



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SAMUEL THOMAS

Parish Council President
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REVEREND FATHER PHILIP YANULIS, *Proistamenos*

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OLGA THOMAS

Choir Director and Organist

JULY / AUGUST 2023 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.

July 25 **Dormition of Saint Anna, Mother of the Theotokos**
Tuesday

July 26 **Saint Paraskevi, the Righteous Martyr of Rome**
Wednesday

July 27 **Saint Panteleimon, the Great Martyr and Healer**
Thursday

July 30 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
8th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 1:10-17, pg. 126
Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:14-22, pg. 127

Aug. 1 **Fast begins in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**
Tuesday

Aug. 6 **Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: II Peter 1:10-19*
Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9**

Aug. 13 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
10th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 4:9-16, pg. 129
Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:14-23, pg. 130

Aug. 15 **Koimisis (Repose) of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**
Tuesday
Although there will be no service, the sanctuary will be open from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Aug 20 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
11th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 9:2-12, pg. 131
Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:23-35, pg. 131

Aug 27 **Saint Phanourios, the Great Martyr**
12th Sunday of Matthew
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17, pg. 156
Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26, pg. 133

Aug. 29 **Commemoration of the Beheading of the Glorious Prophet and Venerable Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist**
Tuesday

Sept. 1 **Saint Simeon, the Stylite**
Friday
The Ecclesiastical New Year begins

Sept. 3 **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. 4 **Labor Day**
Monday

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

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

Sept. 10 **Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*

Saint Phanourios, the Great Martyr and Newly Appeared of Rhodes

Feast Day: Sunday,
August 27

Kontakion of the
Great Martyr
Phanourios:

*"From a vile captivity,
thou didst deliver the
Lord's priests, and, O
thou godly-minded
one, didst break their
bonds by divine right;
thou bravely shame
the tyrants' madness,
giving joy unto the
Angels, O thou Great
Martyr. O Phanourios
most glorious, we all
revere thee as a true
warrior of God."*



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

** The Gospel reading for the 9th Sunday of Matthew is not listed because it does not correspond with the feast day of the Transfiguration.

The deadline for the submission of items for the September / October 2023 Newsletter is Sunday, August 20.
Have a safe and an enjoyable summer!



Candle Usage

The price of most goods and services have significantly increased in the past several years, including candles that are lit in the sanctuary. Before consideration is made for a possible increase in prices, an accurate accounting candle income needs to first take place. If you are purchasing a candle or candles, you may leave the cost owed in the tray on the candle table located in the Narthex. If you prefer, candle purchases can be given in the offering tray but please accurately list the amount of your candle purchases. The cost of a candle has not increased in the past several years. The prices are as follows: \$1.00 for a one-day beeswax candle and \$3.00 for the next larger sized beeswax candle. The \$3.00 candle is lit for at least three consecutive Sundays. Six-day glass candles are \$5.00 and are safely burned throughout the week. **Please Note that candles are costly and payment is required.**

If you have purchased glass candles for home usage, please return the empty glass container by August 1. The next pick-up of glass candles should occur by August 10. Thank you for your cooperation regarding these matters.

General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly Meeting was held on Sunday June 11. The financial statement for the year ending 2022 was reviewed by Dr. Steven Kalamaras, church treasurer. As noted in the May/June 2023 Newsletter, the income in 2022 was compared to 2021. Interest rates on Certificate of Deposit Accounts have increased which will bring some additional income to the church. As in 2022, it was noted that inflation will most likely have an impact on maintaining a balanced budget for at least the next few years. Mr. Thomas, parish council president, noted that there are several deferred maintenance projects that need to be addressed in the coming year. He stated that there has been vandalism at the Parish House and to the Church Building.

On three occasions during December 2022 and February 2023 homeless people had taken shelter on the church grounds and on the upper front entrance to the church. The police were notified, and adequate housing was provided for these people. Although minor crimes and acts of trespassing have been committed, precautions have been taken to ensure the safety and security of our grounds and buildings. Safety checks for the church and parish house take place two-three times during a 24-hour period.

