

THE TRIUMPHANT

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Father Neofitos Sarigiannis frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com www.saintgeorgegoc.com

November / December 2023



King -"Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" **Soldiers** -They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

King -"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Book of Daniel 3:24

May Jesus and His Angels protect us and grant the world peace this Christmas and always!

Youth Food Pantry Collection

to benefit Keane Elementary School of Schenectady, NY

in need of:

- toilet paper (single roll, individually wrapped)
 - laundry pods (for individual families)
 - shampoo/conditioner
 - toothbrushes (packs of 1 or 2)
 - toothpaste
 - bar soap
 - deodorant
 - disposable razors
 - hair combs/brushes



Most items are available for purchase at the Dollar Store (\$1.25)

Please contact Fr. Neofitos (frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com) or Maryna Baker (makerba@hotmail.com) with any questions!

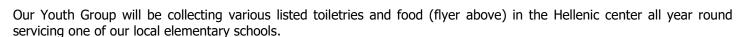


Come and See.....Come and Always, Put God First

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

Come and see and be part of the many miracles God has granted us here at St. George.

- 3 full years of Greek language and culture instruction with the 4th year underway.
- 1st year of Sunday School.
- 1st ever week of St. George: Theotokos Camp.
- A NEW Youth food pantry collection ministry.
- Finally, another successful Greek Festival behind us with record breaking numbers.



Our Lord has heard our prayers and granted us so many blessings. With many tears of sorrow, I think back to the St. George calendar from 2018 and 2019. Few services, few ministries, and too few strong people carrying the load of running a church. Many Many tears watered the soil and seeds planted here in Schenectady 110 years ago. Today, we are reaping the fruits of these Herculean efforts, prayers, and pleadings of Mercy from our Benevolent God.

Would you like to see these miracles sustained? It is up to us to work hard and call upon God's will and mercy.

In summary, **Put God First**. School, sports, volunteering, recreation and fun are all a part of life but life is vain without God and we **MUST** put Him first.

God Himself said: seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*

Join our rich programs and worship regularly. Engage in the sacramental life Jesus commissioned us with.

St. George and every church need some good managers, stewards, but the victory has already been won. We too will win as long as we are on His side. As long as we **Put God First**. May our true God number us among the sheep on His right as we spread the gospel, feed, clothe, and comfort those in need, and receive His body and blood for the remission of our sins. Amen.

If you have any questions about becoming Full Members of The Church, please contact me at frneofitos@saintqeorgegoc.com or call

347-256-6723.

We can have a chat, schedule Holy Confession, discuss joining, have a coffee, etc.

Office Hours Daily (Mon- Thurs 9:00am – 2:00pm) with remote access via email or cell phone.

And remember.... always Put God First.









| | | 1 | November 2 | 023 | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|-----|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | |
| 29 7 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy OXI Greek School celebration following Liturgy | 30 | 31 | 1 Holy Unmercenaries 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 2 4:30pm Greek School | 3 | 4 |
| 5 5th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Artoklasia for St's Cosmas and Damianos Philoptochos and memorial Sunday School General Assembly | 6 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner and Q & A with Father | 7 | 8 Synaxis of the Archangels 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom 6:30pm Great Vespers | 9 Feast of St. Nektarios 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Senior Fellowship Meeting 4:30pm Greek School | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Spaghetti Dinner | 13 Feast of St. John Chrysostom | 14 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting | 15 Christmas Fast Begins 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 16 4:30pm Greek School | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Trisagion for Ed and Angeliki Jones Sunday School 12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting Stewardship Sunday | 20 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner and Q & A with Father | 21 7:00am Soup Kitchen Bag Lunch Prep Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy | 22 St. Iakovos of Evoia 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed No Greek School | 24 | Feastday of Catherine the Great 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Baptism |
| 26 13 th Sunday of Luke St. Stylianos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy | 27 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study | 28 Greek School Board Meeting | 29 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 30 Feast of Andrew the First Called Apostle 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour | | |



| December 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 26 13 th Sunday of Luke St. Stylianos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy | | Board Meeting | 29 4:00pm Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 30 Feast of Andrew the First Called Apostle 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour | 1 7:00 pm Christmas Tree Lighting | 2 12:00pm Baptism |
| 3 14 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School | 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy | St. Savas the Sanctified 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy | 6 St. Nicholas 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 7 4:30pm In person Greek School | 8 | 9 Feastday of St. Anna 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Holiday Boutique Hellenic Center 10:00am-3:00pm |
| 10 10 th Sunday of Matthew 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Memorial of Themetria Svolos Trisagion for Paul Brown and Angela Theodore Christmas Pageant following Divine Liturgy | to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study | Kitchen Bag Lunch Prep | 13 4:00pm Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 14 11:30am Senior Fellowship Meeting 4:30pm In person Greek School | 15 St. Eleftherios Feastday 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy | 16 6:30pm Great Vespers |
| 17 11 th Sunday of Luke Daniel the Prophet & the Three Holy Youths 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School | to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner and Q & A with Father | Righteous of Rome 8:30am Orthros & | 20 4:00pm Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Adult Greek School via Zoom | 21 | 22 8:30am-11:00pm Great and Royal Hours | 23 |
| 24 Sunday before Nativity 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Christmas Eve Services – Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Sunday before Epiphany 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy | | | | | | |

Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner and Auction

Sunday, November 12, 2023

12:00 pm Hellenic Center, 510 Liberty St, Schenectady



Donation: \$12.00 Adults and \$7.00 Children (under 12)

Spaghetti ~ Meatballs ~ Salad ~ Roll & Butter Soda ~ Wine ~ Coffee ~ Dessert

Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society

(For the Benefit of Philoptochos Charities)

Tickets can be purchased at Sunday Coffee Hours!



From the desk of Fr. Neofitos

OPΘOΔOΞIA = OPΘOΠPAΞIA, Orthodoxy = Orthopraxy (right faith – right action)

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His gifts He has given to me? (English) τἱ ἀνταποδώσω τῷ Κυρἰῳ περὶ πἀντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκἑ μοι; (Greek) Answers: gratitude, time, fasting, sacraments, service, community, talents, and treasure.

Orthodoxy is more than just a set of beliefs and rules. It is a way of life. It is a set of Liturgical actions which spark our faith and bring us closer to letting God's light into our souls. Some of these specific actions will be outlined in this section of our bulletin throughout the year and also a flyer/ order form will always be at the candle stand and also available on our squaresite: https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/. I would like to focus on the offerings we can make in church.

Prayer Requests- (Υπέρ Υγείας – Health & Υπέρ Αναπαύσεως – Reposed)

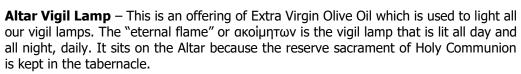
Also known as: Names for prayers for the living and reposed or Dyptichs. During the Divine Liturgy, the names of our loved ones are commemorated for their health and salvation and for the repose of the departed. First names are written only in 2 separate sheets or columns labeled for the living and for the reposed.



Prosforo- In addition to names, we may also offer the Prosforo. Prosforo means offering in Greek. It is a small loaf of leavened bread used in the Divine Liturgy. After the consecration of the holy gifts, the main piece called "the lamb" becomes the body of Christ. He is the Lamb of God which is offered for the salvation of the world.

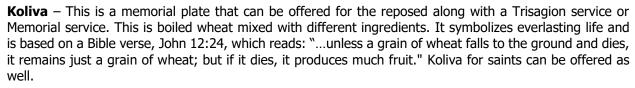


Communion Wine - This is usually a Greek sweet wine. Mavrodafni or Byzantino Nama, or Commandaria are some of the types and brands of wines that churches use.





Incense – From the time of Moses, God taught us an offering of charcoal and incense is pleasing to the Lord and fills the room just as the Holy Spirit does.





Artoklasia – This is a sweet bread (5 loaves) that is offered as a prayer for the living. Artoklasia is usually offered for the Feast Day of a Saint or Nameday. It is offered with communion wine and Extra Virgin Olive Oil. These are 5 loaves which symbolize the miracle of multiplying the Fish and bread.





We can bring these items ourselves as an offering or they can be provided for you by order. Offerings to God are blessings that are reaped by us. Our Lord blesses our offerings, even though imperfect, He blesses them, transforms them, and returns them to us for our transformation. It is a spiritual exchange which perpetuates our personal relationship with God. Our salvation and our Liturgical actions are linked. Our Faith must be lived and this takes action. These are just some of the actions our Lord has guided us to take for our path of the Cross. His entrance into this world is one of the

greatest expressions of His love. Let us be grateful for the infinite opportunities we have to express our gratitude for all He has given us. We pray to see everyone at our many worship opportunities throughout the months of November and December. We are the ones in need of these offerings and of receiving His grace and illumination.



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 \$15.00** 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: Zanetta Laskaris St. George Greek Orthodox Church 107 Clinton Street Schenectady, NY 12305

PLEASE DETACH THIS FORM AND RETURN BY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY"

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE

We are off to a terrific start for our new school year! Our enrollment has grown and we have added two additional classes to our youth program which serves grades K-8. And our Adult online program is at its maximum enrollment. This growth has spurred needs for additional instructors and program equipment. We are seeking to raise \$800.00 to purchase additional equipment for our classrooms. To that end, our school is sponsoring a Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser. Please see any school child/instructor/board member to reserve your Poinsettia plant today (see enclosed flyer).

