July 2019

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A Message from Father Jason
Father Jason Houck, Associate Priest

The Icon of the Almighty

Have you ever looked up during church and wondered about the icon in the dome? Sometimes this is the very first thing a visitor notices in our Church. Even babies love to stare up at that beautiful icon. We may ask, why is it there? What are the different symbols? What do they all mean? The icon in our dome—and in most Orthodox churches—is the icon of the Παντοκρατωρ Pantokrator, the “Almighty” or “He who rules all things.” The dome itself symbolizes the expanse of the heavens—with God the Almighty Himself in the middle—looking down on His creation. The Almighty, who rules all things, also knows all things as He looks down on us with His all-knowing eye. Jesus is blessing His creation with His right hand as He looks down on us. His fingers form the Greek letters IC XC. This lettering, which also appears in the icon next to Christ, stands for “Jesus Christ.” He holds a book—the Gospel Book—the good news that Jesus brought to the world. This good news is echoed by the inscription of Jesus’ words around the inside of the dome: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). What about the rainbow design around the icon? Just a pretty decoration? No. The Bible verse Revelation 4:3 describes God’s throne as having a rainbow around it, so in the icon the Almighty, we have the same. A notable artistic precedent of this design is the exquisite icon of the Almighty in the 11th century Daphne Monastery outside of Athens. Do the colors of Jesus’ robes mean something? Jesus’ outer robe is blue, while the inner one is a reddish hue. The blue symbolizes divinity, while the red symbolizes humanity. Humanity was clothed in divinity when Jesus—who is God from before all time—took human form. By becoming human, God the Almighty took on our humanity to save it. The importance of God the Almighty taking human form was emphasized at the Fourth Ecumenical Council. At the Fourth Ecumenical Council held in Chalcedon (a suburb of Constantinople) in the year 451, the Holy Fathers affirmed that Jesus was fully human and fully God—two natures. God the Almighty took on human nature to save our own human nature! That is the power of God! We observe the memory of the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council and their important assertion on Sunday, July 14. Please join us for this celebration of the Almighty’s saving work as we keep the remembrance of the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council.
Our Life Together

Births
Theodora Sioris
Parents: Anthony & Kelly Kempf
May 12, 2019
William Constantine
Parents: William & Angelea Hoeft
May 21, 2019
Christopher James
Parents: Jonathan & Kelly Wiering
June 3, 2019
John Alex
Parents: Stewart & Alexis Utter
June 4, 2019

Baptisms
George (Jory)
Parents: Ari & Paige Apostolou
June 9, 2019

Chrismations
David Astramecki
Sylvia Makarious
May 19, 2019

Marriages
Vasiliki Bakritges to John Willis
June 8, 2019

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, July 7
Stamata Angelos (6 months)
Sunday, July 14
Baby formula
Sunday, July 21
Hygiene items
(toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
Sunday, July 28
Canned meat
(e.g. tuna or chicken)

Congratulations!
Congratulations to Eleni Menter for receiving a Community Service Award from The Minnesota Association of Women Police. Eleni also received a letter from President Trump for her dedicated service to the military.

Thank You
A note from Joyce Uptown Foodshelf:
Thank you for donating 294 pounds of food in March. Your support for our community is sincerely appreciated!

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, thoughts, and get well wishes you sent my way during my recent surgery. I am so grateful to my church family for all the friendship and thoughtfulness.

—Barbara Nichols

Share YourShelf
July's recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is FOCUS Minnesota.
Sunday, July 7
Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat®
Sunday, July 14
Baby formula
Sunday, July 21
Hygiene items
(toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
Sunday, July 28
Canned meat
(e.g. tuna or chicken)

Please bring only food & hygiene items to St. Mary's for FOCUS.
If you would like to make a non-food donation (i.e., housing or clothing items), please call Vera Proctor, 651.324.2705, to arrange a time to drop off at FOCUS. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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
Facilities Coordinator
Bob Yang
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 Psychogios
Randy (Luke) Twito

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

Weekday Schedule
Thursday, July 11
Saint Euphemia
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, July 12
Saint Paisios
Evening Divine Liturgy – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17
Saint Marina
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 20
Elias the Prophet
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, July 26
Saint Paraskevi
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 27
Saint Panteleimon
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

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

Lake Calhoun Koinonia
On summer break.

