September 2017

Inside This Issue
Education and Fellowship .......... 3
Koinonia .................................. 3
Ministry Memos ...................... 6
Our Life Together .................... 2
Parish News and Events .......... 4
Philoptochos ......................... 7
Stewardship .......................... 8
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

St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
Presents the 29th Annual

Friday, Saturday: Sept. 8, 9, Noon–10pm
Sunday: Sept. 10, Noon–6pm

TASTE OF GREECE

Enjoy authentic Greek food, live music, and cultural experiences!

The Greek Boutique • Church Tours • Handmade Pastries • Kids Play Area

Help Make a Difference
Chloe’s Fight 5K on Friday & Food Drive All Weekend: 3 items = 2 free tickets

www.mplsGreekFest.org • 3450 Irving Ave S MPLS 55408
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mplsGreekFest
Instagram: @mplsGreekFest

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors!
Our Life Together

Baptism
Harrison (Haralambos)
Parents: Adam & Angela Chrz
August 6, 2017

Chrismations
Joshua Richter
July 19, 2017
Peter Dubreuze
July 29, 2017

Deaths
Thomas Checheris
July 20, 2017
Artemis Karos
July 31, 2017
Christine Roumel
August 5, 2017
George C. Pappas
August 7, 2017

May their memory be eternal.

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, September 27
Christie J. Geanakoplos (12 years)
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kalogerson,
grandparents of Joanne Rotenberg
Bessie J. Colocusis
Thomas J. Geanakoplos (16 years)
Ethel A. Kalogerson Angelos
(15 years)
Elena Karalis (6 years)

Share YourShelf
September’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Sunday, September 3
Canned fruits and vegetables

Sunday, September 10
Cereal (both hot and cold)

Sunday, September 17
Canned Meal – large cans
(Chili/pork and beans)

Sunday, September 24
Hygiene items
(toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner)

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...I tell you whenever you do these things for the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me.” —Matthew 25:35-40

Congratulations!
We are happy to announce that our own Katherine Pappas is one of the recipients of the 1st Annual Orthodox Christian Network’s (OCN) “30 Under 30” Award for 2017. This award honors those in Orthodox leadership positions in the fields of medicine, nutrition, science, technology, public policy, social science, humanities, non-profit, arts and law, among others.

Katherine is a life-long member of St. Mary’s community, and works for Park Nicollet Foundation as a Development Assistant. She is currently co-coordinator of YAL, and has been involved in many areas of St. Mary’s over the years.

She is a 2015 graduate of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Katherine will be accepting her award at an event in September at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA.

Congratulations to Katherine!

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

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

Youth Director:
Jonathan Klein

Music Director:
Thespina Macres

Organist:
Mark Macres

Taste of Greece

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

Weekday Schedule
Friday, September 1
The Indiction
(Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year)
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 6
Small Blessing of Water – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 8
Nativity of the Theotokos
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 14
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 26
Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian
Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m.

Koinonia
Edina Koinonia
Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.
Joan Calott’s home
952.944.9397

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
Sunday, September 24, 5:00 p.m.
Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home
612.825.1067

Northeast Metro Koinonia
Thursday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.
Costas & Barbara Nichols’ home
763.571.0460

South of the River Metro Koinonia
Thursday, September 28, 6:30 p.m.
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog’s home
612.743.2789

West Metro Koinonia
Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
952.476.7624

Women’s Bible Study
Our Wednesday Women’s Bible Study resumes meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 11:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room. The class meets the first and third Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, unless otherwise specified. This year’s theme is “High Priest in Heaven: The Epistle to the Hebrews.” All women are invited to attend. If you have questions about the class, please contact the Church Office, 612.825.9595.