Our students presented a program of poems and songs in commemoration of **OXI Day** on Sunday, October 29th. Our Greek School families sponsored the coffee hour in honor of this special occasion. Our next presentation will be the **Christmas Program** scheduled for Sunday, December 10th. Greek School families will host a bake sale during coffee hour. Reserve your Vasilopita bread early!

And, our big news is that our school is hosting a "Snow Ball" dinner/dance on Saturday, January 13th, 2024. The Aegean Duo will be our featured entertainment for the evening. Please see the enclosed flyer. Tickets are on sale now and make great stocking stuffers!



For reservations with payment, contact Athena Pagnotti, 518-708-7695.

Tables are reserved for parties of 8 in order of date received.

ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group meets several times a year and for children ages 4-13.

Some events are parish wide and just sponsored by the youth such as our New Annual Bowling Event and our Annual Tree Lighting.

To join our group please email Maryna Baker and Emmanouela Filipis at makerba@hotmail.com.

Our Calendar for 2023-2024

- Saturday, October 14 at 10:00am 1:00pm Youth Fall Kick-off: A Visit to the Orchard
- Friday, December 1 at 7:00 8:00pm Christmas Tree Lighting
- Monday, Jan 15, 2023 MLK day St. George Bowling Event at Sportsman Bowl 12:00pm
- Friday, April 26 at 5:00pm-8:00 pm Holy Week Youth Retreat and Folding of the Palms
- Holy Thursday, May 2 and Holy Friday May 3 at 6:00 pm Altar boys and Myrophores
- Pascha, May 5 at 10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
- August St. George Theotokos CAMP

47th Annual Greek Festival

Our Greek heritage was showcased once again at this year's festival where we were blessed by good weather, for the most part, record crowds and overwhelming support by our church family and benefactors. Even though we all worked hard, we were able to enjoy the fun and fellowship while sharing our culture with our visitors. The festival would never have been possible without the hard work, diligence, and stamina of all the volunteers. The love and respect we share with one another was evident all throughout. Whether you worked one day or 30, we sincerely thank you.

With love and gratitude,

Fr. Neofitos

THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE

from Gladys Paravalos

Thank you very much to all the donors who brought in items for me to sell over the summer and during our Greek Festival. If I start to list names, I will surely forget someone, and I do not want to leave anyone out. You know who you are and more importantly God knows who you are. Everyone was so generous in donating the beautiful items which you saw at "YiaYia's Treasures". No donation was too small or unappreciated. Bean by bean, the pot gets filled. Φασούλι το φασούλι γεμίζει το σακούλι. Το our generous donors I say, the beautiful things which you enjoyed for many years will now be treasured in a new home. Between the summer months and our Festival, we raised over \$5,000!

The Friends of St. George was created to raise money to purchase items for the church which might not be covered by the day-to-day operating budget. So far, we have made the following purchases:

- New white cabinets for room adjacent to altar
- Ledges to hold new icons in room adjacent to altar
- New shelving installed in Hellenic Center coat room
- Sunshades for room adjacent to altar
- Gospel Stand
- Framed glass cases to display new icons on Feast Days
- Framed glass icon of St. George in church narthex
- Contributed toward expenses of upgrading electrical system
- Beeswax candles
- New rug inside the church
- Two wardrobe closets
- Wooden credenza in back of church



A special thank you to Jan Gallas who helped me organize, set up

and work at our off-site Garage Sale in Burnt Hills and worked with me throughout the Festival weekend.

Check and cash donations will be given a written receipt. You may remain anonymous if you wish. God bless you all and thank you again for your generosity.



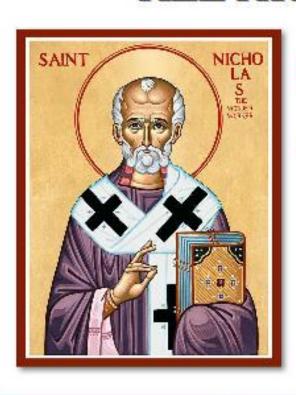
ST. GEORGE'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Christmas Tree Lighting

December 1st at 7:00PM

In Honor of St. Nicholas, our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 7:00PM with Christmas Tree Lighting and Artoklasia (Sweet bread) Blessing followed by Christmas Caroling and Hot Cocoa in the Hellenic Center

ALL ARE WELCOME



Come enjoy awesome fellowship!

Charity Offering - Youth Food Pantry

Parents are asked to shop for food pantry items for the students of the Keane Elementary School.

Please bring an ornament to hang in honor of your family or in memory of a loved one.

Preferably non-breakable. If you do not have one, some will be available.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE POINSETTIA SALE



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Schenectady, NY







GREEK SCHOOL BAKE SALE!

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the Hellenic Center 11AM - 1PM

- Vasilopita (Traditional New Years Bread with Coin) \$20
- Assorted Christmas Cookies and Desserts
- Bake Sale will be going on during the Greek School Christmas Pageant
- Come and See!

