



# SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

502 FRANKLIN STREET • WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

Church Phone: (315) 788-4920 • Website: [www.saintvasilios.org](http://www.saintvasilios.org)

SAMUEL THOMAS

Parish Council President  
(315) 782-1763

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP YANULIS, *Proistamenos*

(315) 468-4814 (HOME) or (315) 413-0024 Ext. 12 (OFFICE)

OLGA THOMAS

Choir Director and Organist

## MARCH / APRIL 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. Services are only held at the times listed below.

Mar. 3 **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*

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

Mar. 10 **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

Mar. 11 **Great Lent begins**  
Monday

Mar. 15 **First Salutations to the Theotokos**  
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 16 **Saturday of the Souls**  
Saturday

Mar. 17 **Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
1st Sunday of Lent **Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland**  
**Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40, pg. 180  
Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51, pg. 181

Mar. 22 **Second Salutations to the Theotokos**  
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 24 **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. 184

Mar. 25 **Annunciation of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary**  
Monday **Greek Independence Day**

Mar. 29 **Third Salutations to the Theotokos**  
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 31 **Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross**  
3rd Sunday of Lent **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6, pg. 183  
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184

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

Apr. 7 **Sunday of Saint John Climacus**  
4th Sunday of Lent **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20, pg. 185  
Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31, pg. 185

Apr. 12 **Akathist Hymn**  
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Apr. 14 **Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt**  
5th Sunday of Lent Although there will be no Divine Liturgy, the sanctuary will be open from 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Apr. 20 **Saturday of Saint Lazarus**  
Saturday

Apr. 21 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Palm Sunday Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9, pg. 188  
The partaking Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18, pg. 189  
of fish & oil permitted.

**The Holy Week Schedule of Services is listed on page 2.**

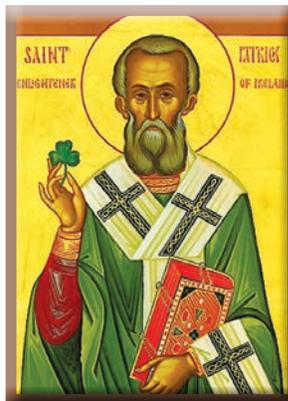
Apr. 23 **Saint George, the Holy Great Martyr and Triumphant**  
Holy Tuesday

Apr. 25 **Saint Mark, the Apostle and Evangelist**  
Holy Thursday

Apr. 29 **Renewal Week / No fasting all week.**  
Monday **Saint George (observed)**

May 3 **Theotokos of the Holy Life-Giving Font**  
Friday

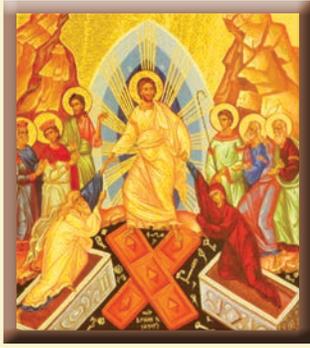
May 5 **Divine Liturgy** .....10:30 a.m.  
Sunday of St. Thomas Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20, pg. 100  
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31, pg. 101



### Hymn of Saint Patrick

*“O Holy Hierarchy, equal to the Apostles, Saint Patrick, wonderworker and enlightener of Ireland; intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.”*

**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.



# Holy Week Services

Although there will be no services on Holy Monday, April 22, and Holy Tuesday, April 23, the sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Order forms for the Holy Week and Pascha Services book are available in the church hall.

**Apr. 21 Service of the Bridegroom** .....1:30 p.m.  
*Palm Sunday Afternoon*

**Apr. 24 The Sacrament of Holy Unction** ..... 7:00 p.m.  
*Holy Wednesday*

**Apr. 25 Vespereal Divine Liturgy** ..... 5:00 p.m.  
*Holy Thursday*  
**The Twelve Gospels** ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Apr. 26 Great Vespers Service** ..... 4:30 p.m.  
*Holy Friday*  
**The Lamentations Service** .... 7:00 p.m.

**Apr. 27 Vespereal Divine Liturgy** ..... 9:00 a.m.  
*Holy Saturday*  
Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11, pg. 191  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-20, pg. 191  
**Orthros** ..... 11:30 p.m.

**Apr. 28 Resurrection Service** ..... Midnight  
*Easter Sunday/ Holy Pascha*  
**Divine Liturgy** ..... 12:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8, pg. 99  
Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17, pg. 99

**Great Vespers Agape Service** ..... Noon\*

The Epistle and Gospel readings noted above can be located in The Orthodox Liturgy (black-covered book) found in the pew rack.

*\*During the Great Vespers Agape Service on Holy Pascha, the Gospels are read in Greek, English, Italian, Latin, French, Romanian, Arabic and Hebrew. If there is another language you would like to read, please see Father Philip Yanulis.*

## General Assembly Meeting

A General Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to review the financial statement for the year ending 2018. Other items for discussion will be the present and future spiritual needs of the parish along with anticipated repair and renovation projects. This meeting is open to both members and associates of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church. The Parish Council has found that conducting the General Assembly Meeting in the sanctuary offers greater participation. Many times, parishioners would leave before the start of the meeting, and it was difficult to establish a quorum. You are strongly encouraged to attend this annual meeting so that you are aware of the present accomplishments and future needs of the parish.

