February 2017

Inside This Issue
Education and Fellowship ............ 3
Koinonia ........................................ 3
Ministry Memos........................................ 5
Our Life Together ...................... 2
Parish News and Events ............. 4
Philoptochos ................................ 6
Stewardship ................................. 7
Worship Schedule ...................... 3
Youth and Young Adults ............. 9

St. Mary’s
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

A Message from Father George
Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

“God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.’”
–Genesis 1:26

I was rather taken aback a while ago when I read the headline of a certain news article: “Protecting Nature’s Unborn.” The article reported on the heroic rescue efforts taking place in the Gulf of Mexico to salvage the eggs of sea turtles before the petroleum contaminating those waters destroyed them. Now, why would I be shocked at such a thing? Isn’t rescuing an unborn sea turtle from certain death worthy of applause? Shouldn’t every effort be made by us human beings to take care of those poor, defenseless animals we are endangering by our mistakes? Certainly. In every way. We are to be stewards of God’s creation and have dominion over it as good caretakers, as God appointed us to be.

However, what doesn’t rationally make sense – and my brain just cannot compute this (it wrenches my heart and brings me to tears) – is that we are in a world that now puts more value on animal life than human life. How refreshing it would be to see in today’s mainline newspapers the following headline: “Protecting Humanity’s Unborn.” We are in times that make laws forbidding the killing of unborn animals, and make laws allowing the murder of unborn humans! It is a felony to disturb the egg of a bald eagle; it is a “right” to murder the child in its mother’s womb, or even just after it has actually been born! We are in horrifying days when the president of a so-called “Christian” Seminary shouts out in a sermon to her students, “Let me hear you say it: Abortion is a blessing and our work is not done. Abortion is a blessing and our work is not done. Abortion is a blessing and our work is not done!” What is truly bewildering is that our consciences have grown cold to such a degree, that such things don’t even disturb us anymore. So what, we say, millions of babies are ripped apart inside of their mothers’ wombs throughout the world. Big deal. It’s a woman’s right to kill her own baby, isn’t it? That’s what our laws say. If the Supreme Court has said infanticide is ok, then it’s ok. Right? Wrong! To abort a child is to kill it, to murder it, to take away the life that God gave it, and to transgress the Sixth Commandment which says, “Thou shalt not kill.” Who has such a right? God, and God alone. He gives life, and takes it away: “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord!” (Job 1:21). Never has Christ’s Holy Church seen the act of abortion in any other way. In case there is any confusion out there among our Christian people, here are a few examples of what the Holy Fathers and Canons of the Church say about this tragedy of our time, the holocaust of innocent babes.

—Continued on page 3.

Saint Mary’s building and offices will be closed Monday, February 20, 2017, in honor of Presidents’ Day.
Births
Philip
Parents: Fr. Jason & Presbytera Alexandra Houck
December 16, 2016
David John
Parents: David & Natalie Hideg
January 13, 2017

Baptisms
Issias
Parents: Jeremy & Susan Byellin
January 1, 2017

Chrismations
Lukas Nicoloopoulos
December 10, 2016

Marriages
George Kalogerson to Margery Dubbelde
December 28, 2016
Tom & Julie Gavaras
Ecclesiastical Marriage
January 7, 2017

Deaths
Former Saint Mary’s parishioner James P. Boosalis passed away January 10, 2017, in Niata, Greece. May his memory be eternal.

Thank You
The clergy and staff of St. Mary’s wish to thank everyone who remembered them with prayers, thoughts, cards, and gifts during this holiday season, as well as throughout the year. Your thoughtfulness is so much appreciated!

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, February 5
Aristides Apostolou (3 years)
Sunday, February 19
Members of the Karlos family:
Harry (16 years)
Georgia (20 years)
Bill (3 years)
Tyler (1 year)

Share YourShelf
February’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Simpson Food Pantry.