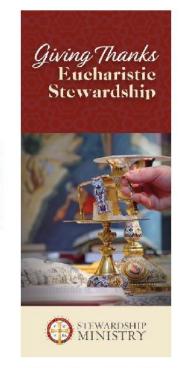
ORDER YOUR VASILOPITA TODAY!

Please email or text Presvytera Catherine to place your order: csarigiannis22@gmail.com or 845-428-0932 - 510 Liberty Street, Schenectady, NY 12305

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY







PLEDGE CARD 2023



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Father Neofitos Sarigiannis frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com Office: (518) 393-0742 Fax: (518) 393-4093 office@saintgeorgegoc.com www.saintgeorgegoc.com

planned giving **"**

I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan."

Information If you are already a member, please fill out the shaded areas

| NAME STEWARDSHIP NUMBER |
|--|
| BAPTIZED ORTHODOX? yes no |
| |
| MANUE OF CROSSES OF MARRIEDS |
| NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) BAPTIZED ORTHODOX? yes no |
| |
| |
| STREET ADDRESS |
| |
| CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE |
| CITT STRIET ZE CODE |
| |
| MOBILE PHONE |
| |
| |
| EMAIL ADDRESS MAY WE ADD YOU TO OUR EMAIL LIST? |
| |
| EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) |
| |
| |
| OCCUPATION |
| Dependent Children's names and birthdates: |
| |
| |
| |

treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount for 2023:

| S | | |
|------------|-------------------|----|
| □ weekly □ | monthly 🗆 quarter | ly |
| ☐ One Time | | • |

Treasure

Vearly Income Percentage Guide to Giving

| rearry income rercentage Guide to Giving | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Yearly Income | 1% | 2% | 3% | 5% | 10% (Tithing) |
| \$10,000 | \$100 | \$200 | \$300 | \$500 | \$1,000 |
| \$15,000 | \$150 | \$300 | \$450 | \$750 | \$1,500 |
| \$20,000 | \$200 | \$400 | \$600 | \$1,000 | \$2,000 |
| \$30,000 | \$300 | \$600 | \$900 | \$1,500 | \$3,000 |
| \$40,000 | \$400 | \$800 | \$1200 | \$2,000 | \$4,000 |
| \$50,000 | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$1,500 | \$2,500 | \$5,000 |
| \$100,000 | \$1,000 | \$2,000 | \$3,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 |

(pledge)

Leviticus 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord."

Challenge: Could you give \$20 each week?

BUDGET

Our annual expenses for 2023 will be approximately \$382,000.

Stewardship donations in 2022 were approximately \$80,000.

Please consider your giving level:

\$2000 is \$38.46 per week \$1500 is \$28.84 per week \$1000 is \$19.23 per week \$750 is \$14.42 per week

\$500 is \$9.61 per week \$400 is \$7.69 per week

Are you giving back to God as you have been blessed? The average pledge at our church for 2022 is \$656.

When was the last time you increased your giving to our church?

Could you give \$20 each week?

Time & Talent

It is important to give our time and talent as well as our treasure.

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (</).

Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

LITURGICAL EDUCATION Bible Study __Altar boys / Acolytes Choir Intro to Orthodoxy Publications Chanting __ Speakers Reader Bookstore Greeter/Usher Baking Prosforon YOUTH Koliva maker __Dance Troupe Artoklasia maker Greek School Teacher Greek School Board MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS Sunday School Teacher __Welcome Team Youth Advisor Outreach Camp Counselor Stewardship Ye

| Yourn Group | Connect Hour Hospitality |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| _Young Adults | Visitation - Hospital |
| | Philoptochos - Soup Kitchen |
| BUILDING & GROUNDS | Prison Ministry |
| Garden & Landscape | Grief Berenvernent Group |
| Plumbing | Blood Drives |
| | |

| Thomas Clause and Control | Project Mexico |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Event Clean-up/Set-up | Int'l Orth Christian Charities |
| Interior Repairs | OCMC Mission Center |
| Exterior Repairs Roofing | Seniors Ministry (Fellowship |
| | Fundraising |
| Hall Rentals | Friends of St. George |

| Hall Rentals | Friends of St. George |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Handyman | _ |
| "Thursday Morning Boys" | Order of AHEPA |
| Ming and Grounds Volunteers | |

| Building and Grounds Volunteers | COMMUNICATIONS Web site & E-mail |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ADMINISTRATION | Graphic Design |
| Parish Council | Bulletin & Newsletter |
| Development / Fundraising Office help | Public Relations |
| Computer / Technical | Data Entry |

Any other talents or information you wish to list:



Become a Full Member of the Church - 2023 Stewardship Pledges

Beloved parishioners and friends,

We pray you are having a blessed beginning to the Ecclesiastical / school year and enjoying the weather. Saint George is full of activity. With another record-breaking Festival behind us and our ministries in full swing, we praise God for all He has given us and for all that is to come!

