

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Office: 107 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York 12305

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 1 PM - 6 PM

Parish Telephone: (518) 393-0742; **Fax:** (518) 393-4093

Web: www.saintgeorgegoc.com



Rev. Fr. Theodore C. Roupas, Presiding Parish Priest

Camille Kosloski, Parish Secretary

Sunday Services: Orthros: 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

~ Week Day Liturgies as announced ~

Parish Council Exec. Committee

Rev. Fr. Theodore Roupas

Presiding Parish Priest

Mrs. Athena Pagnotti

President

Mrs. Lucy Brady

Vice-President

Mrs. Alexandra Casey

Co-Treasurer

Mr. Anargyros (Ron) Dikas

Co-Treasurer

Ms. Panagiota Giakoumis

Secretary



Youth Advisors

Mrs. Lucy Goodale

Mrs. Paula Kingra

Angels/Hope/Joy

Mr. & Mrs. George Avramidis

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock

GOYA

Parish Ministry Leaders

Ms. Olga Delorey

Choir Director

Philoptochos Society President

Mrs. Athena Pagnotti

Sunday School Coordinator

Rev. Fr. Theodore Roupas

Bible Study

Spiritual Book Club

Mrs. Eliana Georgelos

Mr. Paul Pagiotas

Fellowship Group

Co-Presidents

Parish Council Members: Lucy Brady, Alexandra Casey, Kyriako Contompasis, Anargyros (Ron) Dikas, Morgan Gazetos, Maria Dostis-Koliatsis, Panagiota Giakoumis, and Athena Pagnotti

Sacraments, Services and Home Visitations

Holy Baptism · Holy Chrismation · Holy Confession

Holy Communion · Holy Unction · Holy Marriage

Please contact Father Theodore Roupas directly at the Parish Office to schedule.

Miraculous Sheatfish of the Jordan River



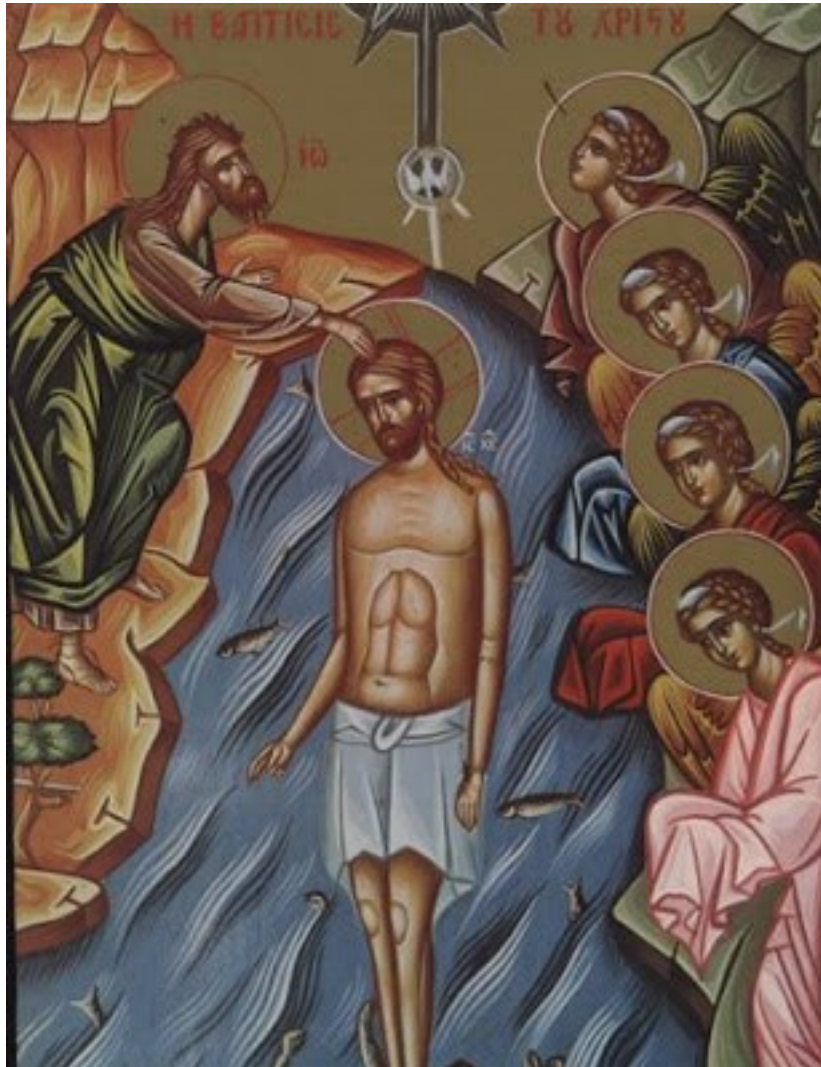
Jordan River Catfish

In the Jordan River, where the baptism of Christ took place, there exist a large species of fish of approximately three feet in length known as Sheatfish (Gr. Γουλιανοί) or [Siluridae](#), a member of the Catfish family. These fish are characterized especially by their large head and six barbels which resemble cat's whiskers. They can be found in many rivers and lakes, however the Sheatfish in the Jordan bare one distinguishing characteristic that appears to have a supernatural origin.

