September 2019

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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

TASTE OF GREECE

Enjoy authentic Greek food, live music, and cultural experiences!
The Greek Boutique · Church Tours · Handmade Pastries · Kids Play Area

Help Make A Difference
Chloe’s Fight 5K on Friday & Food Drive All Weekend: 3 items = 2 Free Tickets
WWW.MPLSGREEKFEST.ORG · 3450 IRVING AVE S MPLS 55408
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MPLSGREEKFEST @MPLSGREEKFEST

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors!
Go to our website to volunteer: www.stmarysgoc.org
Baptism
John Alex
Parents: Stewart & Alexis Utter
July 27, 2019

Deaths
Chris Muzetras
August 4, 2019
William Boosalis
August 10, 2019
May their memory be eternal.

Memorial Prayers
Sunday, September 15
Bill Peters (1 year)

Thank You
FOCUS Minnesota wishes to thank everyone who attended and supported the Summer Dance Party last month. We raised $2000 for FOCUS! Thank you to hosts Lisa & George Andreadakis, Katherine & Nick T. Boosalis, Stephanie George & Mark Flumerfelt, and Paul & Paulette Hastings.

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.

Our Sympathy
George Cavouras, former St. Mary’s parishioner and brother of Mary Cavouras, passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on July 7, 2019.
We extend sympathy to Joanne Savage on the passing of her husband, Darrell, on July 23.

Share YourShelf
September’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Joyce Upton Foodshelf.
Sunday, September 1
Canned fruit and vegetables
Sunday, September 8
Cereal (hot and cold)
Sunday, September 15
Canned meals – large cans (e.g. chili, pork and beans)
Sunday, September 22
Hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
Sunday, September 29
Coffee and tea

Please consider making a monetary donation. Through a partnership with the Food Group, the food shelves we support are able to purchase staple food items at a marked reduction in price. This means that your donated dollars go farther – almost doubling the money you give to purchase much needed food items.

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

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
David Mertesdorf
Communications
Jonathan Klein
Ministry Support
Doria Saros
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 Hoefl
Naira Istephanous
Pamela Nelson
Dean Psyhogios
Randy (Luke) Twito
**Fellowship and Study Groups**

**Adult Senior Bible Study**
- Wednesdays, September 11 and 25
- 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room

**Intercessory Prayer**
- Wednesday, September 18
- 10:30 a.m., Nave Chapel

**Men’s Fellowship**
- Friday, September 13
- 7:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- **Note date change**

**Evening Men’s Fellowship**
- No September gathering due to annual Men’s Retreat

**Saturday Bible Study**
- Every Saturday
- 9:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- **No sessions on September 7, 21, and 28**

**Senior Citizens**
- Tuesday, September 10
- 12:00 noon, Terrace Room

**Women’s Bible Study**
- Wednesday, September 18
- 11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

**Koinonia**

**Edina Koinonia**
- Thursday, September 26, 7:00 p.m.
- Joan Calott’s home
- 952.944.9397

**Lake Calhoun Koinonia**
- Sunday, September 22, 5:00 p.m.
- Fr. George & Presbytera Christa’s home
- 612.825.1067

**Northeast Metro Koinonia**
- New location to be announced soon.

**West Metro Koinonia**
- September gathering to be announced.
- Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
- 952.476.7624

**Catechism Classes**

**Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Catechism classes sponsored by Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Christian Clergy Association (MEOCCA) begin September 3 and continue through November 19 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Fr. Perry Kallis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>God: Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Dcn. Jason Ketz</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Mankind: Creation, the Fall, Messiah</td>
<td>Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Christ I: Incarnation, Theotokos &amp; Saints</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Hodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Christ II: His Work &amp; Teachings</td>
<td>Fr. Jason Houck</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Church I: Birth, Mission, Structure</td>
<td>Dcn. Jason Ketz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Church II: Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition</td>
<td>Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Sacraments I: Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction</td>
<td>Fr. George Dokos</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Sacraments II: Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer</td>
<td>Fr. Jonathan Proctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Sacraments III: Marriage &amp; Monasticism</td>
<td>Fr. Jonathan Proctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>The Goal: Second Coming &amp; Living the Christian Life</td>
<td>Fr. Perry Kallis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Conclusion: Orthodoxy in America, Jurisdictions, Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Fr. Andrew Morbey</td>
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To register, go to www.meocca.org and follow the “Introduction to Eastern Orthodox Christianity” link.