Sunday, February 5
Canned soups
for Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday, February 12
Potatoes
boxed, instant, or canned
Sunday, February 19
Pancake mix and syrup
Sunday, February 26
Hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. —Luke 4:18

St. Mary’s Church Staff
Priest:
Fr. George Dokos
Associate Priest:
Fr. Jason Houck
Emeriti:
Fr. Anthony Coniaris
Fr. Theodore Filandrinos
Deacon:
Deacon Paul Kalina
Administrator:
Sylvia Kafkas
Administrative Assistant/Communications:
David Mertesdorf
Ministries Coordinator & Office Secretary:
Sandra Anderson
Pastoral Assistant:
Doria Saros
Music Director:
Thespina Macres
Organist:
Mark Macres

St. Mary’s Parish Council
President:
Katherine Boosalis
Vice President:
Joseph DiGiovanni
Secretary:
Dean Tortorelis
Treasurer:
Louis Tiggas
Assistant Treasurer:
Marshall Estep
Members:
George Andreadakis
Paul Hastings
William M. Hoeft
Dean Murdakes
Pamela Nelson
Steven Rakes
Gigi Tiggas

The Blessing of Water at Hidden Falls on the Mississippi River.
Fellowship and Study Groups

**Adult Senior Bible Study**  
On Winter Break

**Intercessory Prayer**  
Wednesdays, February 1 and 15  
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

**Men’s Fellowship**  
Friday, February 3  
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

**Saturday Bible Study**  
Every Saturday  
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

**Senior Citizens**  
On Winter Break

**Women's Bible Study**  
Wednesdays, February 1 and 15  
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

---

**Koinonia**

**Edina Koinonia**  
Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Mary’s Fireside Room  
952.944.9397 (Joan Calott)

**Lake Calhoun Koinonia**  
Sunday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.  
Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home  
612.825.1067

**Northeast Metro Koinonia**  
Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Costas & Barbara Nichols’ home  
763.571.0460

**West Metro Koinonia**  
Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home  
952.476.7624

---

**Sunday Schedule**

Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

---

**Weekday Schedule**

**Thursday, February 2**  
**Presentation of Our Lord**  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, February 10**  
**Saint Haralambos**  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, February 18**  
**First Saturday of Souls**  
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, February 25**  
**Second Saturday of Souls**  
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

---

**Koliva Workshop**  
Friday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Register today for the Koliva Workshop on Friday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m., led by Toni Bazakos. Koliva is used during the first Saturday of Lent and the two Saturday services prior to the start of Lent. Some of the koliva made at the workshop will be used the following day, at the February 18 Saturday of Souls Liturgy.  
Space is limited! Please register by Monday, February 13, at the Philoptochos table during Sunday social hours or by calling the church office, 612.825.9595. See full article about this event on the Philoptochos page in this issue.

---

Fr. George’s message continued from page 1

St. Basil the Great wrote that a woman who takes poisons to willfully abort her child is a murderess, and anyone assisting in this is likewise a murderer, and both are to be penanced accordingly (that is, barred from Holy Communion for a number of years). Canon 91 of the Sixth Ecumenical Council reads: “As for those who furnish drugs for the purpose of procuring abortion, and those who take fetus-killing poisons, they are made subject to the discipline prescribed for murderers.” And St. Augustine has this to say to us: “Sometimes people’s sadistic self-indulgence goes so far that they employ medicines to produce infertility, and if this doesn’t work, they find one means or another to destroy the unborn and flush it from the mother’s womb. For such people desire to see their offspring perish before it is even given a chance to live, or if it has already been granted life, they seek to kill it within the mother’s body before it is born.” And there are many, many more Saints who write similarly about this.

I bring these things to our attention, brothers and sisters, to offer us a God-perspective and to demonstrate just how devastating and serious the act of killing an unborn baby is in the eyes of God. When we are inundated with the immoral media and secular-atheistic teachings in our schools, someone needs to allow God and His Holy Church to speak, too. Doesn’t He have a say in the matter? Shouldn’t we know the teachings of His Church? So, don’t just listen to what’s out there, listen to the

—Concluded on page 8
Parish News & Events

Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday, February 5
We invite everyone to bring donations of soup or money to church on Sunday, February 5, as we observe Souper Bowl Sunday. The soup donations benefit Simpson Food Pantry (February’s Share Your Shelf recipient.) Monetary contributions are given to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to help feed the hungry in other parts of our world. Please make checks payable to St. Mary’s, marked for IOCC.

