November 2018

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St. Mary’s Mission Statement
To proclaim, celebrate, and share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ in accordance with the Orthodox Tradition.

The Five Tasks of Our Parish Vision
Hear
Pray
Grow
Serve
Share

A Message from Father George
Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

“The Lord God makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a burning fire.”
–Psalm 103:4

There are not many subjects that have fascinated humankind so much as that concerning the angels. Being that we honor the angels and celebrate their Feast Day on November 8 each year, I thought the present month a good time and opportunity to discuss this theological topic, and put to bed some misconceptions about these celestial beings.

The angels, as the Psalmist David says, are creatures of God, that is, they were created, brought from non-existence into being, and they were made as ministering spirits to serve the Lord and to always carry out His holy will. They are immaterial, bodiless, rational, free, immortal, and made in the image of God. They are an immaterial fiery substance, whose nature God only truly knows. Their immortality is a relative immortality, in the sense that they had a beginning and have no mortal body subject to physical death (like our soul which is created but immortal by grace), although the fall of the angels that followed Lucifer is like unto our death, insomuch as there is no longer any possibility of repentance for the devil and his wicked angels, according to the Lord Jesus: “Depart from Me, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

Now, what the angels are not, are beings to be worshiped. They are creatures, like you and me, who are to be emulated in their zeal for holiness and their keen desire to serve God’s divine will in all things. They are part of God’s invisible creation, created in silence on the First Day, as we confess in the Creed: “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.” They cannot predict the future by their own merit, but may speak whatever the Holy Spirit reveals to them, so whatever the good angels say is true and will come to pass because this is from God. The demons, on the other hand, often pretend to know what is to come, but they use trickery and their speed to try and see what lies ahead in order to deceive. Moreover, they know the Scriptures and twist them for their own evil purposes. For this reason, they are not to be believed.

Although bodiless and invisible, the angels of God have often appeared to us throughout time as messengers of the Lord (just think about such instances as the three angels visiting Abraham, Gabriel announcing the good news to the Virgin Mary, the heavenly choir of angels at the Nativity of Christ, the angels at the empty tomb announcing Jesus’ Resurrection, the angels present

—Continued on page 7

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4, 2:00 a.m.
Set your clocks back one hour before retiring Saturday night!
Memorial Prayers

- **Sunday, November 11**
  Stavros Stavrou (6 months)

- **Sunday, November 25**
  Thomas (50 years) and Stella (30 years) Canelake
  Parents of Virginia and Audrey
  Canelake and Tina (Canelake) Houck

**Congratulations!**

Anne Dovolis graduated in May from Boston College, the Carroll School of Business with a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Analytics and Accounting. At Boston College she was captain of the Women’s Club Soccer team, lead tours for the Admissions office, was a teaching assistant and also tutored women at a Boston prison. She studied abroad at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She is now working at Deloitte & Touche LLP in New York City in Audit and Accounting.

**Holiday Bake Sale**

**November 18**

The annual Daughters of Penelope Holiday Bake and Craft Sale will be held Sunday, November 18, in the Great Hall following the Liturgy. Come and stock up on delicious gourmet pastries, treats, and gift items for the holidays. Proceeds will be donated to many philanthropic projects supported by the Daughters of Penelope. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Christmas Card and Decorations**

’Tis the season! Forms for your submission and contributions for both our parish Christmas card and decorations are included in this issue. Please note that we must receive Christmas card contributions **no later than Sunday, December 9**, so we can meet our printer’s deadline.

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**St. Mary’s Parish Council**

- **President**
  Joseph DiGiovanni

- **Vice President**
  Dean Tortorelis

- **Secretary**
  Andrew Theodotou

- **Treasurer**
  Marshall Estep

- **Assistant Treasurer**
  Steve Rakes

- **Members**
  George Andreadakis
  John Beauchamp
  Paul Hastings
  William M. Hoef
  Dean Murdakes
  Pamela Nelson
  Randy Twito

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**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

- **Ministries Coordinator & Office Secretary**
  Sandra Anderson

- **Pastoral Assistant**
  Doria Saros

- **Youth Director**
  Jonathan Klein

- **Music Director**
  Thespina Macres

- **Organist**
  Mark Macres

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**Share YourShelf**

November’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is FOCUS Minnesota.

