



THE TRIUMPHANT

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
Father Neofitos Sarigiannis
frneofitos@saintgeorgeoc.com
www.saintgeorgeoc.com

January / February 2024



EPIPHANY- BLESSING OF THE WATERS

Date: Sunday, January 7th at 12:15 pm after services and coffee hour

Location: The Harbor and Amphitheater (by the River's Casino)

151 Harborside Drive, Schenectady, NY 12305

Come join us as we bless the waters of the Mohawk River (Dress Warmly)



ST. GEORGE GOC SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
INAUGURAL DINNER & DANCE FUNDRAISER
HELLENIC CENTER, SCHENECTADY, NY

Snow Ball

Saturday, January 13th, 2024
6 pm—11 pm

Featuring

The Aegean Duo



Tickets pre-sale

Adults: \$50.00

Youth (18 and under): \$25.00

**Cash Bar *Basket Raffle*

*Proceeds benefit St. George
School of Greek Language and Culture*

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

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



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

The Feasts of
Sts. Neophytos, Maximos, and
Panagia Paramythea

Saturday, January 20, 2024
6:30 pm Great Vespers and Artoklasia
All are invited for Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 21, 2024
8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
Followed by Coffee Hour
in the Hellenic Center





Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Feastday of St. Basil 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Vespereal Divine Liturgy – St. Basil's Troy	1	2	3 4:00pm Online Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	4 4:30pm In person Greek School	5 7:30am Royal Hours of the Epiphany & Vespereal Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters	6 8:30am Epiphany of our Lord & Great Blessing of the Waters
7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy and Vasilopita Cutting Sunday School Blessing of the Water- Mohawk River	8	9	10 4:00pm Online Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	11 11:30am Senior Fellowship Meeting 4:30pm In person Greek School	12	13 6:00pm Snow Ball – Greek Xorosperrida
14 Leavetaking of the Theophany 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Trisagion for Hariklia Kyziridou & Irene Dris	15 12:00pm St. George Parish Bowling Event 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner & Q & A with Father	16 7:00am Soup Kitchen bag Lunch Prep	17 Feastday of St. Anthony 4:00pm Online Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	18 Feastday of St. Athanasios 4:30pm In person Greek School	19	20 6:30pm Great Vespers for St. Neophytos & St. Maximos
21 12 th Sunday of Luke Feastday of St. Neophytos & St. Maximos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School	22 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study	23	24 4:00pm Online Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	25 Feastday of St. Gregory 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm In person Greek School	26	27
28 15 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting	29 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner & Q & A with Father	30 Feastday of the Three Hierarchs 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	31 4:00pm Online Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom			



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 15 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting	29 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner & Q&A with Father	30 Feastday of the Three Hierarchs 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	31 4:30pm Online Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	1	2 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Presentation of our Lord in the Temple	3
4 15 th Sunday of Matthew 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School	5 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study	6	7 4:30pm Online Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	8 11:30am Senior Fellowship Meeting	9	10 Feastday of St. Charalambos 8:30am Orthros – 9:30am Divine Liturgy
11 16 th Sunday of Matthew 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	12 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner & Q & A with Father	13	14 4:30pm Online Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	15	16	17
18 Sunday of the Canaanite 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Trisagion for Athena Loukas, Irene & Christos Loukas, Fotine Euripidou Sunday School 12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting	19 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary	20 7:00am Soup Kitchen Prep	21 4:30pm Online Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	22	23	24
25 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee Triodion Begins 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	26 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Dinner & Q & A with Father	27	28 4:30pm Online Youth Greek School via Zoom 5:00pm Online Adult Greek School via Zoom	29		

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Happy New Year!

The School of Greek Language and Culture has had a fantastic 2023, and we are rolling into the 2024 new year with tremendous enthusiasm! Thanks to the efforts of our parents, staff, and Board of Directors, we accomplished a successful Christmas Pageant, bake sale, and poinsettia fundraiser. Thank you to the St. George community for bringing the largest number of attendees and patrons ever, for our school's December events.

