The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Q&A

What is Presanctified Liturgy?
The Presanctified Liturgy or the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is made up of a Vespers service combined with a Liturgy. The Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts, however, is not as celebratory as the Divine Liturgies of Saint Basil or Saint John Chrysostom. Since it occurs on weekdays during Lent, it has a more penitential nature.

Where did it come from?
The compiling of the Presanctified Liturgy is traditionally attributed to Saint Gregory the Dialogos (540-604), who was Pope of Rome. The service, however, evolved through the centuries. Liturgists agree that it developed from the practice of self communion. In the early Church, in some local churches, there was a tradition by which people would keep some of the Holy Communion from the Sunday Liturgy and would commute at home. That is, they brought the “presanctified” Body of Christ home, and received Holy Communion on weekdays. In the early Church, frequent communion was commonplace and the faithful would often receive Holy Communion more than once a week. This practice of bringing Holy Communion home was stopped, however, due to abuses and also in order to emphasize the communal aspect of receiving Holy Communion. Thus “self communion” eventually evolved into the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

What is it like?
Presanctified Liturgy, usually preceded by the hours services, consists of two parts. The first half of it is a Vespers service. It contains penitential hymns and the appointed hymns for the daily Saint. After the Vespers portion is complete, the second part of the Liturgy is akin to the Liturgies of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. The Presanctified Liturgy includes a solemn entrance with the Presanctified Gifts (that is, they were already consecrated as Holy Communion from the previous Saturday or Sunday). Unlike the Great Entrance during the Liturgies of Saints Basil and John Chrysostom, the congregation kneels during this entrance and it is done in silence. The penitential feel of the service is felt throughout and is reflected in how we sing (or not), kneel, etc. After the faithful have received Holy Communion, the priest says the “prayer behind the Ambon,” which differs from the one on Sundays. During the prayer behind the Ambon, the priest prays, “Enable us also, O benevolent One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to keep the faith inviolate, to crush underfoot the heads of unseen tempters, to emerge victors over sin and to come, without reproach, to the worship of Your Holy

—Fr. Jason’s column continues on page 3.
Our Life Together

Births
Gage
Parents: Zachariah & Amber Haddy
December 16, 2016
Miloh
Parents: Michael & Metra Kootsikas
December 20, 2016

Baptisms
Georgia
Parents: Riley & Patricia Odom
February 4, 2017

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, March 12
Ivan (grandfather of Yana Patridge)
Georgios Karagiannis (23 years)
Linus Hansen (4 years)

Sunday, March 26
Daphne Sioris (1 year)
James Sioris (15 years)

Congratulations!
Mary and Chris Muzetras celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on February 17th. Congratulations!

Thank You
A special thank you to Lisa Price, and Tom and Mary Rudquist of St. George Antiochian Church for hosting the Simpson House dinner on January 14 in beloved memory of their son and grandson John. May his memory be eternal.

Share YourShelf
March's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is FOCUS Minnesota.

Sunday, March 5
Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat®

Sunday, March 12
Baby Formula

Sunday, March 19
Hygiene items

Sunday, March 26
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Got neighbors? Co-workers? Family members? How about planning a neighborhood clothing drive of gently used items that can be donated to FOCUS Minnesota?

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

www.stmarysgoc.org
Education, Fellowship, & Worship

MEOCCA Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 5
St. Mary’s Orthodox Cathedral
1629 Fifth Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Sunday, March 12
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
1111 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Sunday, March 19
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
956 Forest Street North
St. Paul, MN 55106

Sunday, March 26
St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church
2020 Silver Bell Road
Eagan, MN 55122

Sunday, April 2
St. George Antiochian Orthodox
1250 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Sunday, April 9
St. Herman’s Orthodox Church
5355 - 38th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Fellowship and Study Groups

Adult Senior Bible Study
on Winter Break

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

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

Saturday Bible Study
Every Saturday, except March 11 & 18
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Senior Citizens
on Winter Break

Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays, March 1 and 15
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Koinonia

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

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
No March gathering

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

South of the River Koinonia
Thursday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog’s home
651.994.6875

West Metro Koinonia
Thursday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
952.476.7624

Lenten Schedule

Mondays
6:00 p.m. - Compline

Wednesdays
4:00 p.m. - Holy Confession
5:45 p.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Lenten Dinner Youth Groups and Activities

Fridays
4:00 p.m. - Holy Confession
6:00 p.m. - Salutations to the Theotokos (Akathist Hymn)

—Fr. Jason’s column continued from page 1.