Wednesday Lenten Dinners
The Christmas season is but a memory and Great Lent will be here before we know it . . . which means we are busy filling the schedule for Lenten dinner cooks and hosts following our Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent. In 2017, Great Lent begins Monday, February 27, with the first dinner on Wednesday, March 1. The first dinner will again be a pot-luck, which will benefit a charity. If you are interested in cooking and/or hosting an upcoming Lenten dinner, please contact the Church Office, 612.825.9595. 

The Ministry of Iconography
Iconographer Deb Korluka will continue her series of iconography classes this winter and spring. The schedule of 2017 classes are as follows:

Session 2
Thursdays, February 9, 23, March 2, 16, 23, and 30
6:00-9:00 p.m.
St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
Tuition cost is $165.00 plus materials.
Session 2 will study an icon of The Crucifixion/The Cross.
The student can choose an icon from various selections offered.

Session 3
Saturdays during Great Lent: March 18, 25, April 1, and 8
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
The Basilica of Saint Mary
Tuition, including materials, is $295.00.
Session 3 will contemplate the sacrament of Repentance and will study and write and icon of The Theotokos.
Please register by sending a deposit of $75.00 to Icon Art Studios, 13921 - 127th Street North, Stillwater, MN, 55082. All inquiries can be sent via e-mail to: akorluka@aol.com or at 612.889.5868.

Parish Council elections took place on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Pictured above is the current Parish Council following the installation on Sunday, January 8, 2017. From left to right (front row): Gigi Tiggas, Kathy Boosalis (President), Pamela Nelson; (back row) Dean Murdakes, Paul Hastings, George Andreadakis, Louis Tiggas (Treasurer), William Hoeft, Marshall Estep (Assistant Treasurer), Steve Rakes, Joe DiGiovanni (Vice President), Dean Tortorelis (Secretary).

Godparents’ Sunday
Sunday, February 5, is designated as Godparents’ Sunday at St. Mary’s. Our church school children will send a special invitation to their godparents and we ask everyone to invite their nounas and nounos to sit with you during Liturgy. Before communion, Father will lead us in the renewal of our baptismal vows.
My Personal Experience with Two of St. Mary’s “In Reach” Ministries

In my role of Ministry Development and Coordinator, I am always on the side of creating, supporting, and sometimes helping to restructure an existing ministry. However, this past November I found myself on the receiving end of two of our important in-reach ministries.

I will start with Care Inc...Care In the Name of Christ. Hopefully by now you are aware of this ministry, begun in 2007. The goal of the ministry is simple: to provide meals for those with unexpected short term situations such as recuperating from a hospital stay, birth of a child, or following an accident, as well as those with long term illness.

As many of you know, I had surgery in November and was out for six weeks. This was a difficult time for John and me since I could not do much and he was busy caring for me. Having meals prepared with love, hand delivered, with even a recipe or two to boot, was a huge blessing and relief (especially to John the chief cook, bottle washer, and picker up of all things Sandra dropped!) This had a profound effect on us both, especially John, since I have been more in touch with how and why the ministry works and is so vital to outreach within our parish.

On my first day home, I had three neighbors come by with food, wow. We are two people and one of us was not up for a big meal, needless to say. So, though the gesture was kind, it left me in a position where I had to find containers to freeze a couple of the meals, repackage them, and then find space in the freezer. This made me realize how important it is to have organization.

I knew I was going to be down, so before surgery I asked Donna Psihos to put me on the meal list. This way she knew who was cooking and when. She would contact me about a meal and I could let her know when a good time would be. John and I never had to worry the entire time I was out. We had a meal about three to four times a week. It was a Godsend. (Or you can purchase a meal somewhere, that works just great - ask Angie Speliopoulos, she keeps Jerry’s in business!)

