

## 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: Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora the Martyrs**

These Martyrs, sisters according to the flesh, were from Bithynia. They lived in virginity on a mountain near the Pythian hot springs of Bithynia, devoting themselves to asceticism and prayer. Betrayed to the local governor, Fronto, they were subjected to frightful tortures, and so gave up their holy souls into the hands of God. They contested for the Faith during the reign of Maximian, in the year 304.

### Second Tray to Benefit Hurricane Harvey Victims in Houston

Artoclasia in Honor of Stephanie, Peter, Jamie, Paul, & Chrysanthy

40-Day Memorial for the late  
Eleousa Delendas  
May her Memory be Eternal!

### Sunday before Holy Cross

September 10, 2017 – September 16, 2017

10 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy <i>Sunday School Registration and Classes</i> <i>Agiasmos</i>
	11:45 am	GOYA
	12:00 pm	“Greek School Open House”
11 Monday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
12 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:00 pm	Primary Elections–Gym
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	6:00 pm	Philoptochos Agiasmos/Pot Luck/Meeting
13 Wednesday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
	5:30 pm	Greek School

14 Thursday	9:30 am	Liturgy–Holy Cross
	12:30 pm	Seniors
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
15 Friday	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	5:00 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	JOY Ice Cream Social

### News & Events

- ▶ With so many school sports programs and other activities for our children, it’s not easy to find time for church. Yet, there is no question that religious education is critical in offering a moral and spiritual compass for our children. Keeping that in mind, please make an effort to have your children attend Sunday School on a regular basis. Registration and classes begin today.
- ▶ Our Greek School program begins this week. There will be an “Open House” today. For a complete schedule of classes and times go to [www.stsophiagreekschool.org](http://www.stsophiagreekschool.org).
- ▶ Adult classes will also begin this Thursday. Beginners meet at 5:30 p.m., intermediates at 6:30, and advance classes are at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Today is the last day of the Greek Festival at St. George Church in Schenectady. In addition to the food and activities, there will be live music by Prometheus.
- ▶ Please join Philoptochos to welcome everyone back from summer vacations at our annual Pot Luck Supper this Tuesday, September 12 at 6 p.m. Call either Michele Culbertson at 518.496.1965, e-mail [justmeshell1970@aol.com](mailto:justmeshell1970@aol.com) or Catherine Halsdorf at 518.312.8103, [chalsdorf41@yahoo.com](mailto:chalsdorf41@yahoo.com) to let them know what yummy delicacy you will be bringing. Come and catch up on what everyone did over the summer. There will be an Agiasmos in the church prior to the supper. And, of course, newcomers are always welcome to attend.
- ▶ Fun and games and ice cream! It’s the first meeting of our JOY youth group this Friday starting at 7 p.m. New kids are always welcome. See Father Pat or Sophia Pallone for further information.
- ▶ The JCC Dunkin’ Run will be held next Sunday. Use the driveway closest to New Scotland Avenue if the rest of Whitehall Road is closed.
- ▶ Dance group registration is going on until September 24. Check the website for information under the organizations link or call Diane Cohen at 518.729.8487.
- ▶ “*The boys are back in town*” or so goes the song. Well, the Sons are back again this year to do fall cleanup at your house. For information or to sign up, contact Alex Athanassiadis at 518.641.2811. Donations of \$100 will benefit St. Basil’s Academy. Cleanup will begin in October and continue through mid November.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a memorial service for late members of Philoptochos.

## Epistle Reading

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18.**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## Gospel Reading

**Sunday before Holy Cross**

**The Reading is from John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

## Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Mode

Thy Nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; for from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

## 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 Fourth Mode

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."