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

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

Evan Euripidou- President

Toni Kananis- Vice President

Alexandra Casey- Treasurer

Brian Goodale- Secretary

Maria Dostis

Dimitri Koutsopoulos

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 Euripidou
Head Chanter (Protopsaltis)

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

Eliana Georgelos
Paul Pagiotas
Fellowship Group Co-Presidents

MARCH 2018

Great Lent, although a time of solemnity and reflection, is actually filled with many important services and themes. These services include the Presanctified Liturgies and the Salutations to the Theotokos, and some of the themes we encounter include the triumph of the Orthodox theology of icons (Sunday of Orthodoxy) and forgiving others (Sunday of Forgiveness).

Another such theme that we explore is that of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. The Cross, for Orthodox Christians, is no mere trinket or piece of jewelry. The Cross represents to us Christ's triumph over sin and death. The sight of the Cross, which filled the people of Christ's time with dread (as it was used as an instrument of torture and execution), has become for us a symbol of love and hope.

I have included an article from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website that I believe you will find quite interesting:

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

May you all have a blessed Lenten Season.
With Paternal Love in Christ,
Fr. Sean

FELLOWSHIP NEWS FOR MARCH, 2018

Greetings from the Fellowship group!

The month of March brings us much in the way of beauty and holiness. We are now in the midst of Great Lent, the 40 day period which began on February 16 and will end on Holy Pascha, April 8th. As Orthodox Christians, we not only follow the strict Lenten fast of abstaining from all meats, dairy products, most seafood, and occasionally olive oil and wine, but we also immerse ourselves in prayer, good deeds and renewed devotion during this time. Christ fasted and taught us to fast as well, as a means of purifying our lives. He also told us to fast in secret, without sharing with others that we are abstaining, or criticizing others for how or whether they fast. So although what goes into our mouths is important, even more important is what comes out of our mouths! The Great and Holy Lent is not a time to engage in gossip, criticism or falsehoods about others. It is instead a time for the goodness and kindness within all of us to come to the forefront. As we sorrow for our sins, the sanctity of God's mercy will come to us. Let us joyfully ready ourselves not only for Christ's resurrection, but also our own.

Another celebration during the month of March is that of the Annunciation, one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. This feast is celebrated on March 25th, exactly nine months prior to the Nativity of Our Lord. According to the Gospel of Luke, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce to her that she would conceive and bear a son, even though she "knew no man." Thus, as stated in our Nicene Creed, Christ was conceived in perfection "incarnate by the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became man." Please join us at liturgy on this day to celebrate this joyous occasion and also to extend good wishes and **Ηρονια Πολλα** to all the Evangelias, Evangelos, Evans, Angelos, etc. who celebrate their name day on this date.

On March 25th, we also celebrate the secular holiday of Greek Independence Day when we commemorate the Greek revolt against the Ottoman Empire. From 1821 to the end of the revolution in 1829, the Greeks fought fiercely and heroically against the Turks. Their motto was "freedom or death" and the Greeks fought so boldly that their struggle elicited strong sympathy in Europe. Ultimately, with the welcomed intervention of Great Britain, France and Russia in the conflict, Greece prevailed, the Ottoman fleet was destroyed, and an independent Greek state was established.

Ζητω η Ελλασ!

March also heralds the coming of spring. Daylight savings time arrives on March 11th. We "spring ahead" by turning our clocks ahead one hour, thus losing an hour of sleep the following morning, but gaining daylight at the end of the day. We will have earlier dawns and later sunsets! And the Vernal Equinox, which heralds the first day of spring, arrives on March 20th. On this day, the hours of daylight and darkness are approximately equal. As spring continues and we experience increasing sunlight, we can observe trees, flowers and shrubs beginning to bud and birds beginning their migration northward towards us. We will also hear increased birdsong as our feathered friends call out in search of a mate. We all seem to be energized by all the sights, sounds and sensations that spring brings to us, most of all the warmth and beauty of the season!

