



THE TRIUMPHANT

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Father Neofitos Sarigiannis

frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

September / October 2025



Our St. George Ministry Leaders

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 12 th Sunday of Matthew 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 40 Day Memory for William Manikas	1 Ecclesiastical New Year 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	5 Greek Festival 11:00am – 10:00pm	6 Greek Festival 11:00am – 10:00pm
7 Greek Festival 11:00am – 3:00pm Sunday before the Holy Cross 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	9	10	11	12	13
14 The Elevation of the Holy Cross 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Trisagion Service for Kathy Koines 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting	15	16	17	18 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholemew visit to St. Nicholas National Shrine- Doxology	19	20
21 Sunday after Holy Cross 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Blessing of the School Year after Divine Liturgy 1 st Day of Sunday School	22	23 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	24	25 4:45pm First Full Day of Greek Classes	26 St. John the Theologian and Evangelist 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	27
28 1 st Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 3 Year Memorial for William Yavornicky Evans	29	30 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study				

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 12 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 3 Year Memorial for William Yavornicky Evans	29	30 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	1	2 4:45pm Greek Class	3	4
5 Church Music Sunday 2 nd Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8	9 12:00pm Senior Fellowship 4:45pm Greek Class	10	11
12 Sunday of the 7 th Ecumenical Council 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting	13 Trip to National Shrine of St. Nicholas	14 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	15	16 4:45pm Greek Class	17	18
19 3 rd Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Teaching Divine Liturgy Trisagion Service for Family of Katherine Orfan Choir appreciation Lunch	20 St. Gerasimos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	21 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary	22	23 4:45pm Greek Class	24	25
26 6 th Sunday of Luke St. Demetrios 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	27	28 Holy Protection of the Theotokos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary 6:30pm Bible Study	29	30 4:45pm Greek Class	31	

TEACHING DIVINE LITURGY

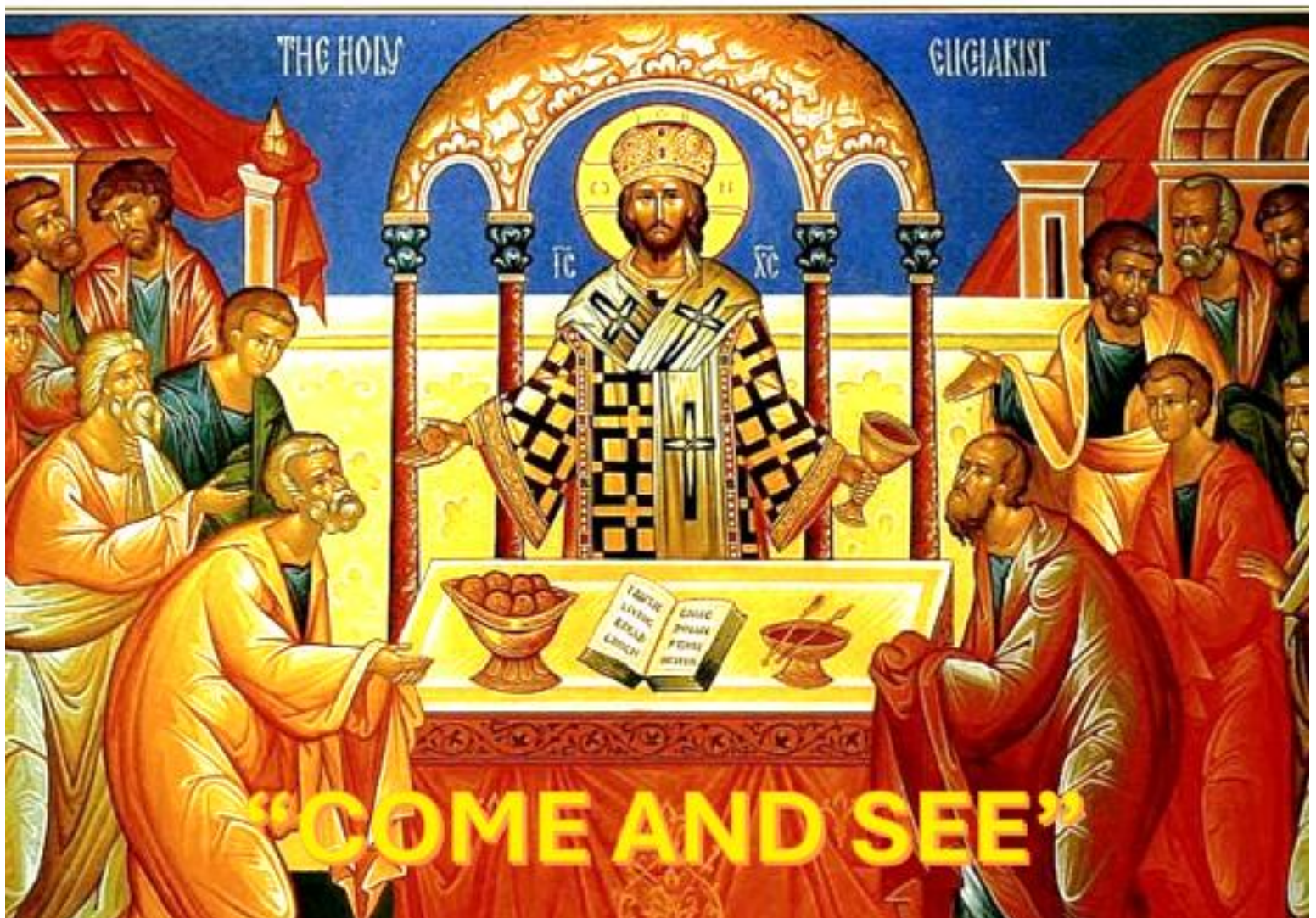
Sunday, October 19 at 9:30 am – The Preparation

