



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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OLGA THOMAS

Choir Director and Organist



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2020 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. 6 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
13th Sunday
of Matthew
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 16:13-24, pg. 134
Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42, pg. 135

Sept. 7 **Labor Day**
Monday

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

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

Sept. 13 **Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*
The service of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Sept. 14 **Universal Celebration of the Exaltation of the**
Monday
Sacred and Life-Giving Cross

Sept. 20 **Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184

Sept. 26 **The falling asleep of Saint John the Apostle,**
Saturday
Evangelist and Theologian

Sept. 27 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
1st Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 6:1-10, pg. 139
Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11, pg. 143

Oct. 1 **Saint Romanos, the Melodist**
Thursday

Oct. 4 **National Church Music Sunday**
2nd Sunday
of Luke
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 6:16-18, 7:1, pg. 141
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36, pg. 144

Oct. 6 **Saint Thomas, the Apostle**
Tuesday

Oct. 11 **Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council**
4th Sunday
of Luke
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15*
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15, pg. 147

Oct. 12 **Columbus Day**
Monday

Oct. 18 **Saint Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy2:00 p.m.
Epistle Reading: Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18*
Gospel Reading: Luke 10:16-21*

Oct. 20 **Saint Gerasimos of Cephalonia**
Tuesday

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

Oct. 25 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
6th Sunday
of Luke
Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39, pg. 150

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

Oct. 28 **Holy Protection of the Blessed Theotokos**
Wednesday
OXI Day

Nov. 1 **Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy**
5th Sunday
of Luke
Unmercenary Physicians of Asia Minor
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8*
Epistle Reading: Luke 16:19-31, pg. 148

Nov. 8 **Synaxis of Archangels Michael and Gabriel and**
7th Sunday
of Luke
other Bodiless Powers
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 2:2-10*
Epistle Reading: Luke 8:41-56, pg. 152

*Hymn of Saints Victor,
Stephanie (Corona) and Menas:
“With songs of praise, let us hymn the
steadfast athletes of Christ: divine Victor,
Vincent and the noble Stephanie,
with Menas the all-glorious. Having crushed
the foe in sundry ages and countries. They
rejoice together, glorified in the Heavens. Have
mercy, O Christ Saviour, on all,
by Thy Martyrs’ prayers.”*

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

Please note: The 5th, 6th and 7th Sundays of Luke do not follow in numerical order.



Saint Victor and Saint Stephanie

(CORONA)

FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 11

Though sometimes forgotten, the Orthodox and Catholic Churches have long commemorated a saint who is thought to protect against disease and pandemics, such as today's COVID-19. Saint Stephanie in the Eastern Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church, is also known as Saint Corona and is considered the guardian over all those suffering from diseases and pandemics. Saint Stephanie lived in the middle of the 2nd century AD in Italy and was the wife of a soldier.

Saints Victor and Stephanie were persecuted in Damascus, Syria in the year 160, during the reign of Antoninus Pius. The pagans arrested Saint Victor as a Christian and cut off his fingers, put out his eyes and beheaded him. As Saint Stephanie, the wife of a soldier and a Christian, saw Saint Victor's nobility in his sufferings, she loudly cried out to call him blessed and to say that she saw two crowns prepared, one for him, and one for herself.

Saint Stephanie offered him encouragement to endure his martyrdom until the end. Pagans then arrested her for assisting Saint Victor, whereupon she confessed her unwavering faith in Christ. She was then tortured and put to death. Today, her help is sought by the faithful in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The feast day of Saints Vincent and Menas is also celebrated on November 11.

General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly Meeting that was scheduled for Sunday, April 5 was not held due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and the inability to conduct meetings and services. **The General Assembly meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 27 at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.** The purpose of this meeting is to review the financial statement for the year ending 2019 and to discuss building and grounds projects. At the Parish Council Meeting, on July 26, it was decided to postpone the Parish Council Elections that were to be held in the fall until next spring.

The Net Ordinary Income as of August 31 is \$4,970.09. We thank you for your dues and donations that are provided to our parish. Please note that the annual dues are \$150.00 per adult who has reached age 21, and it should be submitted in full by December 31. Please bring or send in your offering regularly. Even if you are absent, the church expenses go on each week.

