A Message from Father George
Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

“Oh do you understand what you are reading?”
–Acts 8:30

In the Acts of the Apostles there is related to us a story about an Ethiopian man. This man, who happens to be a eunuch and servant of the Ethiopian queen, is also a Jew, and is traveling to Jerusalem to go and worship at the Temple. During his trip, he stops to give his horses a break and to do some spiritual reading. Sitting in his chariot, he opens to the Prophet Isaiah and reads the following passage: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation justice was denied Him. And who can describe His origin? For His life was lifted up from the earth” (Isaiah 53:7-8).

Just at that time, St. Philip was guided by the Holy Spirit to this man. St. Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And, quite honestly and humbly, the Ethiopian answered, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” So, beginning from that very passage, the Apostle Philip began to interpret the Scriptures for the man, preaching the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of all the Scriptures. Then the eunuch was baptized into the Name of the Holy Trinity.

I mention this story, because we also must answer humbly like the Ethiopian eunuch: “How can I understand the Scriptures without a guide?” The Bible is not subject to just any interpretation or personal opinion. If it were, St. Philip would have answered, “Oh, it means whatever you think it means.” This is not the way of the Apostles or the Apostolic Church. Because the Scriptures were produced by the Church, she and she alone is the authoritative interpreter. We have the holy Fathers as our guides, Spirit-bearing men full of divine inspiration who expended countless hours and years of their life meditating on the Scriptures and expounding them to the people. We are the Church of the Fathers and we follow their divine teachings.

To understand the Holy Scriptures, brothers and sisters, one must do a number of things. First, one must read them! This is obvious. But also, one must attend the divine services of the Church which overflow with scriptural content and contextualize it in a manner that also interprets it. This is why the Priest so often says, “Let us be attentive!” That is, “Listen up and pay attention! Something holy is being said right now!” During the services a homily is also given, which further interprets the Scriptures for us. Attending Bible Study is another way of learning the mystical content of the Bible. So much treasure is hidden in those pages! Consider attending to further your knowledge of God’s word. Along with our personal reading, we should also use a guide, like the Orthodox Study Bible or any of the patristic commentaries which contain the teachings of the Fathers and their inspired interpretation. And it goes

–Continued on page 3.
Our Life Together

Births
Olivia Caroline
Parents: Daniel & Kristen Lyrek
March 9, 2017

Baptisms
John
Parents: Mark & Gena Abbott
February 18, 2017
Gage
Parents: Zachariah & Amber Haddy
February 19, 2017

Deaths
Betty Kizilos
February 18, 2017
May her memory be eternal.

Memorial Prayers

Sunday, April 2
Eugenia Checheris (1 year)
Betty Cavouras (1 years)

Our Sympathy
We extend our sympathy to Dr. Telly Pappas and family on the passing of his mother, Presbytera Maria Pappas, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was the wife of Fr. Angelo Pappas of Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Share YourShelf
April’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Community Emergency Service.

Sunday, April 2
Canned soup or vegetables

Sunday, April 9
Diapers (Size 5)

Sunday, April 16
Hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors)

Sunday, April 23
Canned Meat (eg: tuna/chicken)

Sunday, April 30
Baby Formula

Prayer
God, forgive us when we try to explain away the obligation we have to help others who need help. Enable us to not devalue them because they are in the circumstance that they are in, but to see them for what they are, those, who like us, were formed by your hand in their mother’s womb. Amen.

We are grateful for the donation made in Betty Cavouras’ memory towards this new Lenten censer. May Betty’s memory be eternal.
without saying that, whenever you read your Bible and have questions, ask your Priest about what you have read. He is instructed in the Church’s interpretation and has a patristic mind. After all, in addition to offering up the Mystical Sacrifice of the Eucharist on behalf of the believing community, he is also a teacher and instructor in the ways of Christ.

So, returning to the passage from the Prophet Isaiah, what could St. Philip have said about it that turned the Ethiopian’s heart to Christ? Acts does not tell us exactly, for it only says that Philip “opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” As heirs to the Apostolic teaching and tradition, however, we know what St. Philip would have said. Let’s look at it line by line.

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.” The “He” spoken about here refers to Jesus Christ. The slaughter He was led to was the crucifixion. A sheep is slaughtered in order to be eaten. So also was our Lord slaughtered in order to pour out His blood for our sins and establish the New Covenant, of which we partake in at every celebration of the Lord’s Supper at our Divine Liturgy.