Sunday, November 16 at 9:30 am – Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, February 1 at 9:30 am - Liturgy of the Eucharist

For You are the One Who both offers and is offered, the
One Who is received and is distributed..."

From the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom



From the Desk of Fr. Neofitos

Why...

My Beloved,

Every year we gather for our parish festival, our holidays, our Greek School, and so many other beautiful moments of community life.

But *why*? Why are we here? Why do we do what we do?

In this issue of *The Triumphant*, we reflect on this very question. We have outlined why we are a Church, why we participate, and why we belong. Each of our ministries and programs has meaning and purpose—each one contributes to the mission of Christ's Church.

Our calling is simple yet profound:

- To minister to those in need
- To proclaim the Good News
- To bring the light of Christ to Schenectady and to the world



Our Lord Himself commands us (to name just a few):

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (*Matthew 28:18*)

"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (*John 6:54*)

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (*Matthew 6:33*)

This is our *Why*:

- For Salvation
- For Redemption
- For Transcendence
- For Community
- To Practice Love — "for God IS love."

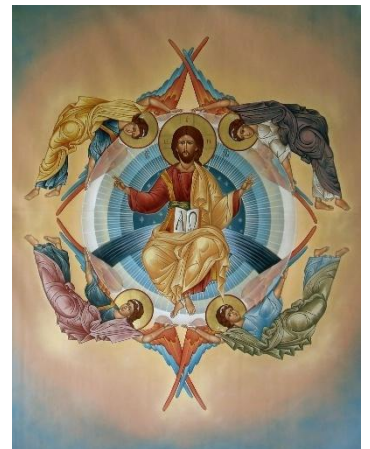
As St. John reminds us:

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (*1 John 4:7-8*)

So, let us keep God first in all things. And together, let us continue to live out our "Why" with faith, joy, and love.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Neofitos



Saint George Schenectady Sunday School Calendar 2025-2026

Register now on our website! <http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/> or
[click here](#)

Sunday School will meet in person, for 40 minutes after Holy Communion, every other week starting on September 21, 2025:

September

9/21 Blessing of the School
Year after the Divine Liturgy -
First Day of Sunday School

October

10/5 Sunday School
10/19 Sunday School

**10/26 Greek School "Oxi Day"
Celebration after Divine Liturgy**

November

11/2 Sunday School
11/16 Sunday School
11/30 Sunday School

December

Friday 12/5 Christmas Tree
Lighting
12/14 Sunday School
12/21 Christmas Pageant

January

1/4 Sunday School
1/18 Sunday School

February

2/1 Sunday School (God Parent
Sunday)
2/15 Sunday School

March

3/1 Sunday School (*Sunday of
the Holy Cross*)
3/15 Sunday School (*Sunday
of Orthodoxy*)