Northeast Metro Koinonia
On summer break.

South of the River Koinonia
Meeting date and location to be announced.

West Metro Koinonia
On summer break.

A Bit of Church Etiquette

Entering the Church (Late)
The time to arrive at church is before the service starts, but for some unknown reason, it has become the custom - or rather the bad habit - for some to come to church late. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins, try to enter the church quietly - and observe what is happening. If the Epistle or Gospel is being read or the Little or Great Entrance is taking place, wait until it is finished to quickly find a seat. If Father is giving the sermon, stay in the back until he has concluded. If in doubt, check with one of the ushers to see if it is a good time to seat yourself. Try not to interrupt the Liturgy with your entrance. By the way, the best way to avoid this problem is to arrive on time - then you don't have to wonder if it's okay to come in or not. People who come late to the Liturgy should not partake of the Eucharist!

Leaving Before Dismissal
Leaving church before the Dismissal - besides being rude - deprives us of a blessing. Worship has a beginning ("Blessed is the Kingdom...") and an end ("Let us depart in peace..."). To leave immediately after Communion is to treat church like a fast food restaurant where we come and go as we please. We live in a fast-paced world where we seem to be hurrying from place to place. But in God's presence, we need to make every attempt to fight this pressure to move on to the next thing on the day's agenda. We deprive ourselves of blessings by not being still and participating in God's holiness. Eat and run at McDonald's - but stay in church and thank God for his precious gifts.

—reprinted from the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America's website.
Parish News & Events

Missionary Presentation and Luncheon

Sunday, July 7, after Liturgy

We welcome Albanian missionaries Fr. Anastas Bendo and his wife, Presbytera Georgia, to St. Mary’s on Sunday, July 7. Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a luncheon and presentation on mission work in Albania. The Bendas will tell us about their work in Albania as they raise awareness and funds for their work. Fr. Anastas serves in the capital, Tirana, and is the translator for His Beatitude, Archbishop Anastasios. Presbytera Georgia (who is Presbytera Alexandra Houck’s sister) has been a missionary with O.C.M.C. for the past fifteen years and serves as the director of the Protagonists Albanian American School, an English language school supported by the Orthodox Church. Please come to listen to their story on July 7!

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 Church Office, 612.825.9595, or doria@stmarysgoc.org.

If you are interested in being trained as a member of our Visitation Team, please contact Doria.

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 inkehoots@q.com.

American Legion Hellenic Post 129

100 Celebration Year!

Have you marked your calendar for November 9, 2019? We want you to help celebrate 100 years with an outstanding dinner and program. Look for more information for the event in the August Messenger!

Did you know...

The American Legion was instrumental in establishing the U.S. Flag Code that was adopted by congress in 1942. Part of the code for use or display of our US Flag is detailed below:

The United States Code stipulates that as the symbol of a living country the flag is considered to be a living thing and should be properly displayed and cared for. The code outlines the proper ways to display the American flag.

• Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
• Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor.
• Do not fly the flag in bad weather, unless it is an all-weather flag.
• The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated. Otherwise, it should only be flown from sunrise to sunset.
• The flag should always be allowed to fall free.
• The flag should never be used to carry, store, or deliver anything.
• Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.

Our Post 129 American Legion flag pole is south of St. Mary’s church adjacent to the parking lot. Disposal of a worn flag is also ceremonial. Retired flags maybe given to any American Legion or VFW for respectful disposal.
Greek Festival

A Taste of Greece ~ September 6-8

Stop by the Great Hall on Sundays after Liturgy to lend your support to our Taste of Greece celebration in September. Members of the Festival Committee will be on hand to answer questions, sell tickets, and help you sign up to volunteer at the Festival. Here’s what you’ll find at the Festival table:

- Sign up to volunteer
  - Purchase Festival tickets at a discount
    (five free tickets for your purchase of 50 or more tickets through the month of July)
  - Pick up your Taste of Greece poster, flyers, and lawn signs
  - Learn about this year’s plans and events

Remember, we need your help and support, so stop by, purchase tickets, and sign up to volunteer for our 31st Taste of Greece Festival!