“And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” As an innocent lamb, Jesus stood before His accusers, not offering up any excuses or defense. Silent was He before those slanderers. As a lamb is sheared of its wool, so also was Christ sheared of any dignity and strips of His flesh were hacked away during His brutal trial and torture.

“In His humiliation justice was denied Him.” Again we have a reference to the unjust trial of Christ, where He was humiliated and wrongly put to death. What evil deed did He do? Did He not heal? Did He not console? Did He not raise their dead? Did He not offer words of eternal life? No such injustice has ever been committed in this world — nor ever will be — as the injustice done against the Son of God, the Creator being put to death, murdered, by His own creatures.

“And who can describe His origin?” Who can explain the mystery of the Incarnation? What mind could ever comprehend that the sheep and lamb spoken of by the Prophet is none other than God Himself, come in the flesh to save the human race? He has no human origin, because He is the eternally begotten Son of the Father, the Word Who was with God in the beginning, and Who is true God of true God. This is why the Scripture says of the Messiah, “From everlasting to everlasting, You are” (Psalm 89:2), and, “You, O Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, out of you shall One come forth to Me, to be a Ruler of Israel; and His goings forth were from the beginning, even from eternity” (Micah 5:2).

“For His life was lifted up from the earth.” His life, Jesus’ life, was lifted up high above the earth as He was suspended upon the Cross. By lifting up His life, by giving it up, He bestowed eternal life upon us. Dying on the Cross, His soul descended into Hades. And then, on the third day, He took His life up again, resurrecting on the Lord’s Day, and ascending into the heavens bodily, He has seated human nature at the right hand of God: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places… God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 1:3; 2:4-7).

Wishing all of you the blessings of Pascha and the third-day Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ,

+Fr. George

A late winter sunset over Lake Calhoun
Sunday Schedule
Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Study Groups

Adult Senior Bible Study
Sessions resume in May.

Intercessory Prayer
Wednesdays, April 5 and 19
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men’s Fellowship
Friday, April 7
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Saturday Bible Study
Saturdays, April 1 and 22
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Senior Citizens
Tuesday, April 11
12:00 noon, Terrace Room

Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays, April 5 and 26
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Koinonia

Edina Koinonia
Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.
Joan Calot’s home
952.944.9397

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m.
Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home
612.825.1067

Northeast Metro Koinonia
Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.
Costas & Barbara Nichols’ home
763.571.0460

South of the River Koinonia
Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog’s home
651.994.6875

West Metro Koinonia
Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
952.476.7624

Holy Week and PASCHA Schedule

Saturday, April 8: Saturday of Lazarus
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Family Service Day follows the Liturgy
5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 9: Palm Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
Spaghetti lunch follows the Liturgy.
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins with Bishop Demetrios, St. Mary’s Church

Monday, April 10: Holy Monday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 11: Holy Tuesday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 12: Holy Wednesday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
4:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Unction
7:00 p.m. - Orthros of the Last Supper with Holy Unction

Thursday, April 13: Holy Thursday
9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper
7:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Passion

Friday, April 14: Great and Holy Friday
9:00 a.m. - Royal Hours; Church School Retreat continues until 2:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - Vespers of the Descent from the Cross
7:00 p.m. - Service of Lamentations

Saturday, April 15: Holy Saturday
9:00 a.m. - First Resurrectional Divine Liturgy
11:00 p.m. - Vigil, Resurrection Service, Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Paschal Celebration

Sunday, April 16: Great and Holy PASCHA
12:00 noon - Agape Vespers
Easter Egg Hunt follows Vespers

Monday, April 17: Bright Monday
Church and Office closed

Friday, April 21: Bright Friday; Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Grief Support and Growth Group
Grief Support and Growth Group sessions will be held this spring under the leadership of Fr. George. The series will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Dates are: April 19, 26, May 10, 17, and 24. Please notify the Church Office if you plan to attend, 612.825.9595, or david@stmarysgoc.org.

Orthodox Game League Night
Celebrate Pascha with fellow Orthodox game fanatics! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1250 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, for our spring game night. Bring a dessert or munchie to share. Please contact Nikki Beauchamp, 612.910.2943, if you have questions or want more information.

FOCUS Minnesota Collection
Are you doing your spring cleaning? Have you found items that are no longer treasures? Why not donate them? Angie Speliopoulos is available to pick up your items and transport them to FOCUS Minnesota. Just give her a call and arrange a pick up time, 612.481.9292.