On the head of the Sheatfish in the Jordan, if one removes the skin and observes the bone on the head, one can see a peculiar image measuring about a span. The image in the middle is in the shape of a man, on the left and right of the man there is a separation with the image of angels with wings, above the head of the man appears to be a dove with open wings, and on the two sides of the dove there appear flames coming down.

In other words, Orthodox faithful have proclaimed this strange occurrence a miracle because it depicts the baptism of Christ, and this phenomenon appears in no other fish of the same species anywhere in the world. This is exactly how the baptism of Christ is [traditionally depicted](#) in Orthodox iconography. Because the Jordan River flows into Lake Gennesaret, these fish appear there as well. Interestingly, because these fish are not kosher, Jewish fisherman do not handle or eat them but when caught they are thrown back into the Jordan.

Pious Christians consider it a great blessing to receive the skull of these Sheatfish from the Jordan River. It is a custom among them to color in with paint the image on the skull so as to make the image more clearly visible.



Source: <http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/01/sheatfish-of-jordan-river.html>

“Everything in this life passes away—only God remains, only He is worth struggling towards. We have a choice: to follow the way of this world, of the society that surrounds us, and thereby find ourselves outside of God; or to choose the way of life, to choose God Who calls us and for Whom our heart is searching.”

— Fr. Seraphim Rose

From the Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

It is with joy and gratitude that I announce the new slate of Parish Council Officers for the 2016 year:

Mrs. Lucy Brady, Vice President

Mrs. Alexandra Casey, Co-Treasurer

Mr. Ron Dikas, Co-Treasurer

Ms. Panagiota Giakoumis, Secretary

And I have been elected to serve another term as President.

2016 Council Members: Kyriakos Contompasis, Maria Dostis-Koliatsis, Morgan Gazetos, and one vacancy. Please see Father Theodore directly, if you are interested in serving an appointed term throughout the end of this year.

Please continue to pray for us and for a good year ahead for the Parish.

This first month of the year is very busy with transition meetings for incoming officers, and meetings with parish organizations to plan the year ahead. It 's a fun and exciting time as we forecast the events that will bring the community together in worship and fellowship throughout the year.

I want to thank all Parishioners who attended the General Assembly Meeting last month, and thank you to Kyriakos Contompasis for serving as Assembly Chairman. The Assembly had fifty (50) pledged members signed in for the event. A recap of the 2015 year was offered, we elected three new council members to fill vacancies, and we elected two delegates to represent the parish at the upcoming Clergy—Laity Congress in Nashville this July. Most notably, the discussion centered on the financial standing of the parish, and ways to increase our revenues. Thank you to everyone who heeded the call to fulfill your 2015 stewardship pledge by year-end. This action really makes a positive impact on the Parish's financial stability (year-end report contained herein). **Please look for information on upcoming Parish events within this issue.** Minutes of the Assembly are available in the office for review, and will be mailed to all parishioners in good standing, prior to the 2016 Spring General Assembly Meeting.

Beginning this year (2016), Father Theodore will be blessing the homes of those parishioners whom have *fulfilled* their 2015 stewardship pledges. (For any and all questions related to this new protocol, please speak with the Parish Council directly.)

My apologies for the delay in correspondence for the January issue. This month (only) we offer a combined January/February issue. Regular monthly bulletin delivery will resume in March.

We have a full issue, so my comments are brief. Enjoy your reading, and please reach out to any Council member when you have a need.

With Love in Christ ~

Athena Pagnotti



Building and Grounds Update

- ◆ Thank you to the *“Thursday Morning Boy’s”* for replacing lightbulbs and inspecting the lighting fixtures in the Hellenic Center ceiling. *And a very special Thank You to Manny Contompasis for donating the light bulbs for the cause!*
- ◆ The pole lights in the parking lot have been repaired and are in good working order.
- ◆ Pictured left, Council member, *Morgan Gazetos*, cures a safety hazard in the parking lot.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AND SPONSORSHIP OF A COFFEE HOUR

Please call the church office (393-0742) to schedule a memorial service. After receiving confirmation from our church secretary, please contact Lucy Brady, Coffee Hour Chairperson at 346-4722 or lukia@nycap.rr.com if you wish to sponsor a coffee hour.

The St. George Ladies Philoptochos oversees the coffee hours after church. For those who wish to sponsor a coffee hour, the following expenses should be expected.

Food: The food provided for a memorial is a combination of baked good items, cookies, etc. A quart of milk for the coffee and half-gallon of orange juice for the children is included. These items can be purchased by your family and brought to the Hellenic Center or Philoptochos will purchase the food for you and present you with receipts for reimbursement. **Specialty foods or additional items beyond the basics must be provided by the family if you wish to have them served.**

Coffee/Tea Paper: A flat fee for coffee, tea, and paper goods is charged. If there are multiple memorial coffee hours the cost is to be shared equally by the sponsors.

