

# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

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

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9am – 2pm

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

**Web:** [www.saintgeorgegoc.com](http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com)

**Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes, Presiding Parish Priest**

**Camille Kosloski, Parish Secretary**



**Sunday Services: Orthros – 9am; Divine Liturgy – 10 am**  
**~ Weekday Liturgies as announced ~**

## Parish Council

**Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes**  
*Presiding Parish Priest*

**Lucy Brady**  
*President*

**Vacant**  
*Vice-President*

**Alexandra Casey**  
*Treasurer*

**Brian Goodale**  
*Secretary*

**Maria Dotsis**  
**Dimitri Koutsopoulos**  
**Athena Pagnotti**  
**Kyriacos Contopassis**  
**Ron Dikas**

## Youth Advisors

**Lucy Goodale**  
**Paula Kingra**  
*Angels/Hope/Joy*

**Anna and Scott Morlock**  
*GOYA*

**Georgia Tsakopiakos**  
*Youth Hellenic Dancers*

## Parish Ministry Leaders

**Olga Delorey**  
*Choir Director*  
*Philoptochos Society President*

**Evan Euripodou**  
*Head Chanter (Protopsaltis)*

**Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes**  
*Bible Study*  
*Orthodoxy Class*  
*Sunday School Coordinator*

**Eliana Georgelos**  
**Paul Pagiotas**  
*Fellowship Group Co-Presidents*

# DECEMBER 2017

Dear Parishioners,

This time of year is filled with feasts and holidays. Our minds and hearts, though, concentrate on one in particular: The Nativity of our Lord, celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

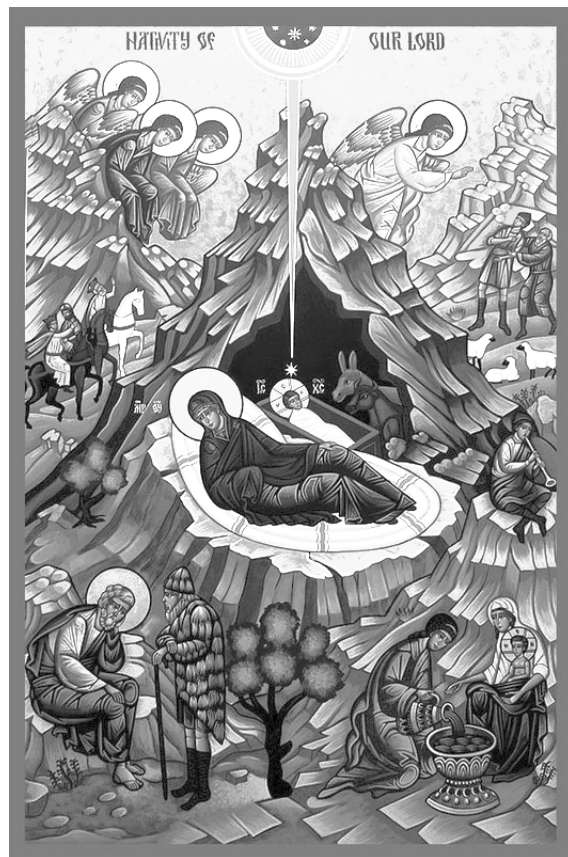
This is truly a time of joy and good cheer. And while these emotions and feelings come from the decorations, gifts, and celebrations, Christians must remember that all of this is secondary. The true meaning of this feast and its celebration is to be found in the birth of Christ. He was born of the Virgin to redeem us from our sins. He came to liberate us from the bondage of old and to set us free.

The Magi come to offer their gifts; the angels offer their hymns of praise and glory; the earth offers the cave; humanity offers the Virgin Mary; and we are all called to offer our hearts.

Let your hearts be a spiritual Bethlehem, so that the King of Kings may be born there. Let Him and His love abide there always, and let His light always guide your path.

May these days of the Nativity and the New Year be filled with all of the love and blessings of the Season.

With Paternal Love in Christ,  
Fr. Sean



## **From the Parish Council**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that we are closing in on another year. This past year has brought us many joys as well as many sorrows. As we reflect back on sad events such as the passing of loved ones, turmoil in the world, and other sorrows let us not forget Gods grace and the importance of the support we find in the Church. With love, harmony and unity, we are able to withstand the challenges we face.