Dr. Kalamaras stated that there has not been an increase in church dues, candles and other purchases offered by the church in many years. He also commented that generous donations by some parishioners have allowed the church to realize a profit nearly every year. Lastly, Parish Council Elections still have not been finalized and will hopefully conclude during the summer.

Upcoming Projects:



As previously mentioned attempts will be made again this year to repair rain gutters on the church, beginning with lot clean-up in certain areas on the property, and security cameras will be considered for the church and parish house.

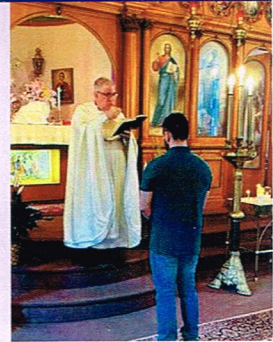
Future Services

A decision has not yet been made about future services. Samuel Thomas proposed that consideration should be given to holding services on the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month. If a church service is cancelled, it would not be held until the next time a service is scheduled. There were concerns noted due to multiple winter cancellations and other times during the year which may further diminish the opportunities to host a service. The sanctuary will remain open each Sunday and will be closed only if there is a weather related travel ban in the City of Watertown.

A General Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, September 24 in order to further discuss this issue along with other matters of business. The meeting will begin at 11:45am in the sanctuary.

Chrismation

Andrew Romariez, formerly with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, was chrismated into the Eastern Orthodox Church on Sunday, April 30, following the Gospel reading. Andrew relocated to Camp Zama Army Base in Japan. May the teachings of the Eastern Orthodox Church be a source of inspiration for him. Samuel Thomas served as the sponsor.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Grace Theodore, daughter of James and Abbe Theodore, Potsdam, New York graduated from Potsdam Central High School earning an Advanced Regents Diploma with a master of science. She is a member of the National Honor Society. The graduation ceremony was held at Helen Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam on Friday, June 23, 2023. She will be attending Union College in Schenectady, New York in the fall and will be pursuing undergraduate studies in biological science in pursuit of the medical field. (Right side picture)



Anna Bica

Anna Bica, daughter of Mihai and Aurelia Bica, Town of Watertown, graduated magna cum laude from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York on Saturday, May 27, 2023. She received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Food Science with a minor in Business. Anna is now pursuing positions along the east coast of the United States. (Left Side Picture)



Left to right: David and Jane Wells, maternal grandparents, Grace Theodore, and Margaret and Chris Theodore, paternal grandparents.

We wish our graduates many blessings and the best of success in their future endeavors!

Saint Phanourios the Great Martyr and Newly Appeared of Rhodes

Feast Day: Sunday, August 27

There is little known of the Holy Martyr Phanourios, except that which is depicted concerning his martyrdom of his holy icon, which was discovered in the year 1500 among the ancient ruins in Rhodes when the Muslims ruled there. In the 16th century, this Greek Island of Rhodes fell to the Ottoman Empire. The Muslim occupants went to look for reusable stones, and they discovered the ruins of an Orthodox Church and many icons. All of them had rotted beyond recognition except for one, which looked brand new. The Turks did not see any value in this icon and left it behind. A group of Orthodox monks had observed the icon's uncovering and brought it to Metropolitan Nilus of Rhodes. The inscription indicated that the icon was Saint Phanourios (meaning "Revealer"), and he was declared a newly discovered saint.

The panels that bordered the icon clearly indicated that Saint Phanourios had endured many severe punishments which led to his martyrdom. Metropolitan Nilus petitioned the Sultan in Constantinople and his pleas were successful. Later the church was closed down and converted into a mosque. Finally, it was converted back into a church after the Italians liberated Rhodes following World War I.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers



We pray for all **those who suffer from the acts of war especially for the victims of Ukraine**. We pray for peace and mercy in Ukraine, on behalf of all who suffer because of the horrific and endless war. We pray for the men, women and children of Ukraine who suffer at home and abroad, and for those who are separated from loved ones.

We pray for the **victims, survivors and relief workers** throughout the world that have been plagued by extreme weather events.