Immediate needs: monetary donations

In lieu of grocery and hygiene items, Share YourShelf will be accepting monetary donations for FOCUS Minnesota during the month of November.

FOCUS Minnesota is in the process of relocating, and is not able to store tangibles. However, FOCUS is **not closed**! Until they relocate, FOCUS continues to support those in need by serving meals, making sandwiches for children’s lunches, and creating a mobile medical clinic.

Together, we can continue to support the Food Occupation Clothing Understanding Shelter of those in need in the Twin Cities!
Sunday Schedule
Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Schedule
Thursday, November 1
Saints Cosmas and Damianos
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 8
Synaxis of the Archangels
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 15
Beginning of the Nativity Fast
Holy Unction – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 9
Saint Nektarios
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 13
Saint John Chrysostom
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 15

Fellowship and Study Groups

Adult Senior Bible Study
Tuesdays, November 13 and 27
1:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday, November 7
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

Men’s Fellowship
Friday, November 9
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Note date change due to Retreat

No Evening Men’s Fellowship in November

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

Senior Citizens
Tuesday, November 13
12:00 noon, Terrace Room

Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays, November 7 and 21
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Koinonia
Edina Koinonia
Combined November/December
Gathering: Thursday, December 6
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room, St. Mary’s
952.929.5428 (Tia Muchulas, contact)

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
Sunday, November 25, 5:00 p.m.
Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home
612.825.1067

Northeast Metro Koinonia
Thursday, November 29, 7:00 p.m.
Costas & Barbara Nichols’ home
763.571.0460

South of the River Koinonia
Date to be announced.
Mark & Elizabeth Skoog’s home
612.743.2789

West Metro Koinonia
No November gathering.

Church School News

Sunday, November 11
Sunday, November 11, has been set aside as Stewardship Sunday in Church School. We will have four combined group classes (preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school) and have a special lesson and activities to learn what Stewardship is and how we can give our time, talent, and tithe. We will meet in the Lecture Room and Terrace Room. More details to follow.

Sunday, December 16
Mark your calendars for the Church School Christmas program on December 16 in the Nave after Liturgy. Watch for details from your child’s teachers.
Any questions contact Dena Tortorelis: dtortorelis@comcast.net

Thanksgiving Eve Liturgy
Wednesday, November 21
The annual MEOCCA-sponsored Pan-Orthodox Thanksgiving Eve Divine Liturgy will be held Wednesday evening, November 21, 6:00 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. A special offering will be received to benefit MEOCCA.
Parish News & Events

Year-End Giving

Due Monday, December 31, 12:00 noon

All contributions intended for 2018, whether fair share giving or other contributions, must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, December 31. Additionally, contributions made via the church’s website should be made by Wednesday, December 26, in order to be posted and reach our bank by year’s end. Contributions not received by year’s end will be posted in 2019.

IOCC Fundraiser

Thursday, November 8

The Annual Twin Cities IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) Dinner will take place Thursday, November 8, 2018, at St. Mary’s. Come and learn how your support is helping families in Greece, Syria, Ethiopia, and right here at home in the US. Pan-Orthodox Vespers will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a reception, dinner, and special IOCC presentation at 6:30. Join us! Tickets are $45. For registration and sponsorship information, go to: visitioccc.org/minneapolis.

Appreciation Glendi ~ November 10

In appreciation of your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and to honor Sylvia Kafkas’ 30 years of service, St. Mary’s Parish Council and Stewardship Committee invite you to a complimentary Appreciation Glendi on Saturday, November 10, 2018, 6:00-11:00 p.m., in the Great Hall. Enjoy dinner, dancing, and great company! This is our third year and each year gets better – Join us! RSVP by November 1 to david@stmarysgoc.org.