2020 Profit / Loss Statement

(JANUARY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31)

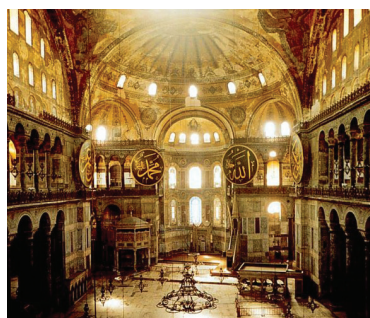
Total Income	\$ 23,681.00
Total Expenses.....	\$ 18,710.91
Net Ordinary Income.....	\$ 4,970.09

COVID-19 Precautions and Church Services

Since June 21, the Divine Liturgy has been conducted each week beginning at 10:30 a.m. If a service is cancelled, please check your email or telephone messages by 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

Please be assured that necessary precautions are taken each week in order to eliminate the possible spread of COVID-19 in our church building.

1. The building is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each week. There are only a few individuals that enter the building between Monday – Saturday.
2. Hand sanitizers are available upon entering the church at the lower front door, at the candle table in the Narthex and in the church hall.
3. If you have forgotten to bring a mask, they are available at the lower entrance of the church.
4. Each person is dispensed Holy Communion on a plastic spoon. The plastic spoons are then sanitized and disposed of later in the day.
5. Antidorn ("instead of the gift") is prewrapped in a plastic bag and placed on a tray. You may select a bag after receiving Holy Communion and at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
6. Please note that church attendance allows for proper social distancing in the sanctuary and church hall.



Hagia Sophia

As most of you are probably aware, Hagia Sophia located in Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey was recently converted from a museum to a mosque during the summer. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ordered the conversion of the city's historic Hagia Sophia back into a mosque after a court annulled a 1934 presidential decree that it be made into a museum.

Orthodox churches are noted for the beauty and elegance of their Byzantine architecture, and the grandest prototype is the cathedral of Hagia Sophia erected in Constantinople in the sixth century. We pray that this magnificent cathedral, which has stood the test of time, remain in tact and that efforts by the international community toward long lasting preservation be accepted by the Turkish government. It is listed as a United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.



Asbury United Methodist Church

Our church neighbor, Asbury United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Franklin, Parker and Sterling Streets is in the midst of major renovation projects. Perhaps you have seen the intricate and incredible scaffolding which nearly reaches to the top of the tower. The congregation began a capital campaign project to replace the roof, repair and paint the tower, repoint the exterior stonework and enhance the sanctuary with some important upgrades. The cost of these projects will exceed \$580,000.00.

We are very grateful that the congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church has committed themselves to preserving one of Watertown's most prominent and historic churches. May God bring forth many blessings to them for a bright and prosperous future.

Farewell

Dr. George and Mary Mina have sold their home in Potsdam, New York and have relocated to a full time residence in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They have been members of our parish for many years and will continue to do so. May their future be blessed with good health.



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, and for those innocent people who are the victims of conflict and corruption.**

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, Iraq and Syria 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 **those who have died or have been ill** due to COVID-19.

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

We pray for the **victims of the wildfires** which ignited in California and the Western United States, and also for the **victims of Hurricane Laura** which struck several Caribbean countries and Louisiana, Texas and other southern regions in the United States.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Florence Bajjaly.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Athanasia Cornelius.

Remember the following in your prayers: **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, Abbe Theodore, Helen Thomas, Basile and Eleni Valtadoros and Alice Zaffery.**

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

Christmas Greek Pastry & Bread Sale

The Greek Pastry and Bread Sale is tentatively scheduled for:

Friday, December 11
Saturday, December 12

Due to COVID-19, modifications to the sale will have to be given full consideration later in the fall. Since the Greek Easter Bread and Pastry Sale was not held in April, it is essential that income from this fundraiser be generated in order to attempt to maintain a balanced budget for the year 2020.

As always, your assistance is needed in order to assure that there is an adequate supply of pastries. A Saturday morning preparation schedule is listed below. Most importantly, help is needed with weighing and shaping the pastries. During the past few years these tasks have been accomplished within 90 minutes. Thank you in advance for your support.

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

September 26	Koulourakia
October 3	Koulourakia
October 10	Koulourakia
October 17	Kourabiethes
October 24	Kourabiethes
October 31	Kourabiethes
November 7	Fenekia
November 14	Fenekia
November 21	Fenekia

Preparation dates for flutes and baklava will be announced in the November /December Newsletter. Please do not hesitate to come and join us in making this important fundraiser a success.