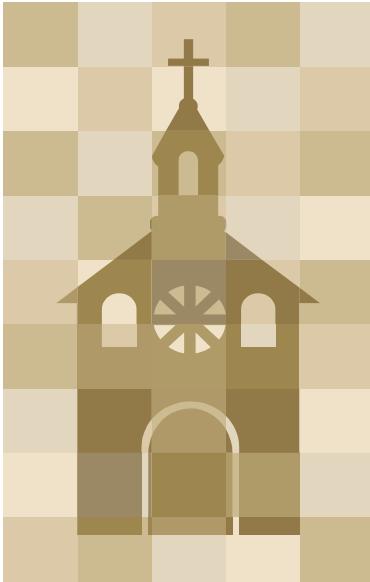
- \$35.00 (one sponsor)
- \$25.00 (per family if two sponsors)
- \$25.00 (per family if three sponsors)

Services: The Ladies of the Philoptochos Society will do grocery shopping for basic items, set up, serving and clean up for the coffee hours. In addition, a sign is prepared with the name of the sponsorship family and the person in whose memory the coffee hour is being held.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to provide aid to the poor, the homeless, the sick and the disadvantaged. Your generosity in making a donation to the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society in memory of your loved one would be greatly appreciated. For tax purposes, a letter acknowledging your donation will be provided.

KOLIVA

The Ladies Philoptochos Society will no longer be responsible for making koliva for memorial services. In recent years there are significantly fewer and fewer members who are able or available to make koliva. Therefore, this is a service we can no longer offer to our parishioners and families will be responsible for providing their own koliva.



***Bold print denotes
pledged members
who are paid in full.***

*Thank you to all who
have pledged thus far.*

*There is still room on the
list to add your name!
Please submit and fulfill
your pledge to St. George
Greek Orthodox Church
today.*

*To receive a pledge form,
please contact the parish
office at 393-0742, or ask
any parish council
member at church.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2015 FINAL

2015 Pledge Goal: \$ 73,000.00

Total amount pledged to date: \$ 70,517.00

Total amount received to date: \$ 68,407.00

2015 St. George GOC Members Pledged to Date

Fr. Theodore & Tatiana Roupas
Faith Adamec & Family
Kyriakoula Andrikopoulos
Aristomenis & Angela Aretakis
Vicki and Stephen Arrington
Scot & Efy Asher
Eugenia Avramidis & Family
George & Eleni Avramidis
Athan Baskous
Mrs. Lucy Brady & Family
John Behiri
Nicholas & Elene Behiri
Susan Birbilis
Sam & Deborah Bratsos
Ifigenia Brown
Arji Cakouros
Alexandra & Patrick Casey
Palmyra Catravas
Andreas & Panayiota Christou
Euripides Christou & Family
Patricia Chryssovergis
Mrs. Catherine Contompasis
Cathy Contompasis
Charles Contompasis & Family
Emanuel Contompasis & Family
Joan Contompasis
Demetra Corsones

Peter and Stephanie Cospito
George & Constantina Cotzas
Rena Counavelis
Marianne Crary
Chris & Joanne Dafniotis
Fr. Peter & Nina Daratsos
Olga Delorey
Joanne Diamantis
**Anargyros Dikas &
Jessica Hollenbeck**
Dorothy Dikas
John and Mary Dikas
Katina Dikas
Takis J. Dikas
Marguerite Doulides
Angela Economou
Christopher Euripidou
Evan Euripidou
Michael & Elaine Euripidou
Morgan & Julie Gazetos
Deno Geanopoulos
Demetrios Geanopoulos
Arthur Georgelas & Family
Helena Georgelas
Eliana Georgelos
Nicole Georgelas

2015 St. George GOC Members Pledged to Date

Peter Giakoumis & Family
Panagiota Giakoumis
Steve & Alice Giakoumis
Brian & Lucy Goodale
Olga Goussis
Sophia Gouvis
Dimitri Grivas & Family
Periklis & Popi Hais
Meghan & Daniel Holdsworth
Maria & Owen Huggins
Angeliki Jones
Thomas Jones & Family
Peter and Dayna Kalil
Antonia Kananis & Family
Evangelia Kalogeras
Steve & Fanny Karamanos
Polixeni Kingra & Family
Charles & Kathy Koines
Maria Dostis Koliatsis
Demetrios & Maria Kolios
Maria Kontakos
Gerasimos & Irini Koulouris
Chris & Voula Kounoupis
Konstantinos Kounoupis
Athena Kouray
Steven & Barbara Kouray
Barbara Koutsakis
Haralambos & Connie
Koutsopoulos
David & Patricia Lambert
Demetra & Homer Lang
Trifon & Zanetta Laskaris
Irene LaViolette
Paul LaViolette
Christine Legorius
Frieda Legorius
Mrs. George Legorius
Alexios and Betty Lekkas
Achilles & Anastasia Mafilios
William Manikas
James & Ann Mantas
Cathy Marco

Ann Markopoulos
Dimitryos & Joann Markopoulos
Akrivi Markopoulos
Athena Markopoulos
Stephen and Mary Markopoulos
Steve Mastromichalis
Jaime McDonald & Family
Phil and Norina McGowen
Angelo & Aleka Menagias
Fillipos & Erene Menagias
Jerry & Angela Menagias
Antonia Mikropoulos
Demetra Mikropoulos
Spiros and Rena Mikropoulos
Theodore Mikropoulos
Scott & Anna Morlock
Evangelos & Dina Nikolaidis
Simeon and Barbara Nikolaidis
Katherine Orfan
Paul & Joann Pagiotas
Athena Pagnotti & Family
Peter & Penny Pagones
Kostantinos & Debra Papanikos
Nick & Gladys Paravalos
Voula Paravalos
Tony Poulos
Stephen Rayburn & Family
Jim & Teresa Rossetti
Elena Sikamiotis
Gerasimos Sokaris & Family
Ourania Sokaris
Roubina Spyros & Family
Van & Anita Stathis
Athanasios & Stavroula
Stamoulis
James Stevens
LeGrande Serras
Maria Stamoulis
Kaliopi Struffolino & Family
Olga Stryjski
Adam Svokos and Family
George Svolos & Family