** 03/22 Greek School Greek
Independence Day Celebration and
Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy **

April

4/4 Saturday of Lazarus
10AM-1:30PM Youth Divine Liturgy,
Palm Cross Making and Youth Retreat
4/5 Sunday School (*Palm
Sunday*)
04/12 Pascha
10:30AM -12:00PM Easter Egg Hunt
after the Agape Service
04/26 Sunday School

May

5/10 Sunday School
5/24 Last Day of Sunday
School

Thursday 06/04
5:30-8:00PM Sunday School &
Greek School End of the Year
Celebration and Certificates

CLASSES AND PROGRAM:

Our Sunday school aims to help young people understand what we believe, why we believe it, and how to express and live out those timeless beliefs in the 21st century.

We will be using "**Orthodox Pebbles**" and additional educational resources to create a well-rounded and engaging curriculum that will help students develop an understanding and desire to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the riches of our Orthodox Faith.

Some topics that will be visited regularly are:

- * Understanding and discussing the Sunday Gospel,
- * Learning short prayers and hymns from the Divine Liturgy
- * Hands-on activities about the customs and traditions of the church
- * Activities about Feasts, Fasts, and Saints and Discussions about Contemporary Social Issues



Bible Study

Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary at 5:30 pm on Tuesdays (begins Tuesday, 9/23/2025)

Bible Study On select Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in church

(Zoom Link available for those far away)

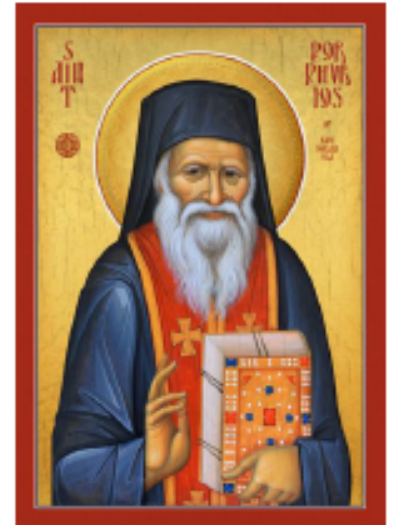
Join our Group Today! Email Fr. Neofitos: frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

Topics: Gospels of the Transfiguration and Holy Cross. Modern Day Saints.

BIBLE STUDY
FALL SCHEDULE
(mark your calendars)

Tuesdays

9/30/2025	Bible Study
10/7/2025	OFF
10/14/2025	OFF
10/21/2025	Bible Study
10/28/2025	Bible Study
11/4/2025	Bible Study
11/11/2025	OFF
11/18/2025	Bible Study
11/25/2025	Bible Study



Place your order with Father Neofitos for the Synopsis of the Four Gospels

\$40 Synopsis \$40 Orthodox Study Bible

All you need is your Orthodox Study Bible and Synopsis of the Four Gospels Bible.



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

Why Confession?

(Any time by appointment and before or after services)

Confession is a vital sacrament of our Church. It is where we bring our sins before God, in the presence of a priest, and receive forgiveness, healing, and renewal through prayer.

We come to confession:

- For the forgiveness of sins
- For life everlasting
- For cleansing of soul and body
- To begin or deepen a spiritual relationship with a spiritual father

Sometimes confession is avoided or forgotten. Yet the devil works hardest to keep us from what is most powerful for our salvation. Through confession, the weight of sin is lifted, our soul is cleansed, and we are prepared to receive the other sacraments—especially Holy Communion.

As the Lord says: *"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."* (Ezekiel 33:11)

Christ waits with open arms—come and be renewed!



Why Holy Communion?

(Received at every Divine Liturgy)

Holy Communion is the greatest gift of our Orthodox faith—the Body and Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. It unites us with Christ Himself and with one another as His Body, the Church.

We receive Communion:

- For eternal life
- For the forgiveness of sins
- For healing of soul and body
- For strength to live as Christians
- For union with Christ and His Church
-

As the Lord teaches: *"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:54)

To approach this holy mystery, we prepare through prayer, fasting, and regular confession. Holy Communion is not a symbol but truly the Body and Blood of Christ, given "for the remission of sins and life everlasting."

