A Message from Father George
Father George Dokos, Proistamenos

“We bow down before Thy Cross, O Master, and we glorify Thy holy Resurrection.”
—Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

On the third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent – halfway through the fast – the most important symbol of our Christian Faith is lifted up for us to contemplate and to prostrate ourselves before it. The Cross of our Lord is manifestly shown to us during the Service of the Veneration of the Cross to assist us in our struggles through the fast. Great Lent is, and is supposed to be, a challenging time, when we are to re-think our Christian priorities and re-focus our lives, re-orienting ourselves towards the Cross of our Lord and the life which that entails.

The time of the Great Fast is challenging for a number of reasons. First, our bodies are not used to going on little food and abstaining from rich foods like meats, dairy products, and the rest. We are also not used to the heightened focus on our spiritual lives which demands that we keep vigilant and on guard over every thought that proceeds from our heart and every word that wants to break forth from our lips and every action we are about to do. The Divine Services tend to be longer and greater in number as well. For all these reasons, the Church of the Living God has deemed it necessary and beneficial to place the Precious Cross of Christ before the eyes of the faithful midway through Great Lent as a motivation to keep the course of the fast, in every aspect. We are reminded that the Christian way of life is absolutely no different than Jesus Christ’s way of life, which is a crucified life, as He said: “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). Hanging on the Cross, the Lord fasted and refused everything offered to Him: “They offered Him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but He would not drink it” (Matthew 27:34). Just prior to His crucifixion, He spent long agonizing hours in prayer: “And Jesus withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed. And being in agony He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:41,44). And after being beaten and ridiculed, slapped and spit upon and affixed to a tree, He had no harsh words to say to His murderous crucifiers, but only these: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). The Cross, therefore, reminds us of our Lord’s way of life and that we are doing everything in our power – especially during this holy time of year – to live according to His life and His commands.

We are also to focus upon, however, the beautiful daffodils surrounding the Cross on the tray as it is processed around the church. The Cross of our Lord is life-giving and beautiful, not some morbid instrument of torture. It is bright, fragrant, and the cause of all joy, even the cause of the Resurrection. It

—article concludes on page 2.
Death
Milton Psihos
February 16, 2019
Paul Ellis
March 17, 2019
May their memory be eternal.

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, April 7
Tom Maimares (6 month)

Our Sympathy
We extend our sympathy to the family of Chris P. Georgantones who passed away March 12, 2019. Mr. Georgantones was the brother of Stella Lake and brother-in-law of Athena Dascalos.
May his memory be eternal.

Share YourShelf
April’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Community Emergency Service.

Sunday, April 7
Canned soup or vegetables

Sunday, April 14
Diapers (size 5)

Sunday, April 21
Hygiene items
(toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors)

Sunday, April 28
Canned meat (e.g.: tuna, chicken)

“My piece of bread only belongs to me when I know that everyone else has a share, and that no one starves while I eat.” —Leo Tolstoy

Father George’s article continued.

is for this reason that St. Paul writes about Jesus looking forward to the Cross with joy, knowing that through it He would give light and life to the world: “So let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

As we continue our voyage across the sea of the Great Fast, my brothers and sisters, let us recall the way of life the Cross calls us to, and the inexpressible joy that it brings, for through the Cross joy has come to all the world.

Your co-struggler in Christ,

† Fr. George Dokos

MEOCCA Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers
Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 7
Holy Trinity OCA
956 Forest Street North
St Paul, MN 55106

Sunday, April 14
St. George Antiochian Orthodox
1250 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Sunday, April 21
(Bridegroom Matins)
St. Herman’s Orthodox Church
5355 - 38th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55412

St. Mary’s Church Staff

Priest
Fr. George Dokos

Associate Priest
Fr. Jason Houck

Attached Priest
Fr. John Kostas

Emeriti
Fr. Anthony Coniaris
Fr. Theodore Filandrinos

Deacon
Deacon Paul Kalina

Administrator
Julie Moricz

Parishioner Support/Communications
David Mertesdorf

Ministry Support
Doria Saros

Youth Director
Jonathan Klein

Music Director
Thespina Macres

Organist
Mark Macres

St. Mary’s Parish Council

President
Joseph DiGiovanni

Vice President
Dean Murdakes

Secretary
Andrew Theodotou

Treasurer
Michael Rakes

Assistant Treasurer
John Beauchamp

Members
George Andreadakis
Paul Hastings
William Hoeft
Naira Istephanous
Pamela Nelson
Dean Psychos
Randy (Luke) Twito
Education, Fellowship, & Worship

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

Fellowship and Study Groups
Adult Senior Bible Study
Sessions will begin in May.