Fellowship and Study Groups
Adult Senior Bible Study
Tuesdays, September 19
1:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday, September 20
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men’s Fellowship
Friday, September 1
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Mid-month gathering, tba

Saturday Bible Study
Every Saturday (except September 9)
9:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Senior Citizens
Tuesday, September 12
12:00 noon, Terrace Room

Women’s Bible Study
Wednesday, September 20
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Pilgrimage for Women of Saint Mary’s
Led by Fr. George Dokos
January 23-27, 2018
Saint Paisius Monastery, Safford, Arizona
Cost: $450.00 (includes room, board, and travel)
A personal donation to the monastery is recommended

Please RSVP no later than Sunday, October 15
We have room for ten pilgrims

To reserve, contact: sandra@stmarysgoc.org or 612.825.9595

For additional information, please turn to “Ministry Memos” on page 5 of this issue.

stpaisiusmonastery.org/about-the-monastery/about-us
Parish Night
2017-2018
Wednesdays
6:15-8:00 p.m.

Explore the mystery of who God is during the upcoming school year. Everyone is welcome to attend our new monthly Parish Night. We’ll begin the evening together with a brief prayer service at 6:15 p.m., followed by dinner and a breakout session and then wrap up. The evening will conclude by 8:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Session 1 — September 27, 2017
  * I Am the Light of the World
Session 2 — October 18, 2017
  * I Am the Bread of Life
Session 3 — November 15, 2017
  * I Am King
Session 4 — December 20, 2017
  * I Am the Way
Session 5 — January 17, 2018
  * I Am the Truth
Session 6 — April 25, 2018
  * I Am the Resurrection
Session 7 — May 16, 2018
  * I Am the Alpha and Omega

Open Gym Basketball

Open gym basketball is starting up for any adults, 18 and older, who want to come together and play basketball for a few hours. The Great Hall will be open Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 beginning August 29. Note that we will not be meeting every Tuesday.

The dates for the remainder of the year are: August 29; September 12, 19; October 10, 24, 31; November 14, 21, 28; December 5, and 19. (Dates subject to change.)

Please contact Theo Boosalis, Boos2360@stthomas.edu, if you have any questions regarding pickup basketball.

Liturgical Music
Praise God with Psalms and Hymns

If you love music and appreciate the way it is incorporated into the liturgical worship of the church; and you have been blessed with the ability to match pitches impeccably and sing confidently – you are the person we are looking for!

Make the commitment to join St Mary’s Choir Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00 p.m. as we prepare the hymns of our liturgical year. We rehearse September 20 through the end of May and we sing at all Sunday liturgies throughout the year. All voices are welcome!

We also, invite any young women in middle school, high school, and older to join us on Sundays, beginning September 24, from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. for Chant Group Ensemble. This group sings during Advent, Great Lent, Pascha, and the Paraklesis Services to the Theotokos. All women welcome. Please contact Thespina Macres at choirdirector@comcast.net if you are interested in either group.

Evening Divine Liturgies

Beginning this fall, we will be introducing one evening Divine Liturgy each month. The Liturgy is one hour, 6:00-7:00 p.m. This will afford more people an opportunity to attend a weekday Liturgy. The first evening Divine Liturgy will be on Tuesday, September 26, 6:00-7:00 p.m., for St. John the Evangelist and Theologian. It is a good practice not to eat anything after lunch when communing in the evening. We look forward to this new addition to our community life of worship.

Church School Registration and Kick Off

Sunday Church School registration is underway. See the paragraph on the Youth News page for details.

Family Camp

Family Camp 2017 will take place Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, at Camp Courage in Annandale, Minnesota. We welcome back to Family Camp this year Dr. Philip Mamalakis. Dr. Mamalakis was with us a couple times several years ago. His recently completed book, “Parenting toward the Kingdom,” will be the theme of this year’s Camp.

Registration information will be available soon.

Greek Language Tutor Wanted

We are looking for someone to tutor our 2 boys (ages 5 and 7) in Greek language instruction for one hour weekly. Pay is $40.00 for the hour. Please let us know if interested at 707.803.1902. —Nicole Brilakis
Work during the Festival...
The Festival is such a fun way to come together as a parish community as well as to raise money for our charitable ministries. Please sign up for 1, 2, or more shifts! Sign-up during Sunday coffee hour or on-line at your convenience. Watch for details soon. Invite a friend to work with you!

At press time, our greatest needs are in the food and gyro tents, clean up, and dishwashing at all shifts throughout the weekend. If you have not yet signed up to help, please do so. Contact David in the Church Office for the sign up link.

