

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: The Holy Virgin Nina

The holy virgin Nina was from Cappadocia. According to some, her father Zabulon was a friend of the holy Great Martyr George, whose father was a Cappadocian. The conversion of Georgia by Saint Nina is reported in the Church histories of Rufinus, Socrates, Sozomen, and Theodoret: Rufinus, writing less than a hundred years after Saint Nina, said that he heard the history in Jerusalem from a Georgian Prince named Bacurius. Saint Nina was taken captive by the Georgians (whom the Greek accounts call Iberians), and while in captivity she lived a very devout life of sobriety and virtue, praying unceasingly night and day; this drew the attention of the Georgians, and to all who asked her about her way of life, she preached the dispensation of Christ. When she healed by her prayer a certain woman's sick child, whom no one else had been able to help, the report of her came to the ears of the Queen of Georgia, who was herself gravely afflicted with an incurable malady. She asked that the captive women be brought to her, but Saint Nina declined out of modesty, so the Queen commanded them to carry her to Nina. Saint Nina healed her immediately, and the Queen returned home in joy. When she extolled Nina and her faith to the king, he gave her no heed, although she mentioned it to him often. But while hunting in the forest, he was shrouded with an impenetrable darkness in which he lost his way, became separated from his men, and fell into despair; he made a vow that if Christ should deliver him, he would worship him alone. The light of day straightway shone again, and the king fulfilled his vow. He and the Queen were instructed in the Faith by Saint Nina, and they with the whole Georgian nation became Christ's. The King also sent an embassy to Saint Constantine the Great, informing him of their conversion, and requesting that priests be sent to Georgia. Saint Nina reposed in peace in about the year 335. The above-mentioned Church historians speak of her without calling her Nina. She is celebrated in the Roman Martyrology on December 15 under the name Christina.

One-year Memorial for the late
Christopher Forkeutis
Coffee Fellowship Sponsored in his Memory
May his Memory be Eternal!

Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2018 – January 20, 2018

14 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
15 Monday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	4:00 pm	Greek School
	6:30 pm	Basketball
16 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	3:15 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	Religious Education
17 Wednesday	9:30 am	Liturgy–St. Anthony
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
18 Thursday	4:15 pm	Greek School
	9:30 am	Liturgy–Sts. Athanasios & Cyril
	12:30 pm	Seniors
19 Friday	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	5:00 pm	Greek School

New & Events

- ▶ Time flies and so do good intentions. If you have not already done so, please fill out a stewardship commitment card for 2018. At this time, please consider if you can, an effort to pledge a bit more than you did last year. (For example, ten percent more on a \$500 pledge is only \$50 more. That's less than \$1 more per week). On the other hand, if circumstances have been difficult, whatever amount you can do will be appreciated. 2018 green stewardship commitment cards are on the information table by the office and in the exonarthex of the church. Note: Payments can be done by using the special weekly envelopes, by check, or even credit card charges by phone. If you are a new member or have a change of information, please also fill out the Family Profile Form. Please know that all information is confidential.
- ▶ Dancing. Laughing. Loving. Good times, good company, good food. It's the 40th Annual Sons and Maids Valentine's Day Dance on February 10. Tickets are now on sale during the fellowship hour – pre-sale are \$25; youth, \$15.
- ▶ Time to get out for an enjoyable luncheon party at the Albany Country Club. It's the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos “Tri-City Winter Party” on Saturday, February 3. See Maria Hazapis or Dora Mokhiber for reservations and choice of meal. The party begins at 12:30 and the cost is \$30 per person.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a memorial service for the late Michael Philip Sr. and Margarita Philip.

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 4:7-13.

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Sunday after Epiphany

The Reading is from Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Apodosia of Epiphany in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

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

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."