coffee, canned fruit (peaches, mixed fruit), individually wrapped toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, razors, shampoo)

Sunday, December 6
Long white socks (in bulk) by December 22

Sunday, December 13
Diapers (Size 5)

Sunday, December 20
Hygiene items (Individually wrapped toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors)

Sunday, December 27
Individually wrapped toothbrushes and bars of soap

www.cesmn.org

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

Please donate long white socks in bulk for CES homeless distribution bags. Collection socks box is located on / near the foodshelf cart.

Learn about the symbology of the Nativity of Christ Icon as seen on Page 1, scan the code to watch a short video.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays (live-streamed)
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.



Friday, December 4:
Saint Barbara
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9:
Conception of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 12:
Saint Spyridon
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 15:
Saint Eleutherios
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 17:
Prophet Daniel; Saint Dionysios
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 24:
Eve of the Nativity of Christ
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Vesperal Divine Liturgy – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25:
Holy Nativity
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

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

Summer Camp Coordinator
Doria Saros

Youth Director
Scott Rudquist

Church School Director
Dena Tortorelis

Chanter
Joseph Karos

Choir Director
Emily Skoutelas

Church Facilities and Construction Manager
Dean Psyhogios

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

Year-End Giving

Electronic donations, via online giving or Venmo, must be made by Saturday, December 26. Online contributions can take 3-5 days to process. Contributions made after December 27 cannot be guaranteed to be recorded as a 2026 contribution. Please plan ahead when making your year-end contributions. Contributions placed in the offering tray on Sunday, December 28, will be credited as 2026 contributions.

- **Important note!** When giving through an investment account, please request that your name be included on the check. We have received a number of checks from investment companies that have no name on them and we need to take time to track down the donor. We cannot properly credit these donations without your name.

Christmas Card and Flowers Donations

Our annual collection for the parish Christmas card and Christmas decorations begins today. A form and envelopes are found in the narthex. The Christmas card (deadline is Sunday, December 6) is to send greetings from you to fellow parishioners and the flowers donation (deadline is December 20) can be made in memory of departed loved ones. Drop your envelope in the stewardship box. This year the form is double-sided – one side is for the card and the other for the flowers!

Senior Citizens' Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 15

All St. Mary's Senior Citizens' Club members are invited to attend a Christmas Holiday Celebration on **Tuesday, December 15, at 11:00 a.m. (NOTE: earlier starting time)**. We will celebrate all December birthdays and anniversaries. Festivities will include a social hour, a photo of all our members in attendance, a delicious salmon luncheon catered by Tony Nicklow of Tony's Diner, a beautiful holiday cake by Terri Leckas, door prize drawings, and holiday music performed by the "Ukes" Ukelele Orchestra. Ticket cost for current 2026 Seniors Club members is $15 per person. Ticket price for guest/non-member is $30.00 per person. This will be our final social for the year and meetings will resume on April 13, 2027. RSVP and payment deadline is Friday, December 11. Checks payable to: St. Mary's Seniors Club. Please contact President Tessie Bourdamis at tbourdamis@comcast.net or Treasurer Don Vanover at donvanover@aol.com for further information. Hope to see you all there!

Summer Camp 2027

Important Dates for Summer Campers and Staff:
Summer Camp will be held **July 3–9, 2027**.

This will be our 75th year of Summer Camp! We are currently planning an anniversary celebration event for the weekend following Summer Camp 2027, scheduled for Sunday evening July 11, 2027. The 2027 Summer Camp Staff Application site is open through December 31, 2026. The link can be found at ***https://stmaryscamp.com/summer-camp/***



Filling the Pot This Season

A REFLECTION BY DAVID RIST

Yikes! The pot might overflow!

The warmth of a kitchen in autumn can be both nostalgic and inviting. On the stove a large pot of rigatoni simmers away, the aroma permeates not just the room but the whole house. Smells of cookies baked the night before still mix with the fresh steam from the pot.

As we built the pot, my wife and I feared it might boil over. The ingredients filled to the rim just under the lid. A blessing of an unplanned mess avoided.

