



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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OLGA THOMAS

Choir Director and Organist

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 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.

- Sept. 8** **Nativity of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross**
Sunday **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*
- Sept. 9** **Saints Joachim and Anna, the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God**
Monday
- Sept. 14** **Universal Celebration of the Elevation of the Sacred and Life-Giving Cross**
Saturday
- Sept. 15** **Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross**
Sunday *****NO SERVICE*****
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184
- Sept. 22** *****NO SERVICE*****
1st Sunday of Luke Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 16:13-24, pg. 134
Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11, pg. 143
- Sept. 26** **The Falling Asleep of Saint John, the Apostle, Evangelist and Theologian**
Thursday
- Sept. 29** **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Luke Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4, pg. 136
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36, pg. 144
The Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
- Oct. 1** **Saint Romanos, the Melodist**
Tuesday
- Oct. 6** **Saint Thomas, the Apostle**
3rd Sunday of Luke *****NO SERVICE*****
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 4:6-15, pg. 137
Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-16, pg. 146
- Oct. 13** **Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council**
4th Sunday of Luke *****NO SERVICE*****
Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15*
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15, pg. 147
- Oct. 14** **Columbus Day (observed)**
Monday
- Oct. 18** **Saint Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist**
Friday

- Oct. 20** **Saint Gerasimos of Cephalonia**
6th Sunday of Luke *****NO SERVICE*****
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1, pg. 141
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39, pg. 150
- Oct. 23** **Saint James (Iakovos), the Apostle, Brother of Our Lord**
Wednesday
- Oct. 26** **Saint Demetrios, the Myrrhbearer and Great Martyr of Thessaloniki**
Saturday
- Oct. 27** *****NO SERVICE*****
7th Sunday of Luke Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 9:6-11, pg. 142
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56, pg. 152
- Oct. 28** **Holy Protection of the Blessed Theotokos / OXI Day**
Monday
- Nov. 1** **Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy Unmercenary Physicians of Asia Minor**
Friday
- Nov. 3** *****NO SERVICE*****
5th Sunday of Luke Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9, pg. 143
Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31, pg. 148

Nativity of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary Feast Day: Sunday, September 8



Hymn of the Feast: Apolytikion
(Fourth Tone):

Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world; from you dawned the son of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life.

* 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.

General Assembly Meeting

A General Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on **October 27 at 11:45 a.m.** in order to discuss scheduled services and other matters be of business. An important discussion will be held about what options are available for our future which may affect our present form of worship. There is a shortage of priests in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese which includes the United and States and Canada and in other Eastern Orthodox jurisdictions.

It was indicated by the Archdiocesan officials that it has no plan to close churches. Their position on the issue is that it is the will of the people as to whether or not a decision is made about a church closure. This is taken by vote of the parish council and general membership. Presently, our parish is financially stable; however, there are major concerns about the younger generation assuming leadership roles which require time, commitment and hard work. It is very advantageous to receive the financial donations, but there needs to be involvement by those that are able to assist in the operations of the parish.

Financial Statement

Financial Statement for January 1 through September 20, 2024 is listed below. The figures below are estimates but closely represent our current financial status.

The Month

Total Income

Total Expenses

Net Ordinary Income

The Net Ordinary Income as of September 20, 2024 is . We are very grateful for your dues and donations that are provided each year. Please note that the annual dues are \$150.00 per person, and who has a commitment to the Eastern Orthodox Church. Dues should be submitted in full by December 31. Payment plans and modifications based on income are offered to those who may need assistance.

Service Cancellations

If there is a service cancellation, notification will be provided via text messaging and/or an email. **If you do not receive either a text message or an email about a service cancellation, you can assume that a service will be held.** Should there be a cancellation, the sanctuary will be open from 10:30 a.m. - Noon on Sunday mornings.

Recently, it was learned that the Metropolitan Nicholas has requested that Father Philip Yanulis celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Vestal, New York. There has not been an assigned priest at that parish for several months. Therefore, Father Philip will be required to serve other parishes since there is a shortage of Eastern Orthodox priests. More information will be made available as we continue to know the details about this situation and how it effects our parish. Please see the service schedule on page 1.

Weather Notes

The City of Watertown had a very warm and humid July & August with heavy amounts of rain produced by Tropical Storm Beryl in July and Tropical Storm Debby in August. During the month of July 5.99 inches of rain fell in the City of Watertown, and in August a total of 7.23 inches of precipitation fell in the city of Watertown. This was measured at the City of Watertown's Filtration Plant. It was reported on Newzjunky.com that the City of Watertown had the wettest summer on record with a total of 20.02 inches of rain. Measurements were taken during the months of June, July and August.

Flash flooding in the region resulted in damage to schools, roadways, homes, riverbanks and infrastructure. The church had minor flooding in some sections of the basement during both July and August. Thankfully, it was cleaned up in a matter of hours. A drain in the parish house basement was cleared of debris and there was only minor flooding in July. The parish house and church rain gutters will need to be examined, but during a flash flood diverting water away from these structures is nearly impossible.

Coffee Hours

Thank you to the following who provided refreshments for coffee hours during the spring and summer months:

Arvan and Northrop families, Cristina Hopkins, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Robert and Julie Lowry, Helen Papayanakos, Thomas family and Butler Family and Yanulis families.





