



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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 2024 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.

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

Saturday of the Souls Mnimósino service for deceased loved ones will be observed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 10. 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. 10 Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday
Sunday **Recognition of the Lord's Second Coming**
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2, pg. 177
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46, pg. 177

Mar. 16 Saturday of the Souls
Saturday

Mar. 17 Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday
Sunday **Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve, the First Created, from Paradise**
Saint Patrick, Enlightenor of Ireland
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4, pg. 178
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21, pg. 179

Mar. 18 Great Lent Begins
Monday

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

Mar. 23 Saturday of the Souls
Saturday

Mar. 24 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 1:43-51, pg. 181

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

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

Mar. 31 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

Apr. 5 Third Salutations to the Theotokos7:00 p.m.
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Apr. 7 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. 12 Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Apr. 14 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. 19 Akathist Hymn7:00 p.m.
Friday The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Apr. 21 Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt
5th Sunday of Lent **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14, pg. 186
Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45, pg. 187

Apr. 23 Saint George, the Great Martyr
Tuesday

Apr. 25 Saint Mark, the Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday

Apr. 27 Saturday of Saint Lazarus
Saturday

Apr. 28 Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
The partaking of oil and fish is permitted. Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9, pg. 188
Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18, pg. 189

Holy Week Schedule of Services is listed on page 3.

May 6 Renewal Week / No fasting all week
Monday

May 10 Theotokos of the Holy Life-Giving Font
Friday

May 11 Saints Methodios and Cyril, Equal to the Apostles and Illuminators of the Slavs
Saturday

May 12 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday of Saint Thomas Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20, pg. 100
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31, pg. 101

* 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 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon. Should you have a question about a service, please contact Samuel Thomas.

Great Lent and Holy Week Services

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 18. Please see the listing of Holy Week Services on page 3. Although there are no services listed for the Salutations to the Theotokos and the Akathist Hymn through the fifth Friday of Great Lent, the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 5:30 p.m. through 7:30 p.m.

The Eastern Orthodox Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 28 and Easter / Holy Pascha will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5. The Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy will be held at 10:30 a.m. Blessed palms will be distributed at the conclusion of the service. The service of the Bridegroom is scheduled for approximately 1:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday afternoon. The Service of the Sacrament of Holy Unction will be held on late Wednesday afternoon at 5:00 pm, followed by a Vespers Divine Liturgy at 6:30 pm.

There will be no services on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday. The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on those days. On Holy Friday the Great Vespers Service of the removal of Christ from the cross will be held at 4:00 p.m. followed by an abbreviated Lamentations Service at 5:30 p.m.

The Easter / Holy Pascha Sunday Services will begin with Orthros at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Resurrection Service at 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. The Great Vespers Agape Service will be held at approximately 11:45 a.m. Following the services, a coffee hour will take place in the church hall.

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

Parish House Renovations

The Parish House garage roof which is flat and surrounded by a balustrade required repairs. The rubber roof which was installed in 2008 deteriorated and needed replacement.

A leak began to form on the left wall above the windows and water began to seep inside of the garage. Therefore, the rubber roof was replaced and gaco, a roof sealant, was applied to the new rubber roof. Furthermore, there was an inspection of the remaining posts in order to prevent additional problems. There was damage to the exterior molding by the double windows as well as a small portion of the ceiling inside of the garage. The balustrade was cleaned as mold had formed on them. The trim that surrounds the garage was scraped, primed and painted.

Additional cleaning was completed on the chimney as it became a catchment area of dirt and debris which seemed to have been deposited from the attic roof. A vent near the roof on the back of the church was also secured in order to prevent squirrels from gaining entry. The work was completed by Chris Patchen of C.M. Patchen Contracting, LLC, Watertown at a cost of \$6,850.00 (including debris removal). The pictures to the right shows some of what was needed and required in the project. A concern exists for the condition of the Parish House attic roof and estimates will be sought within the next year or two. It was recommended that the Parish House garage roof be inspected each year in order to prevent further problems.

The pictures to the right were taken by Chris Patchen in November.



Holy Week Donations

Each year monetary donations are collected for the Epitáphios (a representation of Christ's Burial Tomb) which is decorated with carnations and leather leaves. Floral arrangements are also placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you choose, you may forward your contributions to: **Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, c/o Floral Fund, 516 Franklin Street, Watertown, New York.**

Holy Week Services

Although there will be no services on Holy Monday, April 29, Holy Tuesday, April 30, Holy Thursday, May 2 and Holy Saturday, May 4, the sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Apr. 28	Service of the Bridegroom 1:00 p.m. <i>Palm Sunday Afternoon</i>
May 1	The Sacrament of Holy Unction 5:00 p.m. <i>Holy Wednesday</i> Vespertine Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
May 3	Great Vespers Service 4:00 p.m. <i>Holy Friday</i> The Lamentations Service 5:30 p.m.
May 5	Orthros Service 9:30 a.m. <i>Easter Sunday</i> Resurrection Service 10:00 a.m. <i>Holy Pascha</i> Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8, pg. 99* Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17, pg. 99*
	Great Vespers Agape Service 11:45 a.m.

