



# SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018 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.

**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\*

**Jan. 14** **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
*Sunday* Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13, pg. 172  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17, pg. 173

**Jan. 15** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
*Monday*

**Jan. 17** **Saint Anthony the Great**  
*Wednesday*

**Jan. 18** **Saint Athanasios the Great and Saint Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria**  
*Thursday*

**Jan. 21** **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
*15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus)* Epistle Reading: I Timothy 4:9-15, pg. 162  
Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10, pg. 162

**Jan. 22** **Saint Timothy the Holy Apostle**  
*Monday*

**Jan. 25** **Saint Gregory the Theologian, Patriarch of Constantinople**  
*Thursday*

**Jan. 28** **Triodion Begins**  
*Sunday* **Sunday of the Publican (Tax Collector) and the Pharisee**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: II Timothy 3:10-15, pg. 173  
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14, pg. 174

**Jan. 30** **The Three Hierarchs: Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom**  
*Tuesday*

**Feb. 2** **The Presentation of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, in the Temple**  
*Friday*

**Feb. 4** **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
*Sunday* **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 6:12-20, pg. 174  
Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32, pg. 175

**Feb. 6** **Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople**  
*Tuesday*

**Feb. 10** **Saturday of the Souls**  
*Saturday* **Saint Haralambos, the Holy Great Martyr**

**Feb. 11** **Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday**  
*Sunday* **Recognition of the Lord's Second Coming**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2, pg. 177  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46, pg. 177

Saturday of the Souls Mnimosino service for deceased loved ones will be observed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Should you wish to add names to the list of the departed, please leave the information in the church office or you may submit by postal mail or email to: samuelthomas422@yahoo.com

**Feb. 14** **Valentine's Day**  
*Wednesday*

**Feb. 17** **Saturday of the Souls**  
*Saturday* **Saint Theodore of Tyron, the Holy Great Martyr**

**Feb. 18** **Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday**  
*Sunday* **Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve, the First Created, from Paradise**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4, pg. 178  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21, pg. 179

**Feb. 19** **Great Lent Begins**  
*Monday* **Presidents' Day**

**Feb. 23** **Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna**  
*Friday* **First Salutations to the Theotokos**  
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 24** **Saturday of the Souls**  
*Saturday*

**Feb. 25** **Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
*1st Sunday of Lent* **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40, pg. 180  
Gospel Reading: John 1:43-52, pg. 181

**Mar. 2** **Second Salutations to the Theotokos**  
*Friday* The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Mar. 4** **Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas**  
*2nd Sunday of Lent* **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3, pg. 182  
Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12, pg. 182

**Mar. 9** **Third Salutations to the Theotokos**  
*Friday* **The 40 Martyrs of Lake Sebaste**  
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**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.



*The second Sunday  
of the Triodion  
Period (Pre-Lent)  
The Prodigal Son  
Sunday, February 4*

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three week period prior to the beginning of Great Lent. The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 15:11-32). The parable is about the story of a man and his two sons. The father divides his inheritance between the two sons, but the youngest one squanders all of his property and suffers from hunger during a severe famine.

In the midst of his dire conditions, he returns to his father and admits his sinfulness saying, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son." His father is filled with joy in the return of his son and gifts him with a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. A fatted calf was served as food for the celebratory feast. The father exclaimed, "For my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is now found."

The older brother becomes angry when seeing that his younger brother is celebrated with a feast and he refuses to attend, exhibiting his jealousy over his brother who squandered his inheritance. The father replies, "You are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It is right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and he was lost and is now found."

## Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale

The annual Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale took place on Friday, December 8 with snow and cold temperatures followed by sunshine and somewhat warmer conditions on Saturday, December 9. Most of the pastries and sweet bread (Tsouréki) were sold by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. There were approximately 300 customers who patronized the sale.

Thank you to Constantino Hiotis for arranging for two outdoor sandwich signs which were placed outside of the church during the sale. They were manufactured at the Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch, New York where Constantino is employed as an Industrial Training Supervisor. This was of no cost to the parish.



*The photographs of the new signage and pastry sale were taken by Mihai Bica on December 8.*

**Ingredients Fund:** If you have not contributed to the Ingredients Fund or assisted with pastry sale preparations, please consider making a donation. Your donation is most appreciated. Please note that some of the ingredients in the amount of \$575.00 were purchased and donated by a few parishioners and were not included as expenses or monetary donations for the Ingredients Fund.

