A Message from Father John

Father John Kostas

Stewards of the Mysteries

When it comes to the subject of Christian virtues, it is common to talk about the traditional values of humility, patience and gentleness. Yet, everywhere in the Scriptures, we also find the call to be bold and audacious.

Boldness of witness (parresia) is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask the martyr. Boldness in prayer leads to perfection in faith. Ask the monk. Boldness in charity the poor fulfills the law of love. Ask Mother Theresa. ‘From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force’ (Matt. 11:12).

St. Paul had such boldness. It was from Christ Himself, and not mere mortals, that he received the Gospel as he boldly told the Galatians. “In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions,” he unashamedly told the Colossians. And to the Corinthians, he wrote: ‘Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries’ (I Corinthians 4:1).

Stewards of the mysteries of God! What a claim! And what a responsibility. It is a responsibility we all share. “This indeed is the chief marvel,” John Chrysostom said. “That an earthen vessel has been enabled to bear so great a brightness and to keep so high a treasure.”

Being stewards of the mysteries means working with our talents and treasures to assure God’s grace is manifested in a manner that honors and magnifies it.

Not every Christian is called to take a vow of poverty, nor are we asked to condemn money or material goods. It is not money, but the ‘love of money’ that is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10).

The Gospel teaches us about that our material wealth exists not for acts of avarice but of charity. At the heart of Christian stewardship is gratitude and generosity. We were bought with a price, and so it is in turn a priceless blessing to be not merely consumers and tourists in this world, but pilgrims and ‘stewards of the mysteries.’

Year-End Giving

All contributions intended for 2019 are due Monday, December 30, 12:00 noon.
Congratulations!
  Congratulations to **David Menter** for 28 years of service to the Minneapolis Police Department. We are grateful to the Lord for protecting him while he watched over our community. May God continue to bless our peace officers near and far.

Share YourShelf
  December’s recipient of Share YourShelf contributions is Community Emergency Service (CES).
  **Sunday, December 1**
  Canned soup or vegetables
  **Sunday, December 8**
  Diapers (size 5)
  **Sunday, December 15**
  Hygiene items
  \((e.g. \text{ toothpaste, soup, shampoo, conditioner, razors})\)
  **Sunday, December 22**
  Baby formula
  **Sunday, December 29**
  Canned meat
  \((e.g. \text{ tuna, chicken})\)

Please consider making a monetary donation. Through a partnership with the Food Group, the food shelves we support are able 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.

“The speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
— *Proverbs 31:8-9*
Sunday Schedule
Saturday Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Schedule
**Monday, December 2**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 3**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 4**
*Saint Barbara*
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.
Small Blessing of Water – 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 5**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 6**
*Saint Nicholas*
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, December 7**
Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

**Monday, December 9**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 10**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 11**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Thursday, December 12**
*Saint Spyridon*
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, December 13**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 14**
Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

**Monday, December 16**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 17**
*Daniel and the Three Holy Youths*
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, December 21**
Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

**Monday, December 23**
Divine Liturgy – 7:00 a.m.

**Thursday, December 26**
*Holy Nativity*
**Sunday, December 29**
Eve of Holy Nativity
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Vesperal Divine Liturgy – 4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 30**
*Holy Nativity*
Orthros – 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 31**
*Saint Stephen*
Orthros – 8:30 a.m.

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**Fellowship and Study Groups**

*Adult Senior Bible Study*
On Winter Break

*Coffee Talk*
Sunday, December 8
11:45 a.m., Lecture Room

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

*Men’s Fellowship*
Friday, December 6
7:00 a.m., Fireside Room

*Evening Men’s Fellowship*
Date to be announced

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

*Senior Citizens*
Tuesday, December 10
*Christmas Party*
11:00 a.m., Terrace Room

*Women’s Bible Study*
Wednesdays, December 4 and 18
11:00 a.m., Fireside Room

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**Koinonia**

*Edina Koinonia*
Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.
Fireside Room
952.944.9397 (Joan Calott, contact)

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

*Northeast Metro Koinonia*
No December gathering

*Western Koinonia*
Sunday, December 15, 5:00 p.m.
Gus & Cristina Nicklow’s home
952.476.7624
Angel Tree Ministry
Angel Tree is a ministry that provides Christmas presents to children whose parents are imprisoned. Please remember these children who are faced with a Christmas knowing their parent will not be with them to share in the joy that comes with the season. You have an opportunity to help bring that joy to these young ones (and their caretakers). Please come by the Angel Tree table on Sundays in the Great Hall and take a paper angel. We ask that you have the wrapped gifts back to St. Mary’s no later than Sunday, December 15. Please purchase two (2) gifts per child: one practical and one fun. In addition, a grocery store gift card of about $25.00 for the child/ren’s caregiver is suggested. There will be instructions at the table. Thank you so much!

Saint Nicholas Celebration
*Sunday, December 8*
See the details on page 14, Youth News.

Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party
*Tuesday, December 10*
Kick-off the Christmas season with the Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in the Terrace Room. We’ll begin with a social time complete with appetizers, punch, and wine. Our lunch menu will be salad, garishes with manestra (shrimp with manestra in a special tomato sauce), a special Christmas dessert, and coffee. We will be entertained by our own Elena Biessener. She will perform holiday favorites and other delights. Our afternoon will conclude with Bingo, complete with prizes.