**Financial Statements:** During the month of January, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, church treasurer, mailed or you directly received the Church Financial Statement and your membership statement for the year 2018. Please review these documents so that you are aware of the financial status of the parish. The Parish Council thanks you for your contributions.

## Great Lent and Holy Week

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 11. Please see the listing of Holy Week Services to the left of this page. Although there are no services listed for the Salutations to the Theotokos including the Akathist Hymn during Great Lent, the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 5:30 p.m. through 7:30 p.m.

The Greek Orthodox Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday, April 21. During the past several years, revisions to the services have been made in order that they are conducted within a reasonable amount of time without comprising the sanctity of the service.

Father Philip will be available to those who wish to receive Holy Communion and prayer in their home. Should you desire an appointment, please contact Father Philip Yanulis at (315) 468-4814, or you may leave a message on the church answering machine by telephoning (315) 788-4920.

Holy Week serves as a preparation to worship our risen Lord. The celebration of Pascha is most complete when one relives the events that take place from Palm Sunday through Holy Friday. These services recount everything that Jesus Christ endured to fulfill the will of the Father from His crucifixion on the cross and His glorious resurrection. By reliving Christ's experience of Holy Week, we too can be resurrected and become closer to God. The services of Holy Week contain some of Orthodoxy's most beautiful Byzantine poetry. We hope to see you at the Holy Week and Pascha services.

## Holy Week Donations

Each year monetary donations are collected for the Epitaphios and Easter lily plants. If you choose, you may forward your contribution to:

### Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church

c/o Floral Fund • 516 Franklin Street • Watertown, New York

The traditional hard-boiled, red dyed Easter eggs are needed for distribution following the Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy and Great Vespers Agape Service. In order to assure that there is an adequate supply of Easter eggs, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the church hall. It is suggested that each person or family who volunteers to prepare the eggs, donate at least one dozen. The eggs will be blessed at the conclusion of each service. Please leave them in the church kitchen refrigerator by Holy Saturday afternoon. Thank you for your contributions.

## Service Cancellation

There will be No Divine Liturgy on the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, April 14. Father Yanulis will be traveling out of the area. The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.

# Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland

FEAST DAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 17

On Sunday, March 17, Saint Patrick, Bishop of Armagh and Enlightener of Ireland will be commemorated. This may come as a surprise to many Orthodox Christians, but Saint Patrick is an Orthodox Saint because he was canonized a saint before Rome split from the Holy Apostolic Church. He lived from 385 until March 17, about 461. His father was Calpurnius, a Roman Decurion, tax collector and a deacon in the church. His grandfather, Potitus, was a priest. He lived during the time when the Roman Empire was under siege by barbarians. When Patrick was about sixteen years old, he was kidnapped by pirates, taken to Ireland and sold as a slave. He was put to work as a herder on a mountain in the County of Antrim.

Looking back on his youth, he recounts, "After I came to Ireland, every day I had to tend sheep, and many times a day I prayed, and the love of God came to me more and more, and my faith was strengthened. My spirit was so moved that in a single day I would say a hundred prayers and almost as many at night. Even when I was staying in the woods and on the mountain, I would rise for prayer before daylight and I felt no harm through snow, rain and frost."

After six years of slavery in Ireland, he was guided by God to make his escape. He then entered and struggled in the monastic life in Gaul, France. Many years later Patrick was consecrated a bishop and in 432 and was sent to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christ. Many thousands of Irish converted to Christ, and his labors bore so much fruit that within seven years, three bishops were sent from Gaul to help lead his flock.

His apostolic work often caused him much weariness and painfulness due to the long journeys. Through his many perils, he said his life was endangered twelve times. When Saint Patrick went to Ireland as its enlightener, it was a pagan country; thirty years later the faith of Christ had been established throughout Ireland.

## Old Irish Blessing

*May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.*

*May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam.*

*May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.*

*May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.*

## Consecration of Romania's National Cathedral

Thousands of worshipers from around the country of Romania attended the consecration of a massive new Orthodox Cathedral in Bucharest, Romania. The construction of the Romanian's People's Salvation Cathedral in Bucharest began in 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. On Sunday, November 25, 2018 the cathedral was consecrated by the His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Patriarch Daniel of Romania, and other church hierarchs were present at the service. Approximately 2,000 people were permitted to attend the Divine Liturgy inside of the cathedral.

## In Appreciation

Thank you to the following who contributed refreshments for coffee hours during January and February: Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Patricia Penree and the Thomas family.