Intercessory Prayer
Wednesdays, April 3 and 17
10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

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

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

Senior Citizens
Tuesday, April 9
12:00 noon, Terrace Room

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

Holy Week and Pascha
Saturday, April 20: Saturday of Lazarus
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Family Service Day follows the Liturgy
5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 21: Palm Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Luncheon follows the Liturgy
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 22: Holy Monday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 23: Holy Tuesday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 24: Holy Wednesday
9:30 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
4:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Unction
7:00 p.m. - Orthros of the Last Supper with Holy Unction

Thursday, April 25: Holy Thursday
9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper
7:00 p.m. - Service of Holy Passion

Friday, April 26: Great and Holy Friday
9:00 a.m. - Royal Hours
Church School Retreat continues until 2:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - Vespers of the Descent from the Cross
7:00 p.m. - Service of Lamentations

Saturday, April 27: Holy Saturday
10:00 a.m. - First Resurrectional Divine Liturgy
11:30 p.m. - Midnight Office, Resurrection Service, Orthros, Divine Liturgy
Paschal Celebration

Sunday, April 28: Great and Holy PASCHA
12:00 noon - Agape Vespers
Easter Egg Hunt follows Vespers

Monday, April 29: Bright Monday; Saint George (observed)
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Office closed

Friday, May 3: Bright Friday; Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos
8:30 a.m. - Orthros; 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Lenten Schedule
Mondays (through April 15)
6:00 p.m. - Great Compline

Wednesdays (through April 17)
4:00 - Holy Confession
5:45 p.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Lenten Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Youth Groups and Activities
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11
6:00 - Canon of St. Andrew

Fridays (through April 12)
4:00 - Holy Confession
6:00 - Salutations to the Theotokos (Akathist Hymn)
April 19
6:00 p.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

April 19
6:00 p.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Senior Citizens’ Meeting
Tuesday, April 9
Don’t miss the April Senior Citizens’ luncheon meeting on Tuesday, April 9. We all know and read about Mount Athos, and we are fortunate to have our own Dr. Randy Twito and Steve Selin talk about their experience on the holy mountain. We’ll gather in the Terrace Room at noon for lunch, program, and Bingo. Join us!

St. Mary’s Emergency Preparedness Plan
In the case of a local emergency or natural disaster in our area, we are working in conjunction with IOCC to create a plan in order to best respond and take action to both protect our church assets as well as to be able to assist others. The first step is to assemble a team of parishioners who are willing to assist as volunteers. All are welcome but it would be especially helpful to have assistance in the following areas: legal, law enforcement, insurance, counseling, military, medical, construction, education, IT, transportation, emergency management, hospitality, child care.

Hopefully we will never need to call on you for your assistance but we want to be prepared, just in case. If you are willing to add your name/area of expertise to the list, please e-mail Pam Nelson at pamnelson612@aol.com or by phone at 612.804.3662. We are hoping to have a team assembled by May.

Myrrhbearer Greeter Ministry
Young ladies of St. Mary’s ages 12-18: We need you! St. Mary’s has a year-round Myrrhbearer Greeter Ministry and we’re looking for young ladies who are interested in being greeters for our parishioners and guests (you will be paired with an adult greeter). Please prayerfully consider joining – it’s easy and fun, and you can sign up to greet when it works for your schedule (via Doodle). You will go through a brief training, then you and a parent/guardian will sign a consent/commitment form. If interested, or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Beauchamp, 952.906.8974, or inkehrhoots@q.com.