Come with faith, love, and reverence—receive Christ, and live!

Why Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary?

(Tuesdays 5:30 pm)

- For Love
- For Protection
- For Retreat
- Prayers of healing



On Tuesdays, weekly throughout the year, starting on September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm, we will be praying this beautiful service. This is a service for the living, and we offer prayers for the entire world. This is where names of Orthodox and non-Orthodox can be submitted for commemoration. The prayers are intercessory to the Virgin Mary asking for her to ask her Son and our God Jesus Christ to heal our ailing souls and bodies.

Why Bible Study? (Select Tuesdays 6:30 pm in-person or zoom)

- Study the Bible
- Edify the Soul
- It's a Book club with the best book in the world
- Christ centered content
- Good Food
- Good Company
- Intriguing Discourse

On select Tuesdays, after Paraklesis service, we remain in the church for class. This year we are continuing our review of the four gospels using The Synopsis of The Four Gospels as well as our Orthodox Study Bible. Reviewing the parallel accounts of all four gospel writers will give us insight to the writers' point of view, motivation, target audience, main messaging, etc... God's Providence and Will can be awarded to us as we drink of the Living water, Jesus Christ. Sometimes we host other guest priests visiting who guide our gathering.

A synopsis is a book which puts the the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke...also John) in columns, so that one can see more readily the agreements, disagreements, omissions, changes, etc. amongst them. Really good synopses try to integrate the Gospel of John as well. This is a good synopsis.

We are ordering the bibles soon so please let us know if you need an Orthodox Study Bible (\$40) and The Synopsis of The Four Gospels (\$40).

Learning how to apply the bible, our faith, and the law of God in this world is a guiding theme of this gathering. Our participants have made this program very enjoyable and of course, delicious at times with their offering of food.

Why Greek School?

- Learn to speak, read and write Greek
- Learn Traditional Greek dances
- Make lifelong Orthodox friends
- Be immersed in the Greek Culture and traditions
- Greek is an ancient language that is still preserved to this day and spoken far and wide.
- Many scholars study the Greek language in order to be able to read ancient texts in their original language.
- Greek roots form a significant portion of the English vocabulary, especially in fields like medicine, science, law, and social studies.
- Be able to appreciate and love the Greek language in the church services, valuing the continuity of tradition, but also hearing and understanding the subtle meanings, the rhyme and rhythm that are often lost in translation.
- Greek is a language that makes singing and poetry sound so much more beautiful due to its richness and generous use of vowels.
- Preserving our language and traditions is so much easier when it happens with a solid group of peers and friends.





St. George's School of Greek Language & Culture

Starting this fall (2025-2026) for students K- 8th grade
Join us for lessons in:



Greek culture and
traditions



Basic conversational skills,
modern Greek reading and
writing



Traditional Greek dance
(in-person only)

In person every Thursday,
starting Sept. 25

4:45-6:45pm

Online every Wednesday, starting Oct. 1:

Level 1: 4:00-5:00pm

Level 2: 5:00-6:00pm

Level 3: 6:00-7:00pm

Scan for registration form



or visit

sites.google.com/view/st-george-greekschool/home

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

for more information contact:
office@stgeorgegoc.com or 518-393-0742

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2025-2026 CALENDAR

EVERY THURSDAY 4:45-6:45 PM

SEPTEMBER

9/21 (Sunday) Blessing
of the School Year
10AM
9/25 First Full Day of
Classes

OCTOBER

10/2 Class
10/9 Class
10/16 Class
10/23 Class
10/30 Class

NOVEMBER

11/6 Class
11/13 Class
11/20 Class
11/27 NO Class -
Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER

12/4 Class
12/11 Class
12/18 Class
12/25 NO Class -
Christmas Day

JANUARY

1/1 NO Class - *New
Years*
1/8 Class
1/15 Class
1/22 Class
1/29 Class

FEBRUARY

2/5 Class
2/12 Class
2/19 NO Class - *Winter Recess*
2/26 Class

MARCH

3/5 Class
3/12 Class
3/19 Class
3/26 Class

APRIL

4/2 Class
4/9 NO Class - *Holy
Week*
4/16 Class
4/23 Class
4/30 Class

MAY

5/7 Class
5/14 Class
5/21 Class
5/28 Last Day of
Classes



SPECIAL EVENTS



Monday, 10/12
Trip to St. Nicholas NYC

Sunday, 10/26 at 11 AM
OXI Day Celebration

Friday, 12/5 at 7PM
Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, 12/21 at 11AM
Christmas Pageant

Saturday, 1/17 Snow Ball

Sunday, 3/22 at 11AM
Greek Independence
Day Celebration

Thursday, 6/4
5:30-8PM
End of Year Celebration

Pilgrimage to St. Nicholas Shrine, NYC

St. George School of Greek Language and Culture



Monday (Columbus Holiday), October 13, 2025

Depart 7:30 am - Return appx. 8:00 pm

RSVP to Athena Pagnotti (518-708-7695)

by Monday, September 22

Bus Tickets \$55.00 pp. (no cost for GS students)

Price includes Bus ride and tip only

Dinner will be at **Trata on the River**, Piermont, NY



- 7:30 am—Chartered bus leaves St. George Hellenic Center
- 11 am—Arrive 9/11 Waterfall Memorial, NYC
- 12:30 pm— Escorted tour of St. Nicholas Shrine
- 2 pm—Travel to Restaurant (self pay)
- 5 pm—Depart for St. George GOC

(Please bring a sandwich for the morning ride down. Snacks will be provided for the bus ride there and back.)

Why Stewardship? – Become a full member of the church today

Stewardship is our active expression of love and gratitude to God. It is not just about giving money—it's about offering our whole selves to Christ and His Church. As stewards, we are called to use our time, talents, and treasure to care for the Body of Christ and to participate in the life and mission of our parish. Everything we have is a gift from God, and stewardship is our opportunity to give back with faith, joy, and purpose.

Each of us has something valuable to offer. Whether it's your ability to serve, sing, teach, organize, visit the sick, or support the Church financially, your contribution matters. Stewardship allows us to grow closer to Christ, strengthen our community, and ensure that our parish remains a vibrant spiritual home for generations to come. Ask yourself: How can I use what God has given me to glorify Him and build up His Church? Now is the time to answer that call.

To become a steward or renew your commitment, please fill out a Stewardship Pledge form or speak with Father Neofitos or a Parish Council member after the Divine Liturgy.

We are grateful for those members listed below who have submitted their 2025 stewardship pledge as of August 23, 2025. 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 a Pledge form and mail it to the office.

<https://onrealm.org/STGEORGEGREEKOR91825/-/form/pledge/stewardship>

Mr. George Alatzas
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Arrington
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Avgerakis
Mr. Jason Baker
Mr. John Behiri
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Behiri
Ms. Susan Birbilis
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Bratsos
Ms. Arji Cakouros
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Casey
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chamberas
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chamberas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas & Sophia Christou
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Christou
Ms. Arianna Christou
Mr. & Mrs. Euripides (Evan) Christou
Miss Catherine Contompasis
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Contompasis
Miss Demetra Corsones
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Cospito
Mr. & Mrs. George Cotzas
Mrs. Rena Counavelis
Mrs. Joanne Dafniotis
Ms. Ciara D'Angelo
Miss Linda Davison
Mr. Konstantin Deligiannis
Ms. Olga Delorey
Ms. Joanne Diamantis
Mrs. Katina Dikas & Family
Mrs. Mary Dikas
Mr. Takis Dikas
Mrs. Maria Dostis
Ms. Daphne Economou
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Engwer
Ms. Christina Esposito
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Esposito
Mr. Zachary Esposito
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Euripidou