So it can be with serving; time, talent, and treasure all help to fill the pot our beautiful parish builds throughout the year. Whether church school, summer camp, Philoptochos, coffee hour, focus, or any of the many other ministry opportunities, we all are called to help fill the pot. As the Nativity fast is quickly approaching let us all look for ways to offer service and stewardship.

As we do, we find that our own hearts and homes can be filled with blessings and even aromas that permeate into our lives, the Church's life, and throughout the world.

Icon Art Studios, Inc.



The Holy Face, Icon from Session 1
Debra Korluka

2027 Winter Icon Class Dates

Join us for Winter Session icon painting classes and explore the spiritual meaning and symbolism of Orthodox icons. Through the sacred art of iconography, discover a deeper connection to Christ and the holy persons depicted while growing in faith through this meaningful spiritual practice.

SESSION 1—The Holy Face
at St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Summit
Tuesdays January 5, 12, 19, and 26, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

SESSION 2—Christ the Good Shepherd
at St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Summit
Tuesdays February 2, 9, 16, and March 2, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Please contact Deb at akorluka@aol.com or 612.889.5868 or Steve Arsenault at arsenault003@gmail.com or 612.206.7369

Cost for tuition and supplies is approximately $325.00
Cost for tuition only: $175.00

SESSION 3—Virgin Mary Salus Populi Romani (Healer of the Roman People)
at The Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis
Saturdays February 6, 13, and March 6, 13, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Please contact Deb at akorluka@aol.com or 612.889.5868 or Basilica of Saint Mary at 612.331.1381

Cost for tuition and supplies is approx. $325
Cost for tuition only $175

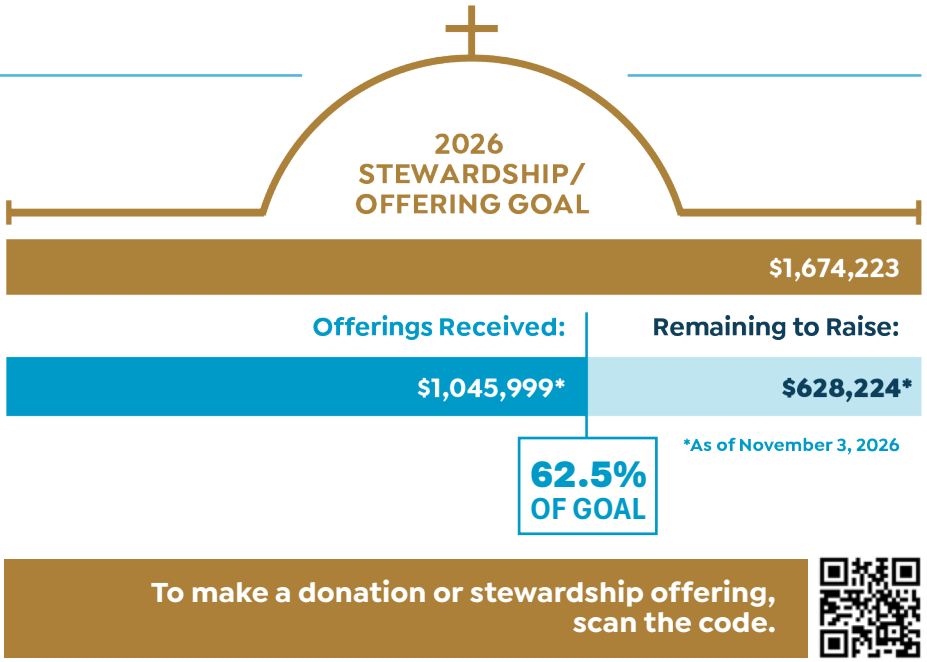
Stewardship

We are almost to our stewardship goal for 2026! As we approach the end of the calendar year, we invite you to make one final gift to support our mission and the ministries of St. Mary's. Your generosity helps us continue to grow in faith, serve our neighbors, strengthen our parish community, and share Christ's love with all.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference in the life of our parish. Please consider making a year-end gift today—thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and commitment to St. Mary's!

With gratitude,

—The St. Mary's Stewardship Committee



"You will be in enriched in every way for great generosity." (II Cor. 9:11)

Below is a beautiful testimony from one of our parishioners, Libby Cheolis, who shared her message on Stewardship following the Liturgy on October 25, 2026.