We also welcomed two new board members to our school in 2023. Scott Brady and Lambros Nikiforidis bring strong talents in the areas of nonprofit and academic administration, and they are a very welcome addition to our team. Our board members have been hard at work these past few months, planning and executing the school's administration and fundraising efforts. Thanks to Diamanto Ktenas, Chris Kounoupis, and Maria Dostis for all your efforts to procure and deliver the 15' Christmas Tree in the Hellenic Center, and for your efforts in planning our school's first dinner/dance event scheduled for January 13, 2024. Tickets are pre-sale only and are available now.

For those of you who witnessed our children's pageant performance, you understand the growth and joy that has been cultivated by Fr. Neofitos, Presv. Catherine, Ioanna, Balwant and Suhki, in their teaching of our children. We are blessed beyond belief to have this team of people including Mr. George Cotzas, who directs our Adult education program. I wish you all continued success and good health in the new year.

Upcoming Events in the New Year:

- The "Snow Ball" Dinner/Dance Fundraiser: Saturday, January 13, 2024, 6:00 pm – 11 pm
- Greek Independence Day Program: Sunday, April 7, 2024, 11:00 am
- The Greek Independence Day Parade: Sunday, April 14, 2024
- Greek School Commencement Program: Thursday, June 13, 2024 5:30 pm





Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



Greek School/ Sunday School Christmas Pageant





Philoptochos Spaghetti Dinner & Auction



Fellowship Christmas Party



District Chancellor Visit

Feast of St. Catherine



ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP

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 Fr. Neofitos at frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com.

Our Calendar for 2024

- **Monday, Jan 15, 2024 MLK day** - St. George Bowling Event at Sportsman Bowl 12:00pm (see attached flyer)
- **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



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!

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Year-End 2023 Stewardship Pledges

We are grateful for those members listed below who have submitted their 2023 stewardship pledge as of December 19, 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 enclosed or attached and return it to the office.

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. Patrick Casey
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
Miss Demetra Corsones
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Cospito
Mr. & Mrs. George Cotzas
Mrs. Rena Counavelis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dafniotis
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
Maria Dostis
Mrs. Marguerite Doulides
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Engwer
Ms. Christina Esposito
Mr. Zachary Esposito

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Euripidou
Mrs. Janet Gallas
Mr. Arthur Georgelas
Mrs. Helena Georgelas
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas 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
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kalil
Ms. Antonia Kananis
Mrs. Fanny Karamanos
Ms. Balwant Maria Kingra
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kolios
Mrs. Maria Kontakos
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kontogiannis
Ms. Kaliopé Kounoupis
Mrs. Voula Kounoupis
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kouray
Mr. & Mrs. H. Koutopoulos
Mr. Dimitrios Koutsopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. David Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Trifon Laskaris
Mrs. Mariana Laviolette
Fr. & Pres. Legato
Ms. Christine Legorius
Mrs. Rosemary Legorius
Mr. Kleon Lekkas
Mr. Michael Lekkas
Mr. William Manikas
Mrs. Akrivi Markopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitryos Markopoulos
Ms. Andrea McGowen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McGowen
Mr. & Mrs. Phil McGowen
Mr. & Mrs. Fillipos Menagias
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Menagias
Mr. Demetrios Michael
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Michael

Ms. Anastasia Mikropoulos
Mrs. Antonia Mikropoulos
Ms. Antonia 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
Ms. Voula 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. Irimi Spyros
Ms. Roubina Spyros-Morgan
Ms. Maria Stamoulis
Mrs. Stavroula Stamoulis
Mr. & Mrs. Van Stathis
Mrs. Olga Stryjski
Mr. & Mrs. Vasiol Tarelli
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Tsakopiakos
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Vahaviolos
Ms. Kiriaki Vassilakis
Ms. Melissa Verrigni
Mr. & Mrs. Niko Verrigni
Mr. & Mrs. William Weinstock
Mrs. Sophie Zanaros
Mrs. Anastasia Zoulas



To view the full Photo Gallery

Go to <https://www.saintgeorgeoc.com/photos>

- 2023 Christmas Pageant
- 2023 Holiday Boutique
- St. George Fellowship Christmas Party
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Feast of St. Katherine
- Philoptochos Spaghetti Dinner & Auction
- OXI Day Celebration
- Church Musicians Sunday
- 2023 Festival Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue
- Archdiocesan District Chancellor Visit
- Sunday School Photos
- Feast of the Elevation of the Cross
- 2023 Greek Festival and prep
- St. George Theotokos Camp

St. George Bowling event!

