



# SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Choir Director and Organist



## NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 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.

- Nov. 5 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
5th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148  
Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31, pg. 148
- Nov. 8 **Synaxis of Archangels, Michael and Gabriel**  
Wednesday
- Nov. 9 **Saint Nektarios, the Wonderworker**  
Thursday
- Nov. 11 **Veterans Day**  
Saturday
- Nov. 12 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
8th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 9:6-11, pg. 142  
Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37, pg. 153
- Nov. 13 **Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople**  
Monday
- Nov. 14 **Saint Philip, the Apostle, and Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki**  
Tuesday
- Nov. 15 **Nativity (Christmas) Fast Begins**  
Wednesday
- Nov. 16 **Saint Matthew, the Apostle and Evangelist**  
Thursday
- Nov. 19 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
9th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:14-22, pg. 151  
Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21, pg. 155
- Nov. 21 **Presentation of Our Most Holy Glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, in the Temple**  
Tuesday
- Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday
- Nov. 25 **Saint Katherine, the Great Martyr, and Saint Mercurios, the Great Martyr**  
Saturday
- Nov. 26 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
13th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, pg. 153  
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27, pg. 160
- Nov. 30 **Saint Andrew, the First-Called Apostle**  
Thursday
- Dec. 3 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
14th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-19, pg. 154  
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43, pg. 161
- Dec. 4 **Saint Barbara, the Great Martyr**  
Monday

- Dec. 6 **Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker**  
Wednesday
- Dec. 9 **The Conception of Saint Anna of Our Most Holy Glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**  
Saturday
- Dec. 10 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
10th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17, pg. 156  
Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17, pg. 156
- Dec. 12 **Saint Spyridon, the Wonderworker**  
**Saint Peter, the Aleut**  
Tuesday
- Dec. 15 **Saint Eleutherios, the Holy Martyr**  
Friday
- Dec. 17 **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ**  
**Saint Dionysius, the Holy Hierarch**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
11th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11, pg. 158  
Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24, pg. 158
- Dec. 24 **Pre-Nativity: the Genealogy**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Sunday before the Nativity  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40, pg. 164  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25, pg. 165
- Dec. 25 **Holy Nativity / Christmas Day**..... No Service  
Monday  
*The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 27 **Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**  
Wednesday
- Dec. 31 **Sunday before the Theophany**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Sunday  
Epistle Reading: II Timothy 4:5-8, pg. 170  
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8, pg. 171
- Jan. 1 **Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ**  
Monday  
**Saint Basil the Great / New Year's Day** .... No Service  
*The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.*
- Jan. 6 **The Divine Theophany of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ**  
Saturday
- Jan. 7 **Post-Theophany / Great Blessing of the Waters**  
Sunday  
**Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet and Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Acts 19:1-8\*  
Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34\*

\* The reading is not available in The Orthodox Liturgy book. The 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th Sunday of Luke do not follow in numerical order. There is no 12th Sunday of Luke this year.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to inclement weather, services may be cancelled either the evening before the service or by 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Long distance travelers will be notified first, followed by local parishioners. The sanctuary will remain open for prayer. Should you have a question about a service, please contact Samuel Thomas.

## Christmas Eve Day & New Year's Day

Since the Eve of the Nativity of Christ is on Sunday, December 24, there will only be a Divine Liturgy held at 10:30 a.m. There will be no services on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. On Monday, December 25, the sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 31, there will be an artoklasia service at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Please bring names of the living to be read during the service.

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, is the feast day of the Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ and Saint Basil the Great. This also is the name day of our church. The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



### Potsdam, New York

On Sunday, October 15, Father Philip Yanulis conducted a Divine Liturgy in the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church in Potsdam, New York. There were approximately 13 people in attendance. Following the service, a discussion was held regarding future services in Potsdam. It was agreed upon to continue to have Divine Liturgies two times per year, once in the spring and once in the fall. Father Philip indicated that upon request, he is also available to administer sacraments to our Saint Lawrence County parishioners. A thank you to is extended to everyone who assisted with the service.

We are very grateful to the parish of Trinity Episcopal Church for the use of its beautiful and historic chapel. It is truly inspiring to worship in this church as it is steeped in history and exquisitely maintained. Trinity Episcopal Church is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

### Hope Presbyterian Church

After years of declining membership and financial difficulties, Hope Presbyterian Church, 518 LeRay Street, Watertown, held its final service on September 24. Since November 19, 1896, Hope Presbyterian Church was known as the "beacon on the hill", and at one time was a very active congregation.

The building is owned by the Presbytery of Northern New York in Ogdensburg, and it is shared with the Watertown Korean Presbyterian Church. It is anticipated that the Korean Presbyterian Church will take over and maintain the building.

