

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: Habakkuk the Prophet

This Prophet, whose name means "loving embrace," is eighth in order of the minor Prophets. His homeland and tribe are not recorded in the Divine Scriptures; according to some, he was of the tribe of Symeon. He prophesied in the years of Joachim, who is also called Jechonias, before the Babylonian captivity of the Jewish People, which took place 599 years before Christ. When Nabuchodonosor came to take the Israelites captive, Habakkuk fled to Ostrakine, and after Jerusalem was destroyed and the Chaldeans departed, Habakkuk returned and cultivated his field. Once he made some pottage and was about to take it to the reapers in the field. An Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and carried him with the pottage to Babylon to feed Daniel in the lions' den, then brought him back to Judea (Bel and the Dragon, 33-39): His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters; the third chapter is also used as the Fourth Ode of the Psalter. His holy relics were found in Palestine during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Great, through a revelation to Zebennus, Bishop of Eleutheropolis.

Artoclasia in Celebration of St. Barbara offered by Philoptochos
Second Tray to Benefit Philoptochos

40-Day Memorial for the late† Kleopatra Hatshoti

One-year Memorial for the late† Steven Vogios, Sr.

Eighteen-Year Memorial for the late† Jean Vogios

Eighteen-Year Memorial for the late† Harry Karamanol

Twenty-six Year Memorial for the late† Katherine Karamanol

Coffee Fellowship sponsored in their Memory

Five-year Memorial for the late† John J. Ziamandanis

Coffee Fellowship Sponsored in his Memory

May their Memory be Eternal!

Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

December 2, 2018 – December 8, 2018

2 Sunday	9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Parish Council Elections
3 Monday	11:00 am Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Basketball 7:00 pm AHEPA
4 Tuesday	9:30 am Liturgy–St. Barbara 11:00 am Chair Yoga 12:30 pm Senior Program 4:00 pm Greek School 6:30 pm DOP Holiday Party
5 Wednesday	11:30 am Senior Exercise 12:30 pm Knitters 4:00 pm Greek School
6 Thursday	9:30 am Liturgy–St. Nicholas 11:00 am Chi Gong 12:15 pm Seniors 4:00 pm Greek School 5:30 pm Adult Greek School
7 Friday	11:30 am Senior Exercise
8 Saturday	10:00 am Greek School

News & Events

- ▶ Elections for the Parish Council vacancies will be held today following church services. You must have your 2018 Stewardship paid in full in order to vote.
- ▶ AHEPA District 6 Family will hold a Christmas party on Sunday, December 16 following church services. Special guests will include the children of St. Basil's Academy. There will be a luncheon for everyone with games, prizes, gifts and a visit from Santa for the children. The event is free and open to all parishioners. Please sign up today or e-mail George Gregory at gregorikis@aol.com. Include your name and number of people attending. The final date for reservations is December 6. **Remember. No walk-ins will be accepted at the door.**
- ▶ Our Festival Gift Shop will have a display of great ideas for Christmas gift giving. See a nice selection of items in the display cases by the church office. Order forms will be available for anyone shopping during the week or you can see Dina Fisher or Andrea Papandrea on Sunday during the fellowship hour.
- ▶ New Year's Vasilopitas made by the nuns of Agia Skepi Monastery! The Daughters of Penelope are taking orders and the cost is \$20 for each two-pound loaf (including the "lucky coin"). See Maria Hazapis or call the office for order(s). The deadline is December 9; pick up is December 23.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Second Mode. Psalm 117.14,18.

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17.

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel Reading

14th Sunday of Luke

The reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, 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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.