Saint Mary’s Visitation Ministry
Our Visitation Ministry is continually updating its list of parishioners who are homebound or in care facilities and would like to be on our Visitation List. If you or your loved one is a member of St. Mary’s and physically unable to attend church and would enjoy a visit or a telephone call from either a member of our clergy and/or a member of our Visitation Committee, please notify the Doria, 612.825.9595, or doria@stmarysgoc.org.

If you are interested in being trained as a member of our Visitation Team, please save the date for our next Visitation Training meeting on Sunday, April 7, 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room.

American Legion Hellenic Post 129
100 Celebration Year!
Did you…
...mark your calendar to help Post 129 celebrate 100 years on November 9, 2019? And, did you know our post is one of the oldest in the United States?

Did you know…
...in 1930 The American Legion sponsored the creation of the U.S. Veteran’s Administration. In 1944 The VA was instrumental in creating the enactment of the GI Bill for World War II veterans and was in place for subsequent wars. Those measures enabled more than 10.5 million veterans to have the money to go to collage or trade school. The GI Bill loan provision also made owning a home affordable for more than 5.6 million veterans.

Watch for more... “did you know”!

Palm Sunday Spaghetti Lunch
Sunday, April 21
following Liturgy
Sponsored by St. Mary’s Choir
Tickets
Adults: $8.00
Children ten and younger: $5.00
Tickets are available on Sundays in the Great Hall after Liturgy or at the door on Palm Sunday.
FOCUS ~ Church in Action
A Conversation with Vera Proctor, Executive Director
By Larry and Ina Dunham

FOCUS is a space for both spiritual and social sharing. FOCUS’s mission is “Hope in Hospitality” for the working poor, unable to work, parents, children’s activities, craft nights, etc. “Doing good work in Service to Christ.”

What a year of transition to the new FOCUS location at 550 Rice Street in St. Paul. This new FOCUS home “is an owned roof over our head which is what we set out to do nine years ago to be better, more effective for those in need.”

This new space offers hospitality - “How” we offer nurturing support is the key. Many organizations get the job done. FOCUS offers stability and allows much more freedom to adapt to our clients’ needs. This permanent space embodies the Orthodox Church with hope in hospitality. FOCUS House is like a home, nurtured through the shared ministry of Orthodox churches in Minnesota – our outreach.

This new space is “home” and will serve many more in need with a commitment to love, help, and serve one another. FOCUS will be a “gap filler” to help those in need to get to the end of the month with food shelf items, volunteer prepared dinners, laundry, donations of clothing, information for clients in need of services.

Go to focusmn.org website to join the many volunteers serving together with “love, loving energy in motion.” There are kitchen renovations, painting for the clothes closet, outdoor signage and other preparations/updates needed. Pictured are some of the volunteers helping FOCUS as it transforms into a nurturing space for each client.

The FOCUS Minnesota website shows three main areas for us to become involved: Time (hand out groceries, clothes, dinners), Talent (grant research and writing, marketing, program development, social work, public health, community outreach), and Donations.

Save the Date: June 16-30, 2019

Families Moving Forward is a beautiful opportunity to show love and hospitality to three homeless families in need. We provide a place to sleep, an evening meal, activities for the children, and breakfast on the run in the morning. This is a Pan-Orthodox ministry with St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church being the primary host. Three spacious Sunday school rooms overlooking Lake Calhoun are converted into a comfortable efficiency apartment for each family. The bus drops them off at our church at 6:00 p.m. each evening and picks them up again in the morning at 7:00. Blessed we are to serve!

“It is not enough to help the poor. We must help them with generosity and without grumbling. And it is not enough to help them without grumbling. We must help them gladly and happily. When the poor are helped, there ought to be these two conditions – generosity and joy.”

—Saint John Chrysostom
The Nominating Committee is Hard at Work!
By Paulette Hastings, President
We’re looking for several women to join the Philoptochos Board for 2019-2021. Duties include attending eight board meetings, and organizing and implementing the philanthropic work of the organization. Interested? Please talk with Nominating Committee members Jeanne Forchas or Linda Hodge.

