

## 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:

### January 7

#### Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner

Today we celebrate the Synaxis in honour of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One-year Memorial for the late  
Irene Velonis  
May her Memory be Eternal!

#### Synaxis of St. John the Baptist January 7, 2018 – January 13, 2018

7 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy <i>Cutting of the Vasilopita</i>
8 Monday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	4:00 pm	Greek School
	6:00 pm	AHEPA
	6:30 pm	Basketball
9 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	3:15 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	Philoptochos
10 Wednesday	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters

	4:15 pm	Greek School
11 Thursday	12:30 pm	Seniors
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
12 Friday	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	5:00 pm	Greek School
13 Saturday	11:00 am	JOY Bowling

### News & Events

- ▶ The start of a New Year, the start of many good resolutions. Please include support of your church as one of those good resolutions. If you have not already done so, fill out a stewardship commitment card for 2018, and also consider if you can, to make an effort to pledge a little more than you did in the past. (i.e., ten percent on a \$500 pledge is only a small increase of \$50 more a year). However, if circumstances have been difficult, whatever amount you can do will be appreciated. The 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. Remember, all information is confidential.
- ▶ Of our many youth groups, JOY is a “joy” for both the kids and the parents. A fun group of our younger children, they will be bowling this Saturday at Spare Time Bowling in Latham starting at 11 a.m. This is a free event for JOY members. Family members and friends are welcome; their charge for two games, rental shoes, pizza and beverages is \$13. RSVP to Sophia Pallone by tomorrow at (518) 573-5952 (text) or [fiasg@yahoo.com](mailto:fiasg@yahoo.com).
- ▶ Winter doldrums? Not at the Albany Country Club. It will be the site for 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.
- ▶ If you would like a house blessing, please see Father Pat.
- ▶ St. Sophia will be hosting the “Family Promise” program this week. If you would like to be a part of this effort to provide temporary housing and meals for homeless families, please see Peter Melas or Georgia Fishburn. If you have questions regarding the program, talk to previous volunteers who will attest to the adage “Give and you shall receive.”
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a one-year memorial for the late Christopher Forkeutis.

## Epistle Reading

***Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 63.11,1.***

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.*

*Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.*

**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8.**

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

## Gospel Reading

**Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner**

**The reading is from John 1:29-34**

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

## Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Theophany 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 for Synaxis of John the Forerunner in the Second Mode

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

## 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."