A Message from Father George

Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

As January 1 is the beginning of a new year, it is also a double Feast Day in the Church. First, it is the eighth day of Christmas, on which day, according to the Jewish Law, “the boy that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised” (Genesis 17:12). Therefore, since Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, He Himself submitted to be circumcised when He was but eight days old. It was also on that day that He received the blessed name Jesus, as St. Luke reports in his Gospel: “And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb” (Luke 2:21).

Second, January 1 is also the day we commemorate Saint Basil the Great, that holy and inspired Bishop of the Church. St. Basil was born to pious parents, Basil and Emmelia, around the year 330 AD. He first pursued secular learning and was extremely educated and brilliant. But at a pivotal moment in his early life, as he himself relates in one his letters, he turned all his strength and attention towards Christ: “I had wasted much time on follies and spent nearly all of my youth in vain labors, and devotion to the teachings of a wisdom that God had made foolish. Suddenly, I awoke as out of a deep sleep. I beheld the wonderful light of the Gospel truth, and I recognized the nothingness of the wisdom of the rulers of this world.” After this awakening, Basil studied the Gospel and theology, was consecrated a Bishop of the Church, and embarked on a sacred mission. He was a loving pastor of his people, a powerful theologian and defender of Orthodoxy, an inspired preacher and writer, the author of the Divine Liturgy attributed to him, the founder of monastic communities, orphanages, hospitals, and nursing homes, to name just a few of his accomplishments, and all this before he fell asleep in the Lord at the young age of 49!

The kontakion on January 1 combines these two celebrations with these words:

“As the Master over all has undergone circumcision, so He cuts away the sins

—Continued on page 2.
Baptism
Lukas Lindholm
Parents: Erik & Anastacia Lindholm
November 26, 2017

Marriage
Scott Freitag to
Katherine Cheolis Bloomquist
November 12, 2017

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, January 14
Mary DeMoss (2 years)

Congratulations!
Congratulations to Mary and John Anderson who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on January 14.

Thank You
Dear St. Mary Parishioners,
Thank you for a very successful Medical Crisis Fundraising event on LOMCP (Lyn Olson Medical Crisis Program) Sunday. Your support is vital, enabling the Medical Crisis Program to continue grant giving to those in need of funds enduring medical crisis. We wish you all a very blessed Nativity season.

In Christ,
LOMCP Board

Share Your Shelf
January’s recipient of Share Your Shelf contributions is Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Sunday, January 7
Canned fruit and/or vegetables

Sunday, January 14
Cereal (both hot and cold)

Sunday, January 21
Canned Meal – large cans (chili, pork and beans, etc.)

Sunday, January 28
Coffee and Tea

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

—Matthew 14:13-21

Continued from page 1.

of humankind in His goodness. On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. And on high does the Creator’s hierarch Basil now rejoice, for he is known as a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.”

So, let us begin 2018 with these thoughts in mind, contemplating the extreme condescension of Jesus Christ for our salvation and looking to the great Basil as a model of Christian living and a true hierarch of the Church.

I wish you all of God’s rich blessings this new year!

With love in Christ,

| Fr. George Dokos |

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:
Julie Moricz
Administrative Assistant/Communications:
David Mertesdorf
Facilities Coordinator:
Sylvia Kafkas
Ministries Coordinator & Office Secretary:
Sandra Anderson
Pastoral Assistant:
Doria Saros
Youth Director:
Jonathan Klein
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

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

Weekday Schedule
Monday, January 1
Circumcision of Christ
Saint Basil
New Year’s Day
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 5
Eve of Theophany
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Blessing of the River – 1:00 p.m.
Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul
Vesperal Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 6
Commemoration
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 17
Saint Anthony the Great
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 18
Saints Athanasios and Cyril
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 25
Saint Gregory the Theologian
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 30
Three Hierarchs
Evening Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m.