**A thank you to the following people who assisted with pastry sale preparations and / or sales:**

JoAnn Carlos Baker  
Alexandra Bica  
Anna Bica  
Aurelia Bica  
Mihai Bica  
Pota Yianoukos Davis  
Kiki East

Metza Hewko  
Constantino Hiotis  
Ali Jassem  
Christine Kalamaras  
Dr. Steven Kalamaras  
Susanne Michaelides  
Richard Roderick

Maria Ronson  
Christina Thomas  
Maria Thomas  
Olga Thomas  
Samuel Thomas  
Pashalina Valtadoros

## In Appreciation

Thank you to the following November/December coffee hour hosts: Constantino Hiotis, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Chris and Margaret Theodore, Thomas family and the Yanulis family.

Thank you to Dr. Steven and Christine Kalamaras and the Thomas family for providing luncheon food and refreshments during the Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale.

Appreciation is extended to Richard Roderick and Samuel Thomas for removing the trash each week at no cost to the parish.

Appreciation is extended to all those who live near and far and have given their time, talents and spiritual and financial support during the past year to our parish.

## Watertown Urban Mission

During the month of December 40 items were delivered to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. The total number of items donated in 2017 was approximately 465.

In 2016, 462 items were donated to the Food Pantry. For the year 2017, the Food Pantry served 5,834 households or 14,829 people. Thank you for your contributions.



## Critical Needs

The Critical Needs Program at the Watertown Urban Mission continues to be in need of larger size adult outerwear. The program is also in need of gently used or new children's boots and snow pants. They may be dropped off at the Impossible Dream Thrift Store, 247 Factory Street. You may call (315) 782-0090 for additional information or visit the website at [www.watertownurbanmission.com](http://www.watertownurbanmission.com)



## Memorial Floral Donations

Thank you to the following who donated to the Christmas Floral Fund:

*Helen Bahou*, in memory of her father and mother, Samuel and Najiy Bahou, brothers and sisters-in-law, Stundy and Louise About and Victor and Peg Bahou and brothers-in-law and sisters, Richard and Malaky About-Ofiesh, Rushd "Roy" and Pauline Farah and Hab and Victoria Bahou-Kattouf;

*Barry and Elaine Vasil Boval*, in memory of Elaine's father and mother, Paul and Bessie Vasil;

*Helen Calender Eisenberg and John Calender*, in memory of Helen's husband, Robert Eisenberg, and John's wife, Madonna Calender, father and mother, Chris and Eugenie Calender, paternal grandparents, John and Helen Calender, paternal uncles and aunt, George, Gregor and Anne Calender, maternal grandparents, George and Sophia Giagtzi and maternal uncle, Dr. Michael Giagtzi;

*John and Theo Karatzou*, in memory of John's father and mother, Costa and Hariklia Karatzou and sister, Despina Karatzou Maglaras and Theo's father and mother, Gregory and Ernestine Gagas;

*Penny Levos*, in memory of her father and mother, Peter and Margaret Levos and brother, Jerry Levos;

*Danny and Barbara Matos*, in memory of Danny's father and mother, Peter and Mary Matos and his maternal grandparents, George and Helen Ronson;

*Tony and Mary Mesires, and their daughter, Maria Mesires*, in memory of Tony's father and mother, George and Chrisoula Mesires and brothers, Dr. Robert Mesires and Nicholas Mesires;

*Helen Thomas*, in memory of her husband, Chris Thomas, daughter, Androniki Thomas Litman, grandson, Benjamin Litman, father and mother, Savas and Olga Calender, sisters, Mary Calender and Anne Tinsley, brothers-in-law, George Thomas and William Tinsley and sister-in-law, Androniki Thomas;

*Samuel Thomas*, in memory of John and Maria Booras, Dr. Joyce Dallaportas, Gregory Eliopoulos, John and Dorothy Stathacos and their daughter, Maria Stathacos Roderick and Artemis Vrettos;

*James Valianos*, in memory of his father and mother, Jeremiah and Lola Valianos, sister, Angie Kosboth Valianos and paternal uncle, Dennis Valianos.

Donations were also received from Florence Bajjaly, Nick and Kathy Dusckas and Steve and Mary Zafiris.

## Weather Notes and Damage

Following a cool and rainy summer, the temperatures in September and October were warmer than normal with much above average rainfall in October. There were also frequent weather advisories, watches, warnings and alerts for lakeshore flooding, flash floods, high winds and most recently heavy lake effect snow and dangerously cold windchill temperatures. On October 9 and October 29-30, there was very heavy rainfall that fell on highly saturated soils in the City of Watertown. This resulted in significant street, yard and basement flooding. For the month of October there were 12.30 inches of precipitation, and for the year 2017 there were 64.56 inches of precipitation. Readings were measured at the Watertown Filtration Plant.