Volunteers Needed!
Metropolis Oratorical Festival - April 29, 2017
St. Mary’s is honored to be hosting this Metropolis-wide event on Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
We need a variety of talent to put on this event, from planning to help the day of the event. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, we will find a spot for you. Please contact Cristina Nicklow, cnicklow@outlook.com, 612.839.4560, or Cindy Karos, ckaros@visi.com.

Would You Consider Joining Our Visitation Ministry Team?
We need your help!
On Sunday, April 2, we will have our Visitation Training Session for new/returning Visitors. Our meeting will be after Divine Liturgy, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. A Lenten lunch will be served.
Current Visitation Team Members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We have a new gift for all of our VIPs…Very Important Parishioners! (The term “shut-in” has lost favor with our senior citizens). We will also have the Pascha baskets ready for pick-up as well. Please at least stop by and pick up gifts for your VIP(s).
Our only Visitation Team expectation is to visit one “VIP,” once per month, and communicate that visit to Doria or Sandra.
Our desire is to have you attend a short training session and an occasional meeting, just to help facilitate communication, so that we can better track our visits and insure that all our “VIPS” are truly being visited.
We are a very large parish at the height of the “Silver Tsunami.” Our baby boomers are turning 65 at the rate of 10,000 per day!
If we can continue to build our Team, more and more of our “VIPS” will have multiple visits each month! Please help us bring our loving St. Mary’s Community to their door!
If you can help please respond to doria@stmarysgoc.org or call Doria at 612.825.9595 and sign-up for our training session.

...for I was sick and you visited me...
—Matthew 25:36

Common Questions:
• I can’t drive. Do phone calls and cards count?
  YES! Phone calls and cards are a wonderful way to reach out and touch our VIPs, especially on snowy days!
• Does it count if I happen to be related to the person(s) I visit?
  YES! We’re a Greek Orthodox parish! Most of us are related somehow.
Thank you so much for your consideration of this vital ministry!
**Ministry Memos**

**Lazarus Saturday**
Please join us for our Family Service Day (St. Mary’s Family) on Saturday, April 8, to help prepare the church for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. It is imperative that we have a large group here to get this work done. Too many times a few of us are here until late in the afternoon because not enough folks come to help. Forgive me, but I must be honest. There is so much work to be done and it cannot always fall on the same hands. Many hands make work faster and more fun! Please prayerfully consider making this a special day for your family (or yourself) to prepare for our most precious celebration of the blessed Resurrection. There are age appropriate opportunities for all!

We begin immediately after Liturgy. There will be light snack after liturgy however, lunch will be served around 11:45 a.m. We need a team for cleaning the church. A large bulletin board with listings of all the chores will be in the Narthex along with cleaning supplies ready to go. We ask that you bring a vacuum cleaner if possible. We also have a team in the Terrace Room plaiting the palms and stripping the bay leaves. We are usually finished by 2:00 p.m., but much sooner if we have lots of help.

**Holy Friday Retreat and Pascha**
Once again we will hold our Holy Friday Retreat with curriculum for all children from Faith group to Senior GOYAns. We will have snacks for children right after Royal hours and as usual lunch for all. We are still tying up loose ends. Please keep your calendars open for April 14. We will be reaching out to you for help with all the events of the day. We need kitchen help to prepare sandwiches for lunch, servers for lunch, parents to stay with younger children, and, of course, clean up, to name a few. We also need 4-6 people to help prepare the flowers during Royal hours so that we can decorate the Kouvoukion immediately following the service. Contact Margie Makredes at 651.334.6935 if you can help so she can prepare work stations in the Hall by the bookstore. Since they were such a big hit last year we will be decorating our Pascha candles again this year. (Parental help will be greatly appreciated). Those youth old enough to make it through Holy Saturday services can bring their candles and the little ones can bring theirs to the Agape Vespers on Pascha at 12:00 noon. There will also be an Easter egg hunt this year, so wear your Sunday best, bring your candles and your baskets! A coffee hour follows the Agape service.

Letters excusing students from class on Holy Friday are available. Simply call church office.

**First Resurrection Service**
The service will be at 9:00 a.m. followed by a light coffee hour. At this time we need about 4-6 people (men especially needed) to help in the church with the changeover from the purple to white cloths. Please contact Margie Makredes at 651.334.6935 if you can help. Again, we need all hands on deck!

Further information on these events will be published in the Sunday bulletins and posted on the monitors.