Koinonia
Edina Koinonia
Thursday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.
Joan Calott’s home
952.944.9397

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
Sunday, January 28, 5:00 p.m.
Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home
612.825.1067

Northeast Metro Koinonia
Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.
Costas & Barbara Nichols’ home
763.571.0460

South of the River Koinonia
Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog’s home
612.743.2789

West Metro Koinonia
Thursday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
952.476.7624

Blessing of the River
The Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Christian Clergy Association (www.meocca.org), will hold the 2nd annual Theophany/Epiphany Blessing of the Waters service on the Mississippi River on Friday, January 5, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at Hidden Falls Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St. Paul. The half-hour service is free and open to the public. The service will end with the local priests immersing a gold cross in the Mississippi River, symbolizing Jesus Christ’s baptism in the River Jordan 2,000 years ago.

Fellowship and Study Groups
Adult Senior Bible Study
On winter break

Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday, January 3
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men’s Fellowship
Friday, January 5
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

• Evening Men’s Fellowship
Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Luke & Mary Kay Twito’s home
3828 Hunters Overlook, Eagan
Please RSVP

Seniors Citizens
The Senior Citizens’ group is now on winter break. The group will meet again on Tuesday, April 10 (Bright Tuesday), two days after Pascha, for lunch, meeting, and a program. See you in April!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed
A number of coffee hour hosting opportunities are available in the next couple months. Those Sundays currently available are: January 7, 21, and 28, and February 4, 18, and 25. Please keep in mind that not all Sundays are available for Memorial Prayers. Please contact the Church Office if you’d like to host or for more information about hosting, 612.825.9595.

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Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays, January 3 and 17
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

January 2018
Parish News & Events

Orthodox Game League
Saturday, January 27

The Winter Game League Night will be Saturday, January 27, at St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church’s Lecture Room. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a munchie or dessert to share. Contact Nikki Beauchamp, 612.910.2943, if you have any questions.

Enter the building by the flagpole entrance at the south end of the south parking lot.

Winter General Assembly
Sunday, January 28

The Winter General Assembly, Budget Approval, will take place on Sunday, January 28, 11:30 a.m., in the Great Hall. Copies of the budget and the agenda will be available early in the New Year.

Wednesday Lenten Dinners

The Christmas season is upon us 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 2018, Great Lent begins Monday, February 19, with the first dinner on Wednesday, February 21. 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.

Catechism Classes

The Winter Term of the MEOCCA-Sponsored Catechism Classes has been announced. The dates and topics are listed on-line and on the registration form. Classes meet on Mondays, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul. The classes are open to all, whether considering chrismation or just wanting to learn more about Orthodoxy.

Classes begin Monday, January 8, and run through Monday, April 16, with the exception of February 12, Clean Monday/First Day of Great Lent, and April 2 and 8 for Holy Week and Pascha.

The texts used are: “Introducing the Orthodox Church” by Anthony Coniaris, “The Orthodox Church” by Kallistos Ware, “The Orthodox Way” by Ware, and “The Faith” by Clark Carlton. All can be purchased through St. Mary’s Bookstore.

There is no charge for the classes. Please register on-line: http://www.nicks-trip.org/meocca/registration_form4.htm

Paper forms are located outside the Church Office.

Holiday Office Closures

Saint Mary’s Church Office will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 22, and reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, for the Christmas holiday. Our New Year break will be Monday, January 1, and reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2.

Parish Night
2017-2018
Wednesdays
6:15-8:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly Parish Night. We begin 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 upcoming schedule is as follows:

Session 5 — January 17, 2018
I Am the Truth

For more information, contact Jon Klein in the Church Office, jon@stmarysgoc.org, or 612.825.9595

House Blessings

During January and February, Fr. George and Fr. Jason will be dedicating time each week for house blessings. They look forward to seeing as many parishioners as will allow them to visit! To schedule a blessing, please send an e-mail request to: stmarysgoc@stmarysgoc.org or call the Office, 612.825.9595.

In an effort to be more efficient, we are booking appointments by quadrants.