Themetria Svolos
Angela Theodore
Helen Trinci
Ioannis and Aspasia
Tsakopiakos
Melissa Verrigini
and Family
Fanny & Richard Walker
Megan & Brian Whipple
Mrs. Niki Wilson
Peter Wilson, Sr.
Peter Wilson & Family
Russell & Mary Wilson
Steve and Sophie Zanaros
John & Anastasia Zoulas
Peter & Mary Zoulas



STEWARDSHIP

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you for all of your efforts in fulfilling your 2015 Stewardship Pledges. Reminder statements were mailed out last month if you happened to have a balance. In order to remain in good standing and to be able to pledge for 2016, you must have fulfilled your 2015 pledge. As discussed at the General Assembly, if you find that fulfilling your pledge is not possible, please call Father Theodore or me. It is certainly understandable that financial hardships can affect our ability to satisfy the amount we pledge. Also discussed at the General Assembly was a plea to take into consideration the 2016 budget and how crucial it is for our church to increase pledges. Any increase in pledges will help meet the rising costs that the Church faces.

You will notice that four levels have been established on the Pledge form that reflect ranges in the pledges, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. In an effort to keep you updated on the status of the pledges, we will specify in future Bulletins, the number of pledges within each range. Please keep in mind that as of now, approximately \$200 of each and every pledge is sent to the Archdiocese. Even if a pledge is less than that amount, we are still required to send that sum to the Archdiocese for each member's share.

Thank you for your understanding and willingness to help support St. George. May the New Year bring love, peace and happiness to all of us.

Lucy Brady

Tel: 346-4722

~ Please Note ~

The New Stewardship Form on the opposite page is for Returning Members Only. If you are new to St. George, or were not a member in 2015, please contact Camille Kosloski in the Parish Office at 393-0742. A more comprehensive form will be mailed to you, which asks for additional information (eg: address, spouse, children names, etc.).

The "Returning Member" Pledge form content (opposite page) is taken from Archdiocese Stewardship Materials. This simple form allows us to (1) sign the head of household name, (2) check the method of giving, and (3) write the amount of contribution for 2016. At the bottom of the form, we are asked to indicate our desired level of participation throughout the 2016 year, by checking the category of interest/involvement. This information (only) will be passed on to group leaders, and you will be notified of events in the areas of interest you checked.

Returning Member household information will be verified through a phone call from the Parish Office in January when House Blessings are scheduled.

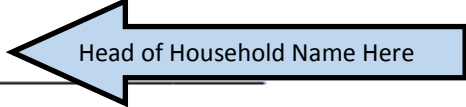
We appreciate your patience as we strive to simplify, streamline and bring our business practices more in-line with Archdiocese supported directives.

The Parish Council

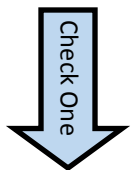
SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM

Please complete and return to Church Office prior to the beginning of Paschal Lent if possible.

Name: _____



The Parish Budget for 2016 is \$306,450.00
The Archdiocese Assessment for 2016 is \$27,700.00



Please take a look at the range of stewardship gifts for 2016:



- Platinum Steward \$1,500 +
- Gold Steward \$1,000 - \$1,499
- Silver Steward \$500 - \$999
- Bronze Steward \$499 or less

Please indicate your preferred payment method:

Annual _____

Monthly _____

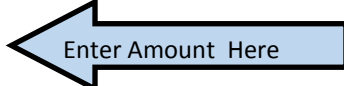
Weekly _____

Quarterly _____

\$800 – average pledge level needed to offset Parish operating expenses
(this sum equates to approximately \$15.00 per week)

After prayerful consideration, and in gratitude for God's blessings, I/we are prepared to offer a pledge to the parish of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, to continue the work of His One Holy Apostolic Church:

My Stewardship Pledge for 2016 \$ _____

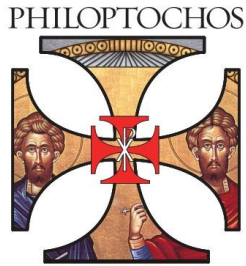


Thank you again for your support of our parish and assistance in its most important work to spiritually minister to us, and to continue to fulfill Christ's mission into the next generation.

Stewardship of Time and Talents

Category	Member	Spouse	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
Altar Server						
Book Club/Bible Study						
Bereavement Supporter						
Choir/Chanter						
Church Usher						
Church Monthly Bulletin						
Epistle Reader						
Fellowship Group						
Festival Volunteer						
Fotia HS Dance Group						
Fund Raising and Special Events						
Philoptochos Society						
Parish Council						
Soup Kitchen Volunteer						
Oratorical Festival						
Sunday School						
"Thursday Morning Boys"						
Youth Group						

Note: Monthly bulletins are mailed to each member. This monthly publication, in addition to weekly supplements distributed in church, is the main communication tool of the parish. Parish leaders of the ministries noted above are listed on the cover page of the monthly bulletin. If you are not receiving the monthly bulletin mailed to your home, please contact the parish office at 393-0742. Thank you!