This year, the St. Andrew's Orthodox Brotherhood will again gather to celebrate the Sunday evening Lenten Vesper series beginning with the Sunday of Orthodoxy on February 25th and ending with the last Vespers on Palm Sunday, April 1st. Our parishioners as well as Orthodox faithful from throughout the surrounding area look forward to these services with much anticipation. Whether we are Greek, Russian, Ukrainian or Antiochian, the Fellowship that is created through not only the beautiful vespers themselves, but also the shared meal afterwards is truly heartwarming. We look forward to seeing you at the various Orthodox churches in our area as we sing, praise God and prepare for the Resurrection together.

Our February meeting was to take place on February 8th at the United Buffet. However, the snowstorm that brought over 8 inches of snow to most of us the day before caused us to cancel. Many roads still weren't cleared and conditions on all roads were unsafe. The decision was made to wait until March to hold our meeting. It will take place on March 8th at 11:30 AM at the Hellenic Center. Since we will be in the midst of Lent at that time, a Lenten meal of linguini with clam sauce and roasted vegetables will be served, along with a salad, bread and dessert. A reminder to our members that our dues are due this month. Our April meeting falls on April 12, 2018 at 11:30 AM, the location to be determined at this month's meeting.

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 prayer and a meal. The cost for lunch is $3 for members and $5 for non-members. Dues are $25 annually, to be paid during the month of March. Please contact our treasurer, Kathy Koines, or either of our co-presidents, Paul Pagiotas or Eliana Georgelos, for information.

Καλη Αναστασι!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

MEETING NOTES. At the February 2018 monthly meeting, the membership approved the following donations:

National Philoptochos Autism Assistance Fund
National Philoptochos St. Photios Shrine
Safe, Inc. of Schenectady
Bethesda House
Quest for Grace Foundation
St. George Greek Orthodox Church (Flower Frame for Akathist Hymn)

STEWARDSHIP (MEMBERSHIP DUES). If you haven't already done so, this is a gentle reminder to pay your annual stewardship! The annual minimum is $30.00. Please keep in mind, we must pay a $23.00 per capita assessment for each member ($15.00 to National Philoptochos and $8.00 to Direct Archdiocesan District). The remaining amount of $7.00 goes to our St. George Chapter. Any additional gift to the chapter, along with your annual stewardship dues, is always welcome.

SPECIAL THANKS. Special thanks to everyone who supported our first-ever "Saturday Night at the Movies". We hope you all had a good time! We are grateful to those "anonymous angels" who sponsored our event. You know who you are but more importantly … God knows who you are! God bless you for your kind generosity.

SOUP KITCHEN. On **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **122 persons (plus 10 second servings)** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Trifon and Zanetta Laskaris in Memory of their beloved parents, Nefton & Lucia Laskaris and George & Sophia Alevras**. May their memories be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Sean on Sunday, February 4th. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with Vegetables, Penne Pasta, Green Beans, Bread & Butter, Fruit Cup, Dessert, Juice and Coffee/Tea. Our heartfelt thanks to the following team members who helped prepare and/or serve the meal on this day: **Mike Euripidou, Pete Kalil, Steve Giakoumis, Gladys Paravalos, Eliana Georgelos, Olga Delorey and Dom DiCocco.**

"...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, March 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm.**

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.