• January 6-14: Southwest Quadrant
  Bounded by Highway 394 on the north and 35W on the east.

• January 15-21: Northwest Quadrant
  Bounded by Highway 394 on the south and 35W on the east.

• January 22-28: Northeast Quadrant
  Bounded by Highway 94 on the south and 35W on the west.

• January 29-February 4: Southeast Quadrant
  Bounded by Highway 94 on the north and 35W on the east.

If the preceding dates do not work, we will have open scheduling will take place February 5-18.
Reflection and Shine Time for St. Mary’s Youth

Think of the most inspiring orators of our age. Who comes to mind? Martin Luther King? Ronald Reagan? Barack Obama? Billy Graham? In the late 300s and early 400s, St. John Chrysostom was that speaker.

St. John’s straightforward understanding of the Scriptures meant that the themes of his talks were practical, explaining the Bible’s application to everyday life. He regularly denounced abuse of authority by both church and political leaders and was no less vocal with others.

One of his regular topics was pagan culture in Constantinople. In one homily he railed, “If you ask a Christian who is Amos or Obadiah, or how many apostles there were, or prophets, they stand mute. But if you ask them about the horses or drivers, they answer with more solemnity than sophists or orators.” How easily this statement could be adapted to our world today!

Because of his straightforward preaching, people of all backgrounds flocked to hear him speak and were converted to Christianity. The appellation Χρυσόστομος, Chrysostomos, means “golden-mouthed” and denotes his eloquence. While almost 1800 years have passed, he still is considered one of the greatest preacher ever heard in a Christian pulpit.

Being true to one’s faith, and being able to articulate it, is no less challenging today than in St. John’s fourth century world. His life and teachings are the foundation for the Oratorical Festival sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America each year. The Oratorical Festival project helps provide our youth the tools and skills, and helps them crystallize their beliefs to navigate life in this 21st century.

Over the next two months, students who choose to participate will be considering challenging questions posed by the Oratorical Festival. Those in grades 7 through 12 will be preparing their speeches, essays, poems or icons for presentation in early March. Even the elementary students can get in on the act preparing a prayer, icon, parable skit or class song! Please pray for them as they do this work.

Parents, consider the Oratorical Festival questions and how you yourself would respond. We are all learners and constantly growing in our faith. What a golden opportunity to talk about how Christ is working within your whole family.

While the elementary program is limited to the parish level, the top participants in the Junior and Senior levels advance to the Metropolis Festival with the opportunity to attend the National Archdiocese Festival. This year the Metropolis of Chicago Festival will be held at St. Demetrios Church, Hammond, Indiana, on April 14, 2018. Participants will enjoy a day of activities designed for them with the highlight being the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning.

Those who attend the National Archdiocese Festival have the opportunity to receive an award from the Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund. The top three speakers of each division receive scholarships of $2,000, $1,500 and $1,000 for matriculation at Hellenic College in Boston.

In 2017, St. Mary’s was thrilled to have almost 20 students participate in the parish Oratorical Festival. Their contributions were both beautiful and thought-provoking. While our top participants in the Junior and Senior division went on to the Metropolis Festival held at St. Mary’s in April, they, and the rest of our group, celebrated their efforts with a night of fellowship, dinner with Father George, and comedy entertainment on a Friday evening soon after the local festival.

This year, presentations again will be given in early March. Each participant will receive a certificate and will be invited for an evening of well-deserved fun. In addition, a $250 cash award will be given to the top participant in each of the Junior and Senior categories of the oratory section of the festival. While not mandatory, all Sunday School students are encouraged to participate in the Oratorical Festival.

Registration begins January 21 during regularly scheduled Sunday school class. Hard copy and online information and resource packets will be made available in addition to mentor support.