Thank You
Sandra Anderson, Stephanie George, and Carol Smith, for organizing the program and discussion of the Frederica Matthewes-Green video: Is the Orthodox Church Too Patriarchal?”
Andrea Tiggas, for organizing the spring fillo sale, and to all who assisted her.

Jenny Hibberd and Linda Hodge, for chairing the reception after the first Salutations service, and to all who assisted that evening.

Coming Up in May
• Early May (date TBD)
  Ladies Night Out!
• Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.
  Board Meeting, Meeting Room 1
• Saturday, May 18
  Pan-Orthodox Women’s Tea
  St. Michael and St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church
• Tuesday, May 28
  Spring Finale with Dinner and Elections

Great Lent - Journey through Lent with Philoptochos
Please see the next page for the “Journey through Lent with Philoptochos” chart and join the Journey!

The Tenth Twin Cities Pan-Orthodox Tea
A bi-annual gathering for the Orthodox Christian women of Minnesota
Saturday, May 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Saint Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 505 - Fourth Street NE, Minneapolis
Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share. Plan to attend Vespers at 5:00 p.m.

In the Bookstore

“Holy Week: A Series of Meditations” is a beautiful collection of meditations and art for each day from Lazarus Saturday thru Pascha. Published by Saint Vladimir’s Seminary Press, this book is a collaborative effort filled with meditations written by past and present professors at Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, including Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann and Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko. Each contributor’s meditation pertains to a specific day in Holy Week and the overarching theme or focus of that day. All the meditations are insightful and accessible to the general reader. In addition to the meditations, this book includes illustrations of icons, manuscript illuminations, and paintings that visually invite the reader to enter into the heart of the theme of each day as one journeys through Holy Week.

Archpriest John Behr wrote in a meditation included in this book, “Pascha approaches: we should reflect once again on this crux of our faith, orient ourselves anew by the perspective that it offers, and enter afresh into its mystery.” This is exactly what “Holy Week: A Series of Meditations” helps to reader to do.
Journey through Lent with Philoptochos

During Lent, Philoptochos offers many opportunities to serve the church and others. Learn more at our table on Sundays, or contact Paulette at 952.564.8388, MplsPhilo@gmail.com.

Friday, March 15
- Host Reception after Salutations

Wednesday, March 27
- Prepare & Serve Meal following 5:45pm Presanctified Liturgy.
- Benefits St. Barnabas Orphanage in Kenya

Sunday, March 31
- Start of Baby Bottle Coin Collection for Tandem (Ends Palm Sunday.)
- Pick up yours at the Philoptochos Meeting, 11:30 in Terrace Room.

Saturday, April 6
- Service Project @ FOCUS MN, 10:30am–2pm.
  - 10am leave from church.
  - Bring a bag lunch.
  - Wear your work clothes.

Holy Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, April 25–27
- Dye & wrap eggs
- Donate koulouria
- Adorn Christ’s tomb
- Strip bay leaves
- Prepare myrrh bearer baskets
- Decorate

April 28
- Christ is Risen!
The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

—John 1:43-51

(Gospel from the First Sunday of Lent)

Many people, organizations and advertisements call us to “come and see,” whether it be a movie, a restaurant, a sporting event, or a vacation destination. How do we create time for all of these, how do we decipher and separate the good from the bad, the worthwhile from the waste of time? Choices, choices, choices. Thank God He gave us intelligence and free will, even during the many times we are overwhelmed and confused by choices and stretched for time and money.

Lent offers us the incredible opportunity (for free!) to spend time disconnected from the superficiality of the world and to focus within our hearts, our faith, and our church. There are so many opportunities to “come and see” Christ and the Orthodox Church, from prayer and meditation to fasting, to reading of scriptures and the Holy Fathers, to attendance of many services at St. Mary’s and surrounding parishes.

Lent is also a wonderful time to take a spiritual inventory of ourselves and our priorities. Stewardship, our financial giving to the church, should be on that inventory list. While it is a “free will offering,” our choice of how much to give to St. Mary’s is reflective of how much our “come and see” moment has impacted our lives. Recently a parishioner described with great emotion how much St. Mary’s meant to him. “When I pulled into the parking lot today and saw all the hustle and bustle of people scrambling to park and get into church, I got so excited, thinking ‘these are my people!’ I am so thankful for this parish, and for how much it means to my life.”