As you may already know, 2018 Pledge forms are now available. The sooner you can return the forms, the better we will be able to budget and prepare for the upcoming year. If you have not already done so, please fulfill your 2017 Pledge commitment prior to December 31, 2017. It is not too late to pledge for the current year if for some reason you have not been able to do so.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you as President of the Council even if it was for a short while. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Parish Council for their hard work and dedication this year. New members of the Council will be welcomed to work together with the remaining members in support of the ministries and day to day functioning of the Church.

May God bless each and every one of you during the Christmas season and in the New Year.

In Christ,  
Lucy Brady



## Stewardship Report

Pledge Goal: \$75,000

Total Pledged amount To Date: \$74,085  
Total Received amount To Date: \$60,706

Platinum Level Stewards \$1,500+

Gold Level Stewards \$1,000 - \$1,499

Silver Level Stewards \$500 - \$999

Bronze Level Stewards \$499 or Less

Total 118 Pledges

### 2017 St. George GOC Pledged Members To Date

**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 (518) 393-0742, or ask any Parish Council member at Church.

Rev. Fr. Sean & Pamela Govostes & Family  
Paul & Tiara Antonovich & Family  
Angela Aretakis  
Shannon Arrington  
Stephen & Vicki Arrington  
John Behiri  
Nicholas & Elene Behiri  
Susan Birbilis  
Lucy Brady & Family  
Sam & Deborah Bratsos  
Ifigenia Brown  
Arji Cakouros  
Alexandra & Patrick Casey & Family  
Palymyra Catravas  
Andreas Christou  
Andreas & Panayiota Christou  
Ariana Christou  
Euripides & Eleni Christou  
Catherine Contompasis  
Catherine Contompasis  
Charles Contompasis & Laurie Ives  
Emanuel & Mary Ellen Contompasis  
Joan Contompasis  
Demetra Corsones  
Stephanie Cospito

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George & Constantina Cotzas  
Rena Counavelis  
Marianne Crary  
Chris & Joanne Dafniotis  
Rev. Fr. Peter & Presbyteria Nina Daratsos  
Olga Delorey  
Joanne Diamantis  
Dorothy Dikas  
Maria Dostis-Koliatsis & Michael Koliatsis  
Marguerite Doulides  
Angela Economou  
Evan Euripidou  
Michael & Elaine Euripidou  
Morgan & Julie Gazetos  
Helena Georgelas  
Eliana Georgelos  
Panagiota Giakoumis  
Peter & Janet Giakoumis & Family  
Steve & Alice Giakoumis  
Lucy & Brian Goodale & Family  
Angela T Grivas  
Dimitri & Nancy Grivas

Nicholas Hallas  
Robert Higley  
Tiffany Higley  
Angeliki Jones  
Thomas & Shannon Jones  
Catherine Julius  
Marina Kakavelos  
Peter & Dayna Kalil  
Evangelia & Stavroula Kalogeras  
Antonia Kananis & Family  
Steve & Fanny Karamanos  
Nicole Kaya  
John & Charlene Kennedy  
Polixeni Kingra & Family  
Charles & Kathleen Koines  
Katina Kontakos  
Maria Kontakos  
Voula & Chris Kounoupis  
Steven & Barbara Kouray  
Barbara Koutsakis  
Patricia Lambert  
Trifon & Zanetta Laskaris  
Christine Legorius  
Rosemary Legorius  
Alexios & Betty Lekkas  
William Manikas  
Cathy Marco  
Akrivi Markopoulos  
Ann Markopoulos  
Athena Markopoulos  
Dimitryos & Joann Markopoulos  
Stephen & Mary Markopoulos  
Phil & Norina McGowen  
Anna Menagias  
Fillippos & Erene Menagias & Family  
Evangelos & Dina Nikolaidis

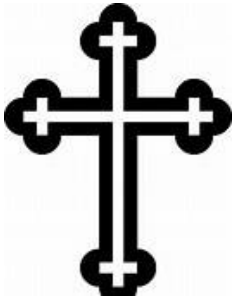
Katherine Orfan  
Paul & Joann Pagiotas  
Athena & Vito Pagnotti & Family  
Peter & Penney Pagones  
Kostantinos & Debra Papanikos  
Nick & Glady Paravalos  
Voula Paravalos  
Gus and Maria Plakas  
Fannie Pontisakos  
Theodore & Angeliki Pontisakos  
Tony Poulos  
Frank & Jim Rossetti  
Elena Sikamiotis  
Ourania Sokaris  
Roubina Spyros & Family  
A & Starvroula Stamoulis  
Maria Stamoulis  
Van & Anita Stathis  
James Stevens  
Kaliopi Stuffolino  
Olga Stryjski  
Adam Svokos & Family  
George & Christie Svolos  
Themetria Svolos  
Angela Theodore  
Melissa Verrigni & Family  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Vlahakis  
Mark & Cait Wempe  
Brian & Megan Whipple  
Mary Wilson  
Peter H. Wilson  
Steve & Sophie Zanaros  
Anastasia Zoulas  
Peter & Mary Zoulas

Thank you to everyone for your timely support.  
We are still \$2,665 away from our 2017 pledge goal.

