

## 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: December 9**

### The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin. And thus, through God's promise, Anna conceived according to the laws of nature, and was deemed worthy to become the mother of the Mother of our Lord (see also Sept. 8).

### Tenth Sunday of Luke

December 9, 2018 – December 15, 2018

9 Sunday	9:30 am Divine Liturgy
10 Monday	11:00 am Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Basketball
11 Tuesday	11:00 am Chair Yoga 12:30 pm Senior Program 4:00 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Philoptochos
12 Wednesday	9:30 am Liturgy–St. Spyridon 11:30 am Senior Exercise 12:30 pm Knitters 4:00 pm Greek School
13 Thursday	11:00 am Chi Gong 12:15 pm Seniors

4:00 pm Greek School

5:00 pm Senior Housing Party

5:30 pm Adult Greek School

14 Friday

11:30 am Senior Exercise

15 Saturday

9:30 am Liturgy–St. Eleftherios

10:00 am Greek School

### News & Events

- ▶ Next Sunday the AHEPA District 6 Family will hold a Christmas party 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](mailto:gregorikis@aol.com). Include your name and number of people attending. Today is the final date for reservations. **Remember. No walk-ins will be accepted at the door.**
- ▶ Nice!!! Very nice! Our Festival Gift Shop now has a lovely display of great ideas for Christmas gift giving. See the nice selection of items in the display cases by the church office. Order forms are available for anyone shopping during the week or you can see Dina Fisher or Andrea Papandrea on Sunday during the fellowship hour.
- ▶ Today is the last day for orders. New Year’s Vasilopitas made by the nuns of Agia Skepi Monastery! The Daughters of Penelope are taking orders for New Year’s Vasilopitas made by the nuns of Agia Skepi Monastery. The cost is \$20 for a two-pound loaf which includes the “lucky coin”. See Maria Hazapis or call the office for order(s). The deadline is December 9; pick up is December 23.
- ▶ The Sons and Maids are back this holiday season to sing Christmas Carols at your home. House sign-ups are being done during the fellowship hour and proceeds will support Sons & Maids charities. For information see Michael Neal or Zoe Bousbouras.
- ▶ For the music lover, give an evening of music. On February 15, Magda Giannikou, an international young Greek composer and musician will be bringing her band “Banda Magda” to Proctors Theatre for an evening of great music –samba, French chanson, Greek folk tunes, Columbian cumbia and more. Tickets are \$25 with a discount of 10% on groups of ten or more. Call the church office for details. Fun!!
- ▶ The AHEPA Family and St. Sophia are sponsoring the annual Christmas appeal for the donation of unwrapped toys, games, books, and other appropriate gifts for children and teenagers at the Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center. Gifts can be left under the Christmas tree in church.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a 40-day memorial for the late James Gallas and a five-year memorial for the late George Kontakos.

## 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 St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27.**

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

## Gospel Reading

**10th Sunday of Luke**

**The reading is from Luke 13:10-17**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

## Apolytikion for Conception of the Theotokos in the Fourth Mode

Today the bonds of childlessness are loosed; for God hearkened to Joachim and Anna. And though it was beyond hope, He clearly promised them that they should bear a divine child, from whom was born the Uncircumscribable One Himself Who became a mortal, and through an Angel commanded them to cry unto her: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with 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 Fourth Mode

Today the world rejoices in the conception of Anna, wrought by God. For she bore the One who beyond comprehension conceived the Logos.