Please contact Sandra Anderson, sandra@stmarysgoc.org, 612.825.9595, or Carol Smith, smithzc1@gmail.com, 952.210.8618, with questions.
The start of the New Year marks the start of the Annual Philoptochos Membership Drive. Each woman in the parish will receive a letter in the mail inviting her to join. We encourage all women age 18+ to become a member and support our philanthropic work. Not sure you have the time to join? There’s no pressure to be heavily involved in our activities – participating in just one activity in 2018 or offering only your self-determined dues is acceptable. Watch for your invitation, and thanks for your consideration!

Preparation for/Vasilopita Sunday January 7 and 8

Vasilopita Sunday is January 8, and provides an opportunity to thank (with a slice of sweet bread) some of the many people who work and volunteer at St. Mary’s. Philoptochos takes this time to raise money for St. Basil Academy (www.stbasil.goarch.org), a home for Orthodox children in need. Donations will be gratefully accepted as you exit Liturgy that morning, and a limited number of Vasilopita loaves will be available for purchase in the Great Hall for $15+ each. Thank you for your support! Chair: Toni Bazakos.

Members: on Saturday, January 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., we will be slicing hundreds of pieces of bread for distribution on Sunday. If you’re available to help, please meet us in the kitchen with your own bread knife in hand.

“Moana” at Movie Night Friday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

Come watch Disney’s animated film “Moana,” the story of a Polynesian island chief’s daughter on a quest to save her people. With great characters, memorable music and a few scares (the film is rated PG and appropriate for kids age 6+ according to Common Sense Media), it will be a fun winter night outing for our parish family! There’s no cost to attend, with proceeds from concessions and other surprises supporting a cause to be announced soon. Watch for details in future bulletins and emails. This event is jointly sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos.

Philoptochos Meeting Sunday, January 21

Come to the Terrace Room on Sunday, January 21, immediately after Liturgy for our January Philoptochos meeting. Among other things, we will approve the 2018 budget and need your input. Refreshments will be served.

NEW!

Telephone Cancer Support Group starting January 11

A telephone cancer support group for Orthodox Christians, 21+, who are undergoing cancer treatment is being held by the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services.

Via conference call and at no cost to participants, the discussion group will be accessible to our national community on six consecutive Thursday evenings, January 11-February 15, 6:00-7:00 p.m., CST. The group will be facilitated by Theodora Ziongas, M.A., who has a strong background in cancer patient services through positions she has held at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society, and CancerCare.

Registration is required by emailing supportgroup@philoptochos.org. This is a confidential email address designated specifically and solely for this program. More Information: http://philoptochos.org/socialservices/ or see the Philoptochos bulletin board near the Great Hall.

Coming Up…

• February 4: Sweet Sunday + Membership Tea
• February 4-18: Spring Fillo Sale
• February 25: Philoptochos Meeting after Liturgy

Thank You…

To Sofia Johnson, for organizing the Days for Girls Service Project. In addition to cutting and ironing hundreds of fabric pieces, sewing and serging washable pads and drawstring bags and cutting and threading ribbon, participants also donated 361 panties, 344 ziploc bags, 170 washcloths, 89 bars of soap, and two bags of embroidery yarn for friendship bracelets! This will all be hand delivered to girls in remote Ugandan villages.

To Andrea Tiggas, for coordinating the decorating of the church for Christmas! Thanks to the many people who helped set up trees, hang boughs, make bows, and trim the trees!

To Toni Bazakos, chair, Giannoula Bakritzes, and Tina Menter, who baked more than 100 loaves of Vasilopita (sweet bread) in support of St. Basil Academy (www.stbasil.goarch.org) and in remembrance of St. Basil, who shared his fortune with the poor.

To the many who helped with the receptions after the Christmas Eve Liturgy, Vespers, and Christmas Day Liturgy.
What Does St. Mary’s and Stewardship Mean to You?

Parishioner, Carol Karos, shared a personal testimonial with us on Sunday, November 5, 2017, telling us what St. Mary’s and the Orthodox faith means to her. Some excerpts of her testimonial are shared below:

I love the Lord and am grateful for the Orthodox Church – a church that is rich in love and mercy. I married John in 1970 and was instructed and chrismated into the church that same year by Father Anthony, who also baptized each of our three sons, Peter, George, and Andrew.