“The Messenger” Mailing Date Change

Due to the November 21 holy day, and the day before Thanksgiving, “The Messenger” mailing project will take place on Tuesday, November 20, 9:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room.

Mittel-European Dinner

Saturday, November 3

Saint Herman of Alaska Church will hold its annual Mittel-European Dinner on Saturday, November 3, at the church. The evening begins with Vespers at 5:00 p.m., followed by the dinner at 6:00 p.m. A dinner donation of $15.00 is asked. Take out will be available. St. Herman’s is located at 5355-38th Avenue South, Minneapolis. To reserve tickets, e-mail: mitteleuropeandinner@gmail.com

A burial plot in Lakewood Cemetery, Section #50 (the praying hands section), is available for purchase. For information, please contact Jan Rice, 952.474.0948.

Parish Council Elections

Sunday, November 18 - by Joe DiGiovanni, PC Pres.

Parish Council elections are coming up on November 18 and I’d like to encourage you to prayerfully consider becoming a candidate.

People sometimes feel that they need a business background of some sort to be on the Parish Council - yet the reality is a diversity of experience, age and gender is welcomed and needed.

Parish Council members represent their parish and the Orthodox Christian faith. As leaders of the community, parish council members are on the front lines and are called to work with the priests, to lead the staff and parishioners at large in areas that affect St. Mary’s and help us meet our parish goals. To serve on the council is both a ministry and a mission.

The Council consists of Father George and Father Jason as spiritual leaders and twelve (12) members in good standing, elected to three year terms by the parish stewards. Every year one-third of the council is elected. The officers of the Parish Council are selected in January of each year immediately after the oath of office and consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary.

Potential candidates for the Parish Council must be members in good standing to be eligible. According to our by-laws, these are the general guidelines:

- 18 years of age or older
- Baptized and/or chrismated in the Orthodox faith
- Lives according to the canons, dogma and discipline of the Church
- Consistently provides for the financial needs of the Church
- Abides by parish regulations and by-laws
- Worships regularly and participates in the sacramental life of the Church

Absentee Voting

- Absentee Voting will be available at the Church Office from Wednesday through Friday of the week leading up to elections (November 14-16).
- Parishioners must come to the office to absentee vote.
- Voting cannot occur over the telephone, nor can ballots be removed from the church premises for “after hours voting.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any other parish council member. If you’re interested in running, please contact the office for an application (deadline for receiving applications is November 2, 2018).
Ark of the Covenant Stewardship Campaign Update

Positive Trends Continue!

Thank you to all parishioners for your generous gifts! Due to your generosity, financial stewardship results for the first nine months of the year are continuing to show very positive trends on all key metrics.

Financial Commitment (Pledge) Forms received to date - increases compared to last year:

- Pledge forms received increased by 35
- Total pledges to date increased by $123,614
- Average pledge increased by $253
- Median pledge increased by $120

Note: “Pledge” is referring to the financial annual commitment reflected on a completed Fair Share Financial Commitment Form.

Pledges to date also reflect the following:
- 69 members increased annual pledge ($35,905)
- 35 members decreased annual pledge ($9,497)
- 54 members pledged same amount as last year ($70,725)

Offering Income payments received as of September 30, 2018 are $93,593 ahead of last year at this time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering Income as of 9/30/18</th>
<th>2018 YTD</th>
<th>2017 YTD</th>
<th>Increase vs. Prior Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Payments Received</td>
<td>$671,752</td>
<td>$578,159</td>
<td>$93,593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total offering gifts (pledge and cash) received to date and additional needed by December 31 are summarized in the chart at the bottom of the page:

Note: $381,792 of the $468,128 in total pledges has been paid to date.

