

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: Thomas Sunday

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Sunday of Thomas

April 15, 2018 – April 21, 2018

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| 15 Sunday | 9:30 am | Divine Liturgy |
| 16 Monday | 11:00 am | Senior Exercise |
| | 4:30 pm | Greek School |
| | 6:00 pm | AHEPA |

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| | 6:30 pm | Basketball |
| 17 Tuesday | 11:00 am | Chair Yoga |
| | 12:30 pm | Senior Program |
| | 3:15 pm | Greek School |
| 18 Wednesday | 11:00 am | Senior Exercise |
| | 12:30 pm | Knitters |
| | 4:30 pm | Greek School |
| 19 Thursday | 12:30 pm | Seniors |
| | 5:30 pm | Adult Greek |
| 20 Friday | 11:30 am | Senior Exercise |
| | 5:00 pm | Greek School |
| | 6:30 pm | DOP "Book Signing" |

News & Events

- ▶ The Daughters of Penelope invite everyone to a special program this Friday entitled “*A Journey of Unconditional Love*.” Michele Bell, Ph.D. will be speaking about her new book and the 11-years it took her to write this inspiring book. Sensitive and touching, this is a book everyone can relate to. The program is free but donations will benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation. The book will also be available for sale and author signing. The event will start at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ It’s closer than you think--our annual Greek Festival weekend. As always, there is a need for volunteers. This year there is a real shortage of people to work at admissions. See Louise Mabin, e-mail her at wonder@nycap.rr.com or call her at (518) 441-4184. Or see Catherine Halsdorf or call her at (518) 312-8103. For other volunteer work, see Peter Melas or Stefan Kalogridis. Volunteering is work but it’s also a great way to interact with friends, family, and fellow parishioners.
- ▶ Special discounted admission tickets for parishioners will soon be available. Instead of \$3, tickets will be \$1 but sold only in packs of five.
- ▶ The Sons Annual Awards Brunch will be held Sunday, April 29 following church services. This year’s honoree is AHEPA District 6 Secretary, Chris Pappis. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$6 for youth; free for children five and under. Proceeds will benefit St. Basil Academy, the Sons National Project.
- ▶ We need more ads! The *St. Sophia Greek Festival Guide & Program* is filled entertaining feature articles, humor, recipes, etc. plus information about the festival itself. Please take a copy of last year’s book and a 2018 contract form for your family ad or for a business ad whether it’s your business or a business you frequent. The deadline has been extended to April 20.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a 40-day memorial for the late Karen Pappis and a one-year memorial for the late Catherine George.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 146.5;134.3.

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20.

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this

Gospel Reading

Sunday of Thomas The reading is from John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Apolytikion for Thomas Sun. in the Grave Mode

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.