To step into the Orthodox Church and participate in the Divine Liturgy is truly to enter into the Kingdom of God. I love the beauty of the house and worshiping here. Christ is foundational to life – He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It’s all a gift.

It is here in the Divine Liturgy – in our worship and the partaking of the Holy Eucharist, the body of Christ – that we, as members of His body, can grow in our love towards God and each other – a most holy communion. It’s all about love and mercy. As God commands us, love the Lord, your God, with heart, strength, and mind – your whole being and love your neighbor as yourself.

I love the way Saint Silouan prays, “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. Lord, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on the world.”

Father Hopko explains that the word “mercy” and “steadfast love” are often inter-changeable, as seen in the Psalms. So in praying for mercy, we are asking God, “Forgive me and fill me with your steadfast love.” Memory eternal, Father Tom. This is truly a repentance that leads to joy.

I am grateful for Zoe Kakos and Cleo Vakos who immediately invited me to join the choir, where I was immersed, dunked into the Liturgical services. Here I was able to learn the Divine Liturgy in both Greek and English. Then the Church began to make the gradual transition from Greek to English, for which we can thank Father Anthony. The choir welcomed me into the Church with open arms. What a wonderful way to get acquainted and make some lifelong friends. From here, I also enjoyed those years of teaching liturgical music in the Sunday School, conducting the children’s choir and the many Christmas programs. Praise God for this opportunity. What a joy!

Another gift from God has been the opportunity to travel to Guatemala for many years – to interact and worship with the nuns and orphan children. What a joy to worship with those kids and celebrate Theophany. I can still hear those bells and the voices of the children, congregation and nuns. To sing and pray with them is to worship with the angels. As Madre Ines would say, “It is here in the Divine Liturgy where all the healing takes place.” This is most certainly true for all of us.

Praise God for Jesus Christ, who out of His great love and mercy, gave us His all. As told to the prodigal son, “All that I have is yours.” In response, may we live a repentant life open to receive that love and mercy. Then go out showing this same love and mercy to all we encounter and glorify Him. We are the Orthodox Church, the body of Christ, and I am grateful to you all – priests and congregation – for your dedication, offering up your many gifts of time, talent and financial support. We each have something unique to offer. I am amazed at the generosity I see within this church of people. May God continue to grow us.

I close with a bit of a challenge spoken to us from Gregory of Sinai, “move out of yourself, beyond yourself, putting all trust in God, in order to find and be that person that God intends you to be.”

Become what you already are.
Find Him who is already yours.
Listen to Him who never ceases to speak to you.
Possess Him who already possesses you.
Glorify Him!
In Christ, Carol Karos

Liturgical Etiquette – Did You Know?

Focus Group participants this year recommended that we provide liturgical etiquette education for newcomers to the Orthodox Church as well as those of us that may not know proper liturgical etiquette. We will be providing a liturgical etiquette education each month in The Messenger by including a brief educational tip. This month’s lesson:

Did you know?...It is not spiritually beneficial for you to receive holy communion if you are not present for the scripture reading during the Liturgy.

Stewardship Campaign 2018
Ark of the Covenant

Last month, we kicked off our 2018 Stewardship Campaign, the Ark of the Covenant, and shared with you the new approach we are using this year.

The main objectives of our program are to:
• Educate and inspire members regarding the full meaning of Christian stewardship;
• Connect to each and every parishioner in a very personal
way to demonstrate that “Christ is in our Midst;”
• And to inform parishioners of the importance of active participation in the life of the Church and the role your support plays.

Thanks to all of you serving as Captains for our 2018 Stewardship Campaign. We appreciate your dedication, positive attitude, and willingness to try something new. And thank you to all parishioners who have been willing to deliver the ARK to another parishioner. Our hope is that you all will have the opportunity to connect with another St. Mary’s member whom you do not know very well.