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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**
- **Wednesday, September 4**
- Small Blessing of Water
  - 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 7**
- Blessing of the Animals
  - 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, September 14**
- **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
  - Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
  - Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, September 17**
- **Saints Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love**
  - Evening Divine Liturgy
  - 6:00 p.m.
Healing House Dinner

*Saturday, September 21*

Our next Healing House dinner takes place on September 21. We need someone to help set up, bring the meal (the task can be shared), and play with children. The time frame is 5:00-8:00 p.m. This is a great ministry for family, friends, or just solo. Please contact Sandra Anderson at asformess69@gmail.com or call 612.940.8933.

YAL Service Project and Social

*Save the Dates!*

**Friday, September 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

YAL Orthodoxy on Tap led by Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Youth worker Christian Gonzalez at the Hyatt Regency by Mall of America, 3200 East 81st Street, Bloomington.

Join other young adults for drinks and discussion about Orthodoxy with Christian Gonzalez of the Archdiocese youth office. This event is in conjunction with the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference. For more information and to RSVP, contact Fr. Jason at frjason@stmarysgoc.org.

**Saturday, September 28**

1:00-4:00 p.m. service project at FOCUS MN.

Head to FOCUS MN for various service projects at the new FOCUS MN location at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. Join local young adults along with out-of-town young adults attending the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity Conference to help out at FOCUS. Please RSVP to Fr. Jason Houck at frjason@stmarysgoc.org.

6:00-10:00 p.m. dinner at the Taste of Northeast (St. Mary’s OCA Festival) and then to Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit German Bar and Restaurant.

Join local young adults along with out-of-town young adults attending the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity Conference for a fun evening. Please RSVP to Fr. Jason Houck at frjason@stmarysgoc.org.

*All these events are Pan-Orthodox events and open to our Twin Cities YAL. You do not need to register for the Clergy-Laity Conference to attend any of them.*

Women's Pilgrimage to St. Paisius

*January 21-25, 2020*

The annual women's pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona, is scheduled for January 21-25, 2020. The cost of $450 includes transportation, room and board. A personal donation to the monastery is recommended. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the cenobitic life for just a few days. Start each morning walking into church for morning prayers under a sky filled with more stars than you've probably ever seen and come out to the sight of mountains wrapped in clouds and sunshine. Spend time in prayer and fellowship. Have the opportunity to help the sisters in their work on the grounds, in the bookstore, or wherever needed (according to our ability of course). The best way to learn about this wonderful monastery is to visit their website, wwwstpaisiusmonastery.org. *Make sure to read about the attire and other rules.*

We have room for ten women and we must have your commitment by October 15. This is on a first come first served basis. If you have questions or are ready to reserve your spot, contact Sandra Anderson: asformess69@gmail.com or 612.940.8933

Family Camp 2019

*October 9-11*

Have you ever felt like escaping the busyness of this world to spend time with your family in nature? Would like to get to know other St. Mary’s families outside of the coffee hour? Are you ready to introduce the idea of summer camp to your young children? Family Camp may be your answer! And, a HUGE bonus is our speaker, Fr. Evan Armatas, pastor of St. Spyridon in Loveland, Colorado, and Ancient Faith Radio’s host of “Orthodoxy Live.” He will be speaking about Saving Relationships: How Marriage and Personhood Guide us Toward the Kingdom. More information and registration can be found at www.stmaryscamp.com. Don’t wait too long…this one is going to be a Family Camp to remember!
Due to the Metropolis Clergy-Laity/Philoptochos Assemblies, our chapter’s first gathering of the new church year will be postponed until October. Plans are still underway, but we hope you’ll join us for an evening of fellowship and helping others once the date is announced. In the meantime, the upcoming Greek Festival and Metropolis Clergy-Laity offer wonderful opportunities for gathering with our extended community and Orthodox family.

**Bake Sale Set-Up and Festival Weekend Help Needed**

The first week of September is all about the Taste of Greece! Many hands are needed, so please join us as often as you’re able! Volunteer during Sunday social hours or online. (The link is on the homepage of www.stmarysgoc.org).

- Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
  Cut baklava, honey melomakarona, package pastries.
- Wednesday, September 4, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
  Package dips, variety packs, other set-up work.
- Friday, September 6 and Saturday, September 7, noon-10:00 p.m.;
  Sunday, September 8, noon-6:00 p.m.
  *Taste of Greece!*

**Board Calendar Planning**

*Monday, September 16, 6:30 p.m.*

Our Philoptochos Board is meeting at the home of Tina Menter to discuss the calendar for the upcoming year. If you have ideas for activities, speakers, collaborations with other ministries, or other suggestions, please pass them on to either of our co-presidents, Jennifer Coin or Annette Legeros.

**Metropolis Philoptochos Conference + Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy**

*September 26-28*

Did you know that concurrent to the Clergy-Laity assembly, Philoptochos delegates from around the Metropolis will be meeting as well? Our chapter delegates are Lisa Gallmeyer, Carol Karos, and Connie Kouzes, but everyone is invited to register (for free) as observers and to buy meals ala carte. All meetings take place at the Hyatt Regency off 34th Avenue at Highway 494.

Additionally, volunteers are needed to make this endeavor work smoothly! In addition to help needed during the event, the St. George and St. Mary’s Philoptochos chapters will work together to make Welcome Bags for our delegates and to bake cookies for four coffee breaks. Watch for specifics in the church bulletin, emails, and at church.

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon**

*November 16 in Chicago*

- The Children’s Medical Fund provides medical assistance to critically ill Greek, Greek American, and Orthodox children as well as 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.

- The Chicago Metropolis is hosting the primary fundraising lunch on Saturday, November 16 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. Consider attending with other St. Mary’s friends! Tickets: $125 per person. For information go to: https://www.philoptochos.org/outreach/cmfsection/

- Can’t attend? Buy a Raffle Ticket ($10 each or three for $25) at the Philoptochos table, or make a personal or business donation. Donate online (www.philoptochos.org) or send checks payable to National Philoptochos (earmarked 2019 CMF) to National Philoptochos, 126 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016.

**Thank You**

- To Stephanie and Alexandra Panos, Sandra Anderson, and Jennifer Coin for purchasing, packing, and delivering school supplies, backpacks, and books to the children of Healing House.

- To Presvytera Thekla for presenting to the joint gathering of the Senior Citizens Club and Philoptochos. Her talk on suffering is recorded and available – delivery method not finalized at the time of this publication. Watch for details.

- To Feast Day volunteers, including the organizers Sandra Anderson, Presvytera Christa, Paulette Hastings, Annette Legeros, and Carol Smith, as well as pie bakers Presvyteras Christa Dokos and Alexandra Houck, Paulette Hastings, Diakonissa Alexandria Kalina, Cindy Karos, and Popie Rakes, and the many others who helped during the recep-
tions. Special thanks also to Evie Dokos for baking the five loaves of artoclasia bread!

- To Giannoula Bakritzes and Tina Menter, for chairing the kourambiethes baking for the festival, and their outstanding team that made 4,471 powdery mounds of deliciousness! The Kourambiethes Team: Mary Anderson, Sandra Anderson, Toni Bazakos, Nick J. Boosalis, Ina Dunham, Audrey Friesen, Jenny Hibberd, Fifi Kafkas, John Kafkas, Mary Kafkas, Diane Jackson, Meg Johnson, Sofia Johnson, Vangie Karakatsanis, Kathy Moffat, Stephanie Panos, Maria Paradise, Lisa Rose, Suzanne Schilling, Elaine Smith, Sandra Sperides, and Desi Tokar.

- To Paulette Hastings for chairing the melomakarona baking for the Festival, and her fabulous team that made 2,000 spice cookies, which will soon be dipped in honey and sprinkled with walnuts. The Melomakarona Team: Jamie Amacci, Mary Anderson, Sandra Anderson, Nick J. Boosalis, Jennifer Coin, Athena Dascalos, Ina Dunham, Elena Gabor, Georgia George, Nadia Giese, Linda Hodge, Fifi Kafkas, John Kafkas, Mary Kafkas, Cindy Karos, Jayne Klatt, Sofia Johnson, Dayna Kaplan, Vangie Karakatsanis, Demetra Kordopitoulas, Angie Maragos, Tina Menter, Kathy Moffat, Barbara Nichols, Anna Paulson, Popie Rakes, Hrisoula Regas, Doreen Skaff, Elaine Smith, Sandra Sperides, Desi Tokar, and Bev Zaine.