The first thing needed for this ministry to work is that you need to let us know you want to receive a meal for yourself or a family member. Donna has a schedule and will coordinate when you want a meal. She will then contact the providers and get them scheduled. The more providers, the less each one has to do. As I said, you don’t want three meals in one day, so organization is key.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a meal provider and most importantly, letting us know if you or a loved one could use a helping hand. We are family, this is what family does!

Contact Donna at 952.920.9561 or email donnapsihos@gmail.com. You may also call me here in the office if you have any questions.

Now, having meals was awesome, having company was a whole other blessing as well. I now understand first hand how a phone call then a knock on the door can be so welcomed!

Let’s talk about the Visitation Ministry. How blessed we are to have so many faithful servants reaching out to the 30+ brothers and sisters who, for various reasons and at various times, are homebound.

I sometimes think, “Wow, if I didn’t work I could read, watch TV, listen to music how great would that be?” Well, when you are forced to have to do these things it’s a lot less pleasant. I never realized how long a day can be when you are all alone hour after hour. So, I would like to share my experience on the receiving end of the Visitation Ministry to our St. Mary’s VIPs.

“I was sick and you visited me” is what Christ says in the gospel of Matthew. We answer the call with our VIP ministry. Doria keeps a spreadsheet with all our VIPs listed along with special instructions for each one, like me, who requested a call first. The information is sent to all our ministers on a monthly basis and is updated as things change. Again, this ministry requires YOU to let us know if you or a loved one is in need of a visit! We have a secure site where all visits are documented with dates and notes about each visit. Many times people do not want a lot of visitors, we are Greek you know, so we have to cook, clean and bake before you come, even if we are on crutches! Seriously though, by having information organized we can minister to each person on an individual basis. Some folks want lots of visitors, others want family or clergy only, still others short and sweet visits. We are all different and our needs are different.

For me, the days seemed so long and to open the door to someone from my faith family brought such comfort to me. Granted, I wasn’t always up for a visit, but I was able to say “no” and schedule for a better time. When I did have visitors, it was perfectly fine if they just sat with

—Concluded on page 8
Philoptochos

Philoptochos is reaching out this month, starting with an invitation to all women to join us as a member. We’re connecting with younger women specifically as we host Ladies Night Out on Thursday, February 9, and our full membership at our meeting on Sunday, February 26. And we’re also connecting with Orthodox traditions by offering a koliva workshop on Friday, February 17. We hope to have many of you reach back and connect to us, too.

Join Philoptochos!

Recently, each woman of the parish was mailed a letter inviting them to join Philoptochos during our 2017 membership drive, which runs now through March. Annual dues, which are self-determined, fund philanthropic work at the local, Metropolis and National levels. All types of members are needed to make this a successful organization – from the very active to those who participate as donors only. So please consider seriously making us a part of your life.

Please mail your membership form and dues to church in the envelope provided, or turn them in at the Philoptochos table during the Sunday Social Hour. On Sunday, February 12, Philoptochos will host the Membership Tea in conjunction with Sweet Sunday, so you can learn more about this vibrant service organization at that time.

Ladies Night Out!

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.

Get your favorite man to watch the kids! Clear your calendar of meetings! It’s time for some fun, fellowship, and food with the ladies of St. Mary’s! Join us at the home of Aggie Koutroupas, 9647 Wyoming Terrace S., Bloomington 55438. Bring an appetizer to share. Philoptochos will provide the beverages. Please RSVP to Mary at mpappas@gmail.com or 612.384.1078.

Sweet Sunday

Sunday, February 12

This year’s Sweet Sunday fundraiser during the social hour will benefit our church’s Families Moving Forward program. This two-week program brings homeless families into our church home, where they eat and sleep on our campus while working toward permanent housing, employment, and stability.

During the social hour Philoptochos will have a beautiful array of goodies for you to enjoy. You may also choose a selection of sweets to take home with you. Your free will offering will go directly to the Families Moving Forward program of St. Mary’s. Thank you for your generosity!