We welcome you to join us and become full members of St. George. Our request is that if you haven't pledged to be a steward of our church for 2023 yet to please consider giving to your community in this way. The giving of our time, talent, and treasure is the life blood of all our churches. You can make it so by filling out our pledge form on the previous pages and submitting it to our church office (open Mon. – Thurs. 9am -2pm) or to one of our many officers and trusted leaders. If you have already pledged for 2023, we ask that you fulfill your pledge before the end of the year.

Your help and consideration are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about becoming Full Members of The Church, please contact me at frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com or call 347-256-6723.

Our employees, staff, volunteers of all programs, and our parish council and officers are working hard all around the clock to make sure our church can prosper in the current ecclesiastical/school year and for many years to come.

May the Holy Trinity bless us as worthy ministers of His Holy Spirit to the world.

We look forward to seeing you soon in church at 9:30 am every Sunday and most Mondays at 5:30 pm, and for all our upcoming services in November and December/Christmas.

Gratefully and respectfully,

Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis

Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis





2023 Stewardship Pledges

We are grateful for those members listed below who have submitted their 2023 stewardship pledge as of October 22, 2023. Your continued and consistent support will help our church continue to grow and prosper.

To become a full member of our church, please fill out the Pledge form on the previous page and return it to the office.

Join us Sunday, November 19,2023 after Services for Stewardship Sunday and to kick off 2024!

Last Chance to join the St. George Family for 2023

Mr. & Mrs. George Alatzas

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Andrikopoulos

Ms. Kyriakoula Andrikopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Arrington

Mr. & Mrs. Konstantin Avgerakis

Ms. Athina Beaury

Mr. John Behiri

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Behiri

Ms. Susan Birbilis

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bosco

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Brady

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bratsos

Mrs. Ifigenia Brown

Mr. & Mrs. James Bump

Ms. Arji Cakouros

Dr. Fanny Caranikas-Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chamberas

Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Christou

Mr. Andreas & Mrs. Sophia

Christou

Ms. Arianna Christou

Mr. & Mrs. Euripides Christou

Mrs. Catherine Contompasis

Miss Catherine Contompasis

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Contompasis

Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Contompasis

MI. & MIS. Emanuel Contompas

Miss Demetra Corsones

Dr. & Mrs. Peter Cospito

Mr. & Mrs. George Cotzas

Mrs. Rena Counavelis

Mrs. Joanne Dafniotis

Ms. Linda Davison

Mr. & Mrs. Konstantin Deligiannis

Ms. Olga Delorey

Mr. Gerry Dermentzys

Ms. Joanne Diamantis

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Diamantopoulos

Mr. Anargyros & Mrs. Katina Dikas

Mr. & Mrs. Brad Engwer

Ms. Christina Esposito

Mr. Zachary Esposito

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Euripidou

Mrs. Janet Gallas

Mr. Arthur Georgelas

Mrs. Helena Georgelas

Mrs. Eliana Georgelos

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Giakoumis

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodale

Dr. Jeffrey Hnath & Dr. Efrossini

Kolios

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Huggins

Mrs. Frusina Ica Iancu

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jones

Mrs. Catherine Julius

Ms. Antonia Kananis

Mrs. Fanny Karamanos

Ms. Balwant Maria Kingra

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kolios

Mrs. Maria Kontakos

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kontogiannis

Ms. Kaliopi Kounoupis

Mrs. Voula Kounoupis

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kouray

Mr. & Mrs. H. Koutopoulos

Mr. Dimitrios Koutsopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. David Lambert

MA O MA T'C L L

Mr. & Mrs. Trifon Laskaris

Fr. & Pres. Legato

Ms. Christine Legorius

Mrs. Rosemary Legorius

Mr. William Manikas

Ms. Andrea McGowen

Mr. & Mrs. Michael McGowen

Mr. & Mrs. Phil McGowen

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Menagias

Mr. Demetrios Michael

Mr. & Mrs. Evan Michael

Ms. Anastasia Mikropoulos

Mrs. Antonia Mikropoulos

Ms. Anastasia C. Mikropoulos

Ms. Demetra Mikropoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mikropoulos