All ages welcome

Where:

**Sportsman's Bowl
1652 Crane St
Schenectady, NY 12303**

When:

**Monday, January 15 @12pm
(MLK Day)**



Cost: \$11/person

**Includes: 2 games, shoe rental,
2 slices of pizza, and
a fountain drink**

RSVP by January 8th!

**Fill out the google form or contact
Father Neofitos at (518)393-0742**



Google form:

<https://forms.gle/ew9QsqkvjTKmwi6R7>



Holiday Boutique 2023

Philoptochos in Action



The Ladies Philoptochos delivered new gloves, mittens, hats and scarves to Mike Saccocio, Executive Director of the City Mission of Schenectady. A total of 111 items were donated by our parishioners to the 9th Annual Mitten Tree for the benefit of the children served by the Mission.



Eliana and Lucy prepare the vegetable packages for the Soup Kitchen Bag Lunches.



A big thank you to Shawn Mahoney who always helps Gladys load the heavy boxes of Bag Lunches into her car for delivery to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen.



Dina and Eliana fill the 72 Soup Kitchen Bag Lunches with a sandwich, yogurt, fruit cup, vegetable packet, cookies and bottled water. Special Christmas Treat Bags were distributed in December containing a fresh orange, chocolates, a candy cane, and chocolate chip cookies. Thank you to our December Soup Kitchen sponsor!



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



Philoptochos News

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

The Ladies Philoptochos Society wishes everyone a healthy and happy New Year!

Since our last bulletin, we celebrated another successful Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Thank you to all of the members who donated goods and services to making the event a joyful success! We also thank our community for supporting this major fundraiser for the chapter. Here are some of the ways we distribute those funds: each year, we ask our Parish Priest to select a charity of his choosing to receive a donation of support from our organization. This year, Fr. Neofitos chose **Luv Michael**, a non-profit 501 c3 dedicated to training, educating, and employing autistic adults and improving the lives of the autistic community beyond the lives of their parents. Locally, and during the month of November we made donations to **WGY Christmas Wish, YWCA Battered Women's Shelter, Evangeline Booth Miracle Home, Schenectady County Social Services Families in need, Gifts & visits to Nursing Home and Homebound members and St. Basil's Academy.** We also made donations to the **Ecumenical Patriarchate, National Sisterhood of Presbyteras Benevolent Fund, UNICEF, General Medical Fund, and St. Michael's Home.**

Here is what Philoptochos accomplished on a National level in 2023

- 19th Biennial Philoptochos *Children's Medical Fund Luncheon* Celebrates Unprecedented Success in Philanthropy for Children's Health, raising an astonishing over **\$550,000** dedicated to the health and happiness of needy children! More than **\$348,738** was disbursed in grants, a testament to the strong support for organizations championing the cause of improving children's lives.
- \$25,000 allocated to *IOCC* to Assist Greece in the Face of Fires and Floods.
- \$10,000 *Emergency Funds* Allocated to Maui Greek Orthodox Mission and National Philoptochos to Further Help Wildfire Relief.
- Philoptochos Contributes \$250K Turkey *Earthquake Relief Efforts in Collaboration with GOA and IOCC.*
- National Philoptochos Approved \$50,000 in *Emergency Funding* in Response to the Devastating Earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- **Project Review Grants** totaling \$74,276. These grants underscored the organization's commitment to making a tangible difference in communities nationwide. The diverse range of projects funded speaks to the versatility and impact of Philoptochos initiatives.
 - Marklund Children's Home, Elgin, IL - The program allowed them to purchase medical equipment for breathing needed at their Wasmond Center located in Elgin, IL, for individuals with profound disabilities under long-term care. \$22,947
 - Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA - The program, Improving Continence for Patients with Bladder Exstrophy, assists children with a rare congenital condition that involves the bladder and urethra, \$25,200
 - New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY - The program, Providing Comfort to Mothers and Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), assists and provides take-home comfort kits for babies in the NICU that were born by mothers with addiction and substance abuse, mostly opiates, \$11,129
 - Orthodox Volunteer Corps, Pittsburgh, PA - The program was established in 2021 as part of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the US's task force for the Year of the Youth. Funds would be used for 3 retreats for full-time volunteers: orientation, mid-year, and final, \$15,000