Resurrection.” This prayer reminds us that our struggles through Lent are getting us ready to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and we are encouraged by the fact that God helps us through these struggles.

Why should we attend?

We should follow the example of the early Christians. They so earnestly desired to be closer to God that they couldn’t even go one week without receiving Holy Communion. We should also follow the guidance in the prayer behind the Ambon, which emphasizes our reliance on God to help us “to fight the good fight, to keep the faith inviolate...to emerge victors over sin, and to come, without reproach, to the worship of Your Holy Resurrection.” Attending the Presanctified Liturgy is part of our journey through Lent towards the Holy Resurrection of Christ.

To learn more about the Presanctified Liturgy, see: http://www.goarch.org/chapel/liturgical_texts/lentenliturgies

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

Weekday Schedule
Friday, March 24
Eve of the Annunciation
Great Vespers – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25
The Annunciation
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.
Parish News & Events

Be the Bee Retreat
Saturday, March 18

What is the Be the Bee Retreat? The Be the Bee Retreat at St. Mary’s on Saturday, March 18, will be led by representatives of the Greek Archdiocese Youth Office. It will be a day of engaging workshops for both parents and youth workers to learn how to present our faith to our young people. There will also be a Junior and Senior GOYA (grades 6-12) retreat lead by Archdiocesan representatives. Fr. Jason and some volunteers will lead a retreat and field trip for our kindergarten through fifth graders to Como Zoo. Finally, on Saturday evening there will be a YAL event, led by representatives of the youth office from our Archdiocese. This event is open to all the Orthodox parishes in the area. The Archdiocese chose us to host this event—it is an honor for our parish! All parents, youth workers, and youth are strongly encouraged to attend.

Where did the phrase “be the bee” come from? St. Basil the Great noted that Christians could read Ancient Greek literature (which was written by pagans), but only what was good within it. This is similar to bees taking only the good nectar from flowers while leaving bad stuff behind. St. Paisios (late 20th century) recently said: when a bee is in a room full of dirt, it goes to what is sweet. A fly goes to the dirty stuff, while a bee goes to what is sweet. So, “being the bee” is discerning what is good around us to bolster our faith. To learn more, view a host of “Be the Bee” videos at: https://bethebee.goarch.org/home.

Greek Independence / Annunciation Day Celebration
Sunday, March 26

We are looking forward to our annual Greek Independence Day/Annunciation Day event on Sunday, March 26, in the Great Hall following the Liturgy.

Come celebrate our heritage, independence and the Feast of the Annunciation with a short performance of Greek readings, poems, and dances by the youth of our community. There will also be free appetizers and drinks served for all who attend.

There is no charge for the event and is sponsored by AHEPA and St. Mary’s. There will be a free will offering to benefit the Greek Dance Group and the Greek School. Please plan to attend to support the youth of our community.

Guidelines for the Observance of Great Lent
February 28-April 7, 2017 • Holy Week: April 8-15, 2017

The guidelines for the observance of Great Lent, the 40-day period of preparation for Easter, include increased prayer, more intense fasting, and almsgiving to the poor and needy. Preparation for and reception of the Sacrament of Holy Confession is also strongly advised. The rules of the traditional physical fast are:

Saturday and Sunday we abstain from meat and meat products, dairy products, and fish.

Monday through Friday we abstain from meat and meat products, dairy products, fish, olive oil, and wine.

As always, the fast is modified or eliminated in the case of young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and infirm. Please feel free to consult a priest about your observance of this period if you have any questions or concerns.

The preparation is definitely worthwhile when we willingly enter into it for the glory of God and the benefit of others around us.

Wednesday Lenten Dinners

Our series of Lenten dinners, following the 5:45 p.m. Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, begins on Wednesday, March 1. As has been our custom, the first meal will be a potluck dinner. Each household is invited to bring a Lenten dish to share and, new this year, bring the recipe for your dish. We’ll compile a brochure of the recipes which will be available by the next Wednesday for distribution. It’s been a while since we updated our Lenten cookbook and it will be nice to have some new additions. All Wednesday evening meals have been scheduled. We thank everyone who is hosting.

