



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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OLGA THOMAS
Choir Director and Organist



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Future Services

Biblical readings listed below cite page numbers where the Epistle and Gospel readings can be located in The Orthodox Liturgy (black-covered book) found in the pew racks. You may want to refer to your Bible for those readings not available in The Orthodox Liturgy book. Services are only held at the times listed below.

Sept. 3 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
13th Sunday
of Matthew
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 16:13-24, pg. 134
Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42, pg. 135

Sept. 4 Labor Day
Monday

Sept. 8 Nativity of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Friday

Sept. 9 Saints Joachim and Anna, the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God
Saturday

Sept. 10 Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*

Sept. 14 Universal Celebration of the Elevation of the Sacred and Life-Giving Cross
Thursday

Sept. 17 Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross Saint Sophia and her three daughters: Faith, Hope and Love Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184
The Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Sept. 24 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
1st Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Timothy 3:10-15, pg. 173
Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11, pg. 143

Sept. 26 The Falling Asleep of Saint John, the Apostle, Evangelist and Theologian
Tuesday

Oct. 1 Saint Romanos, the Melodist National Church Music Sunday Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: Acts 9:10-19*
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36, pg. 144

Oct. 6 Saint Thomas, the Apostle
Friday

Oct. 8 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 9:6-11, pg. 139
Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-16, pg. 146

Oct. 9 Columbus Day (Observed)
Monday

Oct. 15 Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Trinity Episcopal Church, Potsdam, New York Divine Liturgy 2:00 p.m.
4th Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15*
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15, pg. 147

Oct. 18 Saint Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday

Oct. 20 Saint Gerasimos of Cephalonia
Friday

Oct. 22 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
6th Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19, pg. 145
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39, pg. 150

Oct. 23 Saint James (Iakovos), the Apostle, Brother of Our Lord
Monday

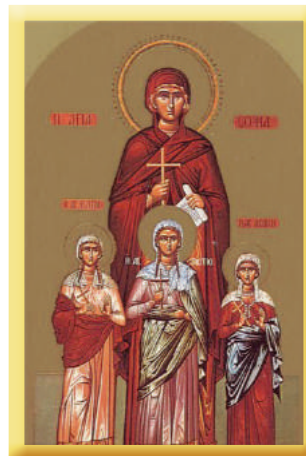
Oct. 26 Saint Demetrios, the Myrrhbearer and Great Martyr of Thessaloniki
Thursday

Oct. 28 Holy Protection of the Theotokos / OXI Day
Saturday

Oct. 29 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
7th Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56, pg. 152

Nov. 1 Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy Unmercenary Physicians of Asia Minor
Wednesday

Nov. 5 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
5th Sunday
of Luke**
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31, pg. 148



Saint Sophia and her Three Daughters Kontakion of the Martyrs Sophia, Pistis, Elpis and Agape

"Since Faith, Hope and Love were in truth sacred branches of venerable Sophia, the namesake of wisdom by grace, they have shown all men that Greek wisdom is not above Christ's teachings and in contest they prove to be prizewinning victors; wherefore, they received a crown that never shall perish from Christ God, the Lord of all."

**Feast Day, Sunday,
September 17**

* The reading is not available in the Orthodox Liturgy book.

** Please Note: The 5th Sunday of Luke does not follow in numerical order.

Saint Sophia and her three daughters: Faith, Hope and Love

Feast Day, Sunday September 17

These saints were from Italy and were contested for their Christian faith around the year 126, during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. Soon after the birth of Sophia's three daughters, she was widowed, and she pleased God by living piously through prayer, fasting and alms giving. Her children, Faith, Hope and Love, were named after the virtues mentioned by Saint Paul in 1st Corinthians Chapter 13.

Sophia raised her three daughters so they might acquire those traits of their namesakes. As they matured, they increased in virtue and learned well the books of the prophets and apostles. The children submitted themselves to the teachings of their mother, who was filled with Divine wisdom. They were successful in all things and exceedingly fair and perfect in wisdom, and soon the eyes of all were upon them.

Faith was twelve years old; Hope ten years old and Love nine years old, when each was beheaded from the eldest to the youngest. Sophia mourned at the grave for three days, where she also fell asleep in peace. She is also revered as a martyr due to her courageous endurance in the face of her daughters' sufferings. The name Sophia means "wisdom" in Greek, and her daughters' names translated into Greek are as follows: Faith (Pistis), Hope (Elpis) and Love or Charity (Agape).