Koliva Workshop

Friday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Register today for the Koliva Workshop on Friday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m., led by Toni Bazakos. Koliva is used during the first Saturday of Lent and the two Saturday of Soul services prior to the start of Lent. Some of the koliva made at the workshop will be used the following day, at the February 18 Saturday of Souls service.

Koliva is also used during memorial services. Koliva is boiled wheat combined with ingredients such as almonds, walnuts, pomegranate seeds, raisins, parsley, powdered sugar.

Space is limited! Please register by Monday, February 13, at the Philoptochos table during Sunday social hours or by calling the church office, 612.825.9595. Attendees should bring a shallow bowl or tray (7-8” diameter) and, if desired, a list of deceased loved ones who will be remembered at the Saturday of Souls service. A free will offering may be requested at the workshop.

Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday, February 26, after Liturgy

Join us in the Terrace Room for our monthly Philoptochos meeting. Members and prospective members welcome...we always have a good time together!

Thank You...

• To all who helped raise more than $1,000 for St. Basil’s Academy through donations and the sale of Vasilopita: Chair Toni Bazakos, bakers & helpers Giannoula Bakritzes, Toni Bazakos, Terri Leckas, Barbara Nichols, Cristina Nicklow, Tina Menter and Cris Regas; order takers, sellers, cutters & distributors Mary Anderson, Toni Bazakos, Maria Boosalis, Jennifer Coin, Stephanie George, Paulette Hastings, Sofia Johnson, Hope Kennedy, Beth Megas, Tina Menter, Stephanie Panos, and Maria Paradise; and to all the donors and purchasers of Vasilopita!

• To the undecorators, who took down the Christmas decorations: Chair Andrea and Louis Tiggas, Athena Dascalos, and Vangie Karakatsanis.

• To Fr. George, for providing the Christmas Day reception in honor of Presvytera Christa’s Name’s Day, and to the Hastings Family and Andrea Tiggas for hosting the receptions after Christmas Vespers and Liturgy.

—Philoptochos continues on page 8
Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure. Know that your contributions make a difference every day to the St. Mary’s community.

“Hope and patience are the staffs to lean on when we are worn out by worldly trials….Righteousness will be our straight-edge ruler, guarding us from stumbling in word or action, guiding us how to use our spiritual abilities, and teaching us to be considerate towards everyone we meet.” —St. Gregory of Nyssa

What Does Saint Mary’s Mean to You?

It’s hard to believe that Deacon Paul and I have called St. Mary’s home, and its parishioners our family, for nearly thirteen years. We have lived in numerous states, and had multiple roles in previous parishes before Deacon Paul was ordained. The six years in Arizona, where he served as Parish Council President and chairman of our Capital Building Campaign (helping to fund raise for, and lead the building of, a new church), gave us the greatest appreciation for the crucial work of the laity. While his work currently is centered primarily around liturgical worship, I have dedicated time to areas that I feel so passionate about: passing on the pearls of faith to our adolescents in Church School, advancing our Stewardship goals, and serving with my wonderful female spiritual sisters on the Philoptohos Board. It is an honor and a joy to share worship, fellowship and volunteer hours with my spiritual family at St. Mary’s, and I am so humbled by the wonderful work of the laity to continue to advance Christ’s mission in our parish and in the community. May God grant you all Many Years!

—Diakonnisa Alexandria Kalina

Time and Talent Spotlight

The altar servers are a group of over 15 boys, ages 8-18 who serve in “teams” on Sundays (and also on Feast Days and other Holy Days), assisting the clergy during Liturgy, leading the procession of the Holy Gifts, and holding the communion cloths during the receiving of the Eucharist. They have committed their time and talent to helping create a sacred and beautiful worship experience for the parishioners of St. Mary’s, while also enhancing their own spiritual lives by intimately participating in the holiest of aspects of worship. When you see these special young men, please thank them for their service to the Lord and to our parish!

