



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019 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. 6 **The Divine Theophany of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ / Great Blessing of the Waters**
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7, pg. 171
Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17, pg. 172

Jan. 7 **Synaxis of Holy Glorious Prophet and Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist**

Jan. 13 **Post-Theophany**
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13, pg. 172
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17, pg. 173

Jan. 17 **Saint Anthony the Great**

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

Jan. 20 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 4:6-15, pg. 137
Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19, pg. 159
12th Sunday of Luke (Ten Lepers)

Jan. 21 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

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

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

Jan. 27 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2*
Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10, pg. 162
15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus)

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

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

Feb. 3 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 6:1-10, pg. 139
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30, pg. 139
16th Sunday of Matthew (Parable of the Talents)

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

Feb. 10 **Saint Haralambos, the Holy Great Martyr**
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
17th Sunday of Matthew (Canaanite Woman)
Epistle Reading: II Timothy 2:1-10*
Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28, pg. 141

Feb. 17 **Triodion Begins**
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Saint Theodore the Tyron, the Holy Great Martyr
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
16th Sunday of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Timothy 3:10-15, pg. 173
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14, pg. 174

Feb. 18 **Presidents' Day**

Feb. 23 **Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna**

Feb. 24 **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
17th Sunday of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 4:6-15, pg. 137
Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32, pg. 175

Mar. 2 **Saturday of the Souls**

Mar. 3 **Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday**
Recognition of the Lord's Second Coming
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2, pg. 177
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46, pg. 177

Mar. 9 **40 Martyrs at Lake Sebaste**
Saturday of the Souls

Mar. 10 **Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday**
Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve, the First Created, from Paradise
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4, pg. 178
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21, pg. 179

Saturday of the Souls Mnimósino service for deceased loved ones will be observed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 3. 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: samueltthomas422@yahoo.com

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

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 Greek Pastry and Bread Sale

The annual Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale took place on Friday, December 7 and on Saturday, December 8. On Thursday, December 6, a lake effect snowstorm blanketed parts of Jefferson County. A heavy, wet snowfall of approximately 20 inches fell in the city of Watertown. On Friday this resulted in a slow stream of customers until road conditions improved in the afternoon. Early morning temperatures on Saturday were below zero, but sales remained steady throughout the day. Most of the pastries and sweet bread (Tsoureki) were sold by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. There were approximately 280 customers who patronized the sale.



Pictured to the right are the pastry makers who were consistently present each Saturday morning from September 29 through December 1. Front row from left to right: Mihai Bica, Ioana Zamfir, Aurelia Bica, Alexandra Bica and Dr. Steven Kalamaras. Back Row left to right: Constantin Zamfir and Ali Jassem. The photograph was taken by Samuel Thomas. Christina Thomas and Samuel Thomas also assisted with pastry preparations.



Thank you to the following people who also provided assistance with pastry sale preparations and / or sales: Pota Yianoukos Davis, Constantino Hiotis, Christine Kalamaras, Beth Levos, Maria Mesires, Richard Roderick, Maria Ronson, Maria Thomas and Olga Thomas.

Ingredients Fund: If you have not contributed to the Ingredients Fund, please consider making a donation in order to defray the expenses associated with the sale. Your donation is most appreciated. Please note some of the ingredients in the amount of \$700.00 were purchased and donated by a few parishioners and were not included as expenses or monetary donations.



The photographs of the sale were taken by Mihai Bica on December 7 at approximately 10:30 a.m.



The Divine Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Feast Day: Sunday, January 6

When our Lord had reached age thirty, John the Forerunner, who had lived in the wilderness since childhood, received a command from God, and he went to Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Our Lord came from Galilee to the Jordan to receive baptism, though he was the Master and John was a servant. The heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him at his baptism. A voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17). From these events the Divinity of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Holy Trinity had come to light. It is also from this that the baptismal feast is called "Theophany", the divine manifestation of God's appearance among men.

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 12:45 p.m. Should the church service be cancelled due to inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled to the following week.

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 Najji Bahou, brothers and sisters-in-law, Stundy and Louise Aboud and Victor and Peg Bahou and brothers-in-law and sisters, Richard and Malaky Aboud-Ofiesh, Rushd "Roy" and Pauline Farah and Hab and Victoria Bahou-Kattouf and nephew, Elia R. Ofiesh;

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

Helen 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 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 mother and father, Peter and Mary Matos and his maternal grandparents, George and Helen Ronson;

Tony Mesires and his daughter, Maria Mesires, in memory of Tony's wife and Maria's mother, Mary Mesires, Tony's father and mother, George and Chrisoula Mesires and their sons, Dr. Robert Mesires and Nicholas Mesires and daughter-in-law, Elnora "Ellie" 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, brother, James Calender, brothers-in-law, George Thomas and William Tinsley and sister-in-law, Androniki Thomas;

Samuel Thomas in memory of John and Maria Booras, Peter and Ismini Courniotes, Dr. Joyce Dallaportas, Gregory Eliopoulos, Andreas Kyrris, John and Dorothy Stathacos and their daughter, Maria Stathacos Roderick, James Rochonchou and James 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*.