You can see that Philoptochos is quite an amazing organization to be part of, and we appreciate each day God gives to us that we can be in service to those in need. Customarily, our local chapter holds no business meeting during the month of December, but we met many times over the month for liturgy, religious study, and to enjoy a holiday luncheon. Also, the December 5th Soup Kitchen was sponsored by Ifigenia T. Brown in loving memory of *Paul Brown and Angela Theodore.*

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Vasilopita Celebration and Special Tray for St. Basil's Home for Children	January 7, 2024
Snow Ball Fundraiser for the School of Greek Language and Culture	January 13, 2024
Philoptochos Tri-City Luncheon	January 20, 2024
Soup Kitchen	January 16, 2024
Chapter meeting	January 28, 2024

Tri-City Philoptochos & Daughters
Winter Luncheon

Sat., Jan 20, 2024 at Noon

Italian American Community Center
257 Washington Ave Ext.

\$40 per person

Please RSVP by Wed., Jan.10th
Online /Call/Text

Lea Marinopoulos 518-528-4984

Scan here to
RSVP online



*Submit this portion with payment to
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church*

*Tri-City Luncheon
440 Whitehall Rd.
Albany, NY 12208*

Please make checks payable to Philoptochos

Please circle your meal choice:

Roast Pork Loin

with Red Wine Peppercorn Demi

Grilled Salmon

in Lemon Basil Butter

Eggplant Parmesan

Name & Email

Phone Number



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Eliana Georgelos

Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year from the Fellowship group. We wish all our St. George family peace and good health in the coming year of 2024!

As we begin the New Year, we reflect on the busy December we have had, starting with our Fellowship Christmas party held at the Bellevue Cafe on December 7. Twenty two people attended and we all enjoyed a fun filled time playing Christmas games, winning prizes and, of course, enjoying delicious food. Special thanks to Didi and Mike for hosting us, and to Olga for taking numerous photos and posting them on our church website.

Just a few days following our Christmas party, the Fundraising Committee's Holiday Boutique craft fair took place on December 9. Many of our Fellowship members worked diligently to make this a successful event. Jan Gallas planned and organized everything from afar, having escaped the cold Northeast to spend two months in Florida. After having secured 19 vendors (a full house!), Jan left everything in the capable hands of co-chairs Cathy and Dena Contompasis. Fellowship members Gladys and Dena coordinated the pastry sale that brought in additional income to our church. Olga acted as the official paparazzi, taking wonderful photos of the event to post on our church website. A sincere thank you to everyone, members and non-members alike, who were involved in making this fundraiser a successful event!

The next day, December 10, brought us the Christmas pageant which showcased the talents of our Greek school children and featured a visit from Santa Claus, Fellowship member Pete Kalil. Our Santa presented each child with a wrapped gift, bringing much joy and excitement to all of them! After the children's gifts were distributed, we celebrated the birthday of our beloved Mary Wilson with a decorated birthday cake and the singing of Happy Birthday to You! We wish Mary many years of happiness and continued good health.

The remainder of December brought Church services celebrating the birth of Christ. Then in early January we celebrate the feast of Holy Theophany which falls on January 6th. This Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, this Feast is called either Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. We hope to see you all in church on January 7th as Father Neofitos conducts the service of the Blessing of the Waters, followed by our gathering at Mohawk Harbor behind the Rivers Casino where Father throws a cross into the river to bless the waters of the Mohawk.

Our next Fellowship meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am and will include roast chicken with rice pilaf, a Greek salad, rolls, butter and dessert. We look forward to seeing many members at this first meeting of the new year.

Let us pray that 2024 brings us all God's blessings for a year of good health, peace, contentment and joy. May we continue to enjoy the love of our family and close friends throughout the year!





From the desk of Fr. Neofitos

Σήμερα τῶν ὑδάτων, ἀγιάζεται ἡ φύσις·

Today the waters are made holy and thus all nature, for the Master is washed in the Jordan.