The deadline for the submission of items for the NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER is Sunday, October 18, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM



Florence Bajjaly of Mill Street, Watertown, New York died on Monday, June 22, 2020 at her home. She was under the care of Jefferson County Hospice, her caregivers and family. Florence was 96 years old.

Florence was born on January 9, 1924 in Watertown and was the daughter of the late Namie N. and Marie Otakie Bajjaly. She graduated from Watertown High School and the Watertown School of Commerce. Soon after her education, Florence began her career in the paper industry, beginning at the former Taggart Paper Company and later at the former Saint Regis Paper Company. Florence retired as a Traffic Manager after forty seven years of service.

Following her retirement, she was the Jefferson County Republican Chairman for several years. She was the only woman in the county to hold that position. She also served on the City of Watertown's Zoning Board of Appeals.

Florence was a life member of Trinity Episcopal Church and was baptized in the Eastern Orthodox Church. During World War II she volunteered at the United Service Organization (USO) and was a longtime member of the Watertown Golf Club. For many years, Florence assisted with pastry preparations that were sold at the Easter and Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sales at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church. She usually arrived early on Saturday mornings with her friend and neighbor, the late Maria Booras.

Florence cared deeply for our church and gave very generously for many years. The customized draperies in the church hall were donated by Florence in 2008, and the black covered Divine Liturgy books were also given in loving memory of her mother, Marie Bajjaly.

Florence is survived by several nieces and nephews, including her nephew and caregiver, Phillip J. Bajjaly. Her father and mother, Namie and Marie Bajjaly, four brothers, Fred, Philip, Frank, and Dr. Floyd Bajjaly and two sisters, Freda Bajjaly and Olga Ball, all died before her.

A private graveside service was held at the convenience of the family in North Watertown Cemetery. A forty day Mnimosino service was held on Sunday, August 9. Contributions in Florence's

memory may be made to Saint Vasilios Church, 502 Franklin Street, Watertown, New York 13601 or to Hospice of Jefferson County, 1398 Gotham Street Road, Watertown, New York 13601. Arrangements were entrusted to D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc, Watertown, New York. Online condolences may be forwarded to www.dlcalarco.com. "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be her memory."



Athanasia Cornelius, formerly of Lisbon, New York died on Sunday, March 22, 2020 at Mary Ann Morse Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Natick, Massachusetts. She was 92 years old. Athanasia was born to the late John Elenis and Georgia Tsilis Elenis on September 25, 1927 in Examilia, a small village near Corinth, Greece. During her life, she resided alternatively in Greece and the United States. In the 1960s Athanasia became a United States citizen, a particular point of pride for her.

Athanasia loved cooking, gardening and walking. She loved and worshiped God in the Greek Orthodox tradition and had on many occasions attended Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, New York. Athanasia was a devoted caregiver, dedicated to her family and friends.

Athanasia is survived by her son, John Kitsalis and his wife, Aileen and their daughter Olivia of Framingham, Massachusetts; her niece, Demetra Hurst and her husband Arthur of Lisbon, and nieces and nephews in Greece and Sweden. She is predeceased by her mother and father, John and Georgia Elenis, and siblings, Maria Blaxou, Kiriakos Elenis and Antonia Tsingos.

Donations in Athanasia's memory may be made to Saint Vasilios Church, 502 Franklin Street, Watertown, New York 13601. Online condolences may be forwarded to www.fraryfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were entrusted to Frary Funeral Homes, Inc., Ogdensburg, New York. Burial was in the Lisbon Cemetery. "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be her memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on Sunday, August 30 for **Savas Calender** (63 years), **Olga Calender** (46 years), **Mary Calender** (9 years), **James Calender** (2 years), **William Tinsley II** (17 years), **Anne Tinsley** (5 years). "Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."



Beirut, Lebanon

Our thoughts and prayers are with victims and survivors of explosions that occurred on August 4 in a ship in the port city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. The explosions were linked to thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate that were stored improperly for several years. These devastating explosions killed approximately 200 people and wounded thousands of people. Nearly 300,000 people were left with homes that were unfit to live

in due to structural problems caused by the explosion. Since this devastating event, there has been a significant increase in the number of people afflicted with COVID-19 in Lebanon. International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) released emergency funds to assist immediately with those affected.



**DAYLIGHT
-SAVING
TIME ENDS**

Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m.
Turn your clocks back by one hour.

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 3.