(For you techies, why not consider dish washing? We have the latest in dish washing technology in our newly-renovated kitchen - plus, it’s air conditioned back there!)

Join the Baking Brigade...

**Theples Frying**
Tuesday, August 22, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Contact: Tina Menter, 612.270.1862

**Theples Honeying**
Monday, August 28, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Contact: Tina Menter, 612.270.1862

**Paximathia**
Wednesday, August 23, 4:00-9:00 p.m. — Contact: Tia Muchulas, 952.929.5428
Thursday, August 24, 4:00-9:00 p.m., if needed - please call the Church Office before coming to help.

**Unload Delivery Truck**
Friday, August 25 — Contact: Debbie Theros, 952.935.3358

**Festival Preparation**
Tuesday and Wednesday, September 5 and 6, cutting baklava, honeying melos, packaging — Contact: Debbie Theros, 952.935.3358

Tell Your Friends...
- Pick up and distribute some fliers. *You’ll find them at the Festival table on Sundays, or in the office during the week.*
- Like the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mplsgreekfest
- Invite your friends to the Facebook event
- Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/mplsgreekfest
Lyn Olson Medical Crisis Program Annual Fundraising Gala

LOMCP is a nonprofit ministry that collects funds from generous donors who want to serve locally, those who have been unexpectedly hit with overwhelming medical costs. Too many times people (single and families) do not have the where withal to plod through all the forms and regulations required just to get on a waiting list to receive help. While waiting, many become in danger of losing their transportation or even their homes because they cannot keep up with their bills.

LOMCP offers grants to help lessen burdens (such as electric bill, supplement a rent check, hearing aids, glasses) caused by rising medical costs. Just helping with one of these items can reduce the stress level of someone feeling no hope!

One of these events is the LOMCP Annual Fundraising Gala at the Terrace of Stillwater Public Library on September 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

You can help, please prayerfully consider…
1. Stopping by the table in the Great Hall for information
2. Attend the Gala you - will not be sorry
3. Donate on line at www.lomcp.com. Applications for grants can be made on this website as well.

Though LOMCP began this ministry in the Orthodox community, it is open to all in need! Remember, a medical crisis can happen to any of us at any time, please open your heart and consider how you might work with us to reach out to those struggling through difficult times. Call Sandra with any questions, 612.825.9595.

Koinonia

Many of our Koinonia groups have taken a hiatus for the summer and will be starting up again in September. Currently we have five groups meeting once a month: Northeast Metro, South of the River, Edina, West Metro, and Lake Calhoun. Some of you have expressed an interest in these groups and how to become a part of them, if you are interested, please let us know by contacting Tia Muchulas, 952.929.5428, or Sandra in the Church Office. In the meantime, please look for more information on Koinonia in the October “Messenger.”

Women’s Bible Study

We resume our studies with Fr. George on Wednesday, September 20, and will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (dates subject to change). The sessions run from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. Our Intercessory Prayer group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Nave, just prior to Bible study.

Father’s topic this year is “High Priest in Heaven: Epistle to the Hebrews” starting with an introduction at our first meeting.

All women in the parish are encouraged to join us for the Bible study and also for the Intercessory Prayer time that precedes Bible study. If you have not received the syllabus yet, it means you are not on our email list so please contact me (612.825.9595) if you would like to receive the monthly notes or if you have any questions about the study or the prayer group.

Women’s Pilgrimage

Plans are in motion for our annual Women’s Pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery with Fr. George (stpaisiusmonastery.org) January 23-27, 2018.

As I mentioned last month, the cost is $450 and we are so pleased to say we will also be spending one evening and a half day at the St. Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona, (www.stanthonymonastery.org) before heading back to Phoenix for the return home. We have room for ten and it is on a first come first served basis. Reservations must be made by Sunday, October 15 (sooner is better). Enjoy meaningful prayer time, joyful fellowship, a peaceful environment enveloped in true monastic life. I warn you, no talking at meals, I won’t mention any names but some of us work hard at that one! Seriously, I can’t stress enough what a unique God-spirited adventure this is. Contact Sandra in the Church Office, 612.825.9595.
September brings a renewed energy and excitement as the start of the Ecclesiastical Year, school, fall sports, and regularly scheduled Philoptochos activities begin! The new Philoptochos Board is working well together, planning ways to serve the church, support the parish, and especially lift up girls and women here and around the world. We look forward to seeing many of our members and interested friends at our dinner meeting on September 26 – read on for more details!