During these weather events, some water seeped into the rear of the church basement and kitchen area which caused some minor damage to the floor tiles. On November 28 high winds damaged the church sign located on Keyes Avenue. The sign will require some repairs before it is remounted in the spring. Thus far, 50 inches of snow have fallen in the City of Watertown, and the Tug Hill region has received over 12 feet of snow.

## Easter Greek Pastry & Bread Sale

This year Western Easter is on April 1 and Orthodox Pascha is April 8. The Annual Easter Greek Pastry and Bread Sale is scheduled for the following date and time:

**Saturday, March 31  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed for pastry preparations which include weighing, shaping, baking and packing.

**Please note the scheduled preparation times:**

**Koulourakia:**

*Saturday, February 17 at 10:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m.*

**Kourabiethes:**

*Saturday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m.*

Preparation dates for fenekia, flutes and baklava will be announced in the March/April Newsletter. Thank you for your assistance.

***"One resolution  
that should be kept  
for the New Year is to  
always try to rise above  
the little things."***

***Author unknown***

***Best wishes for a  
healthy, happy and a  
prosperous new year!  
Chrónia pollá! Many years!***

# MEMORIAM

**Gregory Geno Eliopoulos**, Burton Road, Sackets Harbor, New York, died unexpectedly in a work accident on Monday, November 20, 2017. He was 54 years old. Gregory was born on April 2, 1963 in Watertown, New York and was the son of the late Harry and Anne Geno Eliopoulos. He graduated from Watertown High School in 1981. On October 18, 2006, he married Kimberly Lennox and their marriage was renewed on October 17, 2010 at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown. At the time of his death, he was employed with the City of Watertown's Waste Water Treatment Plant. Previously, he had worked at several other businesses and companies in the area.

Gregory attended Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church and was a member of the CSEA and the New York Water Environment Association, Inc. Greg was a dog rescuer and a motorcycle enthusiast.

He is survived by his wife Kimberly Eliopoulos, two sons, Eric Geno, Evans Mills, New York and PFC Bruce Eliopoulos, South Korea, two stepdaughters, Cristina Nichols, and her companion, Jason Clacks, Watertown, Autumn (Joshua) Adams, Black River, New York, two brothers, CMC George "Ronnie" (Donna) Eliopoulos, Georgia, Nick Eliopoulos, Virginia, sister, Christine Eliopoulos Keller, and her companion, Ray Castor, Watertown, father-in-law, Henry Lennox, Watertown and brother-in-law, Kerrell (Donna) Lennox, Sackets Harbor. He is also survived by a granddaughter, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father, Harry Eliopoulos, mother, Anne Geno and mother-in-law, Violet Lennox.

A private funeral service was held at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown on Monday,

November 27 at 11:00 a.m. Reverend Father Philip Yanulis officiated. The burial was at Sulphur Springs Cemetery, Town of Hounsfield, New York. A forty day Mnimósino service will be held on January 14 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Gregory will be remembered as a very kind, caring and generous person, and he will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc., 135 Keyes Avenue, Watertown had charge of the arrangements. Contributions may be directed to [GoFundMe.com/Greg-Eliopoulos-Memorial-Fund](http://GoFundMe.com/Greg-Eliopoulos-Memorial-Fund). Condolences may also be made to [www.dlcalarco.com](http://www.dlcalarco.com). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be his memory."

**Willis D. Verch** of Trenton, Ontario, Canada died at his home on Thursday, October 26, 2017. He was 89 years old. Willis was the maternal grandfather of Dr. Matthew Prionas, Massena, New York. "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be his memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on November 5 for **Elena Dumitru** (5 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be her memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on December 3 for **Nicholas Pialoglous** (2 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be his memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on December 24 for **Gregory Gagas** (44 years), **Ernestine Gagas** (22 years), **Costa Karatzou** (30 years), **Hariklia Karatzou** (38 years), and **Despina Karatzou Maglaras** (4 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Sunday, February 18 at 12:45 p.m.

The deadline for the submission of items for the MARCH / APRIL 2018 Newsletter is Sunday, February 18.



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

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 the horrific wildfires that have devastated vast areas of

California during the past several months.

We pray for the **victims, survivors and the congregation of the First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas** where a horrific act of violence took place on Sunday, November 5.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Gregory Geno Eliopoulos.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Willis D. Verch.

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, Helen Thomas, Margaret Theodore and Eleni Valtadoros.**

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