---

**Second Annual Amy Holscher Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser**
The second annual Amy Holscher Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser will take place on Sunday, April 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis. Come celebrate Amy’s memory by helping another student achieve his or her college dreams. Enjoy a silent auction, food from Marino’s Deli, and beverages. Tickets are $15.00 in advance or $20.00 at the door. For questions or advance ticket information, please email amyholschermemorialscholarship@gmail.com.

Amy died in 2014 as a result of a car accident. *May her memory be eternal.*
Philoptochos

What a blessing that so many women of St. Mary’s chose to join Philoptochos during our 2017 membership drive! Through their generosity of time, talent, and treasure, we are poised to continue making a difference in the life of the parish, community and world. If you didn’t have a chance to turn in your self-determined dues and form, you still can! Mail it to Philoptochos in care of St. Mary’s. Thank you!

**Lenten Collections Continue through Palm Sunday, April 9**

1. **Baby Bottle Coin Collection for Tandem**
   Tandem, formerly called Tapestry, supports pregnant women in crisis through counseling, education, and more. If you haven’t already done so, please pick up a baby bottle in the Narthex and fill it with coins, dollars or checks made out to Philoptochos (Tandem in the memo line), then return it to the Philoptochos table or main office by Palm Sunday. Chair: Linda Hodge.

2. **Professional Women’s Clothing Drive for Healing House**
   Healing House is a Christ-centered residential recovery program for women and their children. As the mothers of Healing House go on job interviews and gain employment, they often don’t have appropriate clothes in their closet. Please consider sharing your gently used professional suits, blouses, skirts, slacks, shoes, coats, briefcases, scarves, jewelry and other accessories. Items will be collected just outside of the Great Hall on Palm Sunday. Chair: Diana Thompson.

**Philoptochos During Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday Bridegroom Service with Bishop Demetrios**
We’re blessed to have Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos join us the evening of Palm Sunday. Philoptochos will host the reception following the Bridegroom Service, and needs helpers for preparation, serving and cleaning. Volunteer at our table in the Great Hall or at mplsphilo@gmail.com.

**Koulouria Donations Needed for Pascha Weekend**
Koulouria are the traditional cookie served after the midnight Resurrection and Agape Services on Pascha. If you’d like to bake some to serve at these coffee hours, we thank you! Please place your cookies in the bin inside the freezer at the back of the church kitchen. You can bring them any time from now until Great Saturday. Chair: Photine Saar, photinesaar@yahoo.com.

**Dye and Wrap Easter Eggs**
On Holy Friday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., a large crew is needed to wrap more than 700 red eggs in white netting. All, including parents with children at the Holy Friday Retreat, are invited to the kitchen to help for as long as you’re able.
Chair: Paulette Hastings, mplsphilo@gmail.com.
The dying of the eggs is being chaired by Lamona Legeros and, thanks to God, her team of helpers is complete.

**Set Up for Midnight Coffee Hour**
Join us at 10:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday, April 15, to set up the coffee and koulouria for after the midnight Resurrection Service. Chair: Mary Pappas, mpappas0322@gmail.com.

**The Nominating Committee Is Looking for You!**
We’re looking for several women to join the Philoptochos Board. Duties of this two-year commitment include attending eight board meetings, and organizing and implementing the philanthropic work of the organization. Interested? Please talk with a Nominating Committee member: Jeanne Forchas, Mary Pappas and Mary Kay Twito.

---

**Thank You…**
• To Linda Hodge and Connie Kouzes for chairing the meal after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, and their helpers Jennifer Coin, Stephanie George, Carol Smith, Kathy Trigas, and Mary Kay Twito. Much thanks to all who donated generously to FOCUS Minnesota through their free-will donations.

---

**The Calendar + Looking Ahead…**
• No Board or General Meetings in April…Kalo Pascha!
• Sunday, April 9: Host Reception after Palm Sunday Bridegroom Service
• Thursday, April 13: Dye Eggs
• Friday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.: Wrap Red Eggs
• Saturday, April 15, 10:00 p.m.: Set Up Coffee Hour
• Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.: Board Meeting
• Tuesday, May 30: Dinner, Elections and Spring Finale
• Sunday, June 11: Serve Dinner for Families Moving Forward
“You are the light of the world. A city hat is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” —Matthew 5:13-16

Today forces pull us in multiple directions and finding balance in life is harder than ever before. Professionally, we strive for “work-life balance” in order to counter the pressures of increasingly hectic jobs. In our families, many of us struggle with balancing our children’s organized activities with our own family needs and wants. A generation ago—when many children’s activities were not organized—prioritizing church, family dinners, and “down time” was easier. Now many feel that “just saying no” to certain of these activities will have far-reaching consequences, thus, family time goes by the wayside instead.