If you have not already submitted your form, please do so at your earliest convenience. It will help us to stay within our budget and get all the Church bills paid.

Your pledge is not just about what you can do for the Church. It is about what your responsibility is based on the gives to you by God.

*Ευχαριστώ*



## Greetings from the Fellowship Group!

We hope you all had a very happy and peaceful Thanksgiving. Although we all have challenges and difficult moments in our lives, we should count our blessings at every opportunity. Sometimes we fail to focus on all the good things we receive from God. When we begin to count all the positives in our lives, we realize that we are blessed beyond measure. Our God is such a good and loving God, that we should thank him not only during our time of prayer but at every opportunity.

December brings us much in the way of feast days and saints' days. On December 5th, Father Sean will be celebrating the Feast of St. Savas the Sanctified, the patron saint of our precious Savas, the son of Father Sean and Presvytera Pamela. On the following day, December 6th, we celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. And the greatest of all Feast days of this month is that of the Nativity of Christ, celebrated on December 25th. Please join us in church for all of these liturgies.

The 40 day Nativity Fast is an important part of our preparation for the Nativity. It began on November 15 and continues throughout much of December, until the 24th of the month. This is a strict fast where we forego meat and meat products (eggs, milk, cheese, etc.), and in some cases, fish with a backbone, olive oil and wine. If you are not sure what foods to avoid and when, please speak to Father Sean and he will be happy to help you. Although, as Orthodox Christians, we do forgo certain foods that we normally enjoy consuming, this fasting period is one of celebration and preparation for the joyous Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During this time, we should focus not only on avoiding certain foods, but also on prayer and good works.



The Fellowship group will be celebrating the coming of Christmas with a get-together at noon on Thursday, December 14th to be held at Tops American Grill, located at 351 Duanesburg Road in Schenectady. Our host, Evan Christou, has put together a wonderful selection of luncheon options for us, which will include a salad, the entrée including a starch and vegetable, coffee, tea or sodas, and dessert. We will be seated in their private dining area so that we can sing our Christmas carols, play our games and just have a fun time.

Our next Fellowship meeting will take place on Thursday, January 11th at noon. We will either meet at the Hellenic Center or at a local restaurant, the decision to be made this month.

As always, we continuously encourage newcomers to join our Fellowship group. Unless there is a special occasion when we travel or meet at a restaurant, our 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 prayer and a meal. A nominal fee of \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members is charged to cover the cost of the food. Dues are \$25 annually. Please contact our treasurer, Kathy Koines, or either of our co-presidents, Paul Pagiotas or Eliana Georgelos, for more information.



*May the love of Christ surround all of you this Christmas and always. Blessings to our St. George family at this special time of year.*



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

**MEETING NOTES.** At the meeting held on November 16, 2017, the membership approved the following donations:

**Ecumenical Patriarchate – Programs and Charities**  
**National Philoptochos General Medical Fund**  
**National Philoptochos UNICEF Fund**  
**National Philoptochos Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund**  
**WGY Christmas Wish**  
**YWCA Battered Women's Shelter**  
**Salvation Army Evangeline Booth Miracle Home**  
**Schenectady County Social Services Department – Families in Need**  
**All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery (Calverton, NY)**  
**St. George Greek Orthodox Church**

**CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER.** We hope to see everyone at our Christmas Dinner which will take place at 5:30 pm on Monday, December 4, 2017 at The Edison Club, 891 Riverview Road, Rexford, NY 12148. The party is open to Philoptochos members only. The deadline for RSVP and payment is November 27, 2017. For more information contact Olga Delorey (518-383-4737)

**CHRISTMAS CARD.** If you have not already done so, we invite all parishioners to include your name on the St. George Greek Orthodox Church 2017 Christmas Card. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend our Christmas greetings to all St. George parishioners. Please make your check payable to "*Ladies Philoptochos Society*". A minimum donation of \$10.00 is requested. Proceeds will be used for our annual Christmas Charity Donations among other philanthropic contributions. Deadline is Sunday, December 10, 2017. Please contact Toly Svolos for further information.