MARCH AT A GLANCE

- Business Meeting – Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- Eliana Georgelos will sponsor the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 in memory of her beloved husband, Greg Georgelos, and her beloved mother, Loula (Argyro) D'Jimas

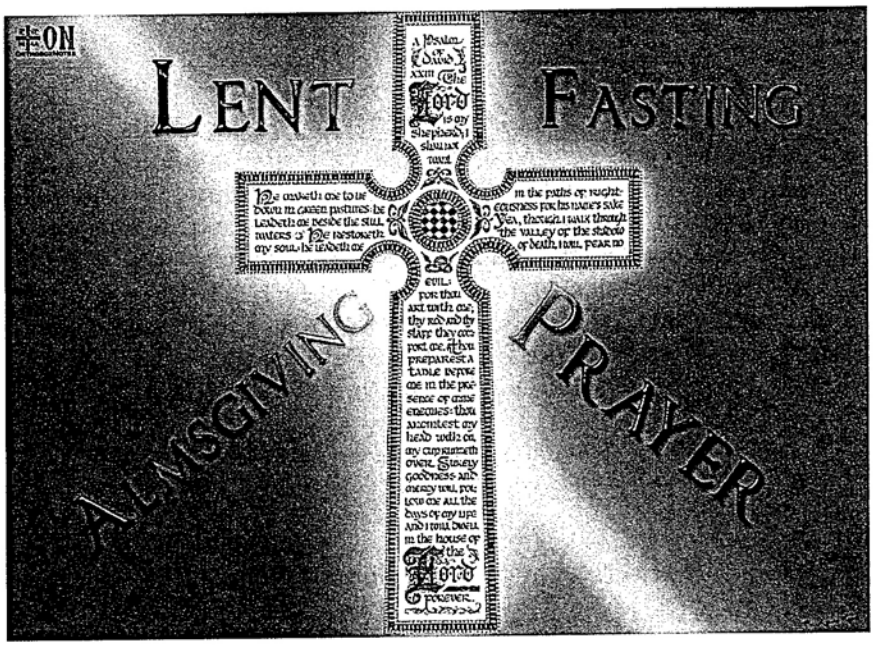
Ladies Philoptochos Society Board of Directors 2017-2019

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

"Kali Sarakosti"

The Ladies Philoptochos Society wishes you a good Lent



"Like a bird that cannot fly without wings, the fast cannot go well without its two wings: prayer and charity"
St. John Chrysostom

A.H.J/G.O.Y.A YOUTH EVENTS FEBRUARY-JUNE 2018

1. FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2ND 6:00 PM
    - At the Hellenic Center
    - Dinner will be served
    - Fr. Sean will educate the kids about LENT

2. SUNDAY MARCH 4TH 12:00 PM
    - Reminder – this is Children's Sunday. Fr. Sean's sermon will be for the children
    - YOUTH ACTIVITY
        - At the Hellenic Center
        - There will be crafting activities
        - Fr. Sean gives spiritual lessons, break into groups by age

3. SATURDAY OF LAZARUS MARCH 31ST
    - Breakfast will be served for the youth after Divine Liturgy at the Hellenic Center
    - Youth will assist in folding of the palms

4. SATURDAY APRIL 14TH 10:00 AM ICON PAINTING
    - Evan Euripidou will be guiding children and interested adults in how to paint icons at the Hellenic Center
    - Breakfast and juice will be served
    - All painting supplies will be provided except smocks

5. MAY COMMUNITY SERVCE YOUTH EVENT TBA

6. JUNE 16TH SPRING WRAP UP EVENT FOR THE YOUTH
    - Pool party paula's house time TBA

NOTE TO PARENTS:At least one parent or grandparent is **required** to stay with their child unless other arrangements have been made and the advisors have been notified in advance. If you are not receiving youth invitations or would like to be on our email list, please contact Lucy Goodale by text at 518-275-9987 or by email at lg1010@live.com