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

Greek Easter Pastry & Bread Sale

The sale is scheduled for

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
9:00 a.m. - Until Sold Out

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

Fenekia:

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

Bakalava and Flutes:

Dates and Times are to be announced.

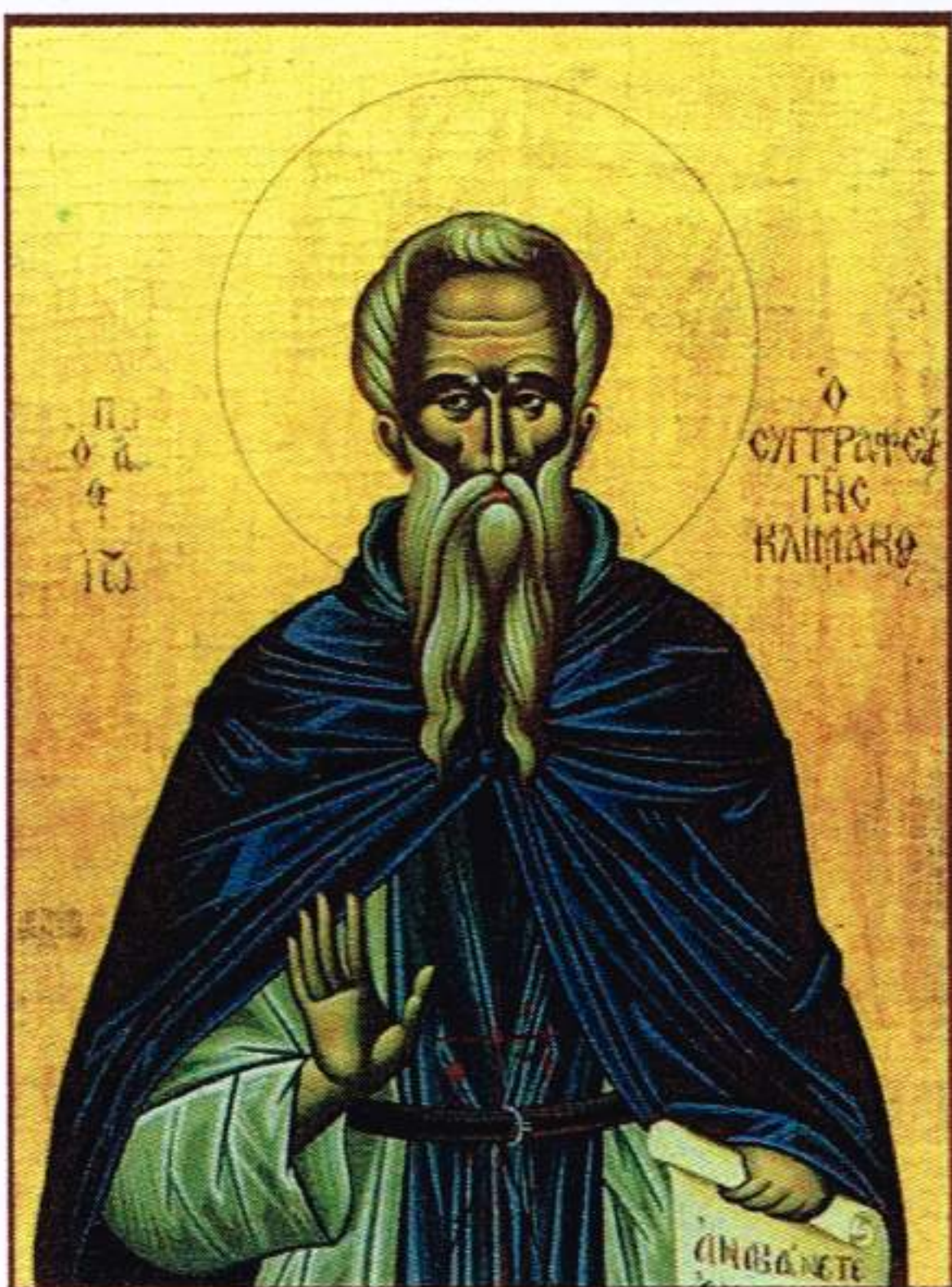
Pastry Display:

Dates and times are to be announced for Baklava cutting and pastry cupping.

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

Saint John Climacus the Righteous, Author of the Divine Ladder of Ascent

**Feast Days: Saturday, March 30
and the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent,
April 14**



Saint John Climacus gave himself over to the ascetical life in his early youth. He was experienced in the solitary life of a hermit and in the communal life of monasticism. He was appointed as the abbot of the Monastery at Mount Sinai. Saint John Climacus wrote a book containing thirty homilies on virtue. "The Ladder of the Divine Ascent"

teaches ones who seeks salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his or her struggles. Furthermore, it instructs one on how to detect a war against each of the passions and how to avoid snares laid by the demons. It provides the individual with how one may give rise to virtuous principles in order to achieve Godlike love and humility.