Christmas Greek Pastry & Bread Sale



The sale is tentatively scheduled for

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

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 a reasonable amount of time or shortly after 12:15 p.m. Thank you in advance for your support. The following pastries will be prepared on Saturday mornings beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the dates listed below:



September 21	Koulourakia
September 28	Koulourakia
October 5	Koulourakia
October 12	Kourambiethes
October 19	Kourambiethes
October 26	Kourambiethes
November 2	Fenekia
November 9	Fenekia

Easter Greek Pastry and Bread Sale

The Easter Greek Pastry and Bread Sale was held on Saturday, March 30. Sunny skies and pleasant temperatures persisted throughout the day. Most of the pastries were sold by 1:00 p.m. The revenue generated from the sale was \$5,146.50 less expenses of \$938.98, yielding a profit of \$4,207.52. Donations of approximately \$1,200.00 were received, and this included some pastry sale ingredients that were purchased by a few parishioners. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents in making this sale a success.

Baptism

Easton Philip Butler, son of Thomas and Christina Larissa Butler, North Syracuse, New York was baptized on Sunday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A lovely reception followed in the church hall. Father Philip Yanulis, maternal grandfather, officiated. Danielle Lynn Yanulis, maternal aunt is the godparent. Easton Philip was born on June 18, 2023 in Crouse Hospital, Syracuse. "Nas sas zizi." "May he live for you." He is the grandson of Father Philip and Presvytera & Connie Yanulis and Anders and Deborah Butler.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers



We pray for **peace in the Middle East.**

We pray for **the end of the war between Ukraine and Russia.**

We pray for the safety for 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.

We pray for the victims and survivors of the many cataclysmic weather events such as the extreme heat waves, droughts, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and cyclones that have been rampant in the United States and throughout the world.

We pray for the **victims and survivors** of the senseless and evil acts of violence that continue to plague the United States and other nations throughout the world especially in the schools.

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

Sympathy is extended to the family, relatives and friends of **Helen Dennis.**

Remember the following in your prayers: **Father John Demos, Presvytera 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

Kostas Kehagia of Edessa, Greece died on Thursday, February 1, 2024. He was 86 years old. Kostas was the father of Pashalina (George) Valtadoros and the husband of the late Evanthia Kehgia. George and Pashalina and their children, Vasilios and Kostas relocated to Virginia several years ago. However, they continue to maintain their membership with Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church. A 40 day Mnimisino service was held on Sunday, March 24. *"Eonía i mními."* *"Eternal be his memory."*



Thomas (Tom) Dean Arvan died on the morning of Tuesday, June 25, 2024 in Middletown, Ohio with his family by his side. He was 68 years old. Tom was born on September 11, 1955 in Watertown, New York. He was the son of Constantine (Dino) and Ann (Gregor) Arvan, who predeceased him. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Judy Arvan and their three children, Joshua, Matthew (Alix) and Jessica (Brian). He was the proud Papou (grandfather) to this beloved granddaughters, Penelope and Tae. There are two more grandchildren expected later this year. He was a brother to four siblings, seven siblings-in-law and an uncle to nineteen nieces and nephews.

Tom was well known for his warm and welcoming nature. He found immense joy in being around the table with others and preparing delicious meals. Cooking was one of his greatest passions and it extended into his professional career.

In 1982, he opened Tommy's Nightclub and Tommy's Roast Beef Restaurant in Watertown, home of the "Starvin Arvan" sandwich. After moving to Ohio in 1993, Tom began work in the Ohio State Parks. For over 30 years, he remained dedicated to his career in hospitality, working his way up to food and beverage manager at Hueston Woods Lodge to the Director of State Parks Regency Hotel management. He was a very well respected leader who inspired others.

The funeral was held at Saint John Church, Middletown, Ohio on Saturday, June 29 at 11:00 a.m. Breitembach-Anderson Funeral Home took care of the arrangements. Father John Civile officiated. Donations in Tom's memory may be directed to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, www.pancan.org, ATTN: 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, California 90266.

"Eonía i mními." *"Eternal be his memory."*

Helen Dallaportas Dennis of San Jose, California died on Friday, July 5, 2024. She was 96 years old. *"Eonía i mními."* *"Eternal be her memory."*

A Mnimósino Service was held on Sunday, June 9 **Gheorghe Berea** (2 years), **Ecaterina Berea** (24 years), **Constantin Berea** (39 years), **Ioanna Gherghe** (9 years) *"Eonía i mními."* *"Eternal be their memory."* The names listed above are the father and grandparents of Cristina Hopkins.

A Trisagion prayer service was held on Sunday, July 28 for **Helen Thomas** (10 months).
"Eonía i mními." *"Eternal be her memory."*

A Mnimósino Service was held on Sunday, August 18, for **Dino Arvan** (5 years), **Ann Arvan** (1 year), **Thomas Arvan** (40 days), and **James Armatas** (1 year)
"Eonía i mními." *"Eternal be their memory."*

A Trisagion prayer service was held on Sunday, August 18 for **Vasiliki Dallaportas** (53 years), **Angelo Dallaportas** (48 years), **John Dennis** 13 (years), and **Helen Dallaportas Dennis** (40 days). *"Eonía i mními."* *"Eternal be their memory."*