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Welcome Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity Assembly

“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’
For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” —Matthew 9:13

We are excited the Twin Cities was selected as the location for the 2019 Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly. The local host committee has been meeting for several months to prepare for this important gathering of our church. The culmination of the week is the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 29, when we will have the opportunity to host our Spiritual Shepherd, Metropolitan Nathanael, and clergy and faithful from throughout the Midwest and our sister parish St George. You will not want to miss this beautiful Liturgy.

There are still many opportunities for you to get involved. If you would like to attend the conference as an Observer please follow this link http://chicago.goarch.org/clergy-laity-2019 and register today. There is no cost to be an Observer and you can learn more about the work of the church, meet key leaders, and hear reflections on the Conference theme.

Friday, September 27, is dedicated to the Strategic Plan where delegates and attendees will help shape the future of our Metropolis. Tickets are still available for the reception and banquet that evening. Tickets for Friday evening or any of the meals can also be reserved on the website above.

Saturday’s theme is "Youth and Young Adults" and includes a presentation on church music – “Make a Joyful Noise” — for church school teachers and youth leaders. Additional events for YAL aged members are being finalized and include both a service and social component.

As the co-host of the entire event, we are also looking for individuals to assist with various aspects of the weekend, both at the Hyatt Regency Bloomington (site of the conference) as well as here at St Mary’s. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our parish co-chair Georgia Andron.

We are excited to host the 2019 Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly. It’s a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful parish, learn more about our faith, and offer our support to the many guests who will join us for three days.

Whether you can join for a few hours, or the entire weekend, the Assembly will offer us a chance to personally meet our new and dynamic Hierarch and contribute to the ongoing work of our holy Orthodox faith. Mark your calendar so you will be certain to join us the last weekend in September.
Mission & Outreach

2019, has been a year filled with volunteerism. Many St. Mary’s members and friends helped with Meal Pack earlier this summer. Meal Pack is an on-site ‘share the harvest’ event organized in collaboration with Harvest Pack. Here are the reasons and key points that most churches participate (quoted from Harvest Pack’s website):

Why Should My Church Package Meals with Harvest Pack?

• Hosting a Harvest Pack event is a great way to engage your congregation in outreach and service, following Jesus’ call to serve the poor in local communities and around the world, while building community and fostering a passion for continued volunteerism.

• Our food packaging service project provides a fun and meaningful hands-on volunteer experience for confirmation groups, Sunday school classes, mission outreach projects and family-focused or intergenerational fellowship events.

Harvest Pack events offer a powerful opportunity for God’s people to share the love of Christ in a tangible way. “Blessed are those who are generous, for they feed the poor.” —Proverbs 22:9

“The (food packing) event went extremely well, and people want to do it again. It’s a joy to hear kids say things like, ‘I want to do this every week! Is this how you feel when you help people? This is an adrenaline rush - better than baseball’, I know it’s so good.” —Pastor Corrine, Burlington, Wisconsin

Many of you ‘shared the harvest’ in June to pack 15,760 meals for those with food insecurity. We also assisted Simpson House/Healing House, FOCUS House with food and clothing distribution, and Families Moving Forward by providing two weeks of meals, overnight hosting, and children play.

We also learned about missionary work in Albania with our guests, Fr. Anastas and Presvytera Georgia Bendo and family.

Updates on Some of Our Outreach Ministries

Simpson House

These are photos from dinner served at Simpson House in June. If you would like to help, please contact Hope Kennedy, ehopek@gmail.com

The next Simpson House dinner hosted by St. Mary’s is Tuesday, October 29, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Harvest Pack

Saint Mary’s had 79 volunteers signed up and packing 15,760 meals. What an easy way to help those with food insecurity!

Our next Healing House dinner will be Saturday, September 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

For the meal, we provide a main course, salad or vegetable, bread, and dessert. It is usually divided up by our volunteers. We plan for 25-30 people. After dinner, one person leads a Bible study while others play with children. Kids are welcome to attend!

Contact Sandra Anderson: asformess69@gmail.com, or 612.940.8933.