There are two other Presbyterian churches in the city of Watertown: First Presbyterian Church and Stone Presbyterian Church. We offer our prayers that the members of Hope Presbyterian Church find peace and strength during this time of change.



## *Saint Dionysius, the Holy Hierarch*

**FEAST DAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, was born in 1547 and reared on Zakynthos, Greece, a Greek island in the Ionian Sea. He was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Moicus and Paulina. As a youth, he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which are south of Zakynthos and was clothed in the monastic habit. Although he was young, he surpassed many of his elders in virtue and was soon ordained to the holy priesthood. He later was consecrated the Bishop of Aegina, and many were drawn to him in order to learn from his wisdom. Saint Dionysius feared the praise of men and the sin of excessive pride, so he resigned from his position and returned to Zakynthos.

In 1579 the Diocese of Zakynthos was without a bishop, Saint Dionysius agreed to care for it until a new bishop could be elected. Thereafter, he fled the worldly life as it did not bring him peace, and he went to the Monastery of the Most Holy Theotokos Anaphonitria.

Thereafter, an incident had occurred that revealed his Christ-like virtues. A certain stranger had murdered Saint Dionysius' brother Constantine, an illustrious nobleman. Fearing his victim's relatives, the stranger, by chance or by God's will, sought refuge in the monastery where Saint Dionysius was an abbot. When Saint Dionysius had asked the fugitive why he was so frightened, he confessed his sin and revealed the name of the man whom he had murdered. He asked him to be protected for the family was seeking vengeance. Saint Dionysius wept for his only brother, and then showing great compassion and love, he comforted the murderer and hid him.

Saint Dionysius' relatives along with armed men soon came to the monastery and told him what happened. He did not reveal the murderer and then sent them off in the wrong direction. He later told the murderer that he was the brother of the man he had killed. Saint Dionysius warned him of the gravity of his sin and brought him to repentance. He forgave the murderer and helped him to escape to another place so that his life might be saved. According to local tradition, this man later returned to the monastery and became a monk.

Saint Dionysius was granted the gift of working miracles because of his Christ-like virtues. He reposed in peace on December 17, 1621, leaving behind his sacred, incorrupt and miraculous relics. Through the prayers of Saint Dionysius, may Christ our God have mercy upon us all. An icon of Saint Dionysius, the Holy Hierarch, is displayed in the sanctuary during the month of December.

## Altar Christmas Plants



Red leaf poinsettia plants will be placed in the sanctuary in mid-December. The cost of a six inch potted plant is \$10.00, and your donation may be made in memory of a loved one. When you submit your monetary donation, please clearly indicate in writing the memorial information. It will be published in the January / February

2018 Newsletter unless otherwise directed by the donor. This should be received by Sunday, December 17. Thank you for beautifying the church.



## Choir Recognition Sunday

On October 1, National Church Music Sunday and the feast day of Saint Romanos, the Melodist, the patron saint of church musicians were recognized. Appreciation was extended to the choir who faithfully offer their God-given talents each Sunday along with the chanter and the readers of the Creed. Each choir member was given a religious bracelet depicting the saints.

The following people were honored: **Choir:** Iliana Lichtenstein, Isabella Lichtenstein, Presvytera Connie Yanulis, ConnieNicole Yanulis, DanielleLynn Yanulis and StephanieAlexandra Yanulis. **Chanter:** David Lichtenstein **Readers:** Kiki East and Dr. Steven Kalamaras.

A special thank-you for her many dedicated years of service to the choir was extended to **Olga Thomas, choir director, organist and vocalist.** We are very fortunate that each Sunday she presents a talented vocal performance of Christian hymns after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. May they continue to serve the church for many more years with our rich musical heritage. "Music soothes the soul."

## Coughlin Group Printing Wins Award

Coughlin Printing Group, 210 Court Street, Watertown, was founded in 1886 and is celebrating its 131st year of business, won the downtown business of the year award. It also has an office in Lowville, New York.

Sarah C. O'Connell, business adviser at the Small Business Development Center, said the nominating committee awarded Coughlin Printing Group this year for its ability in keeping up with modern demands, and by providing digital and social media marketing, website design, publishing and outstanding service to its customers.

For many years, our parish has used the Coughlin Printing Group for all of our printing needs, and it has been at a very reasonable cost. Since September 2000, **Christine Ames**, graphic designer, has assisted with the production of our parish's newsletter. She is a highly creative, intelligent and a very patient person, who is able to transform text and photographs into a very readable, inviting and superb piece. Furthermore, she is very tolerant of incorporating the many edits that are required to produce the final draft. We congratulate the Coughlin Printing Group for receiving this much deserved downtown business of the year award.