Tickets are $10.00 for Senior Citizens’ Club members and $35.00 for non-members and available during Sunday coffee hour. If you become a member, a ticket is $25.00. Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, December 6.

Parish Night
*Wednesday, December 18, 6:15-8:00 p.m.*
Join us for the next Parish Night! We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend! The theme for the youth is “Finding Christ through Scripture.”

Parish News & Events

Choir Christmas Meditation
*Sunday, December 22*
St. Mary’s Choir will present its annual Musical Christmas Meditation on Sunday, December 22, after Liturgy. Begin your Christmas celebration with our choir’s musical expression of the feast. Stay and enjoy the carols, hymns, and readings of Christmas as sung by our choir and chant group. Don’t miss this half hour of beautiful, contemplative music of the season.

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.

Summer Camp Staff Applications
Have you thought about applying as a staff member for Summer Camp July 4-10, 2020? We welcome applications from our Pan-Orthodox Community. Please prayerfully consider this amazing ministry!

Applications are due November 30, 2019.

Questions? Please contact Doria at 612.825.9595.

To apply, please go to http://youth.stmarysgoc.org/

There are 3 steps:
1. If new to this site, please create a NEW account using a NEW Password. If returning please sign in with your username and password. Please remember that the “forgot your password” link will send your password to the same email that you initially used. The retrieved password frequently ends up in spam or junk mail. If you still don't receive your password within 15 minutes, Jon Klein or Doria Saros can reset it for you.

2. Create/Update a Profile.

3. Register for Summer Camp 2020

The gift of sending a child to Summer Camp is a great blessing that will impact a camper for years to come! As you consider your year-end giving, please consider sponsoring a child for Summer Camp. The 2019 registration fee was $445, but any amount is welcomed. Thank you!
Year-End Updates

As we approach the end of our parish fiscal year, we wanted to remind everyone of several new policies and procedures to help keep our parish running smoothly throughout the year.

Parishioner Reimbursements
Our Parish Council recently passed a policy that allows for reimbursement within the year the expense was incurred. We will not accept any requests after the close of the calendar year. Reimbursements for December 2019 purchases must be received in the church office by January 31 – expenses submitted beyond January 31st will not be accepted. We process all our expenses each week on Tuesday morning. If you submit an expense after 5:00pm on Monday, it will be held until the following week. Once all invoices are entered into the system, expenses are electronically approved by the office and Parish Council on Thursday and checks are generated and mailed directly to your home by the end of the week.

Sign-ups and Tables on Sunday Mornings
Beginning in January we will have new upgraded sign holders for use during Coffee Hour on Sundays. With so many ministries and organizations wanting space on Sunday morning, it is important that you remember to contact David in the church office to request for a table. The holders are designed for 8½ X 11” OR 8½ X 14” signs. You are welcome to create your own sign, or one will be produced by the office and placed next to your assigned table. All tables and signage must remain in the Great Hall. We no longer permit registration tables, flip charts, carts, and other non-liturgical items to be placed in the exo-narthex.

Updates for Coffee Hour Hosts
As we continue through this joyous season preparing for the Nativity of our Lord, we want to remind our faithful parishioners who sponsor Coffee Hour to ensure fasting items are included in your offering on Sunday mornings or following Feast Day Liturgies through Tuesday, December 24. If you are running short of time, these local bakeries are either completely Vegan or have a large selection of vegan options:

- Eureka Compass Vegan Food
  639 Aldine Street, St. Paul
  651.600.0419
- Vegan East
  2409 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis
  612.213.3020
- Totally Baked Donuts (gluten-free)
  Free pick-up in South Minneapolis or delivery fee
  totallybakeddonuts.com
- Sift Bakery
  4557 Bloomington Avenue South, Minneapolis
  612.503.5300
- Amy’s Cupcake Shoppe
  Southdale Center, Edina
  952.920.0302
- Glam Doll Donuts
  2605 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis
  612.345.7064

Year-End Giving Guidelines
As we approach the end of the fiscal year for our parish we want to remind everyone of our obligation to correctly record and report your donations. Every dollar we receive before 12:00 noon on Monday, December 30, will be recorded and reflected on your year-end Contribution Statement as stewardship received in 2019. On occasion, a parishioner may choose to provide additional funds to the church, indicating these dollars should be recorded as a donation for a “future year.” While we can make a “book entry” for this, it is important that everyone understands that all income received in 2019 (regardless of its intent) will be recorded and reported as income received in 2019. Your Financial Giving Statement will accurately reflect all income received in a particular calendar year. If you prepay a future year and do not provide any additional income throughout 2020, please note you will not receive a Giving Statement for the year, as we did not physically receive any donations from you during the year for which we are obligated to report.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please see our Parish Council Treasurer, Michael Rakes, for clarification.
Philoptochos

by Jenn Coin and Annette Legeros

Philoptochos wishes the entire parish a Merry Christmas and many blessings for the New Year! We invite you to join us in our December activities.