Join Us for Our Annual Stewardship Appreciation Glendi

In appreciation of your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure, and to honor Sylvia Kafkas’ 30 years of service, St. Mary’s Parish Council and Stewardship Committee invite you to a complimentary

**APPRECIATION GLENDI**

Saturday, November 10, 2018
6:00-11:00 p.m.
St. Mary’s Great Hall
Dinner, Dancing, and Great Company!
This is our third year and each year gets better!
Please join us!

RSVP by November 1 to: david@stmarysgov.org

Ark of the Covenant Stewardship Campaign 2019 Kick-Off

The Stewardship Committee invites you to help us make the 2019 Ark of the Covenant Stewardship Campaign a success. You may remember the program from last year, which greatly increased engagement and stewardship in our parish this year. We are continuing a modified, simpler version of The Ark of the Covenant program for the 2019 campaign.

The main purpose of our approach is to create opportunities for each of you to connect with another parishioner and to spend time having a conversation.

We have invited 80 parishioners to serve as “Ark Captains” this year. Each parishioner household in the metro
area has been assigned to a captain. You will be receiving a phone call from your captain asking to schedule a time to stop by your home to drop off your stewardship packet for 2019.

How can you help make the ARK OF THE COVENANT campaign a success?

- Attend church on Stewardship Sunday and the Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 11, 2018,
- Schedule a time for your ARK captain to stop by your home to deliver your stewardship packet and spend a few minutes enjoying a conversation together.
- Prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents by joining one of St. Mary’s ministries.
- Prayerfully consider increasing your annual stewardship contribution.
- Complete the Time and Talent and the Financial Commitment forms for 2019.
- Return both forms to the Church Office before December 31, 2018.

For more information, contact:

- Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina at: 952.913.7540 or ackalina@yahoo.com
- Athena Mihas at: 612.387.3890 or athenamihas@gmail.com

We really appreciate your consideration and willingness to help. We believe it will make a significant difference to our Parish community.

Reminder: Employer Matching Gifts – New Opportunity to Give to Saint Mary’s

Many of you may work at companies that will match your contributions to nonprofit organizations. Now, we have made it possible for your employers to match your gifts to St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church. St. Mary’s has now registered on the GuideStar website. This will allow your company to verify that St. Mary’s Church is a nonprofit entity registered with the IRS. If your companies matching gift will only support non-sectarian activities, we can ensure that the matching gift from your company will only support our missions and outreach work and grants to other charities.

The mission of GuideStar is: to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving.

Each year, millions of people use GuideStar information to make decisions about nonprofits and the work they do. Donors explore charities and issues they want to support. Nonprofit leaders benchmark their organizations against their peers. Funders research grantees. GuideStar strives to be the most complete nonprofit information available.

Check out St. Mary’s profile on GuideStar by going to: www.guidestar.org and search for St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church.

Stewards of Our Faith

All things are Possible to the one who Believes in Christ

Mark 9:23
Missions and Outreach invites you to hear about and support Metro Hope/Healing House.

From the Metro Hope/Healing House webpage: “We are Metro Hope, a residential, Christ-centered, drug and alcohol recovery program serving men, women, and mothers with children. Providing healing and hope for the whole family since 1926. Many of our residents are at the end of their options. Most have exhausted their support systems, lost their homes and are unable to support themselves or their families financially. Many have lost custody of their children and have experienced unemployment and homelessness. At Metro Hope, for a season of their lives, thousands of men and women in our programs have encountered Jesus and the hope He gives. On a daily basis, we are blessed to see people receive His grace, begin walking in His identity and strive to lead productive lives.”

Healing House has been providing help and hope for families by “Restoring Families by Ending the Cycle of Addiction since 1926.” Healing House is a unique long-term Christian treatment program for women and women with children. Most women lose their children when they enter an alcohol or drug treatment program. Healing House allows them to keep their children with them in an apartment within the facility. We help them to become better mothers as well as giving them support and Christ’s love. Healing House has 20 women and 20 children that we are serving. There is a three-week backlog of women wanting to enter the program.