**MITTEN TREE.** By now you have seen the "Mitten Tree" in the Hellenic Center which is being sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. Please help us decorate our tree and fill the baskets with NEW mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for children who reside at or receive services from the *City Mission of Schenectady*. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your blessings and provide needed clothing items for children who live in poverty. Please help us give the gift of warmth! The tree will be in the Hellenic Center through Sunday, December 10, 2017.

**THANK YOU.** Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner and Auction on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

A special thank you to the Dinner Co-Chairs, **Aleka Menagias, Gladys Paravalos, and Soula Tsakopiakos.** Special thanks to the "AHEPA Boys" **Charlie Koines and Pete Kalil** who helped prepare the meal. We know we can always count on you to help us when needed!

**SOUP KITCHEN.** On **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **180 persons** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Steve and Alice Giakoumis In Memory of Steve's Beloved Parents Panagioti & Maria Giakoumis**. May his memory be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by **Father Sean** in the kitchen prior to the meal. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with Pasta and Vegetables, Green Beans, Fruit Cup, Bread and Butter, Dessert, Juice and Coffee. Our heartfelt thanks to the following team members who helped prepare and/or serve the meal: **Kathy Koines (Chair), Charlie Koines, Mike Euripidou, Pete Kalil, Steve & Alice Giakoumis, Phil McGowen, Eliana Georgelos, Olga Delorey, Bill**

**Manikas and Dom DiCocco.**

As another year comes to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has provided financial sponsorship for this important ministry. Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the **AHEPA Boys** and everyone who serves on the Soup Kitchen Team. May God bless you!

*“...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*

**NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 18, 2018.** The meeting will be preceded by a **Covered Dish Supper at 5:30 pm** followed by the **Business Meeting at 6:30 pm.**

**Ladies Philoptochos Society Board of Directors 2017-2019**

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

**Members:** Lucy Brady, Joanne Diamantis, Alice Giakoumis,  
Kiki Jones, Aleka Menagias, Elena Sikamiotis

**SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS** may be arranged by contacting Coffee Hour Chair Lucy Brady (518-346-4722). A voluntary donation to the Ladies Philoptochos Society in addition to the expenses would be greatly appreciated.

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society  
wishes everyone  
a joyous and peaceful Christmas Season*







**TO: ALL PARISHIONERS**  
**FROM: Ladies Philoptochos Society**  
**RE: ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD**

THIS YEAR WE ARE ONCE AGAIN OFFERING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND AND SHARE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS.

THIS CARD OFFERS YOU THE SAVINGS OF BUYING CARDS AND STAMPS FOR OVER 100 OTHER FAMILIES. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CARD OF THE SAME QUALITY WE HAVE HAD IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

A **CONTRIBUTION OF \$10.00** IS REQUIRED. YOUR DONATION TO THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY WILL BENEFIT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHARITY DONATIONS AMONG OTHER PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS.

IN ORDER TO HAVE ALL OF YOUR NAMES PRINTED ON THE CARD AND TO HAVE IT MAILED TO YOUR HOMES BY THE NATIVITY, **ALL NAMES** MUST BE RETURNED TO:

**Ladies Philoptochos Society**  
**Attention: Toly Svolos**  
**St. George Greek Orthodox Church**  
**107 Clinton Street**  
**Schenectady, NY 12305**

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PLEASE DETACH THIS FORM AND RETURN BY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017**

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*(Please print your name as you wish it to appear on the Christmas Card)*

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
**"LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY"**



**GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH!**



**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, HELP US  
DECORATE *the Mitten tree* WITH  
WARM MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS**

**Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society  
November 5 – December 10, 2017  
To Benefit Children Served by City Mission of Schenectady**

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Dean Plakas	<b>4</b> <u>No Orthodoxy/Bible Study Class Today</u>  5:30 PM Philoptochos Christmas Dinner at The Edison Club	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Savvas	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Nicholas	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Office Closed  6:00 PM Youth group Christmas Shopping for Charity Blaze Pizza/Target @Balltown Rd	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12:00 PM Senior Fellowship Christmas Party at Tops Diner	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Orthodoxy/Bible Study Class 6:30 PM Orthodoxy/Bible Study Class	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  10:00 PM Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy						