On a personal level, social media, and media in general, consumes many of us, leaving little quiet time for meditation, reflection, and prayer.

St. Marys’ golden dome shines majestically over the landscape of Lake Calhoun. Set on a hill, it provides a place—a home—for us to receive “the light of Christ”, in many different ways. Of course a relationship with Christ begins with personal prayer, meditation, fasting, and scripture reading. But as the wise saying goes, “a rising tide lifts all ships”, and we were most definitely not meant to make our spiritual journey on our own. Our church home fills us with the light of Christ, on so many levels. It is the place where we come to worship and to receive the Eucharist—the focal point of our liturgy (and hopefully of our week). Yet it is also where we come to celebrate, to mourn, to ask for forgiveness, as well to share, pray, grow, serve and learn with our fellow Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters. This home is where we receive our spiritual food, and it is our base, where we recharge our light in order to shine it upon the world, rather than to hide it under a basket.

In a society that is increasingly focused on secularism, division and distraction, St. Mary’s sits on the hill inviting us home. Her spiritual tide continues to rise, providing us a filled and safe harbor from which to hear the words of Christ and to help us carry out His directive to shine our light before men.

**Time and Talent Spotlight**

**Philoptochos**

The Philoptochos (translated “friend of the poor”), the ladies’ organization of the Orthodox Church, is one of the main philanthropic arms of St. Mary’s. Our local chapter, comprised of nearly 200 women, raises and disperses funds to worthy causes internationally, nationally and locally—last year alone they gave over $30,000 to charity.

In addition to gifting money, Philoptochos women prepare the *makaria* (memorial) meals for funerals, and lead other important outreach and fundraising activities of the church, including the Bake Sale portion of our Greek Festival. The women of Philoptochos work tirelessly and joyously to serve the Lord, and in doing so, grow spiritually in each other’s company.

**Service Opportunities**

- **Saturday, April 8:** Saturday of Lazarus after Liturgy - Make palm crosses; help clean and decorate the church for Palm Sunday
  
  Contact Margie Makredes, 651.334.6935, or Beth Megas, 612.807.9435

- **Saturday, April 15:** Holy PASCHA Night After midnight Liturgy: Pascha Burger Night
  
  Contact Michelle Rollins, 612.201.5064

There are many more opportunities for service during Lent and Holy Week, please contact the Church Office to find out more.

---

**Financial Update**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2017 Feb YTD Budget</th>
<th>2017 Feb YTD Actual</th>
<th>2016 Feb YTD Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$1,075,474</td>
<td>$1,138,755</td>
<td>$189,793</td>
<td>$127,763</td>
<td>$132,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$1,065,993</td>
<td>$1,136,022</td>
<td>$189,337</td>
<td>$180,472</td>
<td>$170,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income / (Expense)</td>
<td><strong>$ 9,481</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,733</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 456</strong></td>
<td>(55,709)</td>
<td>(37,927)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Offering Income</td>
<td>$862,243</td>
<td>$937,335</td>
<td>$156,223</td>
<td>$110,737</td>
<td>$110,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision

To provide an Orthodox Christian example, reinforcing the efforts of our parents, inspiring in our youth agape love and the spiritual desire to pursue Christ, his holy Church, and the truest sense of his holy Orthodox Community.

Our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Goals

To offer programs that foster spiritual growth in Christ. • To offer religious education that applies to daily living. To offer service to God and his holy creation. • To offer fellowship that connects youth to Christ, his Church, and the greater Orthodox community.

What’s Happening?

Summer Camp Early Bird Registration

Summer Camp early bird registration will open on Tuesday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.!

Registration Fees:
Early Bird Discount: $425 from April 18-May 5, 2017
Standard Fee: $475 from May 6-May 25, 2017, 4:30 p.m.
Please register at: www.stmaryscamp.com

Holy Friday Retreat

Our retreat will begin with the Royal Hours service from 9:00-10:40 a.m., followed by a snack, some lessons and activities, and ending with the Vespers of the Descent from the Cross at 1:30 p.m. (until about 2:30 p.m.).

We hope you can join us!

This retreat is open to parishioners from pre-K3 through twelfth grade.