What is our vision for the future of Saint George? What service can we offer back to God? What can we offer His people? This Christmas and Theophany, we pray God's light brings us these answers. He has blessed us with many beautiful families and youth these last few months. A booming Greek school and a new Sunday School with an awesome staff and school board. Let us attend these great feasts in gratitude for all He blesses us with.

The **Holy Theophany** or Epiphany of our Lord is a great holiday! Theofania means God revealed Himself for the first time. The Holy Trinity, Father, the voice from Heaven, The Son, Jesus in the Jordan river, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. Epiphany is the event that Jesus began His 3-year ministry and revealed Himself as the Christ, the Son of Man, the Son of God.

Historically, Christmas and Theophany were the first holidays of the year and were considered New Year celebrations. From our Lord's baptism, the whole world was sanctified and thus the church took on its form. The saints of our church are those who followed our Lord and believed in Him that salvation comes from above, not from this Earth. During this season we also celebrate many of these saints and have their shining example as a beacon of hope to follow for a path to the kingdom. We celebrate all together, living, reposed, saints and angels with the Lord forever, as our prayers say.

St. Neophytos, my saint, is one such saint celebrated on January 21st. He was a pious child and was martyred for Christ when he was 15 years old. He is an inspiration for us and of course for our children. Pious parents make for pious children. Purity, simplicity, humility, and compassion were some of Saint Neophytos' key virtues.

St. Neophytos worked two miracles of compassion at the young age of nine. Feeding the hungry was always in his heart. Once, as some young children were gathering to look for food in the streets, the Saint was sad that he had no food to give them. He prayed to the Almighty God and in HIS name came forth gushing out water and milk from a boulder just like Moses in the desert.

Later that year, a dove appeared above his bed it is depicted also in his icon on his shoulder, and it spoke to his mother. In shock at hearing a human voice come from the bird, Neophytos' mom fainted and died. Friends and family were deeply saddened and gathered to console the family but - the saint had no fear.

He believed that the Lord would grant his mother life again. He told his father to ask everyone to leave. He knelt and invoked the Lord Jesus Christ's name and with his fervent prayer told his mother to GET UP from her sleep. And indeed, she rose. Few saints have performed such a miracle. The resurrection of his mother caused a great commotion and many flocked to come meet this wondrous child. The young man was instructed by the angelic bird to go and dwell in a cave on Mount Olympus to live as a hermit. This way he could also keep his family free of harm and not attract extra attention lest they be discovered as Christians. During this time in history, it was illegal to be a Christian.

Arriving at the cave, the Saint found a lion and very tenderly asked him to leave so he can live there. And miraculously the lion was obedient. The saint was fed by God, and he found peace and tranquility. As he matured, he returned home to ask his parents to sell his possessions and inheritance and give it to the poor. In his 15th year of life, he came down once again from the mountain and answered the call of martyrdom.

At that time, Governor Maximian was a fierce anti-Christian ruler. He walked into the arena and proclaimed he was a Christian. Enraged, the governor made sure he underwent many tortures. He tried to make an example of him. However, it was Neophytos who showed everyone the power of our Lord. Nothing would harm or kill the young man. They even tried to feed him to a lion. Once the lion was unleashed, it approached the Saint and started playing with him as if it was a puppy. Our Lord who is God of heaven and earth had so connected Saint Neophytos to nature that even this wild animal became docile at his command. It was the same lion from the cave from years before. St. Neophytos' life ended when Maximian speared him in the heart with prideful rage.

For us today, saints' lives can be an inspiration. I pray his purity, simplicity, humility, bravery, and philanthropic compassion help us draw near to the Glory of our Lord. Our children need to be offered to the Lord so they can learn the ways of God. The offering of our time and resources includes offering our families to our church. The future of the church of Christ depends on us. Our beautiful space here is hungry for youth activity. Most importantly, our youth need to be in a Christian space with other families which share the same God-fearing values. The Orthodox path begins in this life and more specifically in church. We pray God moves us to action and to attentiveness.