Volunteer in the Clothes Closet (Mondays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.), distribution is Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Thursdays 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Supplemental Food Distribution is the second and fourth Saturdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Please go to the FOCUS website to volunteer: http://focusmn.weebly.com/get-involved.html

Serving line at Simpson House

September 2019
A Message from the Stewardship Committee

In a recent issue of *Praxis* magazine, an article by Alexei Krindatch, research coordinator for the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of America, summarized a study done in 2015 entitled “Orthodox Christian Churches in 21st Century America: A Parish Life Study.” The study consisted of responses by parish priests and parish council presidents from Orthodox parishes around the country, of all jurisdictions, to elucidate how parishes viewed themselves. Of the 30% of parishes that returned the forms (580 parishes total), only 25% of parishes described themselves as “thriving.” In the *Praxis* article, the author extracted information about what separated the parishes who considered themselves “thriving” from those who considered themselves “normal” (or “in need of improvement”). Here are just some of the salient ways in which thriving parishes distinguished themselves from the other parishes:

♦ More regular church attendance
♦ More diverse religious education options
♦ Very welcoming to converts
♦ Not afraid of change
♦ Easily integrate new members into parish
♦ Parish is engaged in being a “good neighbor,” lots of social outreach
♦ Engaging, dynamic priest, good outreach and communication skills
♦ Everyone is involved in decision making

There is no doubt that St. Mary’s is a “thriving” parish. Yet we don’t want to be complacent. We thrive on growth on many fronts, including spiritual, educational, service and financial. Helping each other on our journey to The Kingdom is no small task. It takes all of us, helping each other and our community at large. To that end, we are making some advances in several areas:

♦ We will be enhancing our online giving options to keep in line with technologic advances. Stay tuned as we roll these out later this year and into next year.

♦ We will be organizing “Parea Potlucks” -- small group, potluck dinners in various homes around the Twin Cities Metro area this Fall. **If you are interested in hosting one of these dinners for 8-10 of our fellow parishioners, please email david@stmarys.org.**

In addition, we will be hosting our **fourth annual Appreciation Glendi on Saturday, October 26, FREE** to all parishioners!

Other opportunities to engage with each other include Festival Baking and Volunteering, monthly Wednesday night Parish Night, weekday and monthly evening liturgies, Family Camp, Lenten Retreats, Men’s fellowship, weekly Bible study, Women’s Book Club, and many service projects throughout the year, to name only some of what St. Mary’s offers.

Providing for your needs as Orthodox Christians growing in faith and in fellowship costs money, and we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship contribution this year. Also, if you have not already done so, please consider completing a financial commitment (pledge) form that indicates how much you plan to give to St. Mary’s this year as part of your financial stewardship. We ask you to complete a new form every year so we can plan our spending for the year. As you know, St. Mary’s is fully self-funded, and we need your help to keep our parish “thriving.”

**Parish “Parea” Potluck Dinners**

Our Stewardship Committee is planning and coordinating small group dinners (8-10 people per dinner) at host family homes throughout the Twin Cities this Fall. These dinners are open to all parishioners. It is the Committee’s aim to continue facilitating close-knit relationships within our congregation. There is no set agenda, just fun. If you are interested in hosting one of these dinners (no cooking necessary, they are pot luck!) please contact the church office at 612.825.9595 or at david@stmarysgoc.org.

“Parea” is the Greek word for a group of friends who regularly gather together to share their experience about life, their philosophies, values and ideas.

**2019 Ark of the Covenant Campaign Progress Update**

Thank you for being the **STEWARDS OF OUR FAITH!**

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

**2019 Offering Income Payments as of 07/31/19**

As of July 31, 2019, we have received $515,026 in offering income. We are nearly half-way to reaching our goal of $1,068,143 with five months remaining in the year.
Offering Gift payments received so far this year are a bit behind last year at this time by $23,727.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Payments Received</th>
<th>2019 YTD Actual</th>
<th>2019 Annual Budget</th>
<th>Additional Needed This Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Decrease vs. Last Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Payments Received</td>
<td>$515,026</td>
<td>$538,753</td>
<td>($23,727)</td>
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</table>

We are reaching out to you, our beloved parishioners, to ask you to help us reach our goal this year.

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 2019 Financial Commitment form

Metropolis of Chicago Golf Outing

Monday, September 9

The First Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Golf Outing will take place on Monday, September 9, 2019, beginning at 8:00 a.m., at the Sydney Marovitz Golf Course in Chicago.

Join us for a morning enjoying Christ’s creation as we compete in Christian fellowship at our Metropolis Golf Outing! Only 96 spaces are available. Deadline to register is September 3. Register by going to www.chicago.goarch.org or call 847.264.8360.

