

## 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. For those with special mobility needs, there is a wheelchair and a walker available. 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. However, 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: September 9**

### Severian the Martyr of Sebastia

Saint Severian, a senator from Sebastia, was both an illustrious man of wealth and a fearless Christian. Because he encouraged the holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia to stand fast in their confession, he was given over to terrible torments, and received his own crown during the reign of Licinius and Lysius the Duke, about the year 315.

Second Tray to Benefit the Victims of the Horrific Forest Fires in Greece

40-day Blessing for Nestor  
Son of Daphne Zois and Haralmbos Chelmiss

**Sunday before Holy Cross**  
**September 9, 2018 – September 15, 2018**

9 Sunday	9:30 am Divine Liturgy <b><i>Sunday School Registration/Classes Begin</i></b> 12:00 pm <b>Greek School Open House–Registration</b>
10 Monday	11:00 am Senior Exercise
11 Tuesday	11:00 am Chair Yoga 12:30 pm Senior Program 4:00 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Philoptochos Agiasmos/Supper & Meeting
12 Wednesday	11:30 am Senior Exercise 12:30 pm Knitters 4:00 pm Greek School
13 Thursday	12:00 pm Primary Elections–Gym

12:30 pm Seniors

4:00 pm Greek School

5:30 pm Adult Greek School

14 Friday 9:30 am *Liturgy–Feast of the Holy Cross*

11:30 am Senior Exercise

15 Saturday 10:00 am Greek School–“Conversational Greek”

### News & Events

- ▶ Sunday School classes begin today; registration will be ongoing. Please make an effort to have your children attend on a regular basis. Note: Today all students grade 3 through 10 and their teachers will remain in church after services to meet with Father Pat. Parents are also welcome to attend.
- ▶ Today the Cavalry Assembly of God in Stottsville will present its “*Community Service Award*” to Maria Liapis including a special donation to St. Sophia in recognition of her efforts in their local community.
- ▶ There will be a Greek School “*Open House*” and registration today. Classes will begin this week including a new class on Saturday for “Conversational Greek”. Adult Greek Language will also begin this Thursday. Beginners meet at 5:30; intermediates at 6:30; advanced at 7:30. For complete schedules and further information go to [www.stsophiagreekschool.org](http://www.stsophiagreekschool.org).
- ▶ Please join Philoptochos for their first meeting of the year Tuesday evening. There will be “Agiasmos” at 6 p.m. followed by supper and a short meeting. Newcomers are always welcome to attend.
- ▶ The Sons of Pericles and the Maids of Athena are hosting a trip to Fenway Park on Sunday, September 16. The Boston Red Sox are scheduled to play the New York Mets at 1:05 p.m. The cost is \$38 per person; \$80 for the ticket and the bus. (Bus ticket alone is \$42). To reserve a spot, please contact Zoe Bousbouras at (518) 542-3227. The deadline is today.
- ▶ It’s a special occasion for sure. Join with friends and family to commemorate the beginning of Father Pat’s 30th year serving St. Sophia with a dinner/dance here on Saturday, October 20. Tickets are \$40 per person; youth 6-12, \$20; children under six are free. Tickets will be on sale during the fellowship hour. Please note that sponsorship opportunities are also available.
- ▶ St. Sophia Dance Group registrations are now open. Please download the Dance Group Agreement and Application from the St. Sophia website under Organizations; then Dance Group. Please read carefully including the new attendance policy. Deadline for applications is September 23.
- ▶ Today is the last day of the Greek Festival at St. George Church in Schenectady. Good food and pastries, live music and folk dancers make this event a good time.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a memorial service for late members of Philoptochos.

## 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 Galatians 6:11-18.**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## Gospel Reading

**Sunday before Holy Cross**

**The reading is from John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

## 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 Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Mode

Thy Nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; for from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

## Apolytikion for Synaxis of the Holy Ancestors of God in the Second Mode

As we celebrate the memory of Thy righteous ancestors, O Lord, through them we beseech Thee to save our souls.

## 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.