My name is Libby Cheolis, and 11 years ago, I chose to become an Orthodox Christian. I committed myself to be a member of this parish and to be a servant of God. I didn't make that commitment lightly. And every day since then, I continue to serve God and to give of myself. And that's what stewardship is all about.

The scripture for the 2027 Stewardship Campaign is: *He who supplies the seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (II Corinthians 9:10)*

This refers to the seeds that God gives us. He gives us the seeds, and it's our job to do something with those seeds. If we do nothing, then nothing will become of the seed. If we do what God's asking us to do, He will multiply our store of seed (our blessings) and increase our fruits of righteousness (our giving) according to the scriptures.

I teach 5th grade church school with Kathy Boosalis, and we study the Old Testament, from which many of our traditions come - including the tradition of giving. In the 23rd chapter of Exodus, God calls the Israelites to give their first fruits. *The first of first fruits of your land, you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. (Exodus 23:19)*

The first of the first fruits. The best of the best. And later on in Exodus, it says, "do not delay to bring your first fruits." Apparently, God takes this seriously! He doesn't say bring some of your fruits, but rather your first fruits. Your best fruits.

And why... why does He ask us for our best? Because God deserves more than our leftovers!

God deserves more than whatever time we have left at the end of the week... Whatever money we have after our bills are paid... Whatever talent we can muster after a busy day. We are called to give our best and our FIRST. Our best financial offering as well as our best time and talents. Stewardship is not just about money. The stewardship form asks for a financial pledge as well as a pledge of our time and talents.

This is what we teach our children and youth on Stewardship Sunday. Given that children do not have their own portfolios or bank accounts, we teach them the many ways that God calls us to offer the time and talents that He has provided. In fact, that's exactly what the children did by offering the pancake breakfast in October. This is true no matter our age. We should give financially, but we should also give and show up to give our best time and best talents, and we should do this with joy in our hearts, not out of obligation!

We shouldn't come to liturgy because we have some extra time to "fit it in." Rather, we should come FIRST to liturgy. It should be the first priority of our week. After all, Sunday is the first day of the week.

We should think of it this way... We get to come to church on Sunday morning. We get to attend an additional service on a Wednesday. We get to pray every day. What a blessing! And if we have time to get to swimming practice, we will.

For the past 9 years, I have written on my stewardship form that I will give from my talent of teaching. For God has given me the "seed" to teach, but it's up to me to choose to do something with that seed. I could hold it and do nothing, and it will not multiply. Or I could CHOOSE to show up and give my best teaching to my 5th graders here at St. Mary's. I then pray that He will "multiply my fruitfulness" and give me the sustenance and endurance to teach for the next 5 days at my job.

It's really about our mindset. It's a reframing of how we think of stewardship. Not that we have to give, but we get to give.

So, when you open your Stewardship form this year, think to yourself... "This is my opportunity to give to God, to His people, to this parish!" We should pledge to give our best fruits, and trust that He will multiply our harvest.

COUNCIL CORNER

Notes from the Fall Parish Assembly

For parishioners who were not able to attend October's Fall Parish Assembly, here are some of the highlights:

St. Mary's changes its "Official Name"

Did you know that since our church's incorporation in 1905 that our official name with the State of Minnesota is the "Greek Eastern Orthodox Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota"? Over the years this has led to confusion with how we manage the business and legal affairs of the church. The Archdiocese recommended that we change our official name to "St. Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota" to clean up these issues once and for all and to create consistency with how the other Orthodox churches in America are registered within the Archdiocese (note "St. Mary" is non-possessive). "St. Mary's" and "St. Mary" are used interchangeably by our parishioners and we can continue to do so. Nothing changes there. Final steps will be to receive the Archdiocese stamp of approval and we will file the appropriate paperwork with the State.

Taste of Greece showing another record

Once again, the Good Lord gave us perfect weather for the Festival. Preliminary results show $429k in revenue and net profit of $180k after $38k in philanthropic giving. Another record! Special thanks to Festival Lead, **Greg Maimares** and all our volunteers and sponsors for your tireless offering of "philoxenia" to our Minneapolis neighbors.