MEETING NOTES. At the January 2016 monthly meeting, the membership approved the following donations:

Saint Basil Academy
National Philoptochos Social Services Fund
National Philoptochos Cancer Fund
Per Capita Membership to National Philoptochos and DAD
Zoe for Life
Center for Disability Services
Ronald McDonald House of the Capital Region

MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please remember to pay your annual dues starting in January! Annual dues are \$30.00. Please keep in mind, we must pay a \$21.00 per capita assessment for each member (\$15.00 to National Philoptochos and \$6.00 to Direct Archdiocesan District). The remaining amount of \$9.00 goes to our St. George Chapter. Any additional gift to the chapter, along with your annual dues, is always welcome.

GO RED SUNDAY. “Go Red For Women” is the American Heart Association’s national call to increase awareness and help prevent heart disease, the number one cause of death in American women. This is a call for women, by women, to take charge of their well-being and live stronger, healthier lives. The National Philoptochos has designated **Sunday, February 7, 2016 “GO RED SUNDAY”** and we ask our Philoptochos sisters and parishioners to **wear red** to church on this day. Printed material on heart disease and prevention will be made available to those who are interested in receiving more information. For more information go to:

www.goredforwomen.org

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS DINNER. On **Sunday, February 28, 2016** the Ladies Philoptochos will sponsor a Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner immediately following Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (under 12). Please see flyer in this month’s bulletin for further information.

SPECIAL THANKS. Our sincere thanks to all parishioners and Philoptochos members who made donations to the Ladies Philoptochos for the **St. George Parish Christmas Card**, purchased and/or made items for our **Mitten Tree**, and donated non-perishable food items for the **Salvation Army Food Pantry**. Special thanks to **Toly Svolos** who served as Christmas Card Chair again this year. Special thanks to **Anna Ktenas** who made the Vasilopita which we cut on January 3, 2016 and our thanks to everyone who made a donation to the special tray collection for Saint Basil Academy.

SOUP KITCHEN. On **Tuesday, November 24, 2015** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **166 persons** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Thomas Jones In Memory of his father, Ed Jones**. May his memory be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Theodore. The dinner consisted of Stuffed Cabbage Rolls (with ground beef and rice), Corn, Bread & Butter, Fruit Cup, Dessert, Juice and Coffee. Our heartfelt thanks to the following team members who helped prepare and/or serve the meal on this day: **Charlie Koines, Mike Euripidou, Gladys Paravalos, Eliana Georgelos, Olga De-lorey, Presbytera Nina Daratsos, Steve and Alice Giakoumis, Helen Trinci, Phil McGowen, Kiki Jones, Bill Manikas, Tina Twardzik and Paula Kingra.**

On **Tuesday, December 29, 2015** we served dinner for **159 persons**. This Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Maria Kontakos In Memory of her husband, Louis Kontakos and son, George Kontakos**. May their memories be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Theodore. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with Pasta, Green Beans, Bread & Butter, Dessert, Fresh Oranges, Juice and Coffee. We also provided a special Christmas treat of chocolates and candy canes. Our heartfelt thanks to the following team members who helped prepare and/or serve the meal on this day: **Kathy Koines (Chair), Charlie Koines, Mike Euripidou, Steve and Alice Giakoumis, Phil and Norina McGowen, Pete Kalil, Olga Delorey, Palma Catravas, Bill Manikas and Father Theodore Roupas**.

*“...for I was hungry and you gave me food ...
...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My bretheren, you did it to Me”
Matthew 25: 35-40*

NEW BOARD MEMBER. Elena Sikamiotis was appointed to the Board of Directors at our January meeting. Elena replaces Konstantina Nikolaidis who stepped down after serving for many years. Thank you, Dina, for your service as a member of the board and we extend a heartfelt welcome to Elena.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30 pm**.

Ladies Philoptochos Society Board of Directors 2015-2017

Officers: Olga Delorey (President), Gladys Paravalos (Vice President & Advisor)
Zanetta Laskaris (Treasurer), Kathy Koines (Assistant Treasurer)
Elaine Euripidou (Secretary), Cathy Contompasis (Assistant Secretary)

Members: Lucy Brady, Presbyteria Nina Daratsos, Joanne Diamantis, Eliana Georgelos
Alice Giakoumis, Aleka Menagias, Elena Sikamiotis

SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS may be arranged by contacting Coffee Hour Chair Lucy Brady (346-4722). A voluntary donation to the Ladies Philoptochos Society in addition to the expenses would be greatly appreciated.





St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Rummage Sale & Bake Sale
To be held this Spring!

This is a fundraising initiative for the Parish. As you begin to organize your homes for a good start to the New Year, please gather any unwanted home goods in excellent condition and donate to this cause. The following items are welcomed:

- ◆ Home décor
- ◆ Picture frames
- ◆ Table cloths
- ◆ Drapes
- ◆ Small appliances
- ◆ Dinnerware sets
- ◆ Glassware sets
- ◆ Silverware sets
- ◆ Serving pieces
- ◆ Holiday décor
- ◆ Working Electronics
- ◆ Working Cameras
- ◆ Tools
- ◆ Infant Nursery Items
- ◆ Toys
- ◆ Stuffed Animals
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ Books
- ◆ DVD's
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Musical Instruments
- ◆ Fabrics/Yarn
- ◆ Sewing Sundries
- ◆ Craft Supplies
- ◆ Quilts
- ◆ Comforters/Blankets

All donations must be received by the Rummage Sale committee ~ date/time to be announced. Any donated items will become the property of St. George GOC and unsold donated items will be given to local charities at the end of the Rummage Sale event.