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

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:

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

** 04/7 Greek School Greek Independence Day Celebration and Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy **

April

4/14 Sunday School

4/28 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

Daughters of Penelope

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

Balwant Kingra

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

balwant.kingra98@gmail.com

elianayiayia@icloud.com

Gladys1717p@aol.com

apagnott@nycap.rr.com

ioannaloula@gmail.com

cotzasgm44@gmail.com

office@saintgeorgegoc.com

evanchristou@hotmail.com

Lukia@nycap.rr.com Dafnia3@yahoo.com

Dafnia3@yahoo.com

dostism553@gmail.com

518-372-4476



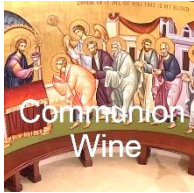
Liturgical Offerings

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

Also known as: Names for prayers for the living and reposed or Dptychs. 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.

Altar Vigil Lamp – This is an offering of Extra Virgin Olive Oil which is used to light all our vigil lamps. The "eternal flame" or ακοιμητων is the vigil lamp that is lit all day and all night, daily. It sits on the Altar because the reserve sacrament of Holy Communion is kept in the tabernacle.



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.



Koliva – This is a memorial plate that can be offered for the reposed along with a Trisagion service or Memorial service. This is boiled wheat mixed with different ingredients. It symbolizes everlasting life and is based on a Bible verse, John 12:24, which reads: "...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Koliva for saints can be offered as well.



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.

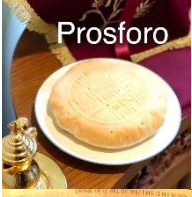


We can bring these items ourselves as an offering or they can be provided for you by order. Offerings to God are blessings that are reaped by us. Our Lord blesses our offerings, even though imperfect, He blesses them, transforms them, and returns them to us for our transformation. It is a spiritual exchange 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.

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His gifts
He has given to me? (English)
τί ανταποδώσω τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων,
ἧν ἀνταπέδωκέ μοι; (Greek)



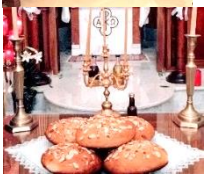
Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



Prosforo



Communion Wine



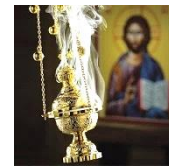
1. Communion Wine \$20.00
2. Altar Vigil Lamp Candle - Ακοίμητον (for 1 week) \$20.00
3. Prosforo \$20.00
4. Altar Incense Offering – Μοσχοθυμίαμα \$20.00 - \$50.00
5. Artoklasia- \$50.00
6. Koliva - Memorial for the Departed \$100.00

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

<https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/>



Altar Vigil Lamp Candle



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

Item	Donation

Theophany Service Schedule 2023

Friday, January 5

Eve of Holy Theophany

7:30 am – 10:30 am Royal Hours of Epiphany and Vespers Liturgy with Great Blessing of the Waters

Saturday, January 6

Holy Theophany

8:30 Orthros

9:30 Divine Liturgy Lord and Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday, January 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

8:30 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Vasilopita Cutting and coffee hour

12:15 pm Blessing of the Mohawk River

**Our Sunday service hours are:
Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

EPIPHANY- BLESSING OF THE WATERS





HOUSE BLESSINGS

It is a distinct blessing, each year during the season of Holy Theophany, for all Orthodox Christians to have their homes and places of business blessed by their priest. The yearly blessing of homes at the Feast of the Theophany touches our daily lives with the sanctifying water in which our Lord was baptized. In blessing a home, the Church asks God to drive away every evil influence from our home and those who live in it, and to renew with extra vigor the influence of the Holy Spirit in our homes and lives. The Fathers speak of the Christian home as a little church, and just as we chase away the influences of the evil one from our parish, so too must we do in our own family.

How to Prepare for a Home / Business Blessing

In preparing for a house blessing, the following should be noted:

1. A quiet and reverent environment: Turn off the television and radio before the priest arrives. Assemble all the family and friends in the home around the kitchen or wherever an icon is prepared for the occasion. When the priest arrives, turn off our phones.
2. Prepare the table: For the house blessing, the priest will require the following: An icon, a lit candle, a censer, a small, clean bowl for holy water, and a sprig of basil. (if possible)

Troparion of Theophany several times:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest!
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son!
And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

Would You Like To Have Your Home/ business Blessed? You do not have to be Orthodox to have your home/ business blessed. Tell your friends and neighbors as well.

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 # - _____

Preferred day and time - _____

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

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



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