Parish Night 2018-2019

Wednesdays, 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Parish Night continues this fall with wonderful presentations! Join us as we explore a different Fruit of the Spirit throughout the year. Everyone is welcome to attend. We begin with a brief prayer service at 6:15 p.m., followed by dinner and breakout sessions for the adults and kids, and a wrap up to share what each group learned. The evenings conclude by 8:00. The schedule for the remainder of the 2018 year is as follows:

November 28: The Fruit of Peace
- Adults and Senior GOYA
  * Let us set aside all cares of life
- Junior GOYA, HOPE and JOY
  * Be still and know that I am God

December 19: The Fruit of Patience
- Adults and Senior GOYA
  * Waiting on God
- Junior GOYA, HOPE and JOY
  * What does the future hold?

St Mary’s gives financial support to Healing House and our volunteers serve dinner six times a year. Each dinner includes a Bible study for the women and child care for the children. During our last visit, four women shared how the Healing House has provided a home, which they or their children never had experienced. The love of Christ emanates from the staff and other residents.

Metro Hope Ministries (MHM) provides long term Christ based treatment for men. The men’s program presently has 41 resident and 3 transitioning in.

During the MHM fundraising banquet in September, two couples shared how they have a healthy family because of their experience at MHM.

The St. Mary’s Missions and Outreach committee has been providing support for 10 years. Also, Missions and Outreach committee members serve on the board of Metro Hope Ministries, which is proud to be the parent organization for Healing House.

We invite you to ask us about how and why our long-term Christ-based treatment at Metro Hope/Healing House supports our clients as they “Restore Families by Ending the Cycle of Addiction.”
Orthodox Advent, also known as the Nativity Lent or the Nativity Fast, begins on November 15, forty days before the Nativity—the Incarnation of the Son of God. Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou’s *Meditations for Advent: Preparing for Christ’s Birth* explains and elucidates much about this journey in Orthodox worship. He writes:

Because the main focus of Advent is our preparation for the Nativity—the Incarnation of the Son of God—the hymns for the season are shot through with references and allusions to the Old Testament: the Church’s preparation over the centuries for the advent of the messianic Kingdom, which came in the person of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. It would therefore be no exaggeration to say that Advent is one great Bible study that sheds light on the meaning of the Old Testament as a preparation for the New....

Advent therefore signifies the Church’s journey throughout the ages—its preparation for the coming of Christ into the world. Every Advent we are called to participate in the Church’s journey from expectation to fulfillment, from preparation to joy. Thus the Church’s services do not speak of Christmas as a mere historical event that occurred some two thousand years ago, but as something that is ready and present here and now: “Today the Virgin comes to the cave”; “Today the Virgin gives birth”; “Today heaven and earth have been made one.”

It is this “today” of the Church—the “today” of God that traverses the centuries—which gives full meaning to Advent and to every Feast and season of the Orthodox Church.

This book is a great companion for people who want to journey through Advent with a growing awareness of—and appreciation for—how the Church journeys to the Nativity, along with the wealth of teachings and blessings offered en route.

Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany* by Father Stavros N. Akrotirianakis is a book of meditations/reflections for each day of Advent based on verses of Scripture telling the story of the Nativity, and then following the Nativity to the Feastday of St. John the Baptist based on Scripture pertinent to the liturgical day. This is a beautiful book for all who would like a daily companion for their spiritual growth through this season of grace.

Elissa Bjeletich has written a book for families to read together on each of the forty days of Advent, titled *Welcoming the Christ Child: Family Readings for the Nativity Lent*. This book includes 34 retellings of stories from the Old Testament, five retellings of stories from the New Testament augmented by stories surrounding the Theotokos based on tradition, and one story based entirely on tradition. After each story, the author includes questions for discussion and an advanced discussion idea. Complete with illustrations throughout, this is a good book for families with younger children.