Interested in baking? Check out the baking schedule on the Philoptochos page in this issue. We have lots of opportunities for baking a variety of pastries.

Thank You 2018-2019 Church School Teachers and Staff!

Nursery: Natalie Hideg, Heather Koutroupas, Natalie McMonagle; Substitute: Kelly Wiering; Pre-Kindergarten - 3 year olds: Mary Jo Katras, Natalie Hideg, Krissa Rovolis, Joanne Schlavin; Pre-Kindergarten - 4 year olds: Alexandra Richardson, Kathy Richardson; Substitute: Krisanthy Sikkila; Kindergarten: Diane Achterling, Kassie and Jake Houseman, Lia Nicklow, Georgia Panopoulos; Grade 1: Diane Atsidakos, Kristen Bye, Julie Rist; Grade 2: Julie Boosalis, Nancy Gallos, Steve Gallos, Dena Tortorelis; Grade 3: Gina Boosalis, Zoe Gabor, Diane Powers; Grade 4: Alexandra Estep, Pam Gilbert, Andrea Kottas, Connie Kouzes; Grade 5: Libby Cheolis, Presbytera Janis Costas, Anna Menter, Eleni Menter; Grade 6: Mary Ellis, Elaine Kaznessis, Yanni Kaznessis, Amy Wehr; Grades 7 and 8: Theo Estep, Maria Lind, Steve Wehr; Grades 9 and 10: Sam Hanna, Vangie Nicklow, Ken Schwark, Dean Tortorelis; Grades 11 and 12: Birhane Baye, Dca. Alexandria Kalina, David Rist; Procurement Officer: Georgia Andron; Substitutes: Michele Bruning, Vicky Demou Hanson, Mary Demou Kleve, Angie Maragos, Cristina Nicklow, John Possis; Music: Mark Johnson, Kally Youngdahl; Administrators: Fr. George Dokos, Dena Tortorelis
Philoptochos

by Paulette Hastings

On May 28, more than 70 women gathered at the Philoptochos Spring Finale for fellowship, a meal, and to conduct business and review summer activities of the organization. Here are the highlights:

Philoptochos Board Elected for 2019-2021

By unanimous vote, the following women were elected to a two-year term on our Philoptochos Board of Directors: Sandra Anderson, Jennifer Coin, Cathy Forchas, Lisa Gallmeyer, Stephanie George, Paulette Hastings, Jenny Hibberd, Jayne Klatt, Connie Kouzes, Annette Legeros, Tina Menter, Melpo Murdakes, Donna Psios, Carol Smith, Andrea Tiggas, and Dena Tortorelis. We are thankful for the willingness of these women to serve.

We are also grateful to those who are stepping down from the board after faithfully serving the board, the chapter and the parish: Diane Achterling, Linda Hodge, Sofia Johnson, Diaconissa Alexandria Kalina, and Stephanie Panos.

Bake Sale Core Teams and Summer Sessions

We’re trying something new in the Bake Sale at this year’s Taste of Greece, September 6-8. In addition to the having people serving Greek pastries to our guests, we’re creating two Core Teams to manage the Bake Sale. Each team will have 4-5 members, and will commit to working all three days, either the early or late shift. Teams will restock, plate, run, and do other tasks needed to keep the bakery running smoothly. Will you join a core team? Stop by the Philoptochos Table on Sundays or email MplsPhilo@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions.

Here are the dates when the magic happens...be a part of it all!