Thank you for your participation!
*Christ Is in Our Midst!*

**Singles Monthly Brunch Following Liturgy**
**Sunday, January 21, 2018**

As a result of feedback received from Focus Group participants this year, we are planning to start a monthly brunch gathering for single, middle-aged adults to gather for fellowship following the Liturgy.

The brunch will be scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, beginning on Sunday, January 21, 2018, and will take place at a nearby restaurant (location to be determined).

We will meet outside of the Great Hall following the Liturgy and will then caravan to a nearby restaurant. Look for more details in Sunday bulletins and email communications during the next month and on the calendar of events posted on the church website.

**Ministry of Iconography**

The schedule of 2018 iconography classes are as follows:

**Session 1**
Thursdays, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1
5:30-9:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
Tuition cost is $135.00 plus materials.
Session 1 will concentrate on the prototype of “The Holy Face.”

**Session 2**
Thursdays, February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, and 22
6:00 to 9:00 p.m., St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
Tuition cost is $165.00 plus materials.
Session 2 will study an icon of Saints Peter and Paul. The student can choose an icon from various selections offered.

**Session 3**
February 17, 24, March 3, and 24
Saturdays during Great Lent
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Basilica of Saint Mary
Tuition including materials $295.00.
Session 3 will contemplate the sacrament of Repentance and will study and write and icon of St. Mary Magdalene.

All sessions concentrate on technique, along with a spiritual and theological study on the prototype.

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 cell, 612-889-5868.
Icon Art Studios, Inc.
Debra Korluka — www.korlukastudios.com

**Stewardship Financial Update**
**Offering Income Total:**
• November Year-to-Date: $711,450
• Last Year November Year-to-Date: $697,619
• Goal for 2017: $937,335
• Additional needed to reach goal: $225,885

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, offering income so far this year exceeds the offering total last year at this time by $13,831. However, we still need an additional $225,885 by year-end to cover our operating expenses and to fund all of our ministries and programs for the year.

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.
Our Children and Youth Mission Statement

To cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for kids by nurturing healthy relationships within the church family. We will teach the youth by building a strong foundation of knowledge, and together, we will experience the Orthodox tradition by following the four circles of youth ministry: Liturgia (Worship), Diakonia (Service), Martyria (Witness), and Koinonia (Fellowship), leading our youth to develop, by their own free will, a personal relationship with God and to pursue union with Him.

What's Happening?

Upcoming Events

Parish Night
January 17, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Who is God? I Am the Truth

March for Life at the Capitol
Wednesday, January 22, 9:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Bus will pick us up at St. Mary’s at 9:15 and will stop at St. George around 10:00, then we will go to the St. Paul Cathedral for a service. Following the service, we will all march to the Capitol. More details to follow.
RSVP to Sandra, 612.825.9595, or sandra@stmarysgoc.org, by January 17 so we can get a count for the bus. Dress warmly!

Basketball
All practices at St. Mary’s

Sunday, January 7
JOY Basketball Practice: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice: 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 14
Boys’ GOYA Basketball Practice: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice: 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 21
JOY Basketball Practice: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
Boys’ GOYA Basketball Practice: 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 28
JOY Basketball Practice: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
Boys’ and Girls’ GOYA Basketball Practice: 1:45-2:45 p.m.
(Sr. GOYA won’t practice due to the Winter Retreat)

Faith (birth-preschool age children and parents)

January 10, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Playgroup in Great Hall

January 24, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Playgroup in Great Hall

HOPE and JOY (K-grade 5)
January 13, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Bowling at Bowlero
12200 Singletree Lane, Eden Prairie
RSVP to Georgia Andron by January 5
greekborba@hotmail.com

Junior GOYA (grades 6-8)
Wednesday, January 3, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Meeting at Church

Friday-Monday, January 12-15
Junior GOYA Winter Camp, hosted by St. Mary’s Cathedral

*Winter Camp for the Junior GOYAns will be at Camp St. Croix. The theme is “Choosing Christ: How do our choices in life affect ourselves, each other, and the world around us.” The cost to attend is $180 per child. You will need to pay when you register but St. Mary’s GOC will reimburse you $155. To register, visit http://stmarysgoc.org/youth/saints/index.html. Once you register, please let Jon know (jon@stmarysgoc.org). The last day to register before the price increases is December 20.

