

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: March 11

Sunday of the Holy Cross

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

Nine-Year Memorial for the late
Bridget Mossidus Archambault
Thirty-two Year Memorial for the late
Theodore H. Mossidus
Coffee Fellowship Sponsored in their Memory
May their Memory be Eternal!

Sunday of the Holy Cross March 11, 2018 – March 17, 2018

11 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 am	Festival Committee Meeting–AHEPA Room
	5:00 pm	Vespers–St. Basil, Troy
12 Monday	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	4:30 pm	Greek School
	6:30 pm	Basketball
13 Tuesday	11:00 am	Chair Yoga
	12:30 pm	Senior Program
	3:15 pm	Greek School

	7:00 pm	Philoptochos
14 Wednesday	9:30 am	Presanctified Liturgy
	11:00 am	Senior Exercise
	12:30 pm	Knitters
	4:15 pm	Greek School
15 Thursday	12:30 pm	Seniors
	5:30 pm	Adult Greek School
16 Friday	11:30 am	Senior Exercise
	5:00 pm	Greek School
	7:00 pm	4 th Salutations

News & Events

- ▶ There will be a Festival Committee meeting today following church services.
- ▶ Speaking of the Festival, we are in the process of compiling the 2018 *St. Sophia Greek Guide & Program* book. Filled with festival information, recipes, mythology, humor, and other articles of interest, ads help to make this book a significant fund raiser. Please take a copy of last year’s book and a 2018 contract form. Find a business that you frequent, promote your own business, or do a family ad. The deadline is April 11.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a General Assembly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend and share your thoughts and recommendations. Remember, in order to vote, you must have last year’s stewardship paid in full and have made your pledge for 2018.
- ▶ If you have a sweet tooth, place your order for delicious and traditional Easter pastry. Philoptochos is taking orders for a 12-piece box of baklava for \$10; tsourekia for \$6. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, March 31. See Dora Mokhiber or call her at 489-6679 or Elaine Sokaris at 482-9273.
- ▶ Palm Sunday. Hard to believe, but it’s only three weeks away. Tickets for the traditional Palm Sunday Lunch will be available during the fellowship hour today. Adult tickets are \$15; children, \$10; age 5 and under, free.
- ▶ The Hellenic University Club of New York will offer a total of four Scholarship Awards of \$1,500 to Greek American students who have exemplified high scholastic achievement and have demonstrated financial need. This is for high school seniors entering full-time, undergraduate degree programs in the Fall of 2018. Flyers are on the information table. The deadline is April 15.
- ▶ There’s a nice art exhibit by iconographer Efthimios Stoja at Evergreen Commons Rehab Center and Nursing Home in East Greenbush. The exhibit will be open Wednesday through Friday until March 31.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a one-year memorial for the late Patricia Georges.

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 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading

Sunday of the Holy Cross

The reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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 Sun. of the Holy Cross in the First Mode

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"