Mr. Taso Mikropoulos

Mr. Theodore Mikropoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock

Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos Nikolaidis

Mr. Simeon Nikolaidis

Mr. Constantine Orfan

Mrs. Katherine Orfan

Mr. & Mrs. Vito Pagnotti

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Pagones

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Paravalos

Mr. Tjannis Polikandriotis

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Poveda

Fr. & Pres. Sarigiannis

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Scott

Mrs. Elena Sikamiotis

Mr. Kostas Sikamiotis

Ms. Aphrodite Slingerland

Mr. & Mrs. Gerasimos Sokaris

Mrs. Ourania Sokaris

Mrs. Irini Spyros

Ms. Roubina Spyros-Morgan

Ms. Maria Stamoulis

Mrs. Stavroula Stamoulis

Mr. & Mrs. Van Stathis

Mrs. Olga Stryjski

Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Tsakopiakos

Ms. Melissa Verrigni

Mr. & Mrs. Niko Verriani

Mr. & Mrs. William Weinstock

Mrs. Sophie Zanaros

Mrs. Anastasia Zoulas



St. George Philoptochos

Join us on Sunday, November 5th, 2023 as our chapter commemorates it patron Saints Cosmos & Damianos We will offer an Artoclasia service for the living and a Memorial service for the deceased members of Philoptochos. A special coffee hour is planned.

Membership in the Philoptochos Society is open to all Greek Orthodox faithful and their spouses.

Several of our chapter members, along with Fr. Neofitos, attended the annual Philoptochos Tri-City Agiasmos service, meeting and supper on Tuesday, September 12th at St. Sophia's Church. It was a very special time for all three chapters and Priests to be together and pray as we begin a new year of work for the church.

In September, our chapter met its national annual commitment for the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyters Fund; and the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund. We also made donations to the American Cancer Society "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk, and the Susan G. Komen "More Than Pink Walk".

Our chapter will continue to support our parish's food pantry collection efforts, and the Lenten Christmas decorations efforts. Please see the enclosed flyer to sponsor floral arrangements to beautify our church for this blessed Christmas season. Our chapter will also continue the work of providing Toiletry Kits to the City Mission, where kits are then distributed to middle and high school students in need. The cost is \$75 per month and is generously gifted by individual members of our chapter.

In October, our chapter met its national annual commitment for the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund. We heard a guest speaker on the mission of "Family Promise" and made a donation to support its annual fund. Our brothers and sisters at St. Sophia in Albany serve as hosts to families for four (4) weeks out of the year. To learn more visit www.familypromise.org. Other donations were given to Concern for the Hungry; Schenectady County Social Services Families in Need; Operation Adopt-A-Soldier; and Price Chopper gift cards for Veterans. The end of October brings our annual campaign of the Mitten Tree for the City Mission of Schenectady, the annual community (Parish) Christmas card, and our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – tickets are on sale now. Please support these worthy causes.

With only two months into our new business year, Philoptochos has made considerable donations of its time, talents and financial support to worthy causes. Please support the chapter's fund-raising efforts through the year, and join us as you are able, as we celebrate friendship and fellowship in Christ.

The Sept. 19th Soup Kitchen was sponsored by Charlie Koines in loving memory of *Kathy Koines*. The Oct. 17th Soup Kitchen was sponsored by Katherine Orfan in honor/memory of *family and friends*.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

| November 5 th | Chapter name day celebration |
|---------------------------|--|
| November 12 th | Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction following Divine Liturgy (see enclosed flyer) |
| November 21st | Soup Kitchen will be sponsored by Tom and Shannon Jones in loving memory of |
| | Ed (Pavlo) and Angeliki Jones |
| November 19th | Chapter meeting 12:15 pm Hellenic Center |
| | Please note: Philoptochos has no chapter meeting during the month of <u>December</u> . |
| December 12 th | Soup Kitchen sponsored by Ifigenia T. Brown in loving memory of Paul Brown and |
| | Angela Theodore. |





FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Eliana Georgelos

Greetings from the Fellowship group!

We are now in a recovery mode following the successful conclusion of our 47th annual Greek Festival. We all worked so hard to make this festival a success...and we succeeded! In spite of a rainy Friday that kept some people away, we persevered and continued providing the Philoxenia that brought so many people to our doors. Saturday brought huge numbers of people who enjoyed eating our delicious food, listening to our music, watching our dancers, and getting themselves up to dance to the lively music of Prometheus. Church tours led by Father Neofitos brought the wonder and beauty of our Orthodox faith to so many who attended. Sunday, our last day, culminated with the \$100 raffle winners being announced. Such excitement!

We closed our doors to the public Sunday afternoon, and by Sunday evening we had torn down and cleaned all the booths, put away tables and chairs, and returned the Hellenic Center to what we know as "normal". Thank you to all those who stayed after the festivities were over to help with this backbreaking work. Father Neofitos was in the midst of all this, lifting tables, moving equipment and getting his hands dirty along with the rest of us. How blessed we are that this man and his family are with us! We have since learned that this year's festival achieved at least the same level of success as last year's, and possibly even more so. We are so grateful to all those whose commitment resulted in this wonderful outcome. Many prayers went out to St.George and Panaghia for their intercession, and our prayers were answered!

The Fellowship group has not met for several months...not in August and September because of the festival, nor in October due to the illnesses of many of our members. Covid caused Father Neofitos, Presvytera Catherine, and George to shelter in their home. Others in our group also suffered health setbacks, thus the decision was made to cancel our October meeting.