Buildings & Grounds working at a solid clip

This year, we completed a total of ten projects from the Great Hall floor refinishing, bookstore lighting, Bell Tower repair, Sunday School security window enhancements and security door labeling to name a few. Projects in the active stage include completing the South Restrooms and the thermostat for the Nave which should be completed prior to the end of this year. We approved an order for 500 new banquet chairs at the Assembly. Given the long lead times, I expect they'll be delivered to the church early next year. Projects in the planning stage include the South Retaining Wall where we await final approval from the City, and the Dome where we are securing bids from the contractors.

For details about the 2027 Budget, The St. Mary's Operating Reserve, Capital Improvements Reserve, and Endowment Assets, please either speak to me, **Athena Mihas**, or check the North bulletin board for the most recent numbers. Summary minutes of the Fall Assembly, most recent monthly PC meetings, and Buildings & Grounds project updates are always available for your review there as well.

Yours in Christ,

Nick Santrizos
St. Mary's Parish Council President
nsantrizos@gmail.com

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

Philoptochos

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETINGS

No Philoptochos meetings are planned in December. Watch the church weekly bulletins and church website for postings of the Advent activities. Please sign up to volunteer at the Philoptochos table on Sundays.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas

December 1

Every year, we feel deep gratitude for the joyful spirit our volunteers bring as they thoughtfully decorate our Christmas trees. The church decorating begins in November. We warmly invite anyone available on Tuesday, December 1, at 10:00 to meet in the Great Hall and join us in decorating the trees in the Terrace Room and Foyer. Whether you can stay for the entire time or just a portion of it, your presence will certainly brighten the occasion!

AHEPA Children's Christmas Party

December 1

Children from Healing House are invited to the AHEPA Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, at 11:00 a.m. Please have your wrapped gifts with name tags delivered to church by Sunday, December 6th. At this festive event, they will wiggle through lunch as their anticipation grows for welcoming Santa and opening their gifts.

Vasilopita Sales

Starting December 20 this year, we will be selling Vasilopita on Sundays, December 20 and 27, at the Philoptochos table during coffee hour. These will be offered on a first, come first served basis at $15.00 per loaf. We gladly accept cash, checks, and credit cards. Credit cards will have an additional charge for processing. All proceeds will benefit Saint Basil Academy in New York, whose mission is to provide a safe, supportive environment for our children and young adults, empowering them to grow into strong members of society.

Philoptochos Hosts Christmas Coffee Hour December 25

Philoptochos will once again host the Christmas Coffee Hour. Stay tuned for details to come!

Membership Drive Kicking Off in January

Membership in Philoptochos is a wonderful way to connect with the women in our parish community as well as supporting our local community at large through our Orthodox ministry. Watch for how you can join or renew your Philoptochos membership beginning in January! Our membership drive will run through March 2027.

Sunday Table Coverage Reminder

We ask for your assistance in ensuring that the Philoptochos table remains staffed after Liturgy during coffee hour each week. We're looking for a minimum of two members to manage the Sunday table, providing updates on current volunteer opportunities and addressing general inquiries about our mission and membership. Ideally, this should involve one board or chair member and one general member. Please consider joining us after the liturgy and committing approximately one hour to this vital task. Your help is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU

...**Erline Holman and Mary Ellis** for leading Operation Classroom's Winter Clothing Drive for Bancroft Elementary School! Thank you to all who generously donated coats, boots, gloves, mittens, socks and underwear in addition to your monetary donations!

...**to Andrea Tiggas** for once again organizing the annual filo and YiaYia and Papou coffee products!

...Thank you to all the volunteers for organizing Philoptochos Sunday and to all who donated to the special collection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!

Please watch for updates on events or needs from us in the weekly bulletin, webpage and our table on Sundays

Follow Saint Mary's Philoptochos on Social Media

Facebook 

Instagram 

Philoptochos members wish everyone a blessed Christmas and many blessings for the New Year!