Look for more detailed information in next month's bulletin or contact Roubina Spiros-Morgan 630-6654.

A BIG THANK YOU!

*from the Ladies Philoptochos Society
Sunday School & Youth Groups*

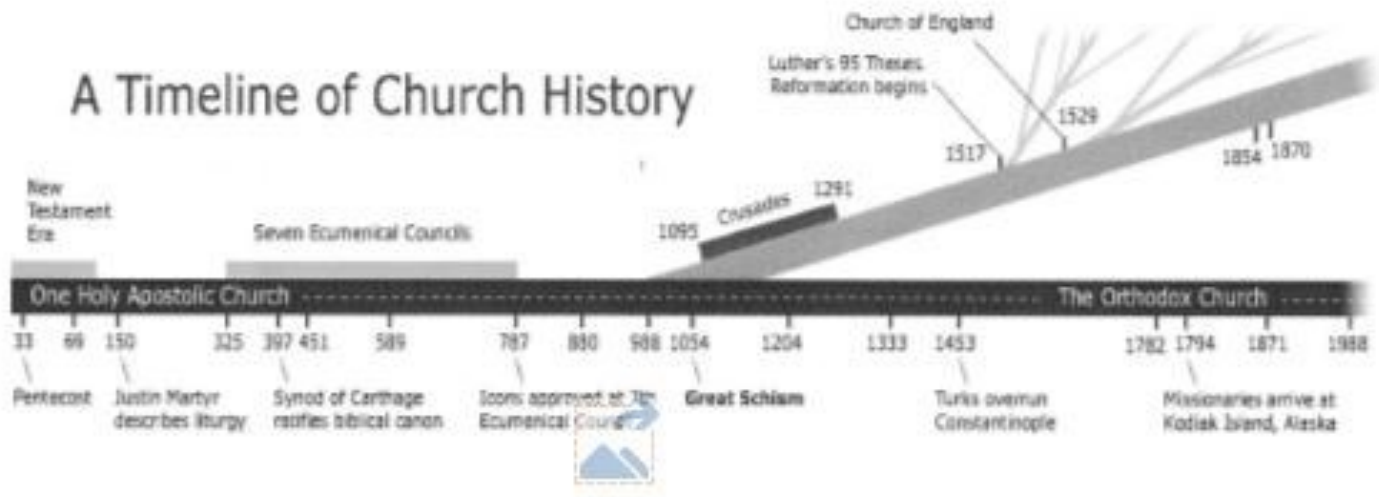
On Monday, December 14, 2015, we delivered the following items that you all donated for our first-ever Mitten Tree!

**60 Hats
44 Mittens & Gloves
20 Scarves
7 "Sets" of Hats, Mittens and Scarves**



As of December 18, 2015 we delivered OVER 100 lbs. of food to Salvation Army Food Pantry! God bless you all!





How old is the Orthodox Faith?

If you are a Lutheran, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517.

If you belong to the Church of England, your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to re-marry.

If you are a Presbyterian, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

If you are a Congregationalist, your religion was originated by Robert Brown in Holland in 1582.

If you are Protestant Episcopalian, your religion was an offshoot of the Church of England, founded by Samuel Senbury in the American colonies in the 17th century.

If you are a Baptist, you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smyth, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1606.

If you are the Dutch Reformed Church, you recognize Michelis Jones as founder because he originated your religion New York in 1628.

If you are a Methodist, your religion was founded by John and Charles Wesley in England in 1774.

If you are a Mormon (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, New York, in 1829.

If you worship with the Salvation Army, your sect began with William Booth in London in 1865.

If you are Christian Scientist, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mark Baker Eddy as its founder.

If you belong to one of the religious organizations known as "Church of the Nazarene, Pentecostal Gospel," "Holiness Church,;" or "Jehovah's Witnesses," your religion is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men within the past hundred years.

If you are Roman Catholic, Your church shared the same rich apostolic and doctrinal heritage as the Orthodox Church for the first thousand years of its history, since during the first millennium they were one and the same Church. Lamentably, in 1054, the Pope of Rome broke away from the other four Apostolic Patriarchates (which

include Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem), by tampering with the Original Creed of the Church, and considering himself to be infallible. Thus your church is 1,000 years old.

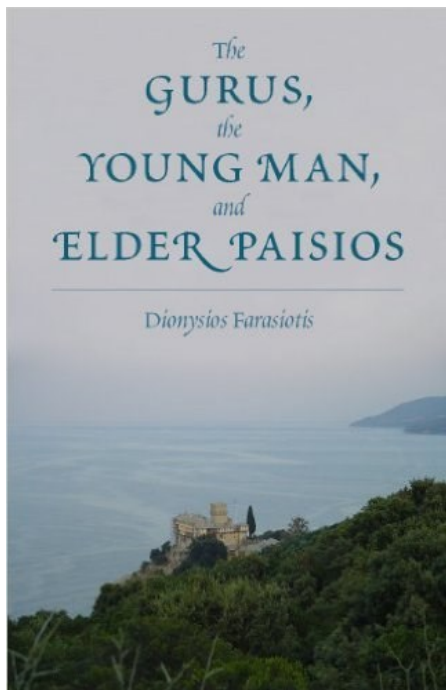
If you are Orthodox Christian, your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It has not changed since that time. Our church is now almost 2,000 years old. And it is for this reason, that Orthodoxy, the Church of the Apostles and the Fathers is considered the true One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.” This is the greatest legacy that we can pass on to the young people of the new millennium.