On Sunday, October 22nd we learned of the death of our good friend and beloved Fellowship Co-President Paul Pagiotas. It was Paul's idea to initiate our Fellowship group. He felt that the senior members of our parish should gather together regularly over a nice meal at the Hellenic Center where we could talk, laugh and stay as long as we wanted to...not an option in a restaurant. Our first meeting took place in May of 2008, and our group has continued to meet monthly ever since. Paul will be sorely missed for his kindness, his wonderful wit and infectious laugh, and his wisdom. May his memory be eternal!

Now we look forward to two of the Great Feasts of our Orthodox faith. On November 21 we celebrate the Presentation of the Theotokos, (when three year old Mary was taken by her parents, Joachim and Anna, to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem where she lived and served for twelve years until her betrothal to Joseph). On December 25 we celebrate the Nativity of Christ (Christmas) (when Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem where Mary gave birth to Jesus). During these two Great Feasts, we also follow the Nativity Fast which begins on November 15 and concludes on December 24. This is is one of the four main fast periods within our ecclesiastical year, and gives us the opportunity to prepare for Christ's birth not only as a time of fasting, but also as one of prayer, reflection, forgiveness and repentance.



The Fellowship group invites all our parishioners to participate in church services that celebrate these holy times. We extend our very best wishes to, not only our St. George family, but also to our friends in other Orthodox communities for a blessed Christmas season. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose birth we will soon celebrate, bless us all with peace, love, iov and good health.

The 9th Athhuat Mattern Tree

Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society

Help Us Decorate Our Tree with Warm Hats, Scarves, Mittens and Gloves
To Benefit the Children Served by City Mission of Schenectady















Hellenic Center Collecting Through Sunday, December 3, 2023

"GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH TO A CHILD IN NEED"





St. George Greek Orthodox Church

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE



Handcrafted Stitched Items, Jewelry, Wreaths, Fragrances, Purses & Accessories, Home Décor, Handcrafted Christmas Ornaments

Greek Pastry Sale & Lunch Items

Saturday, December 9, 2023 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION and PARKING!

Hellenic Center
510 Liberty Street, Schenectady, NY 12305
Handicapped Accessible

www.saintgeorgegoc.com





Bible Study

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSES

Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary at 5:30 pm Bible Study On select Mondays at 6:30 pm in church

Last year we completed a study on the Divine Liturgy, our most important worship service.

This year we will delve in to Matins, Orthros Service. The hymns, gospels, prayers, etc.

All you need is your Orthodox Study Bible. Join our Group Today!!!!

Email Fr. Neofitos: frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

Bible Study Schedule on select Mondays at 6:30 pm (mark your calendars)

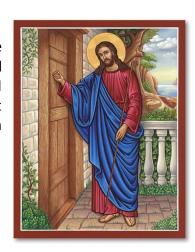
- Monday, October 23
- Monday, November 27
- Monday, December 11
- Monday, January 22
- Monday, February 5
- Monday, March 4
- Monday, March 25
- Monday, April 8
- Monday, April 22
- Monday, May 20

Services: Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary Every Monday is at 5:30pm



Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

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





Dinner and Q and A with Father

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSES

Twice a month on select Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Hellenic Center

Join us as we explore our Orthodox Faith with a Fellowship Dinner and Q and A session with Father Neofitos Sarigiannis and other guest clergy members occasionally. Come ready with questions or submit your questions anonymously in our special Q and A box. Join our Group Today!!!! Email Fr. Neofitos: frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

Dinner and Q and A Schedule

(Mark your calendars)

- Monday, September 25
- Monday, October 2
- Monday, October 16
- Monday, November 6
- Monday, November 20
- Monday, December 4
- Monday, December 18
- Monday, January 15
- Monday, January 29
- Monday, February 12
- Monday, February 26
- Monday, March 11
- Monday, March 18
- Monday, April 1
- Monday, April 15
- Monday, May 13

Services: Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary Every Monday is at 5:30pm



Christmas and Theophany Service Schedule 2023-24

Friday, December 1 7:00 pm Christmas Tree Lighting **Christmas Services** Friday, December 22 8:30 am Royal Hours of the Nativity Sunday, December 24 8:30 am - 11:00 am Christmas Eve Orthros & Divine Liturgy **Sunday, December 24** 6:00 pm Orthros & Divine Liturgy & Carols **Sunday, December 31** 8:30 am - 11:00 am Sunday after Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy **Theophany Services** Friday, January 5 Eve of Theophany 7:30 am - 11:00 am Royal Hours of Epiphany and Vesperal Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters Saturday, January 6 Holy Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters **Sunday, January 7** Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Mohawk River **Our Sunday service hours are:** Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am **House and Business Blessings** On January 6, 2024 Father Neofitos will begin blessing homes and businesses. Please fill out the card below and return to the office for confirmation. Name -_ Address - _____ Cell/ Main # -