In the Bookstore

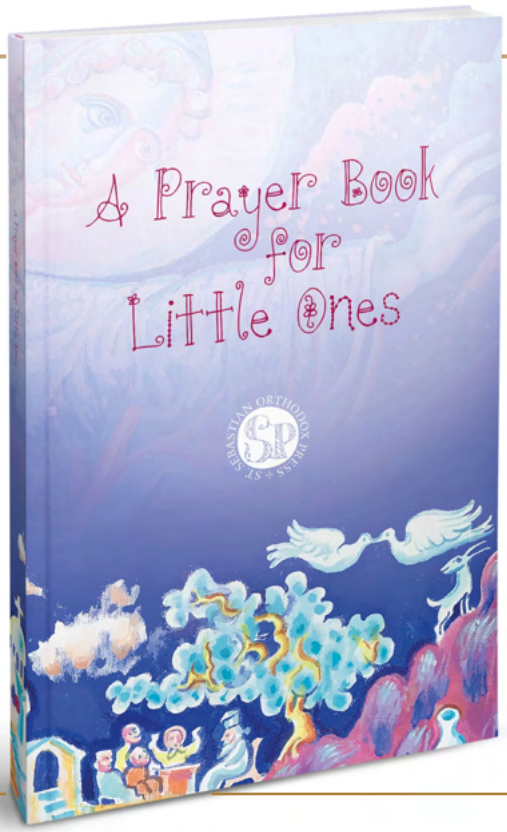
By Rebecca Myerly
bookstore@stmarysgoc.org

A Prayer Book for Little Ones is a new book in the "Christian Inspiration for Youth Series" published by Saint Sebastian Press. It abounds with prayers "gathered with love and care" by Bishop Maxim Vasiljevic, who is the bishop of Los Angeles and the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church. With creative iconography and illustrations by Father Stamatis Skliris illuminating the prayers, this book is permeated with encouragement for young people praying. It complements traditional Orthodox prayer books for children by offering more personal prayers. The love and compassion Bishop Maxim has for young people is clearly evident throughout this book. On the last page there is a note: "These pages were made for small hands and bright hearts, for quiet prayers and gentle voices lifted to God."

Bishop Maxim includes prayers that "focus on themes that are central to a child's spiritual journey, including love, trust, forgiveness, and care for others." The publisher offers succinct thematic descriptions of these prayers:

- **Daily Rhythms—A Little Morning Prayer and A Little Evening Prayer to bookend the day in faith*
- **The World Around Us—Prayers for animals and the earth, teaching children to be gentle with every living creature and to care for the world God gave us*
- **Comfort and Courage—Prayers dedicated to the[ir] Guardian Angel, for the sick, and for finding courage to do what is right*
- **Deep Trust—Short prayers focused on trusting God's will, listening to His word, and feeling His presence everywhere—from the stars to the flowers*

Each prayer, while specific and readily relatable, is also universal. This really makes *A Prayer Book for Little Ones* a collection of prayers for people of all ages who long to pray with the simplicity of a child of God. So, while parents, grandparents, and friends might ostensibly buy this book for a child, they, too, can find grace, joy, and encouragement in these prayers. It is a book to read with "Amen!" in one's heart and mind—a gift for all.



Father in heaven,
You know tomorrow.
I do not.

Help me not to worry.
Teach me to be thankful
for today.

Jesus, walk with me.
Holy Spirit, guide me.

Glory to You
for everything!

Amen.

(A Prayer Book for Little Ones, page 13)

ST. MARY'S BOOKSTORE

Please visit the bookstore for truly meaningful presents for your Christmas gift giving. You will find a large selection of books, icons, prayer ropes, and many other items. Gift certificates are also available.

Youth News

Senior GOYA Christmas Lock-In
Friday, December 4 – Saturday, December 5
Get ready for a night of Christmas fun and fellowship! All Senior GOYA youth (grades 9-12) are invited to St. Mary's for our annual Christmas Lock-In! Join us for an evening of games, dinner, a white elephant gift exchange, and holiday festivities as we celebrate the Christmas season together!
Starts: Friday at 6:00 p.m.
Ends: Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
Location: St. Mary's

Junior GOYA Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Christmas is just around the corner, and it's time to celebrate! All Junior GOYA youth (grades 6-8) are invited to St. Mary's for a festive evening of Christmas cheer, fun, games, and fellowship with friends! Come enjoy a wonderful evening together as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ!