The chapter “Advent: Preparing for His Coming Again” in *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home* by Father Anthony Coniaris is a great resource for families wanting a weekly Advent tradition. Father Anthony explains the tradition of using an Advent wreath with seven candles for the seven weeks of Advent, with each week having a different theme and a different colored candle. For example, FAITH is the theme for the first week with a green candle, HOPE is the theme for the second week with a blue candle, etc. A weekly family celebration based on the theme for each week is included. This is a beautiful faith-filled tradition.

These books and several others about Orthodox Advent are available in the bookstore.

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**Living a Disciplined Life in Christ**

~ **2018 Advent Retreat ~**

*Fr. Evan Armatas, Retreat Leader*

Saturday, December 1, 2018

8:30 a.m.: Morning Prayers; 9:00 a.m.: Breakfast; 9:30 a.m.: Presentations; The Retreat will conclude about Noon

Please RSVP to Saint Mary’s Church Office

“I’ve fallen and I need to get up!”

Using the Parable of the Prodigal Son as our guide, we will examine the need to repent and return to our Loving Father.

“Upright and walking in Christ”

Using the Sermon on the Mount as our guide, we will examine the need to walk upright and in the disciplines given by our Lord and Savior.
It is that time of year that we pay special attention to those in need. St. Mary’s has had an almost 30-year relationship with Angel Tree. This is a ministry that provides Christmas presents to children whose parents are imprisoned. Imagine how lonely, forgotten, or hurt a child might feel this time of year as they face this holiday knowing their parent will not be with them to share in the joy that comes with the season.

You have an opportunity to help bring that joy to these young ones. Simply come to our “Angel Tree” in the Great Hall and grab a paper angel or two. The angel has the name, age, and other data (sizes, color, etc.) for each child awaiting a gift from their parent. Yes, even though we purchase the gifts, the card will have a message from the incarcerated parent directly to their child. This way the children know that even though their mom or dad might not be with them, they have not been forgotten. Each child receives two gifts - a fun one and a practical one. Once you have purchased the gift, please wrap it and secure the top part of the angel directly to the package as the official gift tag.

We also make an angel for the guardian of the children with a recommendation to purchase a gift card to a grocery store (Cub or Target is best) so that they might be able to purchase a meal or goodies for a true celebration in the home.

After we receive all the gifts, they are organized by family, and then we ask that YOU pick up the gifts on Sunday, December 23, and deliver them directly to the family’s home. This is the true spirit of Christmas!

The Angel Tree will be up beginning Sunday, November 25, until December 16, the day the gifts are to be returned for Christmas delivery. We must prepare them for delivery in time for Christmas.

Because the parent may have been out of the home for some time, they often recommend a gift which is no longer age appropriate or they may not know the proper size of the child. Each family is contacted to verify the information. If you would like to help us with this process, please contact Sandra in the Church Office, 612.825.9595.

We are grateful to God for creating such brilliantly beautiful heavenly powers, for they are His ministers and messengers, sent to us from time to time throughout history to implement His ultimate plan of salvation and to assist us in our walk with Christ. As one of the hymns from November 8 tells us: “Today all the uttermost parts of the earth rejoice with great joy, O God, celebrating the auspicious memorial of Thine Archangels, the divine Michael, and the godly-minded Gabriel; and the whole order of Angels also rejoiceth, for by their protection, the world is saved.”

In praise of God, the Lord of the Powers,

+Fr. George
National Philoptochos President Maria Logus was interviewed in the winter 2018 issue of Praxis, a magazine of the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education. I love her response to the question What suggestions would you have for women (or parishes) who would like to get more involved?

I would take a page from a well-known advertising campaign – just do it. You don’t need to attend every meeting or participate in every event, but find something that touches your heart and offer your time, treasure or talents. Make it something that brings you joy and I guarantee you will find the time. If you have young children, bring them along, involve them in the good works of our Church and Philoptochos and light a flame in their hearts that will burn for years to come. It’s a gift that will keep on giving.

With that in mind, please participate in any of the activities listed here (or in the future). Your presence is wanted and welcomed!

