

## WELCOME TO ST. SOPHIA

440 Whitehall Rd., Albany, New York

Welcome to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The glass-enclosed narthex is designated for parents with infants and young children. Everyone is asked to remain in the narthex during the “*Small Entrance*,” “*Great Entrance*,” “*Epistles*,” and “*Gospel Readings*”. Also, please remember to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Also know that there is a wheelchair and a walker available to those who have mobility needs. Please ask a Parish Council member at the Pangari.

If you are a visitor or newcomer, we are pleased to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to a parish council member at the Pangari and also sign the guest book. Remember that only those who are baptized or chrismated in the Eastern Orthodox faith may participate in the Holy Sacraments including Holy Communion. Following church services, everyone is invited to attend the fellowship hour in the parish hall. *Our website is <http://stsophia.net>*

**Today: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today**

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

*Second Tray to Benefit St. Fotios Shrine and Autism*

### **Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee February 5, 2017 – February 11, 2017**

5 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 am	<b><i>Sons Awards Brunch</i></b>
6 Monday	9:30 am	Senior Tai Chi
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise

	6:00 pm	AHEPA
	6:30 pm	No Basketball
7 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	DOP
8 Wednesday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
9 Thursday	12:00 pm	Seniors
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
10 Friday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	4:30 pm	Greek School
11 Saturday	6:30 pm	<b><i>Sons &amp; Maids Valentine Dance</i></b>

### **News & Events**

- ▶ A nice breakfast, recognition of a dedicated volunteer, and fundraising for a worthwhile project. The project is St. Jude Children’s Hospital, a place of hope and outstanding medical care for children with cancer. This year the Sons of Pericles have made it their National Fundraising Project. Our local chapter is sponsoring an Awards Breakfast today and proceeds will benefit the amazing efforts of this children’s hospital. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$6 for children under age 12, and free for kids under age five.
- ▶ This Thursday will be the third annual “Give Your Heart to a Homeless Family” at the Glennpeter Jewelers on Central Avenue. Admission is free, and everyone is invited to enjoy a fun evening with hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, and a cash bar. Proceeds will benefit the Family Promise program. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ Time to turn back the hands on the clock. A Greek dance party at the church was a time to get dressed up and join friends for a night of live music, folk dancing, food and drink, and fun with friends and acquaintances. Come for an evening of good times at the Sons and Maids annual **Valentine’s Dance** this Saturday starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be a catered buffet, live music, hearts and flowers!!! Tickets are \$40 in advance; \$50 at the door. Youth tickets are \$25 for kids 11-17 and free for those under age 10. Tickets are available during the fellowship hour.
- ▶ Mark your calendar for February 19 when Father Dennis will be the guest speaker at St. Basil in Troy for a noon brunch sponsored by the Pontos Society. The program will include a presentation on “*Turkish Genocide against the Greeks*”. Tickets are \$8; children under age 12, \$5.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be memorials for the late Emmanuel Papadakis, the late Irene Velonis, and for the late Mary Lorraine Milham.

## Epistle Reading

***Prokeimenon. Plagal Fourth Mode. Psalm 75.11,1.***

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.*

*Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.*

**The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15.**

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel Reading

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today

The Reading is from Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

## Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Presentation in the First Mode

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

## Apolytikion (Hymn) for the Church in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast made manifest the fishermen as most wise, By sending down upon them the Holy Ghost, And by them hast drawn the world into Thy net. O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

## Seasonal Kontakion in the First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.