By Rev. Dr. Miltiades Efthimiou

<http://www.orthodoxphotos.com/history.shtml>



If you attended Bible Study last Fall with Father Theodore Roupas, this was just one of the discussions presented for our enlightenment. Participants also viewed a documentary film entitled, “Jesus Camp”, which explores the dangers of religious fundamentalism. The documentary is free for viewing on-line at <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/jesus-camp#watch-film>



Spiritual Book Club resumes February 29th and will meet Monday's at 6 PM.

The Book selection for this year's ministry is

“The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios”.

The book is available on-line for purchase in Greek or English.

http://www.amazon.com/The-Gurus-Young_Elder_Paisios/dp/1887904166

<http://www.sainthermanmonastery.com/product-p/gurus.htm>

<http://www.greekorthodoxbooks.com/6FF8DFCA.el.aspx>

<http://wwwprotoporia.gr/oi-gkoyroy-o-neos-kai-o-gerontas-paisios-p-123741.html>

It is recommended that you purchase your copy now, so that you may begin to read before the February 29th meeting. Contact Father Theodore for more information.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS – JANUARY, 2016

We have celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and now the New Year of 2016 is upon us. Best wishes to all from the Fellowship group for peace and good health throughout the coming year!

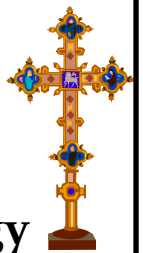
The month of January brings us three important feast days. The first is that of St. Basil the Great, which falls on the first of the month. The second feast day of January falls on the 6th and is that of Theophany. This feast day commemorates the baptism of Christ and the first appearance of the Holy Trinity. The feast of Theophany, also known as Epiphany, is the culmination of the Christmas season. The great blessing of water is performed by Father Theodore on this day, and the holy water so blessed is shared with the faithful and also used by Father when he blesses each of our homes. The final feast day of this month is that of the Three Hierarchs (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom). Let us all worship together on these feast days!

In lieu of a meeting in December, the Fellowship group met for a Christmas gathering at the Blue Ribbon Diner. After enjoying our meals, Angelo and Phil Menagias joined us for some fellowship and reminiscing. Christmas trivia games were played, prizes were awarded, and delicious desserts were provided by the Menagias family to our entire group. We thank them for their hospitality and generosity!

Our January meeting will take place on Thursday, January 14th at 11:30 AM at the Hellenic Center. As always, we continuously encourage newcomers to join our group. Unless there is a special occasion when we travel or meet at a restaurant, our typical meetings take place at the Hellenic Center on the second Thursday of every month at 11:30 AM. We always begin our meetings with a meal. The cost for lunch is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Dues are \$25 annually. Please contact our treasurer, Kathy Koines or either of our co-presidents, Paul Pagiotas or Eliana Georgelos, for information.

St. George GOC events on the horizon ~

February 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Tuesday, 9 am Orthros/10 am Divine Liturgy



February 21 Triodion Begins

March 13 Forgiveness Sunday Vespers, 5 pm, St. George
“Pot-luck” supper to follow in Hellenic Center.

March 14 Holy Monday and the Beginning of Great Lent

*Please contact the church office at 393-0742, to
schedule an appointment for Holy Confession.*

ANGELS/HOPE/JOY/GOYA

Our Youth Groups celebrated their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12th. Parents and Children decorated the Christmas trees in the Church and Hellenic Center foyer, then we all enjoyed a delicious Lenten luncheon. Advisors led the children in crafts of ornament making and ginger bread man decorating, while Father Theodore offered *Holy Confession* to each child individually. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event fun and memorable.

- ◆ Parent/Advisor planning conference scheduled for January 10th following Divine Liturgy.
- ◆ Snow tubing event scheduled for Sunday, January 31st at Maple Ridge Ski Club. Contact Lucy Goodale for more information.
- ◆ Advisors are calling for subscribe/unsubscribe for Youth Events emailing. If you are not receiving Youth Group correspondence and would like to, please contact Lucy Goodale at lg1010@live.com.
- ◆ The Albany AHEPA/Sons and Maids will hold their annual Valentines Day Dance at St. Sophia on Saturday, February 6th. Please see the bulletin board in the Hellenic Center Hallway for more information. All are invited to attend!

St. George GOC has a variety of Youth Volunteer opportunities. If your child is in need of community service hours, please contact Athena Pagnotti (518-708-7695) to learn more.

A schedule of Youth Activities for the 2016 year will be published in next month's issue of the community bulletin, and will also be posted on the bulletin board in the Hellenic Center hallway.



Save the date!

St. George GOC Annual Nameday Dinner/
Dance will be held

Saturday, May 7th beginning at 6 pm.

The Aegean Duo will perform.

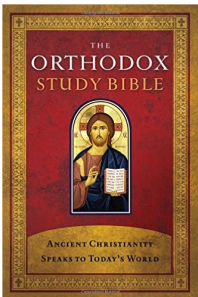
Look for more information in next month's issue of the Community bulletin.

Event sponsored by the Parish Council.