Summer Camp Q & A

The second of two Summer Camp Question and Answer sessions is scheduled for Wednesday March 1, 7:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 1. We will offer a brief presentation about Summer Camp. If your children are new to the Summer Camp program, please bring them along with your questions. Summer Camp registration opens on Bright Tuesday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.!

Registration fee coming soon...stay tuned at: www.stmaryscamp.com.
As we begin our journey to Pascha, Philoptochos is adjusting its schedule to focus on activities of the season. Following our **February 26 meeting** for members, we will suspend these gatherings until May. However, your support will be needed as we host a Lenten meal and complete many Holy Week events. Please watch for information and volunteer as you’re able.

**Join Philoptochos! Be A Leader!**

Much thanks to the dozens of women who have already completed membership forms and joined Philoptochos for the 2017 calendar year. Your financial support is self-determined, and allows us to continue our mission of helping others. The membership drive runs through March 19. You can send your membership form and dues to the church using materials recently mailed to all women in the parish, or stop by the Philoptochos table during the Sunday Social Hour.

Also, Philoptochos Board elections will be in May, and we’re looking for several women to join the leadership team. This is a two-year commitment with duties that include attending 8 board meetings, and organizing and implementing the philanthropic work of the organization. Interested? Please talk with Paulette Hastings or any board member to learn more.

**Baby Bottle Coin Collection for Tandem During Lent**

Our Lenten collection for Tandem, formerly called Tapestry, begins on Sunday, February 26, and runs through Palm Sunday, April 9. 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), and return it on Palm Sunday. Tandem supports pregnant women in crisis through counseling, education, and more. [www.WeAreTandem.org](http://www.WeAreTandem.org).

**Pick Up Your Fillo**  
**Sunday, March 12**

Preorders for the spring fillo sale will be ready for pick-up during the coffee hour on Sunday, March 12. If you are unable to get yours on that day, it will be in the refrigerator at the back of the kitchen, labeled and in a plastic bag for you to collect at your convenience.

**We Host Meal after PreSanctified Liturgy**  
**Wednesday, March 29**

Philoptochos is hosting the meal after the 5:45 p.m. PreSanctified on March 29. Free will donations will be collected for charity, so your generosity is most appreciated. Help is needed with planning, set-up and clean-up. Please volunteer at our table during the coffee hour or in response to emails or Philoptochos eNews.

**Thank You…**

- To Nancy Hartwig, Maria Paradise, Cathy Selin, and Andrea Tiggas who, along with committee members Tessie Bourdamis, Alice Mikhail, Peggy Sperides, and Jennifer Coin, hosted Movie Night. This event, co-sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos, raised more than $350 for Tubman Center, [www.tubman.org](http://www.tubman.org). Thanks to all who attended and donated freely.

- To Linda Hodge, for coordinating the membership mailing, and her helpers Fifi Kafkas, Mary Kafkas, Vangie Karakatsanis, and Elaine Smith.

- To Andrea Tiggas, for coordinating the spring fillo sale.

- To Aggie Koutroupas, for hosting Ladies Night Out, and to Mary Pappas, for taking reservations for the event.

- To Toni Bazakos, for leading our workshop on making koliva.

- To Alexandria Kalina, for organizing Sweet Sunday, and to the many women who supported this effort by donating food and flowers, helping with set-up and clean-up, and giving of their time. Much thanks also to the many parishioners who donated to this fundraiser for Families Moving Forward.

- To Linda Hodge, for chairing the Membership Drive, and to Donnarae Louricas for her assistance.

**The Calendar + Looking Ahead…**

- **Wednesday, March 22**, after Presanctified Liturgy:  
  **Board Meeting**

- **Wednesday, March 29**  
  **Host Meal after Presanctified Liturgy**

- **Thursday, April 13**, after Divine Liturgy  
  **Dye Eggs**

- **Friday, April 14**, after Royal Hours  
  **Wrap Red Eggs**

- **Koulouria Donations Needed for Pascha Weekend**

- **Additional help will be needed for Pascha activities organized through the church, including Lazarus Saturday Retreat and preparations (April 8), decorating on Holy Friday and Saturday, and the Pascha meal after the midnight service.**
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.