Register on Sundays or call the Church Office, 612.825.9595

New Greek School Leadership Positions

The following two positions have been posted to continue to build on the great work in the past with the Greek School.
• Administrative Director - lead the administration of the program including registration, logistics, volunteer coordination, materials etc.
• Education Director - guide the education strategy and resources of the program. Greek speaker preferred.
These positions will provide a paid stipend with a goal to start by June 1 so we can prepare for the Fall session of Greek School. Please contact George by May 1 at ghadjiyanis@comcast.net or 612.868.3727 for the job description and more information.

Lazarus Saturday Family Day

Saturday, April 8, following Liturgy

Holy Friday Retreat

Friday, April 14, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Faith Play Group

Wednesdays, April 5 and 19, 9:30 a.m.
St. Mary’s

Junior GOYA

Wednesday, April 5: following Presanctified Liturgy
Wednesday, April 19, 6:15 p.m., St. Mary’s

Senior GOYA

Wednesday, April 26, 6:15 p.m., location to be announced

The 2017 Metropolis of Chicago Western Region Family Basketball Tournament was held in Rochester February 10-12. Below are photos of St. Mary’s winning teams.

GOYA Boys’ Division, First Place

GOYA Girls’ Division, First Place
O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to your servant.

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are you unto ages of ages.

-Prayer of Saint Ephraim
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| *Saint Mary of Egypt*
*“The Messenger” Deadline*
Blood Pressure Screening
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
11:30am-Visitation Training
4:00pm-Lenten Vespers
St. George Antiochian Church | 3 6:00pm-Compline | 4 6:00pm-Parish Council | 5 9:30am-Faith Play Group
10:30am-Intercession Prayer
11:00am-Women’s Bible Study
4:00pm-Holy Confession
5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy
7:00pm-Soup Dinner
-Confessions: Grades 11, 12
-Open Gym
-Junior GOYA
7:30pm-Choir Rehearsal | 6 | | **7** | **8** Lazarus Saturday
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
Lazarus Saturday Family Day
5:00pm-Great Vespers |
| **9**  | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| Palm Sunday
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
after Liturgy-Spaghetti Lunch
7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins with Bishop Demetrios | Holy Monday
9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy
7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins | Holy Tuesday
9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy
12:00noon-Senior Citizens
7:00pm-Bridegroom Matins | Holy Wednesday
9:30am-Presanctified Liturgy
4:00pm-Holy Unction
7:00pm-Orthros of the Last Supper | Holy Thursday
9:30am-Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper
after Liturgy-Egg Dyeing
7:00pm-Service of Holy Passion | Great and HOLY FRIDAY
9:00am-Royal Hours
Retreat follows Royal Hours
1:30pm-Vespers of the Descent from the Cross
7:00pm-Lamentations
Office Closed | **16** Great and HOLY PASCHA
12:00noon-Agape Vespers
followed by Easter egg hunt | **17** Bright Monday
Church and Office Closed | **18** Bright Tuesday
9:30am-Faith Play Group
6:15pm-Junior GOYA | **19** Bright Wednesday
9:30am-Faith Play Group
6:15pm-Junior GOYA | **20** Bright Thursday
6:30pm-Stewardship Committee
7:00pm-Northeast Metro Koinonia | **21** Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy | **22** Bright Saturday
9:00am-Bible Study
10:15am-Mission & Outreach
5:00pm-Great Vespers |
| **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** |
| Saint Thomas; Saint George
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
5:00pm-Lake Calhoun Koinonia | 3 8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
5:00pm-Lake Calhoun Koinonia | 4 9:00am-“The Messenger” Mailing
10:30am-Intercession Prayer
11:00am-Women’s Bible Study
6:15pm-Senior GOYA
6:30pm-Grief Support Group
7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal | 5 9:00am—The Holy Myrrh-bearers
8:30am-Orthros
9:30am-Divine Liturgy
after Liturgy-Church School Teachers’ Lunch | 6 7:00pm-Edina Koinonia
7:00pm-South of the River Koinonia
7:00pm-West Metro Koinonia | 7 7:00pm-Edina Koinonia
7:00pm-South of the River Koinonia
7:00pm-West Metro Koinonia | Metropolis Oratorical Festival
5:00pm-Great Vespers |
Holy Pascha Flowers Contribution

Name

In memory of:

Amount enclosed: $___________

Please return this form with your contribution to St. Mary’s by Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

Thank you!