HOPE/JOY Saint Nicholas Party
Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Join us in the Great Hall for a festive morning of gingerbread house decorating, crafts, games, and family fun! Open to children ages 2 through 2nd grade; bring a favorite snack to share or festive candy for decorating—gingerbread houses provided! ***RSVP to Lea Hoeft: Angelea.Hoeft@gmail.com or https://forms.gle/pqtk9Pv3pBMLYhsHA***

SYNAXIS: Parish Gathering – The Holy Land
Sunday, December 6,
following Divine Liturgy until 1:00 p.m.
Join us for our December Synaxis, a special opportunity for our parish family to come together in faith, fellowship, and learning! This month's gathering will feature a meal and presentation on the Holy Land, exploring the sacred places where so many important events in the life of Christ and the history of our faith took place. Come deepen your understanding of our Orthodox Christian heritage while enjoying time together as a parish family!

HOPE/JOY Christmas Outing: Night Trains!
Saturday, December 12, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Location: Twin City Model Railroad Museum
668 Transfer Road, Suite 8, Saint Paul, MN
Join us for a festive visit to the Twin City Model Railroad Museum's Night Trains exhibit! Open to children in kindergarten–grade 5. ***Please RSVP: text or email Scott Rudquist at 612.812.1216 or scott@stmarysgoc.org***

DECEMBER

FRI 4	**Sr. GOYA Christmas Lock-In at St. Mary's** Starts at 6:00 p.m.
SAT 5	**Sr. GOYA Christmas Lock-In at St. Mary's** Ends at 10:00 a.m. **HOPE/JOY Saint Nicholas Party at St. Mary's** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (see note for details) **Jr. GOYA Christmas Party at St. Mary's** 6:00–8:00 p.m.
SUN 6	**St. Nicholas Sunday** Procession with gifts for FOCUS Church School Classes (with special guest) **SYNAXIS: Parish Gathering** after Divine Liturgy—1:00 p.m. "Holy Land," speaker: Scott Rudquist
SAT 12	**HOPE/JOY Christmas Outing: Night Trains!** 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. (see note for details)
SUN 13	**Church School Classes**
WED 16	**HOLD for Christmas Program Rehearsal and Christmas Party at St. Mary's** *(Time TBD)*
SUN 20	**Church School Christmas Program** *in Nave*
SUN 27	***No Church School Classes***

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.

Follow the GOYAns on Instagram
@St_Marys_GOYA

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.

THE ST. MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHOIR
AND THE TWIN CITIES BYZANTINE CHOIR PRESENT:

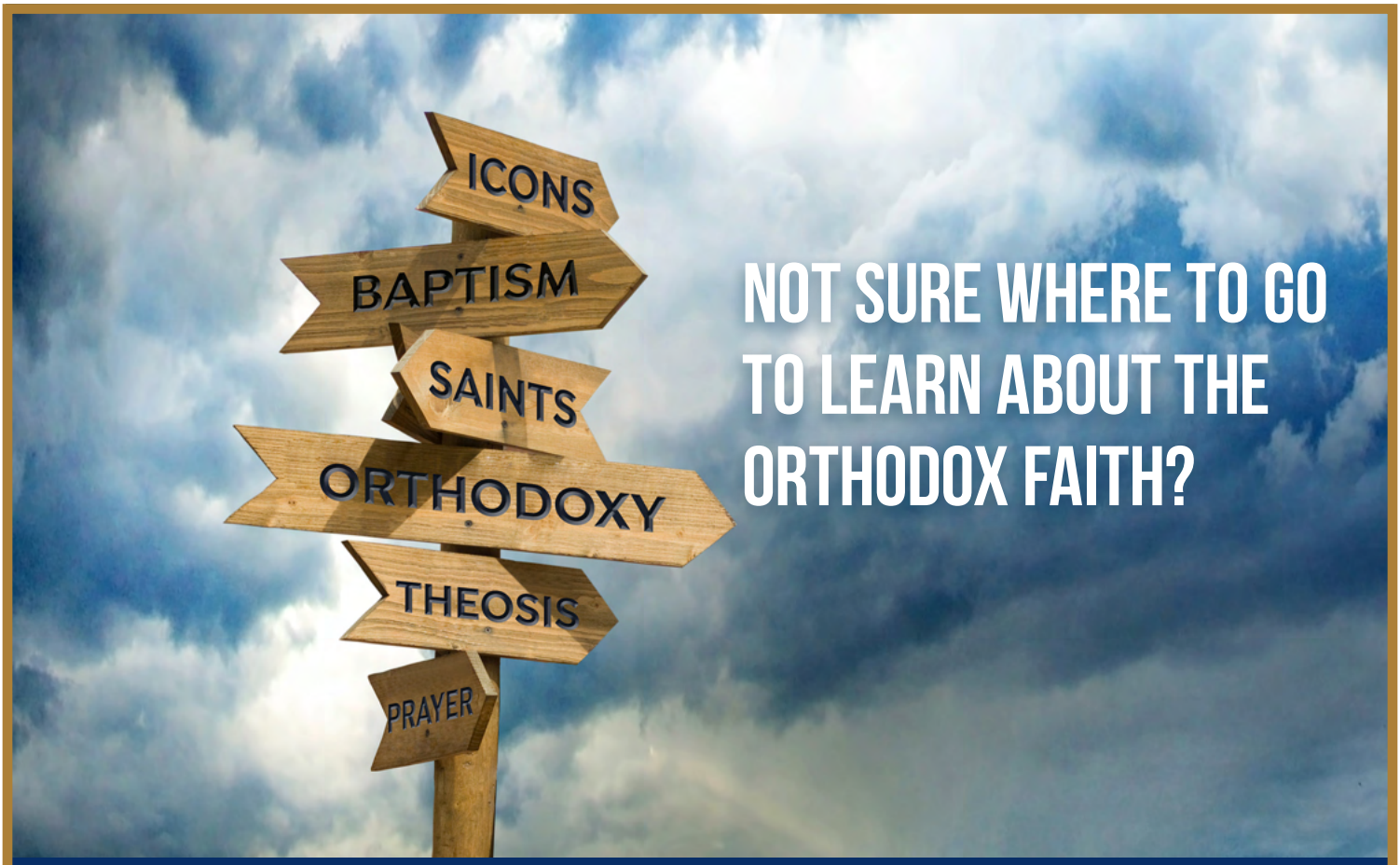
HEAVEN AND EARTH REJOICE

A Concert Celebrating the Nativity of Christ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 | 6:00 PM
ST. MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Experience the beauty of Orthodox sacred music as the St. Mary's Choir and the Twin Cities Byzantine Choir present timeless hymns and sacred choral works.

Admission is free. A freewill offering will support St. Mary's Music Ministry.



SEEKER SUNDAYS

December 13

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Fireside Room

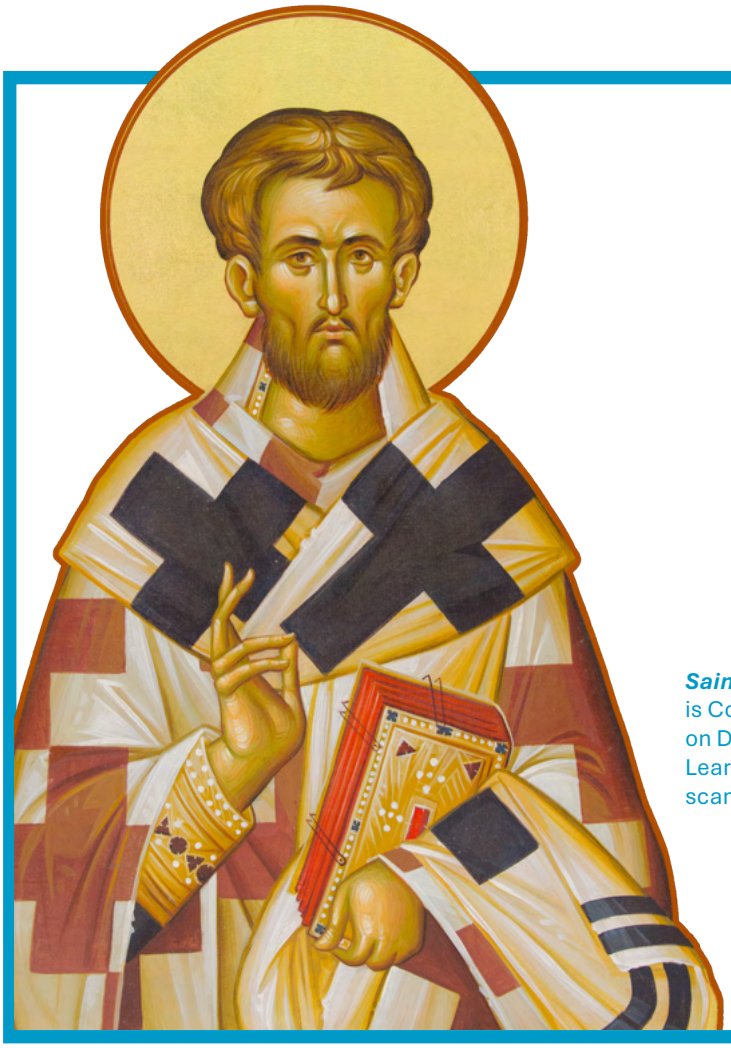
For those who want to learn more about the Orthodox Christian faith. **If you are brand new to St. Mary's**, we are here to help guide you. Attend one of our monthly Q&A sessions with clergy on the second Sunday of the month after Divine Liturgy. Feel free to get refreshments at Coffee Hour, then meet us in the Fireside Room.