**Final Stretch for Festival Bake Sale**

Final packaging and set up for the Taste of Greece Bake Sale is on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 5 and 6, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 7, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., if needed. You’re welcome for an hour or two or the whole day. Let Bake Sale chair Debbie Theros know you can come, 952.935.3358.

Also, the culmination of a summer of preparation, the Taste of Greece, is September 8-10. Stop by the volunteer table or use the online Sign Up Genius form to pick your favorite shifts to work. Thank you!

**Philoptochos Dinner Meeting – Ποιος είσαι? Who Are You?**

*Tuesday, September 26*

Ladies of St. Mary’s, mark your calendar and come to dinner for the first Philoptochos gathering of the Ecclesiastical Year! We’ll gather at 6:00 p.m. for Divine Liturgy, then move to the Terrace Room for delicious mezes, wine, and fellowship, and hear about plans for the coming year, as well as have fun with a game we’re calling, “Ποιος είσαι? Who Are You?” Please RSVP to the church office 612.825.9595.

**Thank You...**

To the leaders of the Festival Bake Sale: Debbie Theros, chair and lead for melomakarona and koulouria, Elena Gabor, baklava, Paulette Hastings, kourambiethes, Tina Menter, Anne Stundahl and Jamie Amacci, thiples, and Tia Muchulas, paximathia chair.

To the wonderful Kourambiethes Crew, led by Giannoula Bakritzis at the mixer, along with Lisa Gallmeyer, Georgia George, Paulette Hastings, Linda Hodge, Meg Johnson, Fifi Kafkas, Mary Kafkas, Vangie Karakatsanis, Jayne Klatt, Tina Menter, Stephanie and Alexandra Panos, Maria Paradise, Helen Peters, Lisa Rose, Suzanne Schilling, Cathy Selin, and Desi Tokar. Over 2,100 powdery treats were made!

Debbie Theros, for leading the Melomakarona Baking Team to successfully make more than 2,000 delicious morsels! Much appreciation to all team members: Mary Anderson, Athena Dascalos, Georgia Fisher, Georgia George, Sofia Johnson, John Kafkas, Vangie Karakastanis, Aggie Koutroupas, Joanne Morgan, Bea Murdakes, Maria Paradise, Veula Possis, Kris Pringer, Popie Rakes, Cathy Selin and granddaughter, Elaine Smith, Sandra Sperides, Thea Thayer, Desi Tokar, Effie Triantafilou, Koula Triantafilou, and Mary Kay Twito. (More Festival appreciation coming next month, too!)

Sandra Anderson and Stephanie Panos, for shopping for school supplies needed by the children of Healing House.

To the women who planned the receptions for the Dormition Vespers and Liturgy on August 14 and 15: Linda Hodge, chair, Sandra Anderson, Presvytera Christa Dokos, Jayne Klatt, Connie Kouzes, Carol Smith, and Andrea Tiggas.

To Diane Achterling, Annette Legeros, and Paulette Hastings, for organizing the August 20 Feast Day Celebratory Lunch.
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.

**Stewardship Financial Update**

Offering Income Total:
- July Year-to-Date: $460,555
- Last Year July Year-to-Date: $400,702
- Goal for 2017: $937,335
- Additional needed to reach goal: $476,780

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, offering income so far this year exceeds the offering total last year at this time by $59,853. This is moving us much closer to achieving our goal this year of increasing offering income by 9% or $78,000. The increase is to support the ministries and programs outlined in the budget this year, which includes the new youth director position. This increase in giving demonstrates the faith and commitment of our parishioners. We are so blessed!