Financial Update

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Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, offering income so far this year through January exceeds the offering total last year at this time by $5,769. This is a great start to the new 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.

Women’s Pilgrimage/Retreat to Arizona

by Cindy Karos

It was pitch black except for the billions of white stars in the sky. It might be one of the top 10 most beautiful sights to be remembered. Here we were, in Arizona, surrounded by snow topped mountains and all we could see were two things: a sky full of vibrant stars and two faint lights ahead belonging to the church where we were headed for Orthros/Matins. We would begin our morning awed by God’s nature and by the time we were finished with our services, God’s sun would be rising and we would be surrounded by an equally amazing view of mountains, cactus and desert.

On January 24, a group of ten women accompanied Father George on a journey to St. Paisius Monastery about three hours from Phoenix. Some of our group had been there before, but a few of us had no idea what was in store. All we knew was we were willing to leave our surroundings for five days and head to a place where people loved and focused on God.

Many of us had heard about Monastery trips before. There were some things consistent: long services, simple food, early mornings. All of this and the people who had gone couldn’t wait to get back. What was the secret? We were excited to learn and learn we did. Maybe it is something you have to experience for yourself, but being in a place where God is the focus is transforming. What we experienced set the stage, but the reality was that once the distractions were out of the way—the food was delicious and simple, our sleeping quarters were comfortable, helping the nuns to do simple tasks was satisfying, learning something new about our faith—we were alone with God. The more time we had with HIM the more we wanted. And that is the secret...more time with HIM. And while those stars God gave us in the Arizona sky were spectacular, they are the same stars that are in our sky. We just need to take the time to be with HIM and look.
What a blessing and privilege it was again this year for the St. Mary’s Mission Team to journey to the St. Miguel Monastery and Hogar Rafael Ayau Children’s Residence in Guatemala. This year’s team was again lead by Doria Saros and consisted of a great group of both experienced missionaries; Joan Calott, Barbara Neumann and Rick Wagner, and new missionaries; Kelly Price, Jamie Amacci, Stephanie Sikkila, Jonathan Klein, and Erik Leigh. We were also blessed to be accompanied by Fr. Nathan Kroll as our spiritual leader and Presbytera Heidi Kroll.

Our week at the monastery was full of many wonderful experiences! Connecting and reconnecting in love with the children and nuns including Igumenia (Abbess) Madre Ines, Madre Ivonne, Madre Maria and Madre Alexandra was our delight and mission. Early in the week, we spent an active day with the boys at the Hogar residence in downtown Guatemala City. The Hogar houses a multifunctional facility including a new free on-line university, a cultural center, children’s residence and disabled children’s educational facility, as well as the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church. There are 13 boys at the Hogar ranging in ages from 8 to 17. The boys are cared for by Fr. Ignacio Miranda and his wonderful family, as well as a great staff. We enjoyed playing soccer and having a special lunch with the boys in the morning. In the afternoon, we put on the Yo-Yo project, where in addition to learning about the physics of the Yo-Yo, the boys picked up great tricks from Jonathan, Stephanie, and Erik. We were especially blessed in the afternoon to celebrate vespers with the boys, Fr. Ignacio, Fr. Antonio and Fr. Nathan. Fr. Antonio Martinez is the Rector of the Holy Transfiguration parish, as well as the Holy Trinity Church at the St. Miguel Monastery.

Throughout the week we were also able to spend time with the teen girls living at the St. Miguel Residence at the monastery. They were eager to talk and learn about new things, as well as discuss their future. Several of the girls will be attending a new school due to a gift from several benefactors. They were excited but a little anxious! They also enjoyed the Yo-Yo lesson and learned as fast as the boys!

One of the very high points of the week was worshipping at the beautiful Holy Trinity Church, with its amazing icons depicting the scriptures as well as literally hundreds of saints. It is indeed a taste of heaven! Fr. Nathan and Fr. Antonio lead the full services for Theophany in Spanish and English, from Royal Hours, to Matins, to the Liturgy of St. Basil, to the Vigil and finally the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The boys were able to join us and along with the girls sang like Spanish Angels throughout the services. The Kingdom of God was indeed present! This of course was followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters both at the church and at the Lake of Atitlan, which is just below the monastery. A special treat for the boys is the race to recover the cross after it has been thrown with a blessing into the lake. After blessing every inch of the monastery, we and many guests celebrated the feast with a wonderful lake side picnic.