- Kourambiethes
  Wednesday, July 24, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Melomakarona
  Tuesday, July 30, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Baklava Sundae Baking
  Saturday, August 17, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- Koulouria
  Tuesday, August 20, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Theples Fry Day
  Monday, August 26, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Theples Honey Day
  Wednesday, August 28, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Baklava Sundae Grinding
  Tuesday, August 29, 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Honey Melos, Package, and Set-Up
  Tuesday, September 3 & Wednesday, September 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Taste of Greece!
  Friday, September 6- Sunday, September 8

Additional Summer Activities

- NEW DATE! Days for Girls Day of Service
  Wednesday, July 3, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
  This Pan-Orthodox day of service is planned to prepare reusable menstruation kits for girls around the world. All supplies will be provided, but you can bring your favorite sharp scissors, sewing machine or serger, if desired. Come to the Terrace Room for an hour, a morning or afternoon, or the day. Chair: Sofia Johnson.

- Feast Day Receptions
  August 14 and 15
  Philoptochos will host receptions after the evening Dormition Vespers and morning Liturgy. Thanks to all who volunteered at the Spring Finale. Stop by the Philoptochos table and offer your services, too.

- School Supplies for Healing House Kids
  Once again, Philoptochos will buy and deliver school supplies for the children of Healing House. If you'd like to join the shopping team (shop from a provided list on your own or with others), let us know. Stop by the Philoptochos table on Sundays or contact MplsPhilo@gmail.com.

Children’s Medical Fund and Luncheon

Since its establishment in 1989, the Children’s Medical Fund (CMF) has sought to provide medical assistance to critically ill Greek, Greek American, and Orthodox children, whose families are unable to

Philoptochos news continues on page 10.
by Rebecca Myerly

Children need authentic, wholesome, and inspiring role models. This has always been true and is even more so now when commercially created super heroes are advertised widely for profit. The Saints of the Church are genuine super heroes and real inspiring role models. It is important that children be introduced to—and learn about the lives of—the Saints. Saints are wise elders and mentors for children of all ages.

My Holy Queens and Princesses and My Warrior Saints: An Illustrated Synaxarian for Children are two books that are collections of stories about Saints that Dionysius and Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis have written and Egle-Ekaterine has illustrated. Both books are large hardbacks with sewn bindings for strength and endurance. These books are made to be read many times and then handed down from generation to generation. Each book includes an audio CD.

My Holy Queens and Princesses is a well written and lavishly illustrated collection telling about the lives of Righteous Esther and Saints Alexandra, Drosis, Theodora, Helen, Melangell, Tamara, Olga, Ludmila, Barbara, Bathilda, and Hyponome. In explaining this book, the authors write, "We usually associate queens and princesses with wealth, luxury and power. How amazing it is, therefore, to read the lives of holy royal women, and learn that, although they had the option to lead an easy, carefree life and to indulge themselves in the abundance of wealth and power that their position in society, the highest possible, had to offer, they chose a virtuous life, dedicated entirely to Christ." The virtues of each Saint were manifest in and through their lives and continue to be revealed through the inspiration they offer young readers—and readers of every age and stage in life.

My Warrior Saints: An Illustrated Synaxarian for Children is a collection telling stories from the lives of twelve Saints: Mercurius, Theodore, Artemius, Eustathius, Callistratus, George, Procopius, Constantine, Menas, Nikitas, Sergius, and Bacchus. Each story tells how the Saint lived out his Christian faith and values in a challenging circumstance in his life, demonstrating how good conquers evil, but often not without great sacrifice. There are many lessons and values to be discussed with children reading this book to help them navigate the challenges they face or might face in their lives.

Dionysius and Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis have made writing and illustrating the lives of Saints for children their mission. As Potamitis Publishing, they have, to date, published over 160 books about Saints and the Church for children, and the number of books they publish grows each month. Their books are printed by Orthodox families in Greece. Their mission and their books reveal what living the Christian faith looks like in action.
Mission & Outreach

Congratulations, Graduates!
Each of you is the future of St. Mary’s.