Senior GOYA (grades 9-12)
Wednesday, January 10, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
Bubble Soccer at Church

Friday-Sunday, January 26-28
Winter Retreat at Karos Cabin
Cost is $25.00 per person
Let all who love their words come together, and honor with hymns the three greatest lamps of the thrice-brilliant Godhead, who illumined the world with the rays of their divine teachings; the sweet-flowing rivers of wisdom, who watered all creation with the streams of the knowledge of God -- Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, together with John who possessed a golden tongue. For they always intercede on our behalf with the Trinity!

—Hymn of the Three Hierarchs, 1st Tone

The Three Hierarchs ~ Commemoration: January 30
Evening Divine Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Circumcision of Christ Saint Basil the Great New Year’s Day 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study 6:15pm-Junior GOYA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Eve of Theophany 7:00am-Men’s Fellowship 9:00am-Royal Hours 1:00pm-Blessing of the River 6:00pm-Vesperal Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water</td>
<td>6 Holy Theophany 9:00am-Bible Study 9:00am-Orthros 10:00am-Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water after Liturgy-Vasilopita Preparations 5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
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<td>7 Synaxis of John the Baptist “The Messenger” Deadline 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Vasilopita Service 12:45pm-Basketball Practice</td>
<td>8 6:00pm-Parish Council 6:30pm-Philoptochos Budget Meeting</td>
<td>10 9:30am-Faith Group 10:00am-Philoptochos Mailing 6:15pm-Senior GOYA 6:30pm-Evening Men’s Fellowship</td>
<td>11 5:00pm-Icon Class 6:00pm-Ambassadors’ Meeting</td>
<td>12 Junior GOYA Winter Camp</td>
<td>13 9:00am-Bible Study 3:00pm-HOPE/JOY Bowling 5:00pm-Great Vespers Junior GOYA Winter Camp</td>
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<td>14 Sunday after Theophany 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Philoptochos Board 11:45am-Mission/Outreach 12:45pm-Basketball Practice</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 8:30am-Orhthes 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 9:00am-“The Messenger” Mailing 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study 6:15pm-Parish Night</td>
<td>17 Saint Anthony the Great 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 9:00am-“The Messenger” Mailing 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study 6:15pm-Parish Night</td>
<td>18 Saints Athanasios &amp; Cyril 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Icon Class 7:00pm-Northeast Metro Koinonia</td>
<td>19 7:00pm-Movie Night</td>
<td>20 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers Healing House dinner</td>
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<td>21 Fifteenth Sunday of Luke 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-Singles Brunch 11:30am-Philoptochos Meeting 11:30am-Church School Teachers’ Meeting 12:45pm-Basketball Practice</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 6:30pm-Open Gym Basketball</td>
<td>24 9:30am-Faith Group 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>25 Saint Gregory the Theologian 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 5:00pm-Icon Class 7:00pm-Edina Koinonia 7:00pm-West Metro Koinonia</td>
<td>26 Senior GOYA Winter Retreat</td>
<td>27 9:00am-Bible Study 5:00pm-Great Vespers 6:00pm-Orthodox Game Night Senior GOYA Winter Retreat</td>
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<td>28 The Publican &amp; Pharisee Triodion Begins 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11:30am-Winter General Assembly 12:45pm-Basketball Practice 5:00pm-Lake Calhoun Koinonia Senior GOYA Winter Retreat</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 Three Hierarchs 6:00pm-Evening Divine Liturgy 7:00pm-Open Gym Basketball</td>
<td>31 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
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