New Date and Times!

Philoptochos Meeting
Tuesday, October 30
6:30 p.m.: Meeting
7:00-8:00 p.m.: Presvytera Panel

We have a special evening planned for all women of the parish! Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and a brief meeting, then from 7:00-8:00 p.m., enjoy hearing from our three beloved Presvyteras (priest wives) Janis Kostas, Christa Dokos, and Alexandra Houck. They will share some of their own journeys and respond to questions. It will be a wonderful evening of insight and fellowship.

Philoptochos Sunday Recognizes Those Who Served
Sunday, November 4

The first Sunday of November is designated as Philoptochos Sunday, in recognition of our Patron Saints Cosmas and Damian (commemorated November 1). Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) will take place during the Liturgy, we will host the social hour, and most importantly, we will recognize parishioners who have served their country (active, reserved, retired, or served in the military).

If you served, please let us know! Send an e-mail with your name, military branch, and years of service to Philoptochos@StMarysGOC.org. On November 4, stop by our table in the exo-narthex before Liturgy or in the Great Hall afterwards so we can recognize you. Thank you!

Fall Fillo Sale Ends November 4

The last day to order you fresh fillo is Sunday, November 4. Stop by the Philoptochos table after Liturgy to place your order and prepay, $4.00 per pound, checks payable to Philoptochos with fillo written in the memo line. Anticipated delivery is November 18 (although it may arrive by November 11). Chair: Andrea Tiggas.

Days for Girls Service Day
Tuesday, November 20, 3:00-9:00 p.m.

Join us on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to help Ugandan girls and women. We will make Days for Girls kits, which are washable, reusable feminine hygiene products that offer dignity, freedom, and confidence. (Without supplies, girls often stay home from school when they have their period, missing 10-20% of their education and ultimately impacting their earning potential as adults.) For more information, go to: www.DaysForGirls.org.

Chair: Sofia Johnson.
• Who: Pan Orthodox Girls and Women
• Where: St. Mary’s Terrace Room
• Bring (if you have): sharp fabric scissors, rotary cutter and cutting board, sewing machine and/or serger in good working order.
• Jobs: There are many that don’t involve sewing, so all skill levels are welcome!
• Donate (from your personal stash – don’t buy new): fabric, thread, trograin ribbon (½-¾”), embroidery floss, large check-in size suitcase.

Thank You…

Mary Kay Twito, for presenting great service ideas to the dozens of women in attendance at the October Pan Orthodox Women’s Tea, hosted by Holy Trinity OCA.

To the Philoptochos members who participated in the Sunday School Service Sunday on October 21.

Coming Up…

• Sunday, November 18, 11:30am: Board Meeting, Meeting Room 2
• Sunday, December 2, 9, 16: Vasilopita (St. Basil Sweet Bread) Orders Taken
• Saturday, December 15: AHEPA Christmas Party with Healing House Families
• Sunday, December 23: Vasilopita Pick Up
• Monday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.: Host Christmas Vespers Reception
• Tuesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.: Host Christmas Liturgy Reception
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.

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**What's Happening?**

**Faith Group**
0-5 Year Olds and Parents
► Wednesday, November 14
► Thursday, November 29
  9:30-11:00 a.m.
  Great Hall and Terrace Room

**HOPE and JOY**
Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5
► Saturday, November 17
  1:00-3:00 p.m.
  “Mary Poppins, Jr.” at Stages Theatre in Hopkins
  Please RSVP to Georgia Andron (greekborba@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend this event.
  Families are welcome to attend, so it is a first come, first serve on tickets.
► Wednesday, November 28
  6:15-8:00 p.m., HOPE and JOY at Parish Night
  *Fruit of Peace: “Be still and know that I am God”*
  -Psalm 45:11