Blessed Lent to all of you, “our people,” from the St. Mary’s Stewardship Committee. May you continue to reach into your souls during this wonderful season and may you have your special “come and see” moments.

2018 Ark of the Covenant Campaign Success

What an amazing year!! Thank you to all parishioners for your generous gifts during 2018! Your contributions of TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE made a significant difference to our Parish community. Here are some of our Stewardship accomplishments during the past year:

• We saw increased engagement:
  ◦ Positive energy and vibrancy evident at all church events
  ◦ Sunday Liturgy and other events well attended throughout the year
  ◦ Increased volunteering for activities

• Due to your generosity:
  ◦ We exceeded our financial goal by $57,644 for 2018
  ◦ We exceeded prior year giving by $74,817

• Third Annual Stewardship Appreciation Glendi was well attended and a huge success

2019 Ark of the Covenant Campaign Progress Update

You are the STEWARDS OF OUR FAITH!

We really appreciate your participation in our 2019 Stewardship Campaign this year.

Total Gifts Year-to-Date vs. Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering Income as of 2/28/19</th>
<th>2019 YTD</th>
<th>2019 Annual budget</th>
<th>Additional Needed This Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair Share Commitments</td>
<td>$333,094</td>
<td>$617,083</td>
<td>$283,989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Offering Gifts</td>
<td>$92,173</td>
<td>$451,060</td>
<td>$358,887</td>
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<td>Total Commitments and Other Gifts</td>
<td>$425,267</td>
<td>$1,068,143</td>
<td>$642,876</td>
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2019 Offering Income Payments as of February 28, 2019

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<th>Offering Income as of 2/28/19</th>
<th>2019 YTD</th>
<th>2019 Annual budget</th>
<th>Additional Needed This Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair Share Commitments</td>
<td>$153,670</td>
<td>$1,068,143</td>
<td>$914,473</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Here is a reminder on how you can help make the ARK OF THE COVENANT campaign a success in 2019:

**Prayerfully consider:**

- Sharing your time and talents by joining one of St. Mary’s ministries
- Increasing your annual stewardship contribution in 2019
- Consider making a financial commitment and completing the Financial Commitment form for 2019

### 2019 Pledge Update as of February 12, 2019

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>2019 YTD</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
<th>Increase/ Decrease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pledges</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>(73)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Pledges</td>
<td>$333,094</td>
<td>$488,988</td>
<td>($155,894)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Pledge</td>
<td>$2,301</td>
<td>$2,063</td>
<td>($32)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have not received a stewardship packet from a Stewardship Captain or in the mail, let us know.

**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

Thank you for your participation in our 2019 Stewardship Campaign.

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**Stewards of Our Faith**

All things are Possible to the one who Believes in Christ

Mark 9:23
Children and Youth

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?

**Faith Group**
0-5 Years Olds and Parents
► Wednesday, April 10
Great Hall and Terrace Room

**HOPE and JOY**
Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5
► Wednesday, April 3: Grade 2 confession immediately following Presanctified Liturgy (around 7:00 p.m.)
► Wednesday, April 10: Grades 3 and 4 confession immediately following Presanctified Liturgy (around 7:00 p.m.)
► Wednesday, April 17: Grade 5 confession immediately following Presanctified Liturgy (around 7:00 p.m.)

**Junior GOYA**
Grades 6-8
► Wednesday, April 10: Following the Presanctified Liturgy, grab your food and meet in the Fireside Room. We will have fellowship and a discussion with one another.
► Wednesday, April 17: Grade 6 confession immediately following Presanctified Liturgy (around 7:00 p.m.)