*Pictured above is StephanieAlexandra, Laila and Jonathan.*

## Baptism

**Laila Regina Wilgus**, daughter of Jonathan and Michelle Wilgus, was baptized on Sunday, December 30, 2018 at 1:00 pm. in the sanctuary. Father Philip Yanulis officiated at the service. StephanieAlexandra Yanulis is the godparent. Laila was born on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Wichita Falls Birth and Wellness Center in Wichita Falls, Texas. Laila is Jonathan and Michelle's first child. Michelle and Laila are currently residing in Utica, New York with Michelle's family while Jonathan is deployed to the country of Poland. "Na nas zisi." "May she live for you."

THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY ALI JASSEM.

## Greek Easter Pastry & Bread Sale

The sale is scheduled for

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

**9:00 a.m. - Until Sold Out**

The following pastries will be prepared on the dates listed below:

### Koulourakia:

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

Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m.

**There will be no pastry preparations on Saturday, March 9.**

### Kourabiethes:

Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m.

### Fenekia:

Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

### Flutes:

Tuesday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m.

### Baklava:

Saturday, April 13 at 9:00 a.m.

### Pastry Cupping of Kourabiethes:

Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

### Pastry Display:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

April 16, 17 and 18 at 11:00 a.m.

Baklava cutting and pastry cupping

**FLYERS announcing the sale are available in the church hall for posting and distribution.**



## IN MEMORIAM

A Trisagion prayer service was held on February 10 for **Gregory Eliopoulos** (15 months). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be his memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on February 10 for **Haralambos (Harry) Ronson** (22 years), **Georgia Ronson** (14 years) and **Nicholas Ronson** (29 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."

A Trisagion prayer service was held on February 17 for **Androniki Thomas** (23 years). "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be her memory."

## A Very Tragic Day in Watertown

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.



On a frigid, early morning on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, a very tragic and horrifying fire took place at the residence of 906 Myrtle Avenue, Watertown, which is approximately one half mile from Saint Vasilios Church. Aaron Bodah, the father of five children, made a valiant attempt to save his daughters. Tragically, he and two of his daughters died in the house. Two other children died in Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York the next day.

The deceased victims are Aaron Bodah, age 38, Merissa Bodah, age 14, Alexa Bodah, age 8, Erin Bodah, age 5, and Skylar Bodah, age 4. One surviving child, Hailey Bodah, age 13, escaped with minor injuries in her attempt to seek help from nearby neighbors.

This horrifying and tragic fire which claimed the lives of five innocent people should remind us how short and fleeting life can be for all of us. May the memory of the deceased loved ones live on in the hearts and souls of those who were blessed to have known them. A donation to directly benefit Hailey Bodah may be made to Community Bank, NA, 1125 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601. "Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be their memory."



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We pray for the **persecuted Christians and others who are the victims of the horrific acts of terrorism and brutality by Muslim extremists, and for the 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, the United States Armed Forces, who are stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and in other regions throughout the world.

We pray for the well-being of our **military families**. We pray for **those who lost their lives or were injured** serving in the war against terrorism.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of the Bodah family.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Stavros Anthony, Florence Bajjaly, Gheorghe Berea, Father John Demos, Dolly Georgiade, Karl Kissman, Lynn Kissman, Yvonne Levos, 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.

## A Parish Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 10 at 12:45 p.m.



THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PARISH HOUSE WAS TAKEN BY MIHAI BICA ON FEBRUARY 3.

## Winter 2018-2019

Winter began in earnest with the first significant snowfall on November 15-16 followed by cold temperatures until mid December. A reprieve from the snow and cold took place for several weeks and on January 10 the snow and cold returned. On January 31, Jefferson County was placed under a State of Emergency for approximately 24 hours when heavy lake effect snow became very difficult to remove from streets and highways.

Throughout most of January and early February, it was necessary to cancel Sunday services due to the dangerous conditions. Watertown Department of Public Works did an exceptional job with snow removal and snowbank reduction throughout the city. However, above average temperatures from February 3-5 led to a thaw which significantly reduced the snow cover. Thankfully, there were no flooding problems. The snow was removed from the parish house garage and the porch roofs due to the excessive amount of accumulation. Since November nearly 146 inches of snow has fallen in the city of Watertown.

We are very thankful to Dean Stephenson and his son Scott for doing an exceptional job snow blowing the sidewalks on Franklin Street and Keyes Avenue and for plowing the driveway at the parish house. They were there on most mornings by 6:00 a.m. in very adverse conditions.

On Sunday, February 24, the Divine Liturgy was cancelled when a high wind warning was issued for most of New York State. This was followed by a blizzard warning for areas east of Lake Ontario and a lakeshore flood warning. Although the wind gusted to 60 mph, there was no property damage to the church or parish house and only small branches fell from some of the trees. There were numerous power outages and property damage throughout New York State. Wind gusts along the lakeshore at Oswego Harbor peaked at 77 mph.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME resumes on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. Turn your clock ahead by one hour!**

The deadline for the submission of items for the May / June 2019 Newsletter is Sunday, April 21, 2019.