In addition to the golf game, there will be a lunch raffle at 11:30 a.m. followed by an optional 9-hole shotgun game at 1:30 p.m. Lunch Raffle prizes include a Scotty Cameron Select Newport Putter; name brand woods, irons, and golf club packages; and a flat screen television.

This 9-hole outing is open to all of the clergy, stewards, families, friends, young adults, and youth of our Metropolis. Included with registration ($125.00) is golf and cart, Metropolis golf shirt, three raffle tickets, and lunch.

Also, if possible, please make your gifts throughout the year rather than waiting until December. This will help us to cover our monthly expenses and to be certain we can cover our expenses for 2019.

If you have not received a stewardship packet from a Stewardship Captain or in the mail, please contact David in the Church Office.

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.

This year’s theme:

Donor Appreciation

Thank you gifts available for varying sponsorship levels!

Tickets: $35.00

Event Info:

Stephanie Atkins (Radio host for Stillwater’s KLBB “Voices in the Valley”) will be our MC for the evening

Music by Bill Duna

Food Catered by Acapulco

Silent Auction

Event will take place rain or shine

Purchase your tickets online at www.lomcp.com

Tickets also available at the door

MCP is a public charity recognized as tax exempt by the IRS under section 501(c)(3) and code 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) qualified to receive tax deductible gifts.
As we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year, we want to review some updated procedures to ensure the groups you lead continue to provide great work and meaningful events for our parish.

#1 – Our linen company has recently made a change. If you have an upcoming event where you may require tablecloths or napkins, you must place that order a minimum of 15 days prior to your event. This will ensure on time delivery for your event. As you plan out your calendar for the year, place a star by those special events to remind yourself that you need to connect with Bob or Julie in the office to order your linen.

#2 – We continue to focus on the beauty of our exo-narthex so our attention can be focused on the sacredness of the building as we enter. In addition to our new carpet, we will be updating our entryways and commissioning two new custom cabinets that will enhance the area. With this mind, we will no longer permit registration tables, flip charts, carts, and other non-liturgical items to be placed in this space. All signs and announcements should be placed on the tile on the north side of the building or in the Great Hall. (Greek Festival weekend is exempt)

#3 – We are blessed with so much activity on Sunday mornings, often with groups trying to secure “preferred placement” in the Great Hall during coffee hour. We are in the processing of purchasing upgraded sign holders which will be included with each requested table. The holders are designed for an 8 ½ x 11 OR 8 ½ x 14. You can request your size when confirming your need for a table. You are also welcomed to create your own sign to be placed in the holder on Sunday morning. In addition, all tables must remain inside the Great Hall – please do not move your table to an alternate location.

#4 – As we shared last year, our Church School is flourishing, and they use many of our meeting rooms as classrooms on Sunday morning. If your group requires a small meeting room on Sunday morning, your meeting cannot begin until 11:45 a.m. This provides enough time for our students, and dedicated teachers, to finish their lesson and clean up their classroom. Please do not interrupt a class in order to get a jump start on your meeting – this is very disruptive to the students and teachers.

#5 – As the year progresses, we will be sharing more exciting news about our new Church Management System. This upgraded system will allow you to not only update your own personal data, but also communicate directly with your members. We are excited to have such a flexible and user-friendly program for our parish. We look forward to sharing more details with you throughout the next 6-9 months. Many thanks to our volunteers who have been assisting with the installation and training of this system.

Important News for Ministry and Committee Chairs and Leaders

American Legion Hellenic Post 129
100 Celebration Year!

Plans continue for a special evening to celebrate the 100 years of American Legion Hellenic Post 129. Membership: please begin to collect, label and organize memorabilia of veterans in your family and bring them to the September and October meetings. They will be stored safely and eventually displayed in a secure manner on November 9, 2019. We look with pride to this very special occasion. Remember to save the date!
by Rebecca Myerly

The first day of September is the Ecclesiastical New Year and the Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Environment. In 1989, Ecumenical Patriarch +Dimitrios, Archbishop of Constantinople, issued an encyclical letter on the Day of Protection of the Environment. In this letter he wrote,

The rapid progress of technology and the sciences... has not always been accompanied by analogous spiritual and ethical foundations.... In social life, only a section of humanity accumulates the privileges of this progress and the power proceeding from it exacerbates the misfortune of other people and creates an impetus for agitation or even war.... The coexistence of this progress with justice, love and peace is the only safe and sure road, so that this progress will not be transformed from a blessing into a curse in the millennium to come.... Similar are the dangers for the survival of the natural environment. The careless and self-indulgent use of material creation by humanity, with the help of scientific and technological progress, has started to cause irreparable damage to the natural environment. Unable to remain passive in the face of such destructs, the Orthodox Church invites all the Orthodox to dedicate the first day of September of each year, the day of the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, to the offering of prayers and supplication for the preservation of God's creation.