A few of the guests were leaders of a Mayan community in Northern Guatemala that has recently converted to Orthodoxy. In fact, there has been an explosion of interest in Orthodoxy among the native communities over the past several years. The number has grown from initially 50,000, 5 years ago, to over a million. It is awe inspiring to see what God is doing in Guatemala!

Over the course of the week, we also engaged in several projects. Barb, Joan, and Jamie helped prepare the gift shop for a move from the dining hall to the church. We also built an enclosed garden in the back of the residence so that the nuns and children can plant and raise vegetables and herbs. This was no small project requiring the whole team, under the direction of Fr. Nathan, to remove the large trees.
old dirt, followed by layering over sandy soil, over a ton of fresh earth using buckets. At first, we had our doubts that we would be able to complete this task, but God willing we poured the last bucket by literally the last hour!

In addition to getting to know each other, our intergenerational team was spiritually nurtured by Fr. Nathan’s thought provoking morning scripture study on Christ, the King and Servant. We also took advantage of the natural rhythm of the monastery’s morning and evening services.

While the monastery and Orthodox faith are strong in Guatemala, due to changes in the Guatemalan laws concerning orphanages, it has been very difficult to admit more children to the residence. Nevertheless, the monastery is fully committed to caring and educating its current charge of 27 children and young adults. This includes providing for their basic needs, housing and food, as well as primary and college education. These children have been abandoned and have no family support and thus are totally dependent on support from the monastery. The cost is only $10 per day, so please consider supporting them by going to http://www.hogarafeleyau.org!

On returning from Guatemala, each of us realizes that we have received much more from our pilgrimage to St. Miguel than we have given. We were inspired to deepen our commitment to the life and ministries of our Holy Church, with a renewed love for our Lord, Jesus Christ! As the children say with joy, “BIG IS GOD”!

In the Bookstore

Meditations for Holy Week
Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou

Archimandrite Vassilios brings his liturgical and devotional insights and warm, accessible style to bear on the services of Holy Week, helping the reader enter fully into this most rich and intense period of the Christian year.

About the Author:
Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. He was born in London in 1977 and holds degrees in pastoral and social theology, classics, and Byzantine music. He is the author of Meditations for Great Lent, Meditations for Advent, and Thirty Steps to Heaven (Ancient Faith Publishing), as well as Journey to the Kingdom: An Insider’s Look at the Liturgy and Beliefs of the Eastern Orthodox Church (Paraclete Press) and numerous articles on Christian Orthodox faith and theology.

Great Week and Pascha
Alkiviadis C. Calivas

Tracing the development of the liturgical celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, Fr. Calivas elegantly describes the theological themes for each day, clarifies the liturgical practices, and provides rubrics for their proper celebration. Through the text the reader can find answers to many questions about Great Week as well as insights into meaningful participation in the services.

Great Lent
Father Alexander Schmemann

This revised edition of Father Alexander Schmemann’s Lenten classic examines the meaning of Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and other neglected or misunderstood treasures of Lenten worship. Schmemann draws on the Church’s sacramental and liturgical tradition to suggest the meaning of “Lent in our life.”

The Lenten season is meant to kindle a “bright sadness” within our hearts. Its aim is precisely the remembrance of Christ, a longing for a relationship with God that has been lost. Lent offers the time and place for recovery of this relationship. The darkness of Lent allows the flame of the Holy Spirit to burn within our hearts until we are led to the brilliance of the Resurrection.
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?

Church School will not meet on Sunday, March 5.
Church School students will participate in the Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession during the Divine Liturgy.

GOYA Meetings

Junior GOYA
Wednesdays, March 1 and 15

Senior GOYA
Wednesdays, March 8 and 29

Orthodoxy on Tap
Saturday, March 18
Join young Orthodox adults, ages 18-35, from across the region for Orthodoxy on Tap at Giordano’s, 3000 West 66th Street in Richfield on Saturday, March 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. This event is in conjunction with “Be the Bee” Retreat. Our guests will be representatives from the Archdiocesan Youth Office.