Church Celebration

The parish of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 325 Waring Road, Syracuse, New York is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17, 2017. It is expected that Archbishop Demetrios of America and Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit will be celebrating the Hierarchical Vespers on Saturday, September 16 at 4:00 p.m. and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 17. Orthros will precede the service at 8:30 a.m. Other celebratory events are also scheduled during the weekend. We congratulate the parish of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church on its centennial milestone.

Potsdam, New York

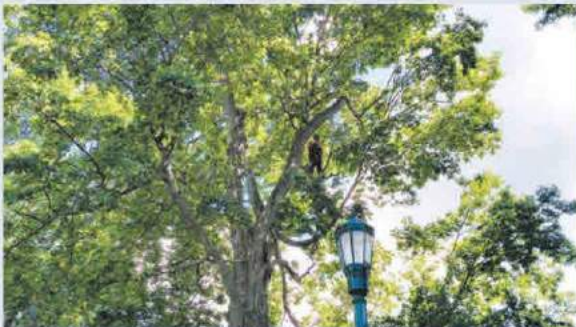
On Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. a Divine Liturgy will be held in the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church, 8 Maple Street, Fall Island, Potsdam. At the conclusion of the service, there will be a discussion concerning future services offered in Potsdam by Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown. Your attendance and input are needed in order to guide the Parish Council in making a decision that reflects the wishes and needs of our Saint Lawrence County membership. **There will be no service in Watertown, but the sanctuary will remain opened from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.**

Birth Announcement

Seraphina Rose Craft, daughter of James (Buddy) and Larissa Craft, Calcium, New York, was born on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Carthage Area Hospital. "Na sas zisi." "May she live for you."

Welcome Back

Welcome back to **Dr. Florica Miller**, who was in Romania from May-July, visiting her relatives and attending to household renovations.



Pictured is Daniel pruning the third sugar maple from Franklin Street located on the Keyes Avenue side of the church property.

Tree Pruning

We are very blessed to have a variety of shade trees on our church and parish house grounds. There are many young and very mature trees that require routine maintenance in order to assure that they do not pose a potential hazard to life and property. During August, four of the sugar maples on Keyes Avenue were pruned by Daniel L. MacKay Jr., ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified arborist. During the past several years, he has pruned all of the trees located between the parish house and the church. The cost of this project was \$1,000.00.

THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN BY MIHAI BICA ON AUGUST 13.



Summer Travels & Visitors

During the summer, church attendance was significantly higher as there were many visitors from the following locations: Bulgaria, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Trenton, Ontario, Canada; Romania, Jinja, Uganda, Africa; Concord, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; Huntington, Vermont and many places from within New York State.



Chris Harry and Janice Ronson, their daughter-in-law, **Presvytéra Stephanie Thomas**, grandchildren, **Demetri and Elpinike Thomas**, and great-niece, **Ariana Ronson**, attended church on July 2. Chris Harry and Janice Ronson reside in Savannah, Georgia and are members of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Savannah.

Reverend Father Simon Thomas is the parish priest of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Memphis, Tennessee. Ariana Ronson lives in Clayton, New York with her paternal grandparents, George and Maria Ronson. The Ronson family was one of the founding families of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown.

First row from left to right: Demetri and Elpinike Thomas and Ariana Ronson. Back row: from left to right: Presvytéra Stephanie Thomas, Janice and Chris Ronson. The photograph was taken by ConnieNicole Yanulis.



On Sunday, July 9, **Larissa Craft's** father and mother, **Andrew and Karen Kern**, and sister, **Katerina Kern**, attended the Divine Liturgy and the coffee hour.

Katerina teaches humanities at the high school level at the Amazima School in Jinja, Uganda, Africa. Andrew and Karen Kern reside in Concord, North Carolina. Larissa's husband James (Buddy) is stationed at Fort Drum, and they live in Calcium.

From left to right: Larissa Craft, Katerina, Andrew and Karen Kern. The photograph was taken by StephanieAlexandra Yanulis.



On August 6, **Stavros and Carole Anthony**, Elmira, New York attended church with their daughter, **Stacey Anthony**, and grandchildren, **Ava and Lillie Smith**.

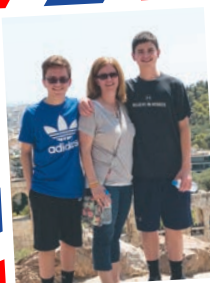
Stacey Anthony and her husband, Scott Smith, and children reside in Huntington, Vermont. For many years, Stavros and Carole have been attending services when they are residing at their cottage at Selkirk Beach in Oswego County. They are members of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Elmira.