The Church also entreats all the Orthodox to adopt the attitude to nature found in the Eucharist and to the ascetic traditions of the Church. This, in the love of the Lord, we proclaim..., urging pious Orthodox Christians to be united around their pastors and calling all those who believe in Christ to reconciliation and solidarity in confronting the serious dangers threatening the world at this time.

The book featured in this article has been chosen to focus on the protection of the environment. The Orthodox Christian Church has a deep ecological vision that is little known and seldom acknowledged even by Orthodox Christians. Living in God's Creation: Orthodox Perspectives on Ecology by Elizabeth Theokritoff is an important resource for all people concerned about the environment.

Elizabeth Theokritoff is uniquely qualified to write this book. She completed her doctorate in liturgical theology at Oxford under the supervision of Bishop Kallistos Ware. Since 1988, she has had a particular interest in the theology of creation. Dr. Theokritoff was married to Dr. George Theokritoff (d. 2015) who was a scholar and teacher of geology. The Theokritoffs collaborated in studying and presenting the intersections of faith, ecology, and the natural sciences. Dr. Elizabeth Theokritoff wrote Living in God’s Creation rooted in her faith, building on the foundation of the Orthodox Christian Church, inclusive of the facts science offers.

Living in God's Creation is the fourth book in The Foundation Series published by Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press. Dr. Peter Bouteneff, the series editor, in his foreword to this book, explains that although environmental and ecological issues have become sharply politicized recently,

[If you want to live a truly Christian life, you must inhabit the earth in a way that is mindful of the whole creation—humanity in particular, but also the entirety of non-human creation, spiritual and material, apart from which humanity is inconceivable.

That is the utterly convincing argument of this book. Drawing deeply from the Church's patristic, liturgical, hagiographic, and iconographic tradition. Elizabeth Theokritoff assembles a clear and compelling mosaic of the Church's collective understanding of the created world and our place in it.

Dr. Theokritoff writes that “The purpose of this book is to explore how the Orthodox Christian tradition understands nature as God's creation, and...
humans’ place within it. This can be described as “Christian ecology.” Writing with careful attention so that the reader is able to follow and understand, she includes many definitions that clarify the topics she is addressing and provides the reader with the background knowledge needed for understanding. Her explanations are always enlightening—never burdensome or distracting.

Exploring what it means to see the material world as God’s creation and the spiritual significance of the material world in relation to God, Dr. Theokritoff begins by presenting these themes in the writings of the Church Fathers.

Saint Maximus the Confessor... speaks of the human as a “bond of unity” in creation: our role is progressively to unite the disparate aspects of the created order, and ultimately to unite the whole with God. Any presentation of the Orthodox Christian vision of creation and ecology should reflect something of this purpose, in however modest a way. It should aim to bring together apparently conflicting concerns and competing “issues,” pointing to common threads and suggesting how they may be complementary to each other rather than divisive. We may think of the “divisions” between recognizing Christ in our neighbor and finding him in all of his creation; between contemplation of the world around us, and use of it to serve our own and others’ needs; between the theological and the scientific understanding of the material world. The Church’s vision of creation will not help us much if we cannot relate it to everything else we know about the universe: to its immensity and complexity, but also its imperfections and the suffering of its creatures.

To understand our role in creation is essential, but it is only a start.

In order to discover how best to fulfill that role, we need to make every effort to understand how our actions affect the world and everything living in it. And this brings us to perhaps the most important “division” that we must try to bring into unity. The scale of the problems now facing humans invites paralysis—not to mention denial. In order to get beyond the paralysis, it is necessary to hold together honest recognition of the problems, and our own complicity in them, and the Creator’s power and purpose. It is necessary to accept that human beings are the cause of the world’s plight; and that we are also God’s chosen instruments through which all things are to be brought to fulfillment in Christ.

