

WINTER (December - February) 2021 ISSUE

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Bob & Denise Kopicz
Nicholas Gianos
Fr. Anthony Demetri
Fr. Daniel
Aristidis Asimakopoulos
Vasiliki & Nicholas Tsafopoulos
Amy and Nathaniel Roth
Alex Moulinos
Fr. John Loejos
Fr. Alexander & Presbytera Pearl Veronis
Adrien Barlup

Mae Webber
Ramon Miranda
Jason Irwin
Theanna Sheetz
Judy Miller
Julie Mull
Mike Conzeman
Fr. Constantine Valantasis & family
Elizavet Tarzidis



FEASTAL HYMNS



Dec 25 - Christ's Birth

Festal Hymn of Christ's Birth Tone 4 Your Birth, Christ our God, has shone to the world as the light of knowledge. For by it those who adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Eternal Dawn from on high. Lord, glory to You!

Jan 6 - Theophany

Theophany Troparion

Tone 1 Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His words. Christ, our God, who has revealed Yourself and has enlightened the world: Glory to You!



Feb 2 - Meeting/Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Troparion of the Presentation Tone 1

Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos full of grace; from you has shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ, our God, who gives light to those in darkness. Be glad also, righteous Elder, for you received in your arms the Deliverer of our souls who grants us resurrection.

Feb. 13 - **Pre—Lenten Cycle (Triodion)**

Kontakion of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee Tone 4

Let us flee the reasoning and words of the Pharisee and learn the humility of the Tax Collector. With groaning from the depths let us cry to our Savior: Be merciful to us, for You alone are always ready to forgive.



Feb. 27 - **Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)**

Kontakion of the Last Judgment Tone 1

When You come upon the earth with glory, God, the whole world will tremble. The river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat; the books will be opened and the secrets revealed. At that time deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand on Your right hand, most righteous Judge.



NEWS AND EVENTS:

PHILOTOCHOS



Philoptochos:

Our parish philoptochos meets monthly. We support those in our community and church and are always seeking God's guidance and will.

Poinsettia Sale:



Philoptochos is hosting a Poinsettia sale. Please place your **orders by November 21st**. A signup sheet is available in the coffee hour area. Poinsettias are \$12 each.

Christmas Luncheon and Bingo:

Our annual Philoptochos Christmas Party will follow service on Sunday, **December 5**. Festivities include potluck lunch and bingo.



St Basil Dinner and Vasilopita

A St Basil luncheon and Vasilopita will follow service on Sunday, January 2nd. The proceeds for this event will go to St. Basil Academy. Saint Basil Academy is an institute of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese where young orphaned and needy children from broken and unfortunate homes can find protection in a "home away from home."

Blessing of the Waters:

Blessing of the Waters will take place following Liturgy on Sunday, January 9th, at Lake Ontelaunee.



Meatfare Pot Luck:

A "pot luck" luncheon will follow liturgy on the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Feb. 27)

It's the time of the year again for House Blessings, so....

Before the Priest Comes to Bless the House

- Make sure you have notified the priest through phone message or Church signup sheet and arranged for a date a time. **Please let him know if this is the first time your home is being blessed.**
- Be prepared (this is a serious sacrament).
- Make sure all radios, stereos, TVs, etc., are turned off.
- Have a table where a bowl of water (2/3 to 3/4 full--enough to sprinkle the home with some left over if you wish) with an icon, lit candle, and a list of names, living and deceased, of those you wish to commemorate, may be placed.
- When the priest begins to sprinkle the rooms, lead him to the rooms that you wish blessed, turning on the lights as you enter. This "procession" should include all who are able to walk. Children who are very young may need to be carried (nursing mothers are exempted if the feeding needs to take place immediately).
- Afterwards, return to the place you started (where the table, icon, etc., are) for the closing prayer and blessing.

Bible Study and Scripture Readings:

Scripture readings are posted daily on our St. Matthew's Facebook Page.



We will continue out Wednesday evening (7pm, via Zoom) Revelation Bible Studies beginning November 24.

Website, Sermons and YouTube:

Visit our website **stmattsgoc.org** and click on the YouTube logo to be taken to our parish channel where livestreamed services can be viewed.

St Matthews Online Bookstore:

St Matthews Bookstore is available online via Amazon. Check out www.amazon.com/shops/stmattsGOC

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

John 13:15 - After Jesus washed the feet of his disciples... "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done for you..."



Parish Council Dates:

December 26

January 30

February 20

Opportunity House Shelter Luncheon Dates:

We will be serving Saturday Lunches on...

February 5

March 7

August 6

November 5



Help and/or donations are greatly appreciated.
Contact Tylor Roach for more information.

Church Cleaning Dates:

Church cleaning will take place on the first Saturday of each month at 10am.

December 4

January 8

February 5



Information, articles, and photos for the next issue of "The Evangelist" should be submitted to MaryAnn Columbus by February 15.

**2020 – 2021
WINTER CALENDAR**

DECEMBER

- Sat. 12/4: GOYA 10 am; church cleaning
- Sun. 12/5: Philoptochos Christmas Party following Liturgy
- Sun. 12/26: Parish Council, 5:30pm
- Fri. 12/24: Pre-Celebration of Christ's Birth, 10am
Vigil (Vespers-Compline) for Christ's Birth, 5:30pm
- Sat. 12/25: Liturgy for the Birth of Christ, 9:30am

JANUARY

- Sun. 1/2: St. Basil luncheon and Vasilopita to follow liturgy
- Mon. 1/6: Theophany
- Sat. 1/8: GOYA, 10am; Church cleaning
- Sun. 1/9: Blessing of the waters at Lake Ontelaunee;
House blessings begin
- Sun. 1/30: Parish Council, 5:30pm

FEBRUARY

- Sun. 2/2: Presentation of Christ in the Temple Vesperal Liturgy, 6:30pm
- Sat. 2/5: GOYA, 10am; church cleaning; Opportunity House
- Sun. 2/20: Parish Council, 5:30pm
- Sun. 2/13: Sunday of the Pharisee and Tax Collector
- Sun. 2/27: Sunday of Last Judgement, Luncheon to Follow.