## Christmas Greek Pastry & Bread Sale Ingredients Fund



Each year donations are solicited for the Christmas Greek Pastry & Bread Sale Ingredients Fund; this also includes baking cups, pastry boxes, wax paper and other materials. Your donation will help reduce the costs for this fundraiser. The expenses for the 2016 Christmas Sale were approximately \$3,596.09. This amount did not include ingredients that were purchased and donated by particular individuals during the preparation process. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Greek Pastry & Bread Sale

The Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale is scheduled for the following dates and times in the church hall:

**Friday, December 8**  
**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 9**  
**10:00 a.m. - Until Sold Out**

Volunteers are needed for pastry preparations and pastry cupping.

**Please note the scheduled preparation times:**

Fenekia:

Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m.  
Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m.  
Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Flutes:

Tuesday, November 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Baklava:

Friday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Pastry Cupping Begins:

Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Pastry Display:

Baklava cutting and pastry cupping,  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,  
December 5, 6 & 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Flyers announcing the sale are available in the church hall. Please post as many of them as possible in a visible location.

If you are planning to order a large quantity of pastries, please contact Samuel Thomas at (315) 782-1763, or you may email your order to the following address: samuelthomas422@yahoo.com by **Thursday, November 30.**



A Mnimósino service was held on September 10 for **Louis Ronson (36 years)** and **Irene Ronson Snyder (9 years)**. "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on October 22 for **Anne Calender (3 years)**, **Chris Calender (3 years)**, **Eugenie Calender (2 years)**, **Madonna Calender (4 years)**, and **Robert Eisenberg (9 months)**. "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

## In Appreciation

Thank you to the following September / October coffee hour hosts: Bica family, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Karl and Lynn Kissman, Dr. Florica Miller, Patricia Penree, Nick and Mary Politis and the Thomas family.



## Travels to Greece

During the summer **Chris and Margaret Theodore**, their son and daughter-in-law, **James and Abbe Theodore**, and their children, **Grace and Christos**, traveled to Greece to visit relatives and to view historical sites. The photograph below was submitted by Abbe Theodore and depicts one of the Monasteries of Meteora. These gigantic rocks are perched above the town of Kalambaka near the plains of Thessaly in central Greece and are at a height of approximately 1,200 feet.

The monasteries were built by the monks, and it took years to construct them at the top of the rocks. They used ropes, folding ladders, nets and baskets along with much faith, determination and fortitude. During the Ottoman Empire or at the time of the Turkish occupation of Greece, these monasteries kept alive our religious practices, Hellenic culture and academia.

Meteora means "hovering in the air." Today there are only six active monasteries. The Meteora monasteries have been included in the UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage listing.

## Congratulations

**Stephen Davis II**, West Potsdam, New York, son of Stephen Davis, Parishville, New York and Pota Yianoukos Davis, Potsdam, graduated on June 2 from the Saint Lawrence County-David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Canton College. Stephen is a law enforcement officer with the Potsdam Police Department. He graduated from SUNY Canton College in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement Leadership. He is also the Assistant Chief of the Potsdam Volunteer Rescue Squad, Emergency Medical Team and a Lieutenant in the West Potsdam Fire Department.

Pictured from left to right is Lia Davis, Stephen's sister, Stephen Davis II and Pota Yianoukos Davis. The photograph was submitted by Stephen Davis II.



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We pray for the **persecuted Christians and others who are victims of the horrific acts of terrorists and brutality by Muslim extremists, and for those innocent people who suffer from conflict and corruption** throughout the world.

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

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

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

We pray for the **victims and for those who were left homeless from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate** which have struck the following regions: Florida, Gulf Coast states, Texas, areas along the East Coast of the United States, Central America, Mexico, Bahamas, Barbuda, Bermuda, Caribbean Islands, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

We pray for the **victims and for those who were left homeless** from the wildfires that have devastated vast regions of California.

We pray for the **victims and for those who were left homeless** from the earthquakes which have struck Mexico.

We pray for the **relief workers and many volunteers** who have brought aide to the victims of natural disasters.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **people who were executed and wounded** by the gunmen in Las Vegas, Nevada. We also pray for the **witnesses, families and friends and all those who are affected** by this vicious act of terrorism.

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, John Penree, Anna Pialoglous, Nick, Mary and John Politis, Margaret Theodore, Helen Thomas and Eleni Valtadoros**.

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

*The deadline for the submission of items for the January / February 2018 Newsletter is Sunday, December 17.*