Lenten Ornamentation

2018				
Date	**Feast Day**	**Description**	**Cost**	**Donor Name**
Friday, February 23rd	1st Salutations	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 60.00	J. Diamantis
Friday, March 2nd	2nd Salutations	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 60.00	
Friday, March 9th	3rd Salutations	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 60.00	G. Paravalas
Sunday, March 11th	Veneration of the Cross	Daffodil Tray	$ 110.00	Toly Svolas
Friday, March 16th	4th Salutations	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 60.00	Phi. Toptchas
Friday, March 23rd	Akathist Hymn	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 60.00	O. Delorey
Sunday, March 25th	Annunciation/ Evangelismou	Flower Shelf for Panagia Icon	$ 75.00	T. Kanaris
Sunday, April 1st	Palm Sunday (a.m.)	Palms	$ 45.00	J. Diamantis
Sunday, April 1st	Palm Sunday (p.m.) Nymphios	Flower Frame for Icon	$ 70.00	
Wednesday, April 4th	Holy Wednesday	7 Candles, Oil, Flour, Q-tips, Cotton Balls	$ 30.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (a.m.)	Flower Frame for Last Supper Icon	$ 75.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (p.m.)	Wreath/Crown for Crucified Christ	$ 200.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (p.m.)	Flower Frame for Crucifxion Icon	$ 75.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (p.m.)	Flower cross on Easel	$ 150.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (p.m.)	3 Candles for Crucifix	$ 15.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (p.m.)	12 Candles for Gospel Readings	$ 60.00	
Thursday, April 5th	Holy Thursday (a.m.)	Eggs (1 case) (Large)	Market Cost	
	Feast Day	**Description**	**Cost**	
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday	Epitaphio flowers , which includes the following: Cut Lilies, Carnations, Roses, Daphne, Laurel, Rose petals, etc.		
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday	Cross of Flowers for Epitaphio	$ 50.00	J. Diamantis
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday	Rose or Orange Blossom Water (2)		Donor Purchase
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday	White Full Size Sheet		Donor Purchase
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday	Flower Frame for Apokathilosis Icon	$ 75.00	A. Zoulas
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday (p.m.)	Red Roses (for Choir & Chanters)	$ 60.00	
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday (p.m.)	Flower petals (myrofores baskets)	$ 30.00	C. Kosiost.
Friday, April 6th	Holy Friday (p.m.)	Flower Frame for Extreme Humility	$ 75.00	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (a.m.)	Flower frame for Proti Anastasi Icon	$ 70.00	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Resurrection Banner	$ 200.00	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Potted Lilies (16 minimum)	13.00 each	(2) J. Diamantis
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Potted Azaleas (4)	30.00 each	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Flower Frame for Anastasi Icon	$ 70.00	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Flower shelf for Jesus Icon (Altar)	$ 75.00	
Saturday, April 7th	Holy Saturday (p.m.)	Flower shelf for Panagia Icon (Altar)	$ 75.00	O. Delorey
	Feast Day	**Description**	**Cost**	
Monday, April 23rd	St. George (Celebration)	Flower Frame for St. George Icon (Stand)	$ 70.00	
Monday, April 23rd	St. George	Flower Shelf for St. George (Altar)	$ 75.00	Aleka Menagis

Please contact the church office during office hours to

donate a particular item

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 10:00 AM 2nd Salutation	3
4 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Childrens Sunday 12:00 PM AHJ/GOYA Youth Activities	5 6:30 PM Orthodoxy/Bible Study	6	7 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy	8 11:30 AM Senior Fellowship Meeting	9 6:00 PM 3rd Salutation	10
11 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	12 6:30 PM Greek Language Class	13	14 10:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy	15 6:30 PM Philoptochos Meeting	16 10:00 AM 4th Salutation	17
18 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	19 6:30 Orthodoxy/Bible Study	20	21 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy	22	23 6:00 PM Akathist Hymn	24
25 9L00 AM Orthros 10::00 AM Divine Liturgy – Feast of the Annuciation	26 6:30 PM Greek Language Class	27 10:00 Soup Kitchen Prep 12:00 Soup Kitchen Serve- sponsored by Eliana Georgelos in Memory of Greg Georgelos and Loula D'Jimas	28 10:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy	29	30	31 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Lazrius Saturday – Youth Breakfast and Palm Folding following Divine Liturgy

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
107 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

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