Order Your New Year’s Day Vasilopita
Sundays, December 1, 8, 15

Our annual fundraiser for St. Basil Academy is here! Pre-order delicious Vasilopita (Sweet Bread) for your New Year’s celebration by stopping at the Philoptochos table on Sundays through December 15. Loaves are $15 each with payment requested at the time of your order. You can pick up your bread on Sunday, December 22. It will be frozen and will include thawing and powdering instructions. A limited number of additional loaves will be available for purchase on Vasilopita Sunday, January 12, 2019. Chair: Toni Bazakos.

The National Philoptochos Society purchased the estate that became St. Basil Academy in 1944, and has responded to the needs of the Academy and its children for more than 70 years. Located in Garrison, NY, St. Basil Academy is a home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.

FOCUS Minnesota Update

The Missions and Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their donations of coats, jackets, and other winter apparel to FOCUS. Donations are always welcome by bringing them to church on Sundays and putting them in the large box at the Missions and Outreach table in the Great Hall.

From Director Vera at FOCUS

Through your generosity we are able to help the variety of people who come to the doors of FOCUS Minnesota. We can offer help directly into the hands of the poor and needy. We have been able to minister to homeless individuals and to low-income families whose resources are few, even for necessities. With your help we can help those who would otherwise struggle to obtain warm clothing and outerwear this coming winter season.

At FOCUS Minnesota...

- The Clothes Closet is still in need of volunteers to sort donations on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Sunday meal service began Sunday, November 3, and runs through December 22. Meals consist of soup and sandwiches.
- Donations of brand new toys for children 18 months to 12 years and gift cards for teens will be accepted for FOCUS’s annual Christmas Marketplace. This program allows parents to participate in a (free) shopping experience so that they are able to choose gifts for each young person in the family. FOCUS already has an abundance of stuffed animals, so please opt for other toys, books, games and/or puzzles. Gifts can be brought to the Missions and Outreach table in the Great Hall on Sundays or taken to FOCUS at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. For more information, call the FOCUS office, 651.222.0712.

Nativity Fast Retreat for Pan Orthodox Women
Saturday, December 7

Join us for a special Nativity Fast Retreat led by Fr. John Kostas. We are hosting this free event in the Terrace Room, and anticipate a wonderful time of sharing and spiritual growth. The topic the Six Psalms of Orthodox Matins. There will be two sessions, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.

AHEPA Christmas Party
Saturday, December 21

AHEPA Christmas Party hosts Healing House moms and kids!

Once again, the AHEPA family is hosting the families of Healing House at the annual Christmas Party! Donna Psihos is coordinating the purchase of gifts for each Healing House child. Please contact her if you’re able to do some of the shopping, 612.801.0606, donnapsihos@gmail.com.

Philoptochos Hosts Christmas Day Reception
Wednesday, December 25

Philoptochos is providing holiday treats after the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Liturgy. If you and your family are able to serve as a host, please contact Jennifer at 612.327.3709 or jenncoin@comcast.net. No baking required!
Reaching Out

As you enter St. Mary’s, take a moment to make note of all that is familiar and dear to you. In that moment, you focus and slow your world down. We are all so busy that it is a challenge to think about St. Mary’s goals to hear, pray, grow, serve and share.

With that last goal in mind to share, here is how St. Mary’s makes a difference as written by St. Mary’s member, William Fazio.

During my first visit to St Mary’s, I was overwhelmed by both the size of the church and number of parishioners. I wondered whose usual spot I took while sitting in the pews. The rush of people filling the church hallways and the Great Hall after Liturgy left me in awe. At this point I found the welcome table, staffed by members of the Missions and Outreach Committee. I am used to churches where the parish is so small that everyone knows everyone else, making it easy to greet newcomers. The welcome table reminded me of that feeling. It would be difficult for me to feel comfortable and stay at such a large church had it not been for the outreach provided by the church. For me the welcome table served as a gateway into the church since those staffing the table helped introduce me to more people and activities at the church.

I found out about the dinners St. Mary’s cooks and serves at Simpson House because I decided to ask more about it. Different organizations volunteer to prepare, serve, and cleanup meals at Simpson House’s homeless shelter. St. Mary’s serves meals several times per year here. One thing lead to another, and I joined the group from St. Mary’s serving their next meal. I was surprised by how thankful and appreciative everyone was of us taking the time to prepare a home cooked meal and serve it to them. To me it seemed like a relatively small task as it took only a couple hours of my time, but for everyone eating that night it was a huge deal. It showed we care enough to take the time and help them.

I am blessed to be a part of the vibrant and caring community here at St. Mary’s. I feel encouraged to grow and strengthen my faith by reaching out and serving others. It can be easy during a time of such a great life transition to lose focus on what is important in life. With the help of the St. Mary’s community, I have remained strong in my faith and done good works in the name of the Lord.

Share the Harvest! And did you have fun? Yes! We Did!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Harvest Pack, meal packing event. There are many, many steps from volunteer sign up, meal pack set up, date stamping, mixing ingredients according to FDA regulations, filling and sealing meals, distributing boxes of meals to children and families. You may know that hunger is the world’s #1 health risk. Four of ten children suffer from food insecurity. It is recognized that food insecurity hits children harder than others.

Congratulations!

Nearly 100 of you came together to share your time and talents. Here is some good news. Your efforts on November 3 will feed 30,920 people, 96 boxes are on the way to food shelves and school backpack programs. Wow! AND you felt really good about helping—a beautiful way to work together that makes a measurable difference.

