



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SUMMER 2025 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
Friday

July 26 Saint Paraskevi and Saint Hermolaos,
Saturday the Righteous Martyrs of Rome

July 27 Saint Panteleimon, the Great Martyr and Healer
7th Sunday No Service
of Matthew Epistle Reading: II Timothy 2:1-10*
Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:27-35, pg. 125

Aug. 1 Fast begins in preparation for the Feast of the
Friday Dormition of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady

Aug. 2 Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Saturday & Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
8th Sunday Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 3:9-17, pg. 126
of Matthew Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-34, pg. 127

Aug. 3 DIVINE LITURGY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUG. 2

Aug. 6 Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God
Wednesday and Savior Jesus Christ

Aug. 10 No Service
9th Sunday Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 3:9-17, pg. 128
of Matthew Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-34, pg. 128

Aug. 15 Koimisis (Repose) of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady
Friday and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 17 Prayer Service 11:00a.m.
10th Sunday Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 4:9-16, pg. 129
of Matthew Epistle Reading: Matthew 17:14-23, pg. 130

Aug. 24 No Service
10th Sunday Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 9:2-12, pg. 131
of Matthew Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:23-35, pg. 131

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

Aug. 31 Prayer Service 11:00a.m.
12th Sunday Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:1-7*
of Matthew Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26, pg. 133

Sept. 1 Saint Simeon, the Stylite
Monday The Ecclesiastical New Year begins / Labor Day

Sept. 7 Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sunday No Service
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*

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

Sept. 9 Saints Joachim and Anna
Tuesday

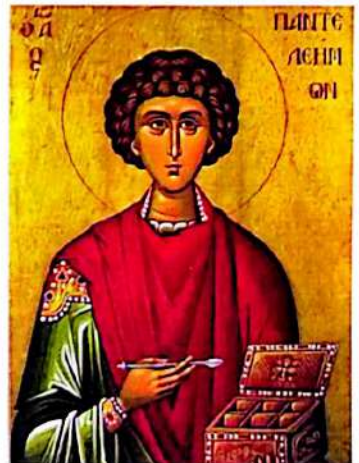
Sept. 14 Universal Celebration of the Exaltation of the
Sunday Sacred and Life-Giving Cross
Prayer Service 11:00 a.m.
Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 1:18-24*
Gospel Reading: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30*

The Life of Saint Panteleimon Great Martyr and Healer Commemorated on Sunday, July 27

Saint Panteleimon of Nicomedia was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian. It was through his mother that he was instructed in piety. He was catechized and baptized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaos whose feast day is on July 26. Saint Panteleimon was proficient in the physician's vocation, and he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), he was renamed Panteleimon ("all merciful") because of the compassion he showed for others.

On one occasion when he restored the sight of a blind man by calling on God, he also enlightened the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This became the cause of martyrdom for the blind man. When he was asked by whom and by what manner had his eyes been opened, he imitated the blind man in the Gospel and confessed with boldness who the physician was and the manner of the healing (John 9:1-38).

This gospel is read on the 5th Sunday following Pascha. For this he was put to death immediately. Saint Panteleimon was also arrested and subsequently, had endured many wounds for his pronouncement of Jesus Christ as Lord. He was beheaded in the year 305 during the reign of Roman Emperor, Maximian.



General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly Meeting that was scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. It will be rescheduled for Saturday, August 2, following the Divine Liturgy at 11:45 a.m. A severe thunderstorm had struck the region early that Sunday morning with high winds, heavy rain and cloud to ground lightning causing several power outages even in neighborhoods near the church. There was tree damage in various sections of the city and several power poles were toppled. The church sustained some light accumulation of water in some areas of the basement. There was no damage to the exterior of church and parish house or on the grounds surrounding both buildings.

Financial figures for the years 2023 and 2024 are presented below for comparison purposes. For the year 2024, the Net ordinary income was During 2024 church and parish house repairs amounted only to

That figure will be much greater in the next few years. For the year 2024, the Easter and the Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sales accrued a combined gross income

The Certificate of Deposit accounts are now yielding increased interest rates, which is good news in maintaining a balanced budget. Please keep in mind there are several deferred maintenance projects that need to be addressed in the future. For the year 2024, the combined cost of church and parish house utility expenses for electric, heat and water were Anticipated rate increases for electric and gas usage will become an additional expense in the next few years.

Easter Floral Fund

Appreciation is extended to those who generously donated to the annual Holy Week and Easter Floral Fund. To date \$ 100.00 was received in contributions. Since there was a reduction of services, palm buds were the only purchase. The Easter flowers were provided by a parishioner.

Coffee Hour Refreshments

Thank you to the following that provided refreshments for coffee hours during the spring: Cristina Hopkins, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Lawry family, Helen Papayanakos, and the Thomas family.



Future of the Parish

This is a very challenging time for our parish. For several decades we had Divine Liturgies conducted on most Sunday mornings. With the departure of Father Philip Yanulis nearly one year ago, a Divine Liturgy conducted by Father Peter Irfan of Amherst, New York, near Buffalo, was provided nearly once per month until Easter/Pascha. Father Irfan is now temporarily assigned to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Buffalo. He is with the Orthodox Church in America. There is a shortage of Greek Orthodox priests and Father Yanulis was reassigned to Vestal, New York which is near Binghamton. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Binghamton will soon be closing and has been in a holding pattern for many years. Therefore, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church will be serving the parishioners in that region of the state.

