

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: December 3

The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah)

This Prophet, who is ninth in order among the minor Prophets, was the son of Chusi (Cushi), from the tribe of Levi, or according to some, the great-grandson of King Hezekias. He prophesied in the years of Josias, who reigned in the years 641-610 before Christ. His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters. His name means "Yah is darkness."

December 4

Barbara the Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian.

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

Artoclasia in Celebration of St. Barbara offered by Philoptochos

Second Tray to Benefit Philoptochos
40 Day Memorial for the late†
Garifalia Miller
May her Memory be Eternal!

14th Sunday of Luke

December 3, 2017 – December 9, 2017

3 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 am	Parish Council Elections
4 Monday	11:30 am	St. Barbara’s Day Party
	9:30 am	Liturgy–St. Barbara
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	4:00 pm	Greek School
	6:00 pm	AHEPA
	6:30 pm	Basketball
5 Tuesday	11:00 am	No Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	DOP Holiday Gathering
6 Wednesday	9:30 am	Liturgy–St. Nicholas
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
	4:30 pm	Greek School
7 Thursday	12:30 pm	Seniors
	5:00 pm	<i>Senior Housing Holiday Party</i>
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
8 Friday	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	5:00 pm	Greek School

News & Events

- ▶ There will be elections for the parish council today following church services. In order to vote, your 2017 Stewardship Commitment must be paid in full.
- ▶ A fun party for the kids today. It’s the Annual St. Barbara’s Day Party starting right after church services. There will be crafts, cookie decorating, a visit from Santa, and pizza. The event is hosted by our Philoptochos Society.
- ▶ The nuns of Holy Protection Monastery are baking up hundreds of delicious New Year’s Vasilopitas. Each decorated two-pound loaf (with a coin) is wrapped and packed to preserve freshness. The Daughters are taking orders through December 10. Pick up is here on December 17. The cost is \$18.
- ▶ Feel the sounds of a Byzantine Christmas with a concert featuring Byzantine chant, dramatic readings, and “kalanda” (carols). The concert is December 16 at 4 p.m. followed by a reception. Tickets are \$20; \$15 for students/seniors.
- ▶ Graceland Cemetery is offering Christmas wreaths for graveside placement. Order forms are available on the information table.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be memorials for the late Panayiotis Varvarousis and late members of the Christo family.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. First Mode. Psalm 32.22,1.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19.

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Gospel Reading

14th Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.