Including chapters addressing and explaining “The Ascetic Tradition and the Use of the World,” “The Saints and Their Environment,” “God’s Creation in Orthodox Worship,” “Sacramental Life and Sacramental Living,” and “Themes in Contemporary Theology,” Dr. Theokritoff concludes with a vital summation of what living in God’s creation means.

What sort of praise can I give Thee? I have never heard the song of the Cherubim, a joy reserved for the spirits above. But I know the praises that nature sings to Thee. In winter, I have beheld how silently in the moonlight the whole earth offers Thee prayer, clad in its white mantle of snow, sparkling like diamonds. I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in Thee, how the song of the birds is a chorus of praise to Thee. I have heard the mysterious mutterings of the forests about Thee, and the winds singing Thy praise as they stir the waters. I have understood how the choirs of stars proclaim Thy glory as they move forever in the depths of infinite space. What is my poor worship! All nature obeys Thee, I do not. Yet while I live, I see Thy love, I long to thank Thee, and call upon Thy name.

—The Akathist Hymn: “Glory to God for All Things” Ikos 12
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.

HOPE and JOY
Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5
► Sunday, September 15, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
New Year’s Party at Church

Junior GOYA
Grades 6-8
► Wednesday, September 11, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
New Year’s Party at Church

Senior GOYA
Grades 9-12
► Wednesday, September 18, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
New Year’s Party at Church

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.

Church School Opener
Church School begins Sunday, September 15. Mark your calendars and don’t be late for the first day - meet your teachers and helpers, get a special blessing and be in the class picture! We have a great year planed. Parents: please go to the St Mary’s Website and register your family on the new online registration now.

Youth Group July Recap
This year, we had 64 kids from St. Mary’s attend Summer Camp! The theme of this year was "Journey to the Joy of Pascha." There were many exciting memories at summer camp this year. We were able to witness Metropolitan Nathanael’s athleticism in Gaga ball and archery; we were blessed to have with us at camp Fr. Anastas and Presvytera Georgia Benddo and hear them talk about being missionaries in Albania; the mole returned for the first time in over ten years; we also learned the different aspects of Holy Week and so much more! Thank you to all our staff and campers for making this year such a great year! The Summer Camp Task Force is diligently working on summer camp 2020!

Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: St_Marys_GOYA
Apoloitiikon of Beginning of the Indiction
Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Beginning of Ecclesiastical New Year “The Messenger” Deadline</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Labor Day</td>
<td><strong>3</strong> 5:00pm-Hummus Preparation</td>
<td>6:00pm-Small Blessing of Water</td>
<td>Festival Set Up</td>
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<td>Noon-10pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Church and Office Closed</td>
<td><strong>4</strong> 8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30pm-Greek Dance Practice</td>
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<td>Noon-10pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong> 1:00pm-Adult Senior Bible Study</td>
<td><strong>6</strong> Noon-10pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>7</strong> Festival Take Down</td>
<td><strong>8</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>8</strong> Nativity of the Theotokos</td>
<td><strong>9</strong> Festival Take Down</td>
<td><strong>10</strong> 12:00noon-Senior Citizens 6:15pm-Parish Council</td>
<td><strong>11</strong> 1:00pm-Adult Senior Bible Study 6:15pm-Junior GOYA</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td><strong>12</strong> Noon-10pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>13</strong> 7:00am-Men’s Fellowship 6:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
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<td>Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>14</strong> Exaltation of the Holy Cross</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>16</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>17</strong> Saints Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love</td>
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<td><strong>18</strong> 9:00am-“The Messenger” Mailing 10:30am-Intercessory Prayer 11:00am-Women’s Bible Study 6:15pm-Senior GOYA</td>
<td><strong>19</strong> 6:30pm-Stewardship Com.</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong> 6:30pm-Stewardship Com.</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>20</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>21</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>23</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>22</strong> First Sunday of Luke</td>
<td><strong>23</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>24</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>25</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>26</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>27</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>Church School</td>
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<td><strong>26</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>28</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>5:00pm-Lake Calhoun Koinonia</td>
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<td><strong>27</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>29</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>28</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td><strong>29</strong> Second Sunday of Luke</td>
<td><strong>30</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>31</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros 9:30am-Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
<td><strong>31</strong> Noon-6pm Greek Festival</td>
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<td>No Church School</td>
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<td>Clergy-Laity/Philoptochos Assembly</td>
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