Our Junior Olympics participants will host the Wednesday evening Lenten dinner on March 15.

Greek Dance Practices
Mondays, March 6 and 20

Performance
Annunciation Day/Greek Independence Day Celebration, Sunday, March 26, after Liturgy.

Saint Mary’s Oratorical Festival
Sunday, March 12
Saint Mary’s annual Oratorical Festival takes place on Sunday, March 12. The speeches will be presented immediately after the communion. All students in grades 7-12 will remain in Liturgy so they may listen to their fellow classmates’ speeches.
Participating in the Oratorical requires a great deal of time commitment by these students. They must choose a topic, research it, prepare, and practice all the while keeping up with their daily school commitments. Please show your support by staying in church until the speeches have concluded.
At the conclusion, please be sure to attend the coffee hour to see what great projects the elementary students have been working on as their part of the Oratorical Festival.
As a thank you for their efforts, all the junior and senior participants will be treated to dinner and the family show at Comedy Sportz in Calhoun Square.
The winners of our Oratorical Festival will qualify to compete with others from across the Midwest as St. Mary’s hosts the Metropolis Oratorical Festival in April. Details on this will be forthcoming.

Vacation Church School
June 12-16, 2017  ☀  9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Launch into Liturgy Exploration
Early registration is underway
Lord, as good and compassionate, enable us, through the prayers of the divine Apostles, to carry out the time of the fast in an attitude of contrition, that being saved we may all glorify you.

—Stichera Prosomoia, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Week 2
<table>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>10:30am-Intercessory Prayer &lt;br&gt; 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Holy Confession &lt;br&gt; 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Soup Dinner &lt;br&gt; -Grades 3 &amp; 4 Confessions &lt;br&gt; -Camp Q &amp; A &lt;br&gt; -Open Gym &lt;br&gt; -Junior GOYA &lt;br&gt; 7:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td>7:00am-Men’s Fellowship &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Holy Confession &lt;br&gt; 6:00pm-Salutations to the Theotokos</td>
<td>Third Saturday of Souls &lt;br&gt; 9:00am-Bible Study &lt;br&gt; 9:00am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 10:00am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
<td>5:00pm-Icon Class</td>
<td>6:00pm-Salutations to the Theotokos</td>
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<td>5 Sunday of Orthodoxy &lt;br&gt; “The Messenger” Deadline &lt;br&gt; 8:30am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 9:30am-Divine Liturgy &lt;br&gt; after Liturgy-Blood Pressure Screening &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Lenten Vespers &lt;br&gt; St. Mary’s OCA Cathedral</td>
<td>6:00pm-Compline &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Greek Dance Practice</td>
<td>9:30am-Faith Play Group &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Holy Confession &lt;br&gt; 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Soup Dinner &lt;br&gt; -Grades 5 &amp; 6 Confessions &lt;br&gt; -Open Gym &lt;br&gt; -Senior GOYA &lt;br&gt; 7:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>9:00am-Be the Bee Retreat &lt;br&gt; 5:00pm-Great Vespers Healing House dinner</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 9:30am-Divine Liturgy &lt;br&gt; Oratorical Festival &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Lenten Vespers &lt;br&gt; St. George GOC &lt;br&gt; St. Mary’s hosts dinner at FOCUS</td>
<td>6:00pm-Compline</td>
<td>9:00am-“The Messenger” Mailing &lt;br&gt; 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer &lt;br&gt; 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study &lt;br&gt; 4:00pm-Holy Confession &lt;br&gt; 5:45pm-Presanctified Liturgy &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Soup Dinner &lt;br&gt; -Grades 2 Confessions &lt;br&gt; -Open Gym &lt;br&gt; -Junior GOYA &lt;br&gt; 7:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:00pm-Icon Class &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Northeast Metro Koinonia</td>
<td>4:00pm-Holy Confession &lt;br&gt; 6:00pm-Salutations to the Theotokos</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 9:30am-Divine Liturgy &lt;br&gt; Holy Trinity OCA</td>
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<td>9:00am-Orthros &lt;br&gt; 10:00am-Divine Liturgy &lt;br&gt; after Liturgy-Mission &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
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<td>6:00pm-Compline &lt;br&gt; 7:00pm-Greek Dance Practice</td>
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**March 2017**