Mr. & Mrs. James Fishburn
Mrs. Athina Beury Galitsi
Mrs. Janet Gallas
Mr. Arthur Georgelas
Mrs. Helena Georgelas
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Georgelas
Mrs. Eliana Georgelos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Giakoumis
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Giakoumis
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodale
Mr. & Mrs. James Halios
Dr. Jeffrey Hnath & Dr. Effrosini Kolios
Mrs. Frucina Ica Iancu
Mrs. Catherine Julius
Ms. Antonia Kananis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kalil
Mr. & Mrs. Tristin Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kolios
Ms. Kaliopi Kounoupis
Mrs. Voula Kounoupis
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kouray
Mr. & Mrs. David Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Trifon Laskaris
Mr. William Manikas
Mrs. Akrivi Markopoulos
Mr. Gus Marmarinos
Ms. Erin Martino & Family
Mr. Steve Mastromihalis
Mr. & Mrs. Phil McGowen
Mrs. Cathy Menagias
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Menagias
Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Menagias
Mr. Demetrios Michael
Ms. Aphrodite Mikropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Molnar, Jr.
Ms. Aglaia (Lea) Morlock
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock
Mrs. Sophia Niarchos

Mr. & Mrs. Lambrianos Nikiforidis
Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos Nikolaidis
Mr. Simeon Nikolaidis
Mrs. Katherine Orfan
Mr. Constantine Orfan
Mrs. Joann Pagiotis
Mrs. Athena Pagnotti
Mr. & Mrs. Kostantinos Papanikos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Paravalos
Mr. James G. Plackis
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Plakas
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Poveda
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Poveda
Mr. Edwin Premchan
Ms. Sophia Rayburn
Father & Presvytera Sarigiannis
Mr. LeGrande Serras
Mrs. Elena Sikamiotis
Mr. Kostas Sikamiotis
Mrs. Ourania Sokaris
Ms. Roubina Spyros-Morgan
Ms. Maria Stamoulis
Mrs. Stavroula Stamoulis
Mrs. Olga Stryjski
Mr. & Mrs. Van Stathis
Mr. James Stevens
Mr. Christos Trapalis
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Whipple
Mrs. Sophie Zanaros
Mrs. Anastasia Zoulas

St. George Philoptochos

History of Ladies Philoptochos Society Soup Kitchen Ministry

by Olga Delorey

"...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



For over 40 years, the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society has served a Soup Kitchen Ministry at the Salvation Army in downtown Schenectady. Once a month, ten months a year from September through June, our Philoptochos has prepared and served a hot and nourishing mid-day meal. It began under the leadership of two dedicated Philoptochos members, Helen Cernik and Betty Capelianis, who solicited the help of experienced cooks from amongst our parishioners. One of our first chefs was Steve Karamanos who owned the Turf Tavern in Scotia. In those early years, the meal was prepared in the Salvation Army kitchen and served in their dining room. We would purchase the protein (meat) and all other meal items were provided. Every year, the Salvation Army presented our chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging our contribution. Citing one example, from September 2017 through June 2018 we served 390 volunteer hours and served 1,381 meals. Now multiply these numbers times 40 years!

Fast forward 25 years later, when we were blessed to have Charlie and Kathy Koines take over the leadership of Soup Kitchen. They brought it to an entirely new level. Charlie, our head chef, purchased the food and prepared the meal in the Hellenic Center kitchen along with his excellent team – Mike Euripidou, Pete Kalil, Steve Giakoumis and Phil McGowen. Charlie expanded the menu and soon we were serving Greek Chicken Florentine and Greek Goulash accompanied by sides of fresh vegetables. While the boys were cooking, Kathy organized a second team of St. George volunteers who prepared the rest of the meal at the Salvation Army. The hot food was transported from the church to the Salvation Army and everyone stayed to serve the meal from 12:00-1:00 pm.

Needless to say, when COVID hit in March 2020, everything came to a halt. Our church services were virtual and in person Philoptochos meetings did not resume until the Fall. Even then, we were limited to socially distant activities. We learned the Salvation Army could no longer serve in-house meals, instead providing food to go. We felt it important this ministry be continued, but how to do it in a safe way. Beginning in October 2020, the Bag Lunch model was put in place. The Salvation Army asked Philoptochos to provide them with 75 complete bag lunches, meeting specific nutritional requirements, once a month. It would take two days each month for our Soup Kitchen Bag Lunch team (Olga Delorey, Gladys Paravalos, Eliana Georgelos and Dina Nikolaidis) to do the shopping, prepare the perishable items, fill the bags and deliver them to the Salvation Army by 8:45 am. This arrangement continued through