Kontakion of the Sunday of Saint John Climacus: *"Truly the Lord has set you in the sky of abstinence, as a fixed star giving light to ends of the world, O John, our teacher and Father."*

A Great Lent Message:

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer"
(Romans 12:12)

Winter 2023 - 2024

The month of December was mostly cloudy with above average temperatures which led to a green Christmas and New Year.

However, January was a different story with high winds, heavy lake-effect snow in the middle of the month and freezing rain during the last week. On January 9-10 a powerful wind storm produced gusts to nearly 80 mph. There were power outages throughout Northern New York and minor tree damage was discovered on the parish house grounds.

Although February still had temperatures that were above normal, there was some snowfall during the middle of the month. As of February 29, approximately 78 inches of snow had fallen in the City of Watertown since November. It is anticipated that the snow removal costs will be significantly less than last winter.

In Appreciation

Appreciation is extended to the following who provided refreshments for coffee hours during the winter months: Cristina Hopkins, Ali Jassem, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Robert and Julie Lawry, Helen Papayanakos, Richard Roderick and the Thomas family.





In Our Thoughts and Prayers



We pray for **peace and the end of the war in Ukraine.**

We pray for the **Israelis and Palestinians** due to the grave consequences of war between Israel and Hamas.

We pray for the **repose of the souls of those who lost their lives or have been ill** due to COVID-19.

We pray for the **victims and survivors** of the many senseless acts of violence that continue to plague our country and abroad.

We pray for all those who **are the victims of the horrific acts of terrorism and brutality, and for the innocent people who suffer from conflict and corruption throughout the world.**

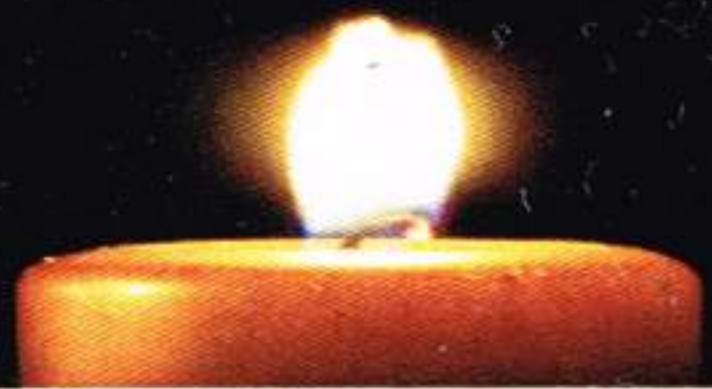
We pray for the safety of the **10th Mountain Army Division**, who are stationed at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Polk, Louisiana, the United States Armed Forces, who are stationed in regions throughout the world.

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

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends of Paul J. Thompson.**

Remember the following in your prayers: **Eugene Anemojanis, Father John Demos, Presvytéra Roula Matos, Mary, Nick and John Politis, Maria Ronson, Abbe Theodore, Chris and 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.



IN MEMORIAM



Paul J. Thompson of Savannah, Tennessee, formerly of Adams Center New York, a self-employed carpenter for most of his life, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. He was 71 years old and relocated to Tennessee in 2021.

For the past 20 years, Paul completed several projects at Saint Vasilios Church and Parish House, including renovations of the church bathrooms, sump replacements, heating upgrades and numerous other repairs. When called upon, he immediately responded during the day or night. His charges were extremely reasonable as he had a deep devotion to God and places of worship. Many times, Paul performed work for our parish free of charge.

Paul is survived by his wife Jane of 51 years, two sons, John, Peter, a daughter, Jennifer Robin, eleven grandchildren, four brothers, and one sister. He was predeceased in death by his father and mother, Lynn Erwin and Muriel Evon Maltby Thompson, a brother James Thompson, and a sister, Beverly Rawlings. A funeral service was held in Savannah, and a memorial service is also planned in Northern New York in the late spring. *"Eonía i mními." "Eternal be his memory."*

A Trisagion prayer service was held on October 29 for **Anne Calender** (9 years), **Chris Calender** (9 years), **Eugenie Calender** (8 years) **Madonna Calender** (10 years), and **Robert Eisenberg** (7 years). *"Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."*

A Trisagion prayer service was held on December 10 for **Nicholas Pialoglous** (8 years), and **Anna Pialoglous** (3 years) *"Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."*

Trisagion prayer service was held on December 17 for **Gregory Gagas** (50 years), **Ernestine Gagas** (28 years), **Costa Karatzou** (36 years), **Harikila Karatzou** (44 years), **Despina Karatzou Maglaras** (10 years), **John Maglaras** (6 years), and **Maria Gagas Vamvas** (2 years) *"Eonía i mními." "Eternal be their memory."*

A Mnimosino service will be held for **Helen Thomas** (6 months) on April 14 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. *"Eonia i mnimi." "Eternal be her memory"*

The deadline for the submission of items for the May / June 2024 Newsletter is Palm Sunday, April 28.