**Senior GOYA**
Grades 9-12
► Wednesday, April 3: Following the Presanctified Liturgy, grab your food and meet in the Fireside Room. We will have fellowship and a Q&A. Submit questions here: www.tinyurl.com/GOYA-Q-A
► Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.
Senior GOYA lock-in: Grades 9-12 will have a sleep-over in the Terrace Room! We will be playing games, watching a movie and enjoying being in each other’s company. Please RSVP to jon@stmarysgoc.org if your child plans on attending.
► Wednesday, April 17: Following the Presanctified Liturgy, grab your food and meet in the Fireside Room. We will have fellowship and a Q&A. Submit questions here: www.tinyurl.com/GOYA-Q-A
► Save the Date: August 5-10, 2019
Senior GOYA IOCC Homebuild in Houston, Texas
E-mail Jon@stmarysgoc.org if interested.

April Church School News
**Holy Confession Continues**
Students are welcome to go to confession at anytime, however, the following dates are set aside for specific classes. You may go to confession before or after Presanctified Liturgy and are encouraged to sit with your class and receive Holy Communion together in the first two rows on left side.
• Wednesday, April 3: Grade 2
• Wednesday, April 10: Grades 3 and 4
• Wednesday, April 17: Grades 5 and 6
• Sundays, April 7, 14, and 21: Regular Church School classes,
• Sunday, April 28 - PASCHA! No class

**Holy Friday Retreat – Friday, April 26**
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Ages 3 years old through Grade 12
Royal Hours begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by our Retreat. At 1:30 p.m. is Vespers of the Taking Down of Christ from the Cross, which concludes by 2:30 p.m. Retreat attendees will enjoy two learning sessions, crafts, short gym time, lunch, snacks! Details to follow. Register on our web site. Contact Dena Tortorelis with questions.

**Summer Camp Early Bird Registration**
Summer Camp Early Bird Registration will open Tuesday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m.!
Registration fees are:
Early Bird Discount: $445 from April 16-May 3, 2019
Standard fee: $495 from May 4-May 23, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
Register early and save!

**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.”
February Recap

February was a busy month! We sent six basketball teams to the Western Region Basketball Tournament in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The women’s, girl’s, and boy’s teams all took second place! We are already looking forward to the tournament next year, which will be hosted by St. George in St. Paul.

The JOY kids had their annual lock-in and we all enjoyed many laughs! The Senior GOYAns had the opportunity to continue helping FOCUS as they transition into their new location in St. Paul. We assisted them by organizing their food shelves and began the prep work for painting.

A Thank You from Minnesota Council of Churches

Dear Clergy, Staff, and Congregants of St. Mary’s,

Refugee families arrive every day with just a suitcase per person and hearts full of hope. Your 2018 donation of:

- 21 adult winter coats and jackets
- 6 fleece sweaters/hoodies
- 2 winter vests
- Assorted scarves/gloves

welcomes those fleeing persecution around the globe into new lives of freedom, hope and opportunity here in Minnesota.

Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services provides high quality services to these newest refugee neighbors, walking with them as they establish their new lives in our communities. We could not do this without your help and partnership. With your donation, you join MCC Refugee Services in extending welcome to the newest refugees who seek to call Minnesota home.

We thank you for your generosity and demonstrated care for our refugee clients. We invite you to follow the latest news on MCC Refugee Services’ work at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/mcc.refugeeservices.

With gratitude for your partnership in the ministry of refugee hospitality,

(signed) Kathryn Berger
Volunteer & Outreach Specialist: Refugee Services
Minnesota Council of Churches

GREAT NORTHERN WOODS
EXPLORE GOD’S PROMISE

Join us in the Great Northern Woods for Vacation Church School as we learn about God’s promises.

- Hang out at the cabin
- Walk down the dock
- Make fun crafts
- Sit by the campfire
- Hear amazing stories of saints and events from long ago

Our week in the Woods is June 10-14, 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon

VCS is for kids three-years old (toilet trained) to grade six in the fall.

RSVP on our website: stmarysgoc.org
A blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha to all!

We worship your Passion, O Christ. Show us also your glorious Resurrection.
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Holy Pascha Flowers Contribution

Name _____________________________________________________________

In memory of: ______________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Amount enclosed: $___________

Please return this form with your contribution to St. Mary’s by Palm Sunday, April 21, 2019.

Thank you!