Financial Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$ 988,295</td>
<td>$ 1,018,855</td>
<td>$ 1,039,613</td>
<td>$1,075,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$ 1,032,517</td>
<td>$ 1,043,957</td>
<td>$ 1,062,544</td>
<td>$ 1,065,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income / (Expense)</td>
<td>($44,222)</td>
<td>($25,102)</td>
<td>($22,931)</td>
<td>$ 9,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Offering Income</td>
<td>$810,441</td>
<td>$ 853,481</td>
<td>$ 862,243</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, offering income exceeded our budgeted goal by $8,762 in 2016, and we ended the year with a surplus of $9,481. Offering income increased by $51,802 compared to the prior year. This demonstrates the faith and commitment of our parishioners. We are so blessed!

Thank you for your love and support of St. Mary’s.
To the Movie Night Steering Committee from the Daughters of Penelope: Tessie Bourdamis, Alice Mikhail, Peggy Sperides, and Philoptochos: Jennifer Coin, Paulette Hastings, Donna Psihos. This fun evening raised money for Tubman Center, www.tubman.org. For 40 years, Tubman has been leading the way to hope for women, men, youth, and families who have experienced relationship violence, sexual exploitation, addiction, mental health challenges, or other trauma. They provide countless ways to help including safe shelter, legal services, mental and chemical health counseling, elder abuse resources, youth programs, community education and much more.

Let us pray for those who have committed or assisted in an abortion, that they may realize the severity of their act, and come to repentance and confession for forgiveness and receive God’s healing mercy. Let us pray for those millions of little souls which have filled up heaven, falling on our knees and begging God with our tears to forgive such a barbaric people. Let us long to see the day when our society returns to God and protects humanity’s innocent unborn.

With a heavy heart and hope in the mercy of God,

+Fr. George

—Fr. George’s message continued from page 3.

Creator of the universe Who fashioned humanity in His image and likeness. Every human being, from the unborn to the extreme elderly, is infinitely precious in God’s eyes. Every human life is sacred. The Son of God came as a babe in His holy Mother’s womb and became incarnate as a human being – not as an angel, not as a sea turtle or any other animal – He came as a man to those whom He had made in His holy image. Every human being has this stamp of God within him and is to be honored and respected as such.

Let us pray for those who have devalued human life.

— Philoptochos, continued from page 6.

• To the Movie Night Steering Committee from the Daughters of Penelope: Tessie Bourdamis, Alice Mikhail, Peggy Sperides, and Philoptochos: Jennifer Coin, Paulette Hastings, Donna Psihos. This fun evening raised money for Tubman Center, www.tubman.org. For 40 years, Tubman has been leading the way to hope for women, men, youth, and families who have experienced relationship violence, sexual exploitation, addiction, mental health challenges, or other trauma. They provide countless ways to help including safe shelter, legal services, mental and chemical health counseling, elder abuse resources, youth programs, community education and much more.

Welcome the Stranger
February visitor friendly tip: Smile Awhile
Take a moment before people arrive to “warm up” your smile by thinking of the good things in your life and thanking God for his blessings. This is the month of love. What better time to share brotherly love with a stranger, or someone you haven’t seen in church for a long time. I challenge everyone to seek out a visitor and share not just a smile but a personal introduction and welcome. Perhaps invite a visitor to the coffee hour. The Great Hall can be quite intimidating to a visitor. Step out of your comfort zone and reach out to a stranger.

— Ministry Memos, continued from page 5.

me and didn’t talk. It was also wonderful when visitors included children! 7:00 a.m. to late in the evening can seem like an eternity with no one to talk to day after day! I understand why it seems like the people I visit (when I am able) are always so happy to see me!

So again, I ask you to please prayerfully consider joining the team and don’t forget to let us know if you need a visit or someone in your family is in need. Christ said, “I came to serve not to be served.” Let us serve each other. Let us be Christ’s arms and legs for someone in need. We are all, at some time or other, in the position of having to say “please help me.” Do not let pride, or worry that you are bothering someone, stop you from asking for help we want to be there. Contact Doria in the office or by email: doria@stmarysgoc.org, with any questions.