Feel free to contact the office if you have any questions. 518-393-0742

Preferred day and time -



Saint George Schenectady Sunday School Calendar 2023-2024

Register now on our website! http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/

Sunday School will meet in person, for 40 minutes after Holy Communion, twice a month on the following Sundays:

September

9/17 Blessing of the School Year after the Divine Liturgy -First Day of Sunday School

October

10/1 Sunday School 10/15 Sunday School

10/29 Oxi Day Greek School Celebration after Divine Liturgy

November

11/5 Sunday School 11/19 Sunday School

December

12/3 Sunday School 12/17 Sunday School

12/1 Christmas Tree Lighting **12/10 Christmas Pageant, Bake Sale & Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy**

January

1/7 Sunday School 1/21 Sunday School

February

2/4 Sunday School 2/18 Sunday School

March

3/3 Sunday School 3/17 Sunday School

** 03/31 Greek School Greek Independence Day Celebration and Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy *

April

4/7 Sunday School 4/21 Sunday School

** 04/26 Youth Holy Week Retreat and Making of Palm Crosses (5:00 -7:00 PM)

May

5/12 Sunday School 5/26 Last Day of Sunday School/Certificates

**05/05 Pascha - Easter Egg Hunt After the Agape Service (10:30 AM -12:00 NOON **

St. George Ministry Leaders

Altar Servers Bookstore, Greek and Sunday School Bible Study and Q and A **Choir/Chanters Church Ushers Fellowship Group** Friends of St. George **Greek School Board Greek School Teachers**

Greek Dance Ladies Philoptochos Society Office Manager and Facilities Staff Order of AHEPA **Parish Council Members** Soup Kitchen Stewardship

"Thursday Morning Boys" Building and Grounds Volunteers

Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis **Presvytera Catherine Sarigiannis** Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis

Olga Delorey Brian Goodale Eliana Georgelos Gladys Paravalos Athena Pagnotti Ioanna Loula George Cotzas

Balwant Maria and Sukhi Kingra

Athena Pagnotti Camille Kosloski Evan Christou Brian Goodale Olga Delorey **Lucy Brady Toni Kananis Maria Dostis Steve Giakoumis** frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com csarigiannis22@gmail.com

odelorey@nycap.rr.com brian.goodale@outlook.com elianayiayia@icloud.com Gladys1717p@aol.com apagnott@nycap.rr.com ioannaloula@gmail.com cotzasgm44@gmail.com balwant.kingra98@gmail.com apagnott@nycap.rr.com office@saintgeorgegoc.com evanchristou@hotmail.com

Lukia@nycap.rr.com Dafnia3@yahoo.com Dafnia3@yahoo.com dostism553@gmail.com 518-372-4476





2023- 2024 Christmas / Theophany Ornamentation Donations

Thank you to all who have already pledged to donate the shaded items below. Please contact Camille at the church office to donate 518-393-0742 or email office@saintgeorgegoc.com



Christmas

For Thursday, Nov 30, 2023

- \$200 Christmas Decorations
- \$85 15' Christmas Tree
- \$95 Tree base for 15' Tree
- \$25 Christmas Table Cloths
- \$70 St Nicholas Flower Frame

For Thursday, December 21, 2023

- \$85 Flower Shelf 1
- \$85 Flower Shelf 2
- \$85 Flower Shelf 3
- \$85 Flower Shelf 4
- 2 vases for Panagia Christ Donated
- \$70 Nativity Flower Frame

Theophany

For Thursday, January 4, 2024

- \$70 Theophany Flower Frame
- \$50 vase for Panagia
- \$50 vase for Christ

Did You Know?

Did you know that we have a Google calendar?



If you are wondering when services are or if there are services on any given day, you can check out our calendar right on our website.

https://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/calendar/google-calendar

Did you know you can add our St. George Google Calendar to your calendars to view on your phone or device? When you are in the page above, click on the icon in the lower- right corner and add our calendar to yours.

Never miss an event!

Be aware of what is happening in our facility, church, and the Hellenic Center.









Liturgical Offerings

- 1. Communion Wine \$20.00
- 2. Altar Vigil Lamp Candle Ακοίμητον (for 1 week) \$20.00
- 3. Prosforo \$20.00
- **4. Altar Incense Offering –** Μοσχοθυμίαμα **\$20.00 \$50.00**
- 5. Artoklasia- \$50.00
- 6. Koliva Memorial for the Departed \$100.00

You can also visit our Square site and make your donations online.

https://st-george-greekorthodoxchurch.square.site/

To place an order and make your donation, please fill out the form below.

| Item | Donation |
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Ask Fr. Neofitos about renting our Hellenic Center for your special event.



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



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