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 deployed to various places around the world.

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

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

Sympathy is extended to the **family, relatives and friends of Ann Arvan**.

Sympathy is extended to the **family, relatives and friends of The Very Reverend Archmandrite Polycarp (Daniel) Rameas**.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Father John Demos, Michael Liberatos, Presvytera Roula Matos, Mary, Nick and John Politis, Abbe Theodore, Chris and 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.

IN MEMORIAM



Ann G. Arvan of Alexandria Bay, New York and formerly of Watertown, New York died peacefully on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at the Wesley Health Care Center of Saratoga Springs. She was 95 years old.

Ann was born in Watertown on December 29, 1927, and was the daughter of the late Peter and Patra Tsonas Gregor. She was a graduate of Watertown High School. After graduation, she attended the Latin American Institute in New York City to study languages. She later returned to Watertown to assist with the family restaurant and also worked as a dental assistant. On April 11, 1963, she married Dino Arvan in Adams, New York. They raised five children together and celebrated 56 years of marriage before Dino died on June 28, 2019.

Ann was an active member of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church. She was past president of the Saint Barbara's Philoptochos Society; she taught Sunday School and for many years assisted with the coordination of the Greek Festivals held during the 1970s and early 1980s and the bi-annual pastry sales. In her youth, before Saint Vasilios Church was built, she sang in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown. From a very young age, Ann loved to read and was fascinated with languages and culture. She was an avid gardener and an outstanding cook.

In 1981, Ann and Dino bought a cottage in Alexandria Bay where they kept a boat for many years and often cruised the Thousand Islands. This was their favorite place where they spent every summer enjoying the river and welcoming four generations of family and friends. Ann shared a love of boats with Dino and together they had owned several boats throughout the years.

For over 20 years, Ann volunteered at the Cornwall Brothers Store Museum in Alexandria Bay sharing the local history and making friends. In 2016, she and Dino realized a life long dream and retired to their cottage on the Saint Lawrence River. Ann was a great mother, and she was loved by all who met her. She took immense pride in her family, her greatest joy and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ann, Mom or Grandma as she was known will never be forgotten and was much loved by family and friends. Ann is survived by her five children, Nicholas W., Syracuse, New York; Peter J. (Joan), Southport, North Carolina; Thomas D. (Judy), Franklin, Ohio; Tina J. (Travis) Northrop, Mechanicville, New York and Peter D. (Nancy), Southport, North Carolina; 15 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, Ann was predeceased by her husband and by her brother, Gregory P. Gregor.

The funeral was held at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church on Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. Father Philip Yanulis officiated at the services. The burial followed at Brookside Cemetery, Town of Watertown. Cummings Funeral Service, Inc., 214 Sterling Street, Watertown, was in charge of arrangements. A 40 day Mnimósino service was held for Ann and Dino (4 years) on Sunday, June 25. Donations in Ann's memory may be made to Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, 502 Franklin Street, Watertown, New York 13601. Online condolences to Ann's family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com "*Eonía i mními.*" "*Eternal be their memory.*"

The Very Reverend Archmandrite Polycarp (Daniel) Rameas died peacefully in Oakmont, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was 78 years old. He was the parish priest of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, New York from September 1, 1968 – September 1, 1970. While in Watertown he worked as an interpreter at the Custom Offices between the United States and Canada. He was elevated to Archmandrite at the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, Oakmont on June 19, 1983. He served that parish from October 1, 1975 until his retirement on September 30, 2022. A 40 day Mnimósino service will be held on Sunday, August 6 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. A complete obituary will appear in the September/October 2023 Newsletter. "*Eonía i mními.*" "*Eternal be his memory.*"

Reverend Father Christos Peter Matos, Propresbyter was ordained to the priesthood on February 15, 1970 at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, during Father Rameas' pastorate at Saint Vasilios Church. Father Rameas had assisted with the ordination process. On Sunday, August 6, a Mnimósino service will be held in memory of Father Matos (1 year) and Father Rameas (40 Days). "*Eonía i mními.*" "*Eternal be their memory.*"