Thank you for letting me share this experience and I hope that you will consider both these ministries in the future. Either to be on the serving or receiving end. I also wanted to remind all of you that we are a family and we must not forget that this is what Christ intended for all of us when he left us with the New Commandment to “Love one another as I have loved you”
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?

Hope and JOY Kids...
Don’t miss the fun at Grand Slam on Saturday, February 4, 3:00-5:00 p.m. There’s mini golf, Play Zone, and Krazy Kars! Please RSVP by January 27 to: greek-borba@hotmail.com. Questions? Give Georgia a call: 612.978.2793. Grand Slam is located at 12425 River Ridge Road, Burnsville.

Junior GOYA
Meetings: Wednesdays, February 1 and 15
6:15 p.m. – Youth Room

Senior GOYA
Meetings: Wednesdays, February 8 and 22
6:15 p.m. – Youth Room

Greek Dance Practices
Due to the cancellation of the Annunciation Day/Greek Independence Day Celebration scheduled for March 26, dance practices in February and March, as a result, have been cancelled.

Basketball Tournament
Friday-Sunday, February 10-12
Upcoming basketball practices:
Sunday, January 22 – 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Saturday, January 28 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 29 – 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 4 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 5 – 12:30-1:30 p.m.
The tournament will take place in Rochester and hosted by Holy Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church.

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, for grades 7-12, will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017! This is a great opportunity for our young parishioners to share their Orthodox Faith and to gain some public speaking experience. Registration forms are available at the small table in the hallway to the office. A list of topics for each division is also available at the table. Junior Division is grades 7-9 and Senior division is grades 10-12. Look for an email regarding the Elementary Division. There is a fun outing being planned this spring for all our festival participants!

In addition, each Senior and Junior division first, second, and third place finalist in each category is eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship ranges from $2,500 up to $30,000 per year for Hellenic College. For more information on the Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College click here.

• Registration deadline is Friday, March 3.

This year St. Mary’s will host the Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, which will be held Saturday, April 29. More on this festival in a month or so.
Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday
February 26, 2017
Forgiveness Vespers – 4:00 p.m.
Everyone is encouraged to attend
<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></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer</td>
<td>2 Presentation of Our Lord</td>
<td>3 7:00am-Men's Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am-Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>4 9:00am-Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-Small Blessing of Water</td>
<td>5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td>9:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>3:00pm-Hope and JOY Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15pm-Junior GOYA</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15pm-Juni...</td>
<td>3:30pm-Basketball Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Publican and Pharisee Triodion Begins Godparents' Sunday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 9:30am-Faith Play Group</td>
<td>9 5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td>10 Saint Haralambos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Messenger&quot; Deadline Blood Pressure Screening Souper Bowl Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15pm-Senior GOYA</td>
<td>6:30pm-Ladies' Night Out</td>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>5:00am-Great Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 The Prodigal Son</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 9:00am-&quot;The Messenger&quot; Mailing</td>
<td>16 6:30pm-Stewardship Committee</td>
<td>6:30pm-Koliva Workshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30am-Intercessory Prayer</td>
<td>7:00pm-Northeast Metro Koinonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am-Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00pm-West Metro Koinonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Tournament Concludes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15pm-Junior GOYA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)</td>
<td>20 Presidents' Day</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21 6:00pm-Parish Council</td>
<td>22 5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>Church and Office Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Faith Play Group</td>
<td>7:00pm-Edina Koinonia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15pm-Senior GOYA</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after Liturgy-Philoptochos Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm-Hope and JOY Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm-Lake Calhoun Koinonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30pm-Basketball Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7:00pm-Edina Koinonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-Mardi Gras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-Forgiveness Vespers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)</td>
<td>27 Clean Monday</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27 Clean Monday</td>
<td>First Day of Great Lent</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Saturday of Souls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>First Day of Great Lent</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-Great Compline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Orthros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after Liturgy-Philoptochos Mtg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm-Forgiveness Vespers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-Mardi Gras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Saturday of Souls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am-Orthros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-Mardi Gras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Tournament in Rochester, MN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**February 2017**