Bethany United Methodist Church

After years of declining membership and financial difficulties, Bethany United Methodist Church, 214 West Lynde Street, Watertown, New York held its final service on October 28, 2018. For many years Bethany Church was a very active congregation with a large membership. A Methodist Church serving residents on the north side of the city, it was established in the latter part of the 19th century. There are two other United Methodist Churches in the city of Watertown: First United Methodist Church and Asbury United Methodist Church. We offer prayers that the members of Bethany Church find peace and strength during this time of change.



"In each tiny snowflake and every star shining brightly above, may you feel the wonder of His love."

In Appreciation

Thank you to the following November/December coffee hour hosts: Pota Yianoukos Davis, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Karl and Lynn Kissman, Thomas family, Jonathan and Michelle Wilgus and the Yanulis family.

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

Watertown Urban Mission

During the month of December, 36 large sized food items were delivered to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. Each item contained multiple servings. The total number of items donated in 2018 was approximately 244. In 2017, 465 items were donated to the Food Pantry. Thank you for your contributions.

Easter Greek Pastry & Bread Sale

The Western Easter is on April 21, and the Orthodox Pascha is on April 28. The date of the Pastry Sale has not yet been determined. Pastry preparations will begin on Saturday, February 16 at 10:00 a.m., and they will also take place on Saturday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m. The date of the Pastry Sale and additional preparation times will be announced in the March/April Newsletter.

The deadline for the submission of items for the March / April 2019 Newsletter is Sunday, February 17.

IN MEMORIAM



Olympia D. Conostas, Syracuse, New York died on Saturday, December 1, 2018. She was 87 years old. Olympia was a native of Watertown, New York, and was the daughter of the late Christ and Sapho Diamond. Many years ago she had attended Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown. Her father and mother were one of the founding members of Saint Vasilios Church.

Olympia graduated with honors from Watertown High School. She retired from Niagara Mohawk in 1987 after 30 years of service. Olympia was a very active member of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Syracuse. She served as secretary and president of the Philoptochos Society, sang in the choir and taught Sunday School.

Olympia was predeceased by her parents, brother, James Diamond and husband, Nicholas Conostas. She is survived by her daughter, Christine (Richard) Perry, granddaughter, Alexa (Matthew) Estock, brother-in-law, George (Elaine) Conostas and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was held on Wednesday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church. The burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Father David Smith officiated at the services.

Donations in Olympia's memory can be made to Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 325 Waring Road, Syracuse, New York 13224. "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be her memory."

Elia R. Ofiesh, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania died on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. He was 67 years old and was the nephew of Helen Bahou, Watertown. "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be his memory."

A Mnimosino service was held on November 4 for **Anne Calender** (4 years), **Chris Calender** (4 years), **Eugenie Calender** (3 years), **Madonna Calender** (5 years), and **Robert Eisenberg** (2 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on Veterans Day, November 11 **for soldiers who lost their lives in war and for deceased veterans**. "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Mnimosino service was held on November 18 for **Michael Athanasiou** (85 years), **Maria Athanasiou** (66 years), **Chris Thomas** (48 years), **George Thomas** (47 years), **Androniki Thomas** (22 years), **Benjamin Litman** (8 years), **Androniki Thomas Litman** (7 years), **Andreas Kyrris** (4 months), and **Ismeni Courniotes** (40 days). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on November 25 for **Angelo Dallaportas** (42 years), **Vasiliki Dallaportas** (47 years), **Dina Dallaportas** (12 years), **Dr. Joyce Dallaportas** (5 years), **Katherine Dallas** (17 years), and **John Dennis** (7 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on December 2 for **Aspasia Filtch** (3 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be her memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on December 16 for **Gregory Gagag** (45 years), **Ernestine Gagag** (23 years), **Costa Karatzou** (31 years), **Hariklia Karatzou** (39 years), **Despina Karatzou Maglaras** (5 years), and **John Maglaras** (1 year). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Mnimosino service was held on December 24 for **Nicholas Pialoglous** (3 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be his memory."

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and a prosperous New Year! Chrónia pollá! Many years!



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 and Military Units** throughout the world, who are deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

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

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 **victims of violent acts** that have occurred in various locations throughout the United States..

We pray for the **victims of the horrific wildfires and heavy rain** that have devastated vast regions of California.

We pray for the **victims of the tsunami** which struck Indonesia.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Olympia D. Conostas.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Elia R. Ofiesh.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Stavros Anthony, Florence Bajjaly, Gheorghe Berea, Father John Demos, Dolly Georgiade, Karl Kissman, Lynn Kissman, Isaac Lichtenstein, Father Chris and Presvytera Roula Matos, Anna Pialoglous, Nick, Mary and John Politis, 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.