**Informal Conversations with the Parish Council and Stewardship Committee**

The Parish Council and Stewardship Committee invite you to join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month, following the Liturgy, for informal conversations about stewardship and your experience at St. Mary’s. There will be a sign at one of the tables in the Great Hall that will say, “Join the Parish Council and Stewardship Committee for Conversation,” indicating where we will be sitting. We welcome all interested to join us each month! We look forward to connecting with you and sharing our stories and perspectives with each other. If you are new to St. Mary’s or would like to connect with people you don’t know well, this is a great opportunity to get to know someone new. Please join us on the third Sunday of each month in the Great Hall during the Fellowship Hour to ask questions and share your experience.

*Thank you for your love and support of St. Mary’s.*

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In celebration of your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure, everyone is invited to an Appreciation Glendi hosted by the Parish Council and Stewardship Committee to show our gratitude:

Saturday, November 11, 2017
In St. Mary’s Great Hall
6:00 p.m. — Social Hour
7:00 p.m. — Dinner
Dancing to follow until 11:00 p.m.
Admission is free

*The Appreciation Glendi was such a huge success last year that we are planning to have it again this year. Save the date! Look for an invitation sometime in early October.*
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?

Upcoming Gatherings

Junior GOYA (grades 6-8)
Wednesday, September 13, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Kick off in the Terrace Room

Hope and JOY (kindergarten-grade 5)
Sunday, September 17, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Kick off in the Terrace Room

Senior GOYA (grades 9-12)
Wednesday, September 20, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Kick off in the Terrace Room

Parish Night: Who is God?
Wednesday, September 27, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
This month’s theme: “I Am the Light of the World”

2017-2018 Youth Schedule

• Junior GOYA will meet the first Wednesday of each month
• Senior GOYA will meet the second Wednesday
• Parish Night will be held the third Wednesday
• Hope/JOY activities will be once a month as announced.

All are welcome to attend the Parish Night. We will have breakout sessions for adults, GOYA, and Hope/JOY.

The youth calendar will be coming out soon, so be on the lookout!

Parents’ Meeting

Saturday, September 23

A parents’ meeting, where we will discuss the calendar, sign-up opportunities, and other material, is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, at the following times in the Lecture Room:

• Hope and JOY parents: 1:00-1:50 p.m.
• Junior GOYA parents: 2:00-2:50 p.m.
• Senior GOYA parents: 3:00-3:50 p.m.

Please enter the building via the flagpole entrance at the far south end of the south parking lot.
If you have any questions, please email Jon: jon@stmarysgoc.org

Faith Group

Faith Group is a parent/child playgroup geared towards families with children ages 0-5. It is a wonderful way to meet other young families and become involved in the church. It is held every other Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m. during the school year, and includes playtime and socializing in the Great Hall, followed by a short lesson and snack in the Terrace Room.

Our kickoff gathering is planned for Wednesday, September 27. Our proposed calendar is as follows:

• October 11 and 25
• November 15 and 29
• December 13: Christmas Party
• January 10 and 24
• February 7 and 21
• March 7 and 21
• April 11 and 25
• May 9: Last Day

Family Camp

Family Camp 2017 will take place Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, at Camp Courage in Annandale, Minnesota. We welcome back to Family Camp this year Dr. Philip Mamalakis as our guest speaker. Watch for more details and registration information.

Church School Registration

Registration for 2017-18 church school year is underway through Sunday, August 27. Please don’t wait as the first day of class is Sunday, September 17! Register on-line by going to our website, stmarysgoc.org, and click on Youth, then Sunday Church School. Registration forms are also available at a table in the Great Hall on Sundays, for your convenience. The information on our registration form is helpful to us for determining classroom sizes, number of teachers needed, and purchasing curriculum. Another practical reason is that we have so many old telephone numbers and email addresses and this helps us clean up our database.
September...
Schools are back in session.
Please watch for children and drive safely and attentively!

St. Mary’s
Greek Orthodox Church

*The Messenger* is published monthly by St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408

September, 2017

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Publication Deadlines
*The Messenger*—First Sunday of each month.

*Sunday Bulletin*—Preceding Thursday, 12:00 Noon
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>September 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Study</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Orthros</strong></td>
<td><strong>Divine Liturgy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Small Blessing of Water</strong></td>
<td><strong>Great Vespers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bible Study</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Church and Office Closed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parish Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOYA Kick Off</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bible Study</strong></td>
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