One more Christmas Gift from Father Theodore ~

Did you know this? The partridge in a pear tree is

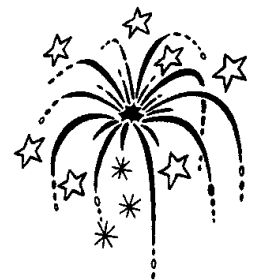
Jesus Christ.—Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.—Three French Hens stand for faith, hope and love.—The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.—The five golden rings are called the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. —The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation. —Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.—The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. —Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. —The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. —The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. —The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. MERRY CHRISTMAS!! ❤️ Yes, I said MERRY CHRISTmas because Christmas is not without CHRIST!



Thank you to the family of Stephen and Mary Markopoulos for the generous donation of Forty (40) Orthodox Study Bibles, in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The Bibles are housed in the Nave/Church office and utilized for Bible study and religious instruction.

Thanks to the “**Friend of St. George**”, the Parish has realized a return on investment, of unused 2015 Festival supplies, through post-festival sales in the amount of :

\$4, 835.70!



Thanks to this group of dedicated Parishioners, the goods that were left-over from our 2015 Festival did not go unused or unaccounted for.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for this kind service to the community, and to the Parish Council.



Community News & Events

Mrs. Cathy Georgelas, beloved wife of Arthur (Art), fell asleep in the Lord on December 8th at the age of 55. The funeral was celebrated on December 12th. *May her memory be eternal!*

Mrs. Helena Georgelas would like to express her heartfelt gratitude for everyone's love, prayers and kindness throughout Cathy's funeral celebration.

Mr. John (Artie) Aretakis, beloved husband of Angela, fell asleep in the Lord on January 5th at the age of 89. The funeral was celebrated on January 8th. *May his memory be eternal!*

Congratulations to Scott and Lucy Brady on the January 23rd marriage engagement of their daughter, *Maria Elaine Brady to Mr. James Eldridge. Best Wishes to the new couple!*

Snow Tubing at Maple Ridge Ski Resort is planned for the **AHJ/GOYA Youth Groups** on Sunday, January 31st.

9 am Orthros/ 10 am **Divine Liturgy, Tuesday, February 2nd** ~ The Presentation of Christ in the Temple., St. George.

The Albany AHEPA/Sons and Maids will hold their **annual Valentines Day Dance** at St. Sophia on Saturday, February 6th. Prometheus Band will perform. Please see the bulletin board in the Hellenic Center Hallway for more information. All are invited to attend!

The **Fellowship Group will meet Thursday, February 11th at 11:30 am**. Please see Eliana Georgelos or Paul Pagiotas for more information.

The **Ladies Philoptochos Society** will hold its next business meeting on **Thursday, February 18th at 6:30 pm**.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society will hold its **annual Spaghetti luncheon on Sunday, February 28th** following Divine Liturgy. See flyer within for details.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is **collecting non-perishable food items** to help fill the shelves at the Salvation Army food pantry. Items will be delivered monthly to the Salvation Army when the Soup Kitchen team prepares and serves the meal. A collection box has been placed in the Hellenic Center.

Book Club with Father Theodore, **Monday's at 6 PM, beginning February 29th**. All are invited to attend.

Angels/Hope/JOY meeting on Sunday, February 14th, following Divine Liturgy, and **GOYA meeting on Sunday, February 21st**, following Divine Liturgy. Look for an e-vite or contact Father Theodore for more information.

Charlie and Kathy Koines will sponsor the **Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, February 23rd in loving memory of James and Helen Koines**. *May their memories be eternal!*

St. George Stewardship Committee kindly requests that all **2016 stewardship pledge forms** be submitted to the parish office by the **beginning of Paschal Lent ~ Monday, March 14th**. Thank you.

Father Theodore has begun **the Annual Blessing of the Homes** for St. George GOC Parishioners in good standing. If you have not been contacted by the parish office with a date/time, please contact Camille Kosloski (Parish Secretary) at 393-0742, during the business hours of 1-6 pm, Monday—Thursday only.

Church Usher Schedule:

Team C: 2/7

Team D: 2/14

Team A: 2/21

Team B: 2/28



Team A: Charlie Koines (Captain), Norina McGowen, Phil McGowen, Bill Manikas.

Team B: Alexandra Casey (Captain), Lainie Christou, Pete Kalil, Scott Morlock.

Team C: Lucy Brady (Captain), Morgan Gazetos, Athena Pagnotti, Toly Svolos.

Team D: Gladys Paravalos (Captain), Steve Giakoumis, Panagiota Giakoumis, Steve Markopoulos



Spaghetti and Meatballs

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Immediately Following Divine Liturgy

Hellenic Center, 510 Liberty Street, Schenectady



Donation: \$8.00 Adults and \$5.00 Children (under 12)

Spaghetti ~ Meatballs ~ Salad ~ Roll & Butter

Soda ~ Wine ~ Coffee ~ Dessert

Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society
(For the Benefit of Philoptochos Charities)

For Tickets and Information (Dinner Co-Chairs)

Aleka Menagias, Gladys Paravalos, Soula Tsakopiakos,

Eliana Georgelos, Elena Sikamiotis, Elaine Euripidou and Pres. Nina Daratsos

**The cut-off date is February 15th
for news & events submissions for our March 2016 issue.**

Please make efforts to plan accordingly for the next issue of our bulletin. Submit all entries in person to Athena Pagnotti or via email (MS Word doc preferred) to apagnott@nycap.rr.com.