Daily exercises:
• Proverbs – Each day read a chapter from Proverbs
• Psalms – Each day read five Psalms

Service Opportunities
July is FOCUS House Month
FocusTwinCities@gmail.com or 651.324.2705

• Bag meals are given to neighborhood schools and non-profits all summer
• St. Mary’s campers to pack school supplies for families in need.
• Clothes Closet volunteers are needed to prepare/set up clothes,

FOCUS Programs and Opportunities
Clothes Closet
• Open twice a week for customers
  • Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
  • Thursdays, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
• Volunteers needed each week to prepare (Mondays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) and assist customers (Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m.)
• Bring new or clean, gently used clothing and shoes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Food Distribution
• Twice a month on Fridays from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
• Volunteers are needed from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Call FOCUS for dates.

NEW: Resume and Cover Letter Assistance
• Geared toward young people, those making life changes, and the previously unemployed, offered one evening per week.
• Volunteers with related skills are needed. Call FOCUS for dates and to volunteer.

NEW: Reception Desk Staffing
• In addition to welcoming clients and friends, duties include client intake, answering telephone inquiries, and assisting with projects as needed.
• Staffing can be shared by multiple people.

NEW: Preschool Storytime with Parent Education
• Weekly program for families with young children.
• Volunteers are needed to read to preschoolers while parents attend educational classes.

FOCUS Wish List
Contact FOCUS if you’re able to fulfill a need:
• Gutters: purchased and installed
• Microsoft Office 365 software package
• 12-cup coffee maker
• 8 Kick-down door stops
• 3 Battery operated wall clocks
• 2 Movable stanchions
• 1 Back door doorbell

To volunteer or for more information, contact FOCUS at FocusTwinCities@gmail.com or 651.324.2705.
by Diaconissa Alexandria Kalina

The idea of a parish as a “home” is not unique. In much of Orthodox Europe, there are churches on every corner, icons in every store. People bless themselves openly, on buses, when passing a church, before meals at restaurants. If you are a fan of figure skating, you often see the Russian skaters blessing themselves before (and, if they skated well, after) their skate. For many, going to church means mingling with people from their neighborhoods, often, walking to church because it is that close. It’s all mixed up, Orthodoxy and life.

In 21st Century USA, it’s different. Except for certain urban, Orthodox-populated areas, there are few Orthodox churches to cover geographically large areas. There are no icons in the stores, few people to pass on the street who feel that it is OK to openly bless themselves. Mixing Orthodoxy and life publicly for adults, and, for our youth, is not simple. Our parish “home” is not right next door. It is not a short walk; often it is not an easy drive.

A recent quote from the Stewardship and Evangelism Dept at the Archdiocese was very eye catching: “To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be.”

What vision do we have for our parish home? What need must/should/could it serve for us? These are complicated and intensely personal questions which beg very deep and thoughtful reflection. Loneliness, sadness, and anxiety are on the sharp rise in society, for both adults and youth. Most experts agree it is from a combination of disconnectedness of personal touch through increased use of online technology, geographic distance from other family members, and increasingly busy lives. Multigenerational homes are on the decline, young families often live far from grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends.

Where better to connect with like-minded people than in our parish home? This is where we can partake of the Eucharist, where we can engage in communal and private prayer, but also where we can enjoy that “personal touch,” which is crucial, in so many ways, to our happiness and our needs as human beings. And do so with people who care about us.

To create the “perfect” parish home is the responsibility of each of us. It cannot fall to the priests, parish council or stewardship committee. Our strength is exponentially multiplied in numbers, but only if we are all engaged and present in the vision to see our parish as it could be. Time, talent and treasure can all make that vision come to fruition. A new, beautiful, functional, and comfortable home is not built in a day or a week. It requires much forethought, planning, selections, coordination. Many people are involved. The general contractor might be great, but if the people doing the work are not thoughtful, careful, considerate, and meticulous, the product might be quite shabby.

Our small group pot-luck dinners, which will be hosted throughout the Twin Cities late summer and early fall, will be a perfect opportunity to connect with other parishioners and enjoy the personal touch. Perhaps that will help stimulate our vision for what the “perfect” parish home means to each of us. Stay tuned for more on this soon. If you are interested in hosting one of these dinners, please call the church office for more details.

