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 Executive Committee

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes
Presiding Parish Priest

Evan Euripidou – President

Toni Kanals – Vice President

Brian Goodale – Secretary

Maria Dostis

Dimitri Koutsopoulos

Youth Advisors

Mrs. Lucy Goodale
Mrs. Paula Kingra
Angels/Hope/Joy

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock
GOYA

Miss Georgia Tsakopiakos
Youth Hellenic Dancers

Parish Ministry Leaders

Ms. Olga Delorey
Choir Director
Philoptochos Society President

Mr. Evan Euripodou
Head Chanter (Protopsaltis)

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes
Bible Study
Spiritual Book Club
Sunday School Coordinator

Mrs. Eliana Georgelos
Mr. Paul Pagiotas
Fellowship Group Co-Presidents

MAY 2018

Dear Parishioners,

Christ Is Risen!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you. Firstly, thank you for helping to make this my favorite Holy Week in all of my 15 years as a priest. It was truly a blessing to be able to serve God in our church. I'm grateful to everyone who helped: from manning the candle stand, decorating, cooking, baking, chanting and singing, to being present at the Holy Services, etc.

Secondly, I want to express, on behalf of my wife, son, and myself, our utmost gratitude for your prayers, well wishes, and understanding during my recovery from my time in the hospital. I am pleased to inform you that, as of the writing of this letter, I am healing nicely and on the way to health (possibly even pizza once in a while if the doc gives the okay in two months). There aren't really any words that will suffice with which I can thank you with all I feel in my heart. But suffice to state, I am eternally blessed and grateful.

I pray that all of you have a blessed Paschal season.
Your Servant in the Risen Christ,
Fr. Sean

FELLOWSHIP NEWS FOR MAY, 2018

Greetings from the Fellowship group!

The month of May brings us the warmth and beauty of spring as well as the holiness of two of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. The first Feast is that of the Ascension of Christ. It always occurs 40 days after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, and is always celebrated on a Thursday. This year, the Feast of the Ascension falls on May 17th. This Feast commemorates the day when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them, He ascended into heaven "in a cloud which took Him from their sight". Prior to that moment, Jesus asked His disciples to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were directed to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit". Jesus also told his disciples that He would be with them always, "even unto the end of the world". While the disciples were still looking into the air for Jesus, an angel appeared and told them that the Lord would return again in the same manner as they had seen Him go into heaven. This was Christ's last appearance on earth.

The second Great Feast of our church occurring during the month of May is the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost. It always falls on the 50th day following the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, and on the 10th day following the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. Pentecost is always celebrated on a Sunday. This year we celebrate it on May 27th. The history of Pentecost is found in the Book of Acts. At a time following Christ's Resurrection, there was an existing Jewish feast of Pentecost and a great many Jews and others from the Roman Empire were visiting Jerusalem in observance of this feast. Fifty days after Christ was resurrected into Heaven, while the disciples and many other followers of Jesus were gathered together to pray, a loud sound came from Heaven like a rushing wind. The Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of "cloven tongues of fire", and they began to speak in languages that they did not previously know. The unbelievers who were there were astonished to hear these uneducated fishermen speaking praises to God in so many foreign tongues, thus bringing many of them to accept that Christ was truly the Son of God and Savior of the world. The Bible records that on this day, about three thousand were baptized. Thus, Pentecost celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day accepted the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity. The Fellowship group

invites all our brothers and sisters in Christ to join us in prayer during the liturgies of these two Great and Holy Feasts.

May has finally brought us the signs of spring that we had been longing for all during the cold, snowy and gloomy days of April. We now can feel the warmth of the sun, see the greenery of our lawns, the budding and leafing out of trees, and the emergence of spring plants. What joy we feel in seeing our tulips, daffodils and other early blooming flowers finally peeking up through the ground! After having to cancel our meetings of February and March due to snow, our Fellowship group was finally able to get together for our April meeting when we planned our spring/summer schedule. We chose the following monthly outings: This month we meet for lunch at the United Buffet on Watt Street. In June, we will travel to Cooperstown to enjoy the wonderful buffet luncheon at the Otesaga Resort Hotel. July's meeting will be held at the Hellenic Center and in August, we will attend the Lake George Dinner Theater for lunch and their show, a comedy entitled "Jerry Finnegan's Sister". These outings are not limited to Fellowship members, so that if anyone is interested in accompanying our group and there is space available, please see either Eliana Georgelos or Paul Pagiotas for information.

As always, we continually 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. Please contact our treasurer, Kathy Koines, or either of our co-presidents, Paul Pagiotas or Eliana Georgelos, for information.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

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

Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy (National Commitment)
Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund (DAD Commitment)
St. Christopher Parish Orphanage and School (Eastern Nigeria)
Multiple Sclerosis Society Walk 2018
Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Emergency Burial

HUG-A-HEART PILLOW PROGRAM. Our second annual Hug-A-Heart Pillow Project was a wonderful success! On Friday, April 20, 2018 we delivered **100** heart-shaped pillows, handmade by our Philoptochos, to the Capital District YMCA administrative offices. These pillows will be distributed to Ellis Medicine/Hospital and other local hospitals to patients who have undergone cardiac surgery and cardiac rehabilitation. Last year's undertaking was our first attempt, and we are thrilled that this year we doubled the number of pillows! Our HEARTFELT thanks to the following seamstresses, crafters and donors who made this project such a resounding success: **Kathy Koines (Chair), Katherine Orfan, Alice Giakoumis, Cathy Contompasis, Gladys Paravalos, Mary Wilson, Jan Gallas, Kiki Jones, Elaine Euripidou, Eliana Georgelos, and Olga Delorey.**

ANNUAL PICNIC. The annual picnic for Philoptochos members will take place on **Thursday, May 31, 2018** in the **Hellenic Center starting at 5:30 pm.** Again, this year we will invite our Philoptochos sisters and clergy from the St. Sophia and St. Basil to join us for this last event before the summer break. Please join your sisters for an evening of fun!

As is our tradition, we will conduct a **"Pound Auction"** to raise monies for the benefit of **International Orthodox Christian Charities** and our **St. George Philoptochos.** Everyone should bring a NEW, gift wrapped item with a value of **$10 or higher.** Each item will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. **PLEASE, NO GAG GIFTS**

SOUP KITCHEN. On **Tuesday, March 27, 2018** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **108 persons** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Eliana Georgelos in Loving Memory of her beloved husband, Greg Georgelos, and mother Loula D'Jimas.** May their memories be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Sean. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with Vegetables and Penne Pasta, 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: **Kathy Koines (Chair), Charlie Koines, Mike Euripidou, Pete Kalil, Steve & Alice Giakoumis, Eliana Georgelos, Phil & Norina McGowen, Olga Delorey, and Jim Rossetti.**

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

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm.**

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.

MAY AT A GLANCE

- Business Meeting – Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- Kiki Jones will sponsor the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in memory of her beloved husband, Ed Jones
- Annual Picnic – Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 5:30 pm (Hellenic Center)

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 12:00PM General Assembly Meeting	7	8	9	10 11:30 Senior Fellowship Meeting- United Buffett on Watt St.	11 6:00 PM Youth Spring Wreath Making	12
13 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14	15 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting	16	17 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Ascension 6:30 PM Philoptochos Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	21 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy St. Constantine and St. Helen	22 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen Prep 12:00 PM Soup Kitchen Serve- sponsored by Kiki Jones in Memory of Ed Jones	23	24	25	26 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
27 9:00 AM Orthros – Holy Pentecost 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	28 Memorial Day Parish office closed	29	30	31 5:30 PM Philoptochos Year End Picnic		