First row, left to right: Ava and Lillie Smith; Back row, left to right: Stavros, Stacey and Carole Anthony. The photograph was taken by StephanieAlexandra Yanulis.



During late June and July, **Mihai and Aurelia Bica** visited family members in their native country of Romania with their children, **Anna and Alexandra**, and Anna's friend, **Gwendlyn Shafer**. Pictured from left to right: Aurelia, Alexandra, Ioana Zamfir (Aurelia's sister), Anna and Gwendlyn Shafer.

The photograph was submitted by Mihai Bica and was taken near the Orthodox Churches of Saint Elias to the left and The Ascension of the Holy Cross to the right in Bucharest, Romania. These churches were constructed following the closure and demolition of many churches during the Communist regime in Romania which ended in 1989.



During the summer, **Pashalina Valtadoros and her sons, Kostas and Vasilios**, traveled to Greece to visit Pashalina's father and mother, Kostas and Evanthis Kehagia, who reside in Edessa, Greece. The photograph to the left was submitted by Vasilios Valtadoros as they were ascending the Acropolis and in the background is the city of Athens.

Pictured from left to right is Kostas, Pashalina and Vasilios Valtadoros.



— IN MEMORIAM —

A Mnimósino service was held on July 16 for **Theodora "Lola" Valianos** (40 days). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be her memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on July 30 for **Michael Athanasiou** (84 years), **Maria Athanasiou** (65 years), **Chris Thomas** (47 years), **George Thomas** (46 years), **Androniki Thomas** (21 years), **Benjamin Litman** (7 years), and **Androniki Thomas Litman** (6 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on August 20 for **Emanuel Yanulis** (45 years), and **Dimitroula Yanulis** (31 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on August 27 for **Ioannis Kalamaras** (6 years), **Eleni Kalamaras** (11 years), **Kostas Kalamaras** (16 years), **Frank Piotrowski** (23 years), and **Chester Bened** (7 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

PASTRY PREPARATIONS

The Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale will be held on the following dates:

Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9

The following pastries will be prepared on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on the dates listed below:

September 16	Koulourakia
September 23	Koulourakia
September 30	Koulourakia
October 7	Kourabiethes
October 14	Kourabiethes
October 21	Kourabiethes
October 28	Kourabiethes
November 4	Fenekia
November 11	Fenekia
November 18	Fenekia

Please do not hesitate to come and join us in making this important fundraiser a success.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We pray for the **persecuted Christians and others who are victims of the horrific acts of terrorism and brutality by Muslim extremists, which are frequently taking place throughout the world, and for those innocent people who are the victims of conflict and corruption.**

We pray for the **victims of the terrorist attack** which took place on August 17 in **Barcelona, Spain.**

We pray for the safety of the **10th Mountain Army Division**, who are stationed at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Polk, Louisiana, and the **United States Armed Forces**, who are stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq and other places throughout the world.

We pray for the repose of the souls of **those who lost their lives or were injured** serving in the war against terrorism.

We pray for the well-being of our **military families.**

We pray for **those who are affected by the natural disasters throughout the world**, especially the deadly and catastrophic flooding caused by **Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Louisiana and other locations along the Gulf Coast.**

Remember the following in your prayers: **Florence Bajjaly, Gheorghe Berea, Father John Demos, Karl Kissman, Lynn Kissman, Isaac Lichtenstein, Father Chris and Presvytéra Roula Matos, Mary Mesires, Anna Pialoglous, John Penree, Mary and Nick Politis, Helen Thomas and Eleni Valtadoros.**

We wish a **successful and productive new school year to all students and educators** and to the following who are enrolled in higher education: **John East, Mariana Hiotis, Yanna Hiotis, Ariana Kalamaras and Vasilios Valtadoros.**

If you have a prayer request or wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Father Philip Yanulis or a parishioner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Church Music & Choir Recognition Sunday:

Sunday, October 1

Eastern Standard Time Resumes:

Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 a.m.

(Turn your clocks back by one hour.)

The deadline for the submission of items for the November / December 2017 Newsletter is Sunday, October 22.



Food Pantry

Recently, 302 items were delivered the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. This included 12 food items and 67 hygiene products, along with the following back to school supplies: 103 notebooks, 112 pencils and 8 boxes of crayons. Thank you for your contributions.

In Appreciation

Thank you to the following July/August coffee hours hosts: Bica family, Pota Yianoukos Davis, Kalamaras family, Lichtenstein family, Thomas family, Cristina Thompson, James and Rae Valianos, Jonathan and Michelle Wilgus and the Yanulis family.