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

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Saint Eleutherios is Commemorated on December 15. Learn more about him, scan the code.▼

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 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

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612.825.9595 | 612.825.9283 Fax

stmarysgoc.org

@stmarysgoc

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL...

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SAINT MARY'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Saturday, December 12, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Santa's visit and a present, a keepsake photo, caroling, Christmas storytelling and lunch together highlight this special St Mary's community event, sponsored by Minneapolis AHEPA

Just $12 per child (Free for ALL Adults and Mpls AHEPA/DoP members and their children)
For information contact mark.alevizos@gmail.com or 612.990.4211 – RSVP by 12/06/26

TO RSVP, COMPLETE THE FORM AND MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW BY DECEMBER 6, 2026.

PARENTS ATTENDING: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

CHILDREN'S NAMES:	BOY | GIRL	AGE

PAYMENT:
Make checks out to ***AHEPA*** and mail along with this form. Payment can also be made through Venmo by scanning the code. Type ***"Christmas Party"*** in the memo.

MAIL TO:
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
AHEPA Children's Christmas Party
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00am-Intercessory Prayer 11:30am-55+ Bible Study	**2** 9:00am-Housekeeping 6:00pm-Chant Rehearsal 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	**3**	**4** ***Saint Barbara*** 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:00pm-Sr. GOYA Lock-in 6:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	**5** 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-FAITH/HOPE St. Nicholas Party 6:00pm-Christmas Concert
6 ***Tenth Sunday of Luke Saint Nicholas "The Messenger" Deadline*** 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 1:30pm-Boys' Bball Practice	**7**	**8** 6:15pm-Parish Council	**9** ***Conception of the Theotokos*** 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	**10**	**11**	**12** ***Saint Spyridon*** 9:00am-Bible Study 10:00am-Divine Liturgy 11:00am-AHEPA Family Christmas Party
13 ***Eleventh Sunday of Luke*** 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:45am-Seekers' Gathering 12:00noon-Gr. 7-12 Bball 1:30pm-Boys' Bball Practice	**14**	**15** ***Saint Eleutherios*** 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:00am-Senior Citizens Christmas Celebration	**16** 9:00am-"The Messenger" Mailing 10:00am-Housekeeping 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	**17** ***Prophet Daniel Saint Dionysios*** 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30pm-Koinonia	**18** 7:00am-Men's Fellowship	**19** *No Bible Study* 10:00-Baptisms/Chrismations
20 ***Sunday before Nativity*** 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School Christmas Program 1:30pm-Boys' Bball Practice	**21**	**22** 11:30am-55+ Bible Study	**23** *Church and Office Closed*	**24** ***Eve of the Nativity*** 9:00am-Royal Hours 5:00pm-Vesperal Divine Liturgy *Office Closed*	**25** ***Holy Nativity*** 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy *Office Closed*	**26** ***Synaxis of the Theotokos*** *No Bible Study*
27 ***Sunday after Nativity Saint Stephen*** 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12:00noon-Gr. 7-12 Bball 1:30pm-Boys' Bball Practice	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** ***Leave-Taking of the Nativity***		