Monetary donations and annual dues are very much needed and are most appreciated. The continued operation of church is dependent on your physical presence and financial support.

Prayer Service

Some parishioners have asked about what takes place during a prayer service? There is an Order of Service distributed to congregants which consists of Opening Words (a few details may be stated about the liturgical time of the year), the Doxology, the Hymn of Saint Vasilios are sung, the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer are recited in Greek and English, Epistle and Gospel readings which are pertinent to the Sunday and other feast days are read and at the end of the service there is a Benediction / Closing Words. There is time allotted for questions about the parish.

A service lasts approximately 30 minutes and is held every two weeks. Light refreshments are served in the church hall each time. These services are not a substitute for a Divine Liturgy but offer a time to gather together and to remember our Greek Orthodox Faith and our community especially in the absence of a priest. The next Divine Liturgy will held on Saturday, August 2 at 10:30 a.m. Father David Smith, parish priest of Saint Sophia's Church in Syracuse, will be officiating.

Easter Greek Pastry

The Easter Greek Pastry and Bread Sale was held on Saturday, April 12. Partly sunny skies and cool temperatures persisted throughout much of the day. At 8:30 a.m. there were nearly 50 customers lined up at the lower front door of the church. There were approximately 125 customers that had come to the sale. The sale ended at 3:00 p.m. At the customer's requests, some orders were prepared in advance. The revenue generated from the sale is \$4,564.05 less \$900.00 for expenses, yielding a profit of \$3,664.05. Although an Ingredients Fund is not solicited for the Easter Sale, there were approximately \$400.00 that was donated for the costs of ingredients. The price of Tsoureki was increased from \$8.00 to \$9.00. Thank you to all that assisted with preparations and the sale of the pastries and bread.

Holy Week

Appreciation is extended to Ali Jassem for making the palm crosses; Christina Thomas and Samuel Thomas for completing many organizational tasks. Father Peter Irfan conducted services on Palm Sunday and Holy and Great Pascha.

A thank you is also extended to the following who served as readers during Holy Week and also during the prayer services that are held at various times on Sundays: Georgia Dusckas, Jack Harrienger, Martha Lawry, Rich Lawry, Lydia Lloyd, Evan Oliva, Helen Papayanakos for chanting and reading and to Samuel Thomas for arranging the services.

Thank you to Father Peter Irfan for conducting the services, Olga Thomas, choir director and organist, Dr. Steven Kalamaras and Kiki East for reciting the Apostolic Creed in Greek and assisting with chanting.

Baptism

Declan John Laemmermann, son of Drew and Meghan Laemmermann, was born in Johnson City, Tennessee on November 22, 2021. He was baptized on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. A lovely reception that followed was held in the church hall after the Divine Liturgy. Father Peter Irfan officiated. Cristina Hopkins is the godparent. His maternal grandparents are Jeffry and Carolyn Weldon and paternal grandparents are David and Alice Boucher and Thomas Peterson. We also remembered the late Dennis Laemmermann. *"Eonia i mnimi."* *"Eternal be his memory."*

"Nas sas zisi" "May he live for you"



The photographs were taken by members of the Weldon family.

IN MEMORIAM

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Pope Francis**, former spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, who died on April 21, 2025.
"Eonia i mnimi." *"Eternal be his memory."*

Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on **Pope Leo XIV, (A Newly Appointed Pope!)** spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, May he be blessed with good health, and may he bring about unity of all Christians. He was appointed on May 8, 2025.





In Our Thoughts and Prayers



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

We pray for **peace in the Middle East**, especially in Gaza and Israel where many people are suffering.

We pray for the victims, family members and friends of the flash flood in Kerrville, Texas and surrounding areas, and for the extreme weather conditions around the world.

We pray for the victims, families and communities of numerous and senseless acts of violence that have taken place throughout the United States.

We pray for the persecuted Christians and others who are 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, and the **United States Armed Forces** who are deployed to many regions around the world.

We pray for the repose of **the souls of those who lost their lives or were injured** serving in the Armed Forces.

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

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

Remember the following in your prayers: **Eugene and Ursula Anemoyanis, Father John Demos, Presvytera Roula Matos, Nick, Mary and John Politis, Abbe Theodore, Chris and Margaret Theodore, Maria Ronson and Eleni Valtadoros**.

If you have a prayer request or wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Samuel Thomas or a parishioner.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Arvan of Syracuse, New York, passed away May 31, 2025. Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, she was the daughter of the late Peter and Fotini Arvanitides. Ann was predeceased by her siblings and their spouses: Joyce (George) Armatas and Dino (Ann) Arvan, and nephews George Armatas, James Armatas and Thomas Arvan.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews; Stephanie Armatas, Tina Arvan Northrop, who was also her goddaughter, Nick Arvan, Pete Arvan and Peter Arvan. Also surviving are several grandnieces and nephews, cousins and her cherished companion, her chihuahua, Holly. *"Eonía i mními."* *"Eternal be her memory."*

A complete obituary will be published in the Fall Newsletter.

"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist of abundance of things he possesses."

- Luke 12:15

Best wishes for a safe and an enjoyable Summer!

The deadline for the submission of items for the Fall 2025 Newsletter is Sunday, August 31.

Information may be emailed to samuelthomas422@yahoo.com