

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: The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Second Tray to Benefit St. Basil's Academy

The Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

January 6, 2019 – January 12, 2019

6 Sunday	9:30 am Divine Liturgy–Theophany
7 Monday	11:30 am Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Basketball 7:00 pm AHEPA
8 Tuesday	11:00 am Chair Yoga 12:30 pm Senior Program 4:00 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Philoptochos
9 Wednesday	11:00 am Senior Exercise

	12:30 pm Knitters 4:00 pm Greek School
10 Thursday	12:15 pm Seniors 4:00 pm Greek School 5:30 pm Adult Greek School
11 Friday	11:30 am Senior Exercise
12 Saturday	10:00 am Greek School 11:00 am JOY Bowling 12:30 pm Tri-City DOP/Philoptochos Holiday Party

News & Events

- ▶ Note: Due to Father Pat's illness, the cutting of the Vasilopita will be held next Sunday, January 13.
- ▶ This Saturday, JOY members will be having fun at Spare Time Bowling located on Troy Schenectady Road. There is no charge for JOY members. The price for non-members is \$14. Adults who are not bowling can pay \$5 for pizza and drinks. Please RSVP to Sophia Pallone at (518) 573-5952 by January 8.
- ▶ The collection of toys, games, and gift certificates for the kids at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center has been extended to this coming Wednesday. Gifts may be left in the church office.
- ▶ If you would like a house blessing, please contact Father Pat.
- ▶ Magda Giannikou, an international young Greek composer and musician will be bringing her band "Banda Magda" to Proctors Theatre on February 15 for an evening of great music. Tickets are \$25 with a discount of 10% on groups of ten or more. Call the church office for information or Proctor's directly for tickets.
- ▶ Time flies and so do good intentions. If you have not already done so, please fill out a stewardship commitment for 2019. And, at this time, please consider an effort to pledge a little more than last year. Even a dollar more a week can help offset the rising expenses of the church. However, if that is not possible at this time, whatever you can do will be appreciated. The 2019 stewardship commitment cards are bright yellow this year and are located in the exonarthex of the church and on the information table by the office. Payments can be made using the yellow-bordered envelopes or by check or even with a credit card payment over the phone. Also, if you are a new member or have a change of information, please fill out the "Family Profile Form". Note: All information is confidential.
- ▶ Coming up soon is the Annual Sons and Maids Valentine's Day Dance on February 9th. Always a great evening of music and fun. Stay tuned for details.
- ▶ Next Sunday there will be a 40-day memorial for the late Van George and a three-year memorial for the late Georgia V. Lascaris.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 117.26,1.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel Reading

The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The reading is from Matthew 3:13-17

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Apolytikion for Holy Epiphany in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."