**Junior GOYA**
Grades 6-8
► Wednesday, November 7
  6:15-8:00 p.m., Set up for the IOCC Fundraiser.
  The Junior GOYAns and parents will be helping set-up the tables for the IOCC fundraiser. Parents, please stick around to help.
► Wednesday, November 28
  6:15-8:00 p.m., Junior GOYA at Parish Night
  *Fruit of Peace: “Be still and know that I am God”*
  -Psalm 45:11

**Senior GOYA**
Grades 9-12
► Wednesday, November 14
  6:15-8:00 p.m., Terrace Room
► Wednesday, November 28
  6:15-8:00 p.m., Senior GOYA at Parish Night
  *Fruit of Peace: Let us set aside all cares of life*

**Basketball Practices**
Sunday, November 4: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
  JOY Basketball Practice
Sunday, November 4: 1:45-2:45 p.m.
  Girls GOYA Basketball Practice
Sunday, November 11: 12:30 p.m.
  Parent Meeting, Terrace Room
Sunday, November 11: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
  JOY Basketball Practice
Sunday, November 11: 1:45-2:45 p.m.
  Boys GOYA Basketball Practice
Sunday, November 18: 12:45-1:45 p.m.
  JOY Basketball Practice
Sunday, November 18: 1:45-2:45 p.m.
  Girls GOYA Basketball Practice

**Youth Group September Recap**
September was the kick-off month to our youth programs! The HOPE/JOY group had a scavenger hunt around the Church and made a tithing jar, the Jr. GOYAns had a fun evening of games and set New Year’s Resolutions for the Ecclesiastical New Year and the Senior GOYAn’s had a lock-in! Looking forward to a wonderful year!

**Youth Feedback**
If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding our youth program(s) please let us know. We have a new formal feedback process. Go to our St. Mary’s home page-Click on “Youth,” then “Youth Program Feedback.” Your comments will be forwarded to a member of the Parish Council and will be reviewed for follow up.

Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: St_Marys_GOYA
Ark of the Covenant: Stewardship Campaign 2019

Your support of St. Mary’s helps make all our work and ministries possible. Please prayerfully and thoughtfully consider what you will offer in 2019.

Stewards of Our Faith

All things are Possible to the one who Believes in Christ

Mark 9:23
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 Fifth Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;“The Messenger” Deadline&lt;br&gt;Daylight Saving Time Ends</td>
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<td>1 Saints Cosmas and Damianos&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>2 Men’s Retreat&lt;br&gt;4:30pm-Parish Council&lt;br&gt;Candidate Application Deadline</td>
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<td>8 Synaxis of the Archangels&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;6:00pm-IOCC Fundraiser</td>
<td>9 Saint Nektarios&lt;br&gt;7:00am-Men’s Fellowship&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>11 Eighth Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;Stewardship/Ministry Fair</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>14 Nativity Fast Begins&lt;br&gt;6:00pm-Holy Unction&lt;br&gt;7:00pm-Stewardship Committee</td>
<td>15 Saint Matthew&lt;br&gt;6:00pm-Evening Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>18 Ninth Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;Church School&lt;br&gt;after Liturgy-Parish Council Elections</td>
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<td>21 Entrance of the Theotokos&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;6:00pm-Vesperal Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;St. George GOC, St. Paul</td>
<td>22 Thanksgiving Day&lt;br&gt;Church and Office Closed</td>
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<td>25 Thirteenth Sunday of Luke&lt;br&gt;Saint Katherine</td>
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<td>29 Saint Andrew&lt;br&gt;8:30am-Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>28 9:30am-Faith Group&lt;br&gt;7:00pm-Northeast Metro Koinonia</td>
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Set your clocks back one hour tonight.
Name of Contributor(s): ____________________________________________________________

In memory of:
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

Amount enclosed:  $ __________________

Contributions will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins.

Please return this form and your donation to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 16.
Send holiday greetings to your family and friends at St. Mary’s!

Simply fill out this form and return it to the Church Office with a contribution **no later than** Sunday, December 9…
(we send the card to the printer on Tuesday morning, December 11).

Your name(s) as you want it listed in the card:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Amount enclosed: $ _____________________