In the meantime, please contemplate your vision for our beautiful parish? What functional and comfort needs do you have? Become involved in building your dream “home”, engage in planning and executing your vision. In doing so, you will have both created a comfortable and warm space for yourself, and you will have been a wonderful steward of the Gospel.
Philoptochos news continued.

afford appropriate and necessary medical treatment. The Fund also provides grants for innovative research programs to pediatric hospitals throughout the United States and to organizations with special programs that care for children with critical and life threatening illnesses. To date, over $3 million has been raised.

The biennial Children's Medical Fund Luncheon is hosted on a rotating basis within the Direct Archdiocesan District and eight Metropolises of the Archdiocese, with the Chicago Metropolis hosting in 2019. Our Philoptochos is participating in these ways:

• Donate $1250 to CMF. A motion was made, seconded and passed at the Spring Finale meeting.
• Make a donation request of the St. Mary's Foundation.
• Invite parishioners and businesses to donate or sponsor CMF. Donate on-line (www.philoptochos.org) or send checks payable to National Philoptochos (earmarked 2019 CMF) to National Philoptochos, 126 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016.
• Encourage parishioners and friends to attend the Saturday, November 16, Medical Fund Luncheon at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. Tickets: $125 per person.
• Sell CMF Raffle Tickets. Prizes include jewelry, gift cards, luxury accessories, and more (average value is $600) with the drawing held at the CMF Luncheon. Need not be present to win. Price: $10 each or 3 for $25.
• Invite parish youth to do a Kids Helping Kids project, like a lemonade stand, to raise money for CMF.

More information: www.philoptochos.org/outreach/cmfsection/

We Impact the World

As a financial and in-kind supporter of more than 60 organizations, our Philoptochos chapter impacts the lives of people around the world! Look for the map with stickers identifying the recipients we affect.

Thank You

To the many people who organized the Spring Finale meal and activities, including our social committee, Greek Zumba instructor Kally Youngdahl, and dessert maker Terri Leckas of Queen of Cakes.
Children & 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.

Twins Game Parish Outing!
Grab your glove and come on out to see the Twins win on Sunday, August 25 at 1:10! St. Mary’s will provide a bus to and from Target Field. The tickets are reserved for $25, which includes a hot dog and a soda. We will purchase the tickets so we all can sit near each other, but you are responsible to reimburse us for the ticket(s). This event is open to all parishioners! To reserve your spot, please RSVP to Jon Klein, jon@stmarysgoc.org, by Sunday, July 28!

May Recap
In May, our HOPE/JOY youth group finished off the year by attending Vespers and having a movie night in the Terrace Room! We watched Monsters University and enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers and snacks! The Junior GOYAns met and assembled care packages for Orthodox service men and women in Okinawa and mainland Japan. Our goal is to send care packages to the service men and women two times a year. We found a priest who is an Orthodox Chaplain in Okinawa and he agreed to distribute the packages for us! The Senior GOYAns learned how to make koulourakia with a member of Philoptochos, and let’s just say, there wasn’t any left over! Finally, ten of the Senior GOYAns attended the Junior Olympics in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. We enjoyed competing and meeting other Orthodox youth from across the Metropolis.

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

Senior GOYAns with adult leaders Jon Klein, Youth Director, and Fr. George at the Junior Olympics in Chicago, May 24-27.
Happy Independence Day!
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<thead>
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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>7 Third Sunday of Matthew Saint Kyriake &quot;The Messenger&quot; Deadline</td>
<td>8 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice</td>
<td>9 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council</td>
<td>10 1:00pm-Adult Senior Bible Study</td>
<td>11 Saint Euphemia 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>12 Saint Paisios 7:00am-Men's Fellowship 6:00pm-Evening Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>15 6:00pm-Greek Dance Practice 6:00pm-Greek Festival Meeting</td>
<td>16 7:00pm-Evening Men's Fellowship</td>
<td>17 Saint Marina 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy after Liturgy-&quot;The Messenger&quot; Mailing 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>24 10:00am-Kourembiethes Baking 1:00pm-Adult Senior Bible Study 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
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