When someone asks you what you did to help others, you have an answer. We prepared 30,720 meals for those who are hungry. While we shared the harvest, we got to know each other. We heard long-time members say, “Hey, it's been a long time.” We had people say that they wanted to jump in and help even though we are new to St. Mary’s. Thank you! Thank you to the St. Mary’s Foundation for the funding. By the grace of God, we share our time and talent.
Saint Mary’s Stewardship Testimonial
Parishioner Kassie Houseman shared the following powerful testimonial with us on Sunday, November 3, 2019, following the Liturgy:

When I was asked to speak today about what St. Mary’s means to me, my response was, “Of course, but I might start to cry!” I said that because this church means so much to me, just as I know it does to all of you. The church recently did 10-year memorial prayers for my papou, Sam Demou, who together with my yiayia, Doris Demou, raised my mom, Vicki Hanson, my aunt, Mary Kleve, and uncle, George Demou, in this church. I was baptized at St. Mary’s as a baby, and I’ve been a member here my entire life.

I’ve been through many milestones throughout my life, all of which have been beautifully touched in special ways by this church. I’d like to share a few of those milestones and why St. Mary’s has meant so much to me over the years. Losing a friend in college was by far one of the most difficult milestones, but I’ll never forget sitting in the pews during Easter liturgy that year, listening to Father Anthony talk about his wife and how she too had passed, but that he was not afraid or upset because she had risen, because Christ is risen. His strength and words were exactly what I needed and played a big part in helping me heal. It was truly a miraculous moment for me.

Fast forward a few years, and a peer at St. Mary’s, while I was volunteering at the festival, asked if I was seeing anyone. I said no. She then asked if I was praying for God to help me find someone. I started praying, and one month later, I met my now husband, Jake. You could call this a coincidence, but I’d been single for quite some time! I will forever be grateful for the angelic advice I received that day.

As I mentioned, this advice led me to getting married to my husband, Jake, last May. I dreamed of getting married at St. Mary’s my entire life, and on our wedding day, I barely cried in front of Jake, up until our ceremony. One of the many things I love about Greek Orthodox weddings, that I realized in the moment, is it’s truly a sacred moment between the bride, groom and God. You stand facing the sanctuary, not worrying about who came or who didn’t… or worrying about where your photographer is. During our ceremony, I bawled. Standing side-by-side with Jake, it all hit me that I was getting married in a place that meant the world to me, in the presence of God. It was a glorious day and a heavenly moment I’ll cherish my entire life. Shortly after our wedding, Jake was chrismated and is now, officially, a member of this church. The number of people who walked up to Jake welcoming him to the church was very moving, and I know he felt a sense of what I’d been feeling my entire life.

With Jake’s family being in South Dakota and his sister working for FOCUS in Colorado, we often attend church with them while we’re away. This month, we had two back-to-back weekends where we were away with his family. The following week, as Jake and I were on our way to St. Mary’s to attend Liturgy, I looked at him and said, “I’m so happy to be on our way to St. Mary’s. I really missed it.” He looked at me and said, “There’s just something about St. Mary’s that really makes it feel like home.” You can only imagine how full my heart felt hearing him say that. Jake and I both feel St. Mary’s is home, and we truly attribute a big part of this to our stewardship and time of giving back to the church. Whether it is volunteering at the Greek Festival and meeting a handful of new and existing members or teaching Sunday School together and making friends with the children of this church, it’s getting involved and giving back to the church and community that truly makes us feel involved, connected and at home.

My hope is that one day my children experience the same love for this church as Jake and I do. It’s truly up to all of us to continue supporting St. Mary’s so this magnificent church can continue providing meaningful moments and stories like mine, and all of yours, for many years to come. Amen, and thank you all for making St. Mary’s such a wonderful church.
—Kassie Houseman

Annual Stewardship Appreciation Glendi Was a Huge Success!

The Stewardship Committee and Parish Council hosted the fourth annual Stewardship Appreciation Glendi on October 26 to express our gratitude for your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Thank you to all parishioners that came out to celebrate on. Over 300 members attended the Appreciation Glendi. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, delicious food, laughter, dancing, and reminded us of the valuable relationships we have with each other and the importance of our faith community.
A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped to make the event such a huge success again this year. We also want to recognize and thank Annette Legeros and Jimmy Geogleris for planning and coordinating all the event details. It took a small army of people to set-up for the event, prepare food for 300+ guests, and clean up after the event. We couldn’t have done it without everyone’s help and participation!

A Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

On Sunday, November 10, our annual Stewardship Drive kicked off with the Ministry Fair. After Liturgy, several parishioners topped by the Great Hall for refreshments and to stroll among the tables displaying information from the many ministries and organizations that make up St. Mary’s. This is always a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see firsthand how our gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure are used by St. Mary’s both at home and beyond.

Your gifts of time and talent makes possible...
- Sunday and weekday Liturgies
- Our music program
- Holy bread for Liturgies
- Visitations
- The Greek Festival
- Meals for the homeless and emergency shelters
- Church School
- Vacation Church School
- Youth programs
- Meals for funerals, special events, and Lenten Wednesdays
- And much more!

By the time you read this newsletter, you will have received your stewardship envelope in the mail. Please take some time to prayerfully consider how you will support St. Mary’s in the coming year.

Parish “Parea” Potluck Dinners

As you have heard during the past several months, our Stewardship Committee is planning and coordinating small group dinners (8-10 people per dinner) at host family homes throughout the Twin Cities. 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 potluck!) please contact the church office at 612.825.9595 or at david@stmarysgoc.org.

So far, seven members have volunteered to host a dinner in their home. We are seeking several more hosts before we begin scheduling the potluck gatherings. Also, we have postponed scheduling the dinners until January-February of 2020. We realized that January and February are better months for this type of event, given how busy the Fall is for most of us.

“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.

Year-End Giving

Due Monday, December 30, 12:00 noon

All contributions intended for 2019, whether fair share pledge payments or other stewardship contributions, must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, December 30. Additionally, contributions made via the church’s website should be made by Thursday, December 26 in order to be posted and reach our bank by year’s end. Contributions not received by year’s end will be posted and credited in 2020.

Reminder: Employer Matching Gifts

Another Opportunity to Give to St. Mary’s

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

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

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

Check out St. Mary’s profile on GuideStar by going to: www.guidestar.org and search for St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church.
2019 Ark of the Covenant Campaign Progress Update
Thank you for being the STEWARDS OF OUR FAITH!
We really appreciate your participation in our 2019 Stewardship Campaign this year.

2019 Offering Income Payments as of 10/31/19
As of October 31, 2019, we have received $768,471 in offering income. We are getting closer to reaching our goal of $1,068,143 with two months remaining in the year.

<table>
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<th>Offering Income as of 10/31/19</th>
<th>2019 YTD Actual</th>
<th>2019 Annual Budget</th>
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<td>$768,471</td>
<td>$1,068,143</td>
<td>$299,672</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.

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.

Offering Gift payments received so far this year are ahead of last year at this time by $21,514:

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<tr>
<th>Offering Income as of 10/31/19</th>
<th>2019 YTD Actual</th>
<th>2018 YTD Actual</th>
<th>Increase/ (Decrease) vs. Last Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Payments Received</td>
<td>$768,471</td>
<td>$746,957</td>
<td>$21,514</td>
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What is Christian Stewardship?
Christian Stewardship is...
...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.

......caring for the needs of others.

...offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying “I believe...”, as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

—Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris
In November, we celebrate the Presentation of the Virgin Mary into the temple on November 21. At that time, the aged parents Joachim and Anna, unable to take care of her and in thanksgiving to God for taking away the burden of childlessness, dedicate the 3 year old to the temple in service and appreciation to God. She is immediately brought into the sanctuary and it is said that she was brought into the Holy of Holies or the place that only the high priest is allowed to enter. She is the only woman in history to be allowed to do so. She spends her life devoted to the life of the temple (from ages 3 to 12).

In this story and feast day of the church, it is clear that there is so much devotion and love for the church from the parents that they would trust the care of their only child to it. This selfless act sets so many powerful and life saving things into motion. We can see the power of choice unfold before our eyes in the stories of the Annunciation, the virgin birth of Christ in the Nativity, and all leading up to the death and resurrection of Christ.

Over the years and especially last month, we said goodbye to a few amazing and talented people (pillars) who spent years volunteering for our church and helping to build it up. We hope that they are spending an eternity with God. You probably know who I am talking about, but I will not mention their names. God knows who they are and so do all the people around St. Mary’s who have come in contact with them. I want to challenge us to be like them. Here is what I’ve noticed about these dedicated servants of God.

1. They didn’t wait to ask if they are needed.
2. They dug in and did the work necessary.
3. They continued to persevere even when it was difficult to do so or when insulted or faced obstacles.

We must ask ourselves if we do the same thing. Do we spend our time, talent and energy to do what is necessary for the church. St. Mary’s is here because we have people who are willing to sacrifice and only through the grace of God. There is no guarantee that it will even be here in 10 or 20 years. We certainly hope so. However, it is humbling to note that there are countless service hours, time, talent, and money that keeps it going. Are we among the people who help and pitch in or are we the people who sit back and just enjoy what it offers? Are we the people who ask... How can I help or do we fear being asked to do something? Do we spot holes in ministry efforts? Do we fill up the gaps? Do we even know what those gaps are?

I challenge us to find out what is needed in and around St. Mary’s. How can we devote our life to Christ and offer up our best fruit... our very best efforts like Joachim and Anna did? Will we, like the Theotokos, devote and continue to devote ourselves in service to God? The time is now. There is so much work that is needed. We need help in the library, help with funeral lunches, help with visitation ministry (someone even to coordinate such efforts), people to learn how to run the kitchen and do coffee hours for instance, people to help with youth ministry, and someone to fill all the gaps missing by people who have moved on to the next life or are too old to continue. We must start asking questions and seek to find out how we can be involved. Otherwise, we can sit quietly back and just let other people deal with it. This is the temptation with a large parish community.

We are fortunate that God allows us to still exist on 17th Avenue and 5th Street NE. In thanksgiving and humility, let us remember that fact and challenge ourselves to break free from our excuses not to do something... and to do it for the glory of God. If we are ignorant of what needs to be done, let us ask. We need to be the people who say, how can I help?

In Christ,
Fr. Benjamin Tucci
In the Bookstore

by Rebecca Myerly

As the Nativity of our Lord approaches, it is a challenge to avoid being consumed by the consumerism so prevalent and pervasive during this time of the year. Commercialism is adept at trying to hijack the holy and sacred from the hearts of the faithful. One area of particular focus—and often stress—during this season is gift giving, but the bookstore at St. Mary’s offers an alternative approach to gifts by providing items that encourage and nurture the faith of the recipient as well as the gift giver. With the awareness that they are giving gifts of lasting value for the spiritual journey, room is made for joy and contemplation.

The bookstore holds a great selection of books for people of all ages and stages in life, along with a large selection of icons and many other gifts. This year, a table has been set up to feature many items created by people connected with St. Mary’s. Please come in and see the work that has come from the amazing talents and gifts God has given these people, as evidenced in their writings, works, and creations. The following are included:

• Books to nourish and encourage understanding, appreciation, and growth in the faith, including texts by Father Anthony Coniaris and Dr. Harry Boosalis, and beautiful translations of the writings of St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite and an anonymous monk of Mount Athos made by Father George Dokos.
• Children’s books written and illustrated by Presvytera Angela Alatzakis.
• Books by Apostolos (Tolly) Kizilos.
• Original icons painted by Cora Pirvu, icons made by Mother Macrina, and icon jewelry also made by Cora.
• Incense burner kits made by Doria Saros.
• The music of the St. Mary’s Choir on the CD Lead Me on a Level Path: A Liturgical Celebration, and CDs by Dr. Chris Granias.
• St. Mary’s Philoptochos cookbook, Come and Sit at Our Table.
• Knotted prayer ropes made by Jon Klein—both with and without icons; and knotted cross key chains, also made by Jon.*
• Cards (for all occasions) featuring paintings by Julie Frothingham.

So much talent has been shared in these gifts! Come and see—and enjoy a season of gift giving that encourages the recipient in their life of faith.

*Jon Klein welcomes special orders for knotted prayer ropes and key chains in your colors of choice. For students, consider prayer ropes in school colors that encourage prayer while acknowledging where they are in their life journey.
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.

Faith Group
0-5 Year Olds and Parents
▶ Wednesday, December 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
    Great Hall
    Christmas celebration

HOPE and JOY
Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5
▶ Sunday, December 8, 11:35 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
    Caroling at the Glenn in Hopkins
    We will start out eating in the Terrace Room and leave for the Glenn in Hopkins around 12:15 p.m.
    Wear your favorite Christmas/holiday outfit. We will be caroling from around 12:50-2:00 p.m. while some of the residents are eating. We will stay a little longer to visit with some of our parishioners that are living at the Glenn.
    • Please RSVP to jon@stmarysgoc.org so we can get a count for food.
▶ Wednesday, December 18, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
    Parish Night at Church
    We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend! The theme for the kids is “Finding Christ through Scripture.”
▶ Winter Outing: TBD

Senior GOYA
Grades 9-12
▶ Saturday, December 14-Sunday December 15
    IV On-the-Go Lock-in at St. Mary’s
    IV On-the-Go is a traveling retreat program for the Senior GOYAns that promises to give the young people of our community a taste of the unique and interactive approach to youth ministry from the Office of Ionian Village. IV On-the-Go provides the opportunity for even more young people to interact with the amazing Ionian Village ministry right here in America. Just like at camp, participants will encounter our Orthodox faith in an up close and unforgettable way. This event open to the Greek Orthodox parishes in Minnesota. To sign up, please go to: https://tinyurl.com/IVOnTheGoMinneapolis by December 9.
▶ Wednesday, December 18, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
    Parish Night at Church
    We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend! The theme for the kids is “Finding Christ through Scripture.”
▶ Winter Outing: TBD

Junior GOYA
Grades 6-8
▶ Wednesday, December 4, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
    Christmas Party at Church
    Wear your favorite Christmas/holiday outfit and be ready for some fun and fellowship! Please RSVP by December 2 to this doodle: https://doodle.com/poll/6qm2m5et3phqdfcu
▶ Wednesday, December 18, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
    Parish Night at Church
    We start with prayer in the nave from 6:15-6:30, eat dinner from 6:30-7:00, lesson from 7:00-7:45 (break out into different groups: HOPE/JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, and adults), and wrap up from 7:45-8:00. All are welcome to attend! The theme for the kids is “Finding Christ through Scripture.”
▶ Winter Outing: TBD

One-on-Ones
Grades 3-12
On one ons are continuing in December! Sign your 3rd-12th grade child up for a one-on-one with Jon Klein by going to this link: https://tinyurl.com/Fall2019One-on-Ones
These “one-on-one” meetings are an informal way for me to get to know your kids and for the kids to get to know me as well. We can chat about anything - how the school year is going, activities they are involved in, sports, music, Church, and anything else they would like to talk about.
Church School News

▶ Sunday, December 1
We will have regular classes even though it is Thanksgiving weekend. If you’re in town, come and continue to give thanks!

▶ Sunday, December 8 – Saint Nicholas Celebration
We will celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas. Bring a small unwrapped gift to donate to the children at FOCUS. Process in the Great Entrance and leave your gift before the icon on St. Nicholas. Be sure to wear nice stockings as we’ll leave our shoes in the hallway and hopefully St. Nicholas will leave us a gift.

▶ Sunday, December 15
Christmas performance in the Nave, keep coming to class to learn your songs! All students participate.

▶ Sunday, December 22
No class- stay in church and listen to the choir Christmas meditation.

▶ Sunday, December 29
Regular class. We will discuss Theophany which is the following Sunday.

Basketball Practices

▶ Sunday, December 8: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
Girls’ GOYA basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 8: 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Boys’ GOYA basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 15: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
JOY basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 15: 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Boys’ GOYA basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 22: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
JOY basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 22: 2:00-3:15 p.m.
Girls’ GOYA basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 29: 12:45-2:00 p.m.
JOY basketball practice in Great Hall

▶ Sunday, December 29: 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Boys’ GOYA basketball practice in Great Hall

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.

October Recap

October was filled up with a lot of fun activities for our youth! The HOPE/JOY went to the Sever’s Fall Festival and attempted to go through the Dinosaur Corn Maze, saw some exotic animals, shot a pumpkin in a cannon, and played in the giant corn pit! The Senior GOYAns had a night full of worship and fellowship. We started off our evening with a Paraklesis Service and finished with games led by our Social Officers. The Junior GOYAns had a wonderful discussion on different scenarios of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian and defending our faith. We hope to continue this discussion throughout the year!

Follow the GOYAns on Instagram: St_Marys_GOYA

College Conference for Ages 18-25

Please register for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship College Conference at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, December 27-30. Spots are filling up fast—register soon! For more about the college conference, to register, and to apply for scholarships, go to www.ocf.net. In addition to the needs-based scholarships from the National OCF, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church will reimburse members of the parish. Please first apply to the National OCF scholarship before requesting reimbursement from St. Mary's. Reimbursement amount will depend on the number of registrants. In order to receive this reimbursement, you must e-mail your registration to Fr. Jason by December 15 at frjason@stmarysgoc.org. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Jason, 612.401.0660.
Reflections on Family Camp

by Joseph Karos

Every year, around 40 families gather together at a retreat center in Maple Lake, Minnesota, for a weekend. During this time, we play games, enjoy nature, eat, and spend time with each other. As relaxing and lovely as this sounds, what really happens at our Pan-Orthodox Family Camp is far more profound...

What Family Camp gives us is the opportunity to live in an Orthodox Community and a chance to get to know the people who sit in the pews around us during Liturgy every Sunday. Family Camp, in a nutshell, is a weekend devoted to making our church family as tight knit as our immediate families. During the weekend, we start each day with morning prayer and a communal breakfast. In the daytime, we split up by age group to learn about our faith in a fun and light way. Every year, the camp brings in a keynote speaker who has a unique and practical perspective. The speaker this year, Fr. Evan Armatas, was able to share his wisdom with lasting impact. During a session with the high school and college students, Fr. Evan shared with us new perspectives on our relationship with Christ. We jumped into topics like the importance of presence, sharing our faith with the world around us, and our nature as people. Overall, the speakers that our Family Camp brings in are phenomenal. At night, we have Vespers, a community dinner, and plenty of time for fellowship, including a rowdy campfire, identical to the way we do it at Summer Camp.

I have been going to Family Camp for 17 years, and enjoy it more every year. However, my family is not the only one that comes back year after year. Over 50% of families are consistent repeats. So, what keeps people coming? First and foremost, it is the community aspect that I talked about earlier. The connections that are made at Family Camp are lifelong and priceless. Secondly, for me as a high school student, it is an awesome way to see friends from Summer Camp. If your kids have not been to camp, it is a great way for them to get a taste for what the experience is all about, and to make friendships before they go. Finally, Family Camp is the best way for your family to get a break from the world and live in God’s nature with like-minded people. So, mark your calendars for October 9-11, 2020... I’ll see you there!

2019 Family Camp campers
For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Fourteenth Sunday of Luke “The Messenger” Deadline</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Saint Barbara</td>
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<td>6 Saint Nicholas</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
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<td>7:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>7:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>7:00am-Men’s Fellowship</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:00pm-Open Gym</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>9:30am-Women’s Advent Retreat</td>
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<td>Church School</td>
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<td>11:00am-Women’s Bible Study</td>
<td>11:00am-Women’s Bible Study</td>
<td>Church and Office Closed</td>
<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>5:00pm-Great Vespers</td>
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<td>11:30am-Chant Group</td>
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<td>6:00pm-Small Blessing of Water</td>
<td>6:15pm-Junior GOYA Christmas Party</td>
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<td>5:00pm-Western Koinonia</td>
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<td>11:45am-Middle School Chant Group</td>
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<td>6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6:30pm-Parish Council</td>
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<td>2 Tenth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<td>11 Saint Spyridon</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>11:00am-Seniors’ Christmas Party</td>
<td>9:30am-Faith Playgroup</td>
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<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
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<td>Saint Nicholas Celebration</td>
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<td>IV On-the-Go Retreat</td>
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<td>11:15am-Chant Group</td>
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<td>11:45am-Coffee Talk</td>
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<td>HOPE/JOY Lunch &amp; Caroling</td>
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<td>12:45pm-Basketball Practice</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>6:30pm-Stewardship Committee</td>
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<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
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<td>Church School Nativity Program</td>
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<td>11:00am-AHEPA Children’s Christmas Party</td>
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<td>11:45am-Mission/Outreach</td>
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<td>5:00pm-Western Koinonia</td>
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<td>22 Sunday before Nativity</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Eve of Nativity</td>
<td>25 Holy Nativity</td>
<td>26 Synaxis of the Theotokos Church and Office Closed</td>
<td>27 Saint Stephen</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
<td>7:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00am-Royal Hours</td>
<td>9:00am-Orthros</td>
<td>8:30am-Orthros</td>
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<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
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<td>9:30am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>4:00pm-Vesperal Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00am-Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>9:00am-Bible Study</td>
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<td>No Church School Choir Christmas Meditation</td>
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<td>11:15am-Chant Group</td>
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<td>6:00pm-Community Christmas Party</td>
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Dear Fr. George, Fr. Jason, and all the parishioners of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church,

It is hard to believe that 5 months have passed since our 10 days in your beautiful city. During that time we were warmly embraced in your church's parish life.

It was a blessed experience for us to be at St. Mary's for three Divine Liturgies, to join in your fellowship hours, and to be present at the summer camp, which our son was so fortunate to attend.

We were touched by the outpouring of love that you all showed us, coupled with a genuine interest in the news we shared about your Orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ here in Albania.

Likewise we were very grateful for your generous giving both through camp fundraising activities and donations offered after the presentation in the church hall. So much was raised that we will be able to receive a full missionary stipend for 6 months. It was definitely beyond our expectations. Thank you!

Now we are back in the full swing of things. Father Anastas continues his ministry as a priest and in the translation and editing department of the church. Meanwhile the children and I are making daily efforts at Protagonists School–Vasili in 5th, Evi in 2nd, Mia in Kindergarten, and Xenia in preschool, and I in my 7th year as the director. Our school has maxed out at just over 1,200 students. We had to make changes in the current buildings to accommodate so many students and the requests for next year are continuous. We are impatiently waiting for the building permit for city hall to carry on with construction of another 8 story building which His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios has planned for our school.

Please pray for our school so new space will be available soon and that we will make good decisions for accepting students next year.

Pray also for our family. Fr. Anastas and I both have demanding ministries and need discernment to handle our responsibilities.

One of our school's activities that means the most to me is Spiritual Journey, an afterschool catechism club. Please pray that it will be successful in bringing more families closer to an active life in the Church.

Follow our school on Instagram: protagonistsschool and put a face to so many of your family in Christ across the world!

Please consider continuing your support of our missionary family with a monthly pledge through the OCMC. See: www.ocmc.org

Contact: 1.877.463.6784

OCMC
20 Mason Manatee Way
St. Augustine, FL 32086

With sincere gratitude and love in Christ,

Fr. Anastas, Presbytera Georgia, Vasili, Evi, Mia, and Xenia Bendo
Tirana, Albania
Children’s Christmas Party

Santa’s visit and keepsake photo, caroling with Kally, entertainment, and lunch highlight this special St. Mary’s Community event.

Saturday, December 21st, 2019  11a.m.
St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave, Minneapolis
Terrace Room

All for just $12 / child*
All parents are encouraged to attend at no charge!
In the spirit of the season, please bring a donation for Food Shelves)

RSVP by 12/14 to AHEPA,
3450 Irving Ave S, Mpls MN 55408
For more info mark.alevizos@gmail.com mobile 612.990.4211

Parent’s name(s)___________________________

              Telephone _______________________________

              Email___________________________________

Children’s names:  Boy/Girl  Age
_________________________  _____  ___
_________________________  _____  ___
_________________________  _____  ___

Sponsored by Minneapolis AHEPA
*free for all children of Mpls AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope
Minneapolis & St. Paul
Community Holiday Party

Everyone is invited to enjoy dinner and dancing at St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church....

Saturday, December 28, 2019
6 p.m.   Social Hour
7 p.m.   Dinner
8:30 pm  Dancing

**Early Bird Special**: only $35 - with payment by Sun. Dec. 15
In advance - $40 – with payment by Tue. Dec. 23
At the door - $50 (subject to food availability)
Children under 10 - $15
Dance Only - FREE

Send check payable to AHEPA to: 3450 Irving Ave. S. Minneapolis. MN 55408

For further info contact Don Vanover at 612-202-6994

Name(s)___________________________ Phone________________
#______Dinners x $40 (only $35 if received by Dec 15) = $__________
#______Dinners x $15 (Children under 10) = $__________
CHECK TOTAL: = $__________
PARISH Christmas CARD

Send holiday greetings to your family and friends at St. Mary’s!

Simply fill out this form and return it to the Church Office with a contribution no later than Sunday, December 8… (we send the card to the printer on Monday, December 9).

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

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Amount enclosed: $ __________________

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Christmas DECORATIONS

Name of Contributor(s): ________________________________________________________________

In memory of:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Amount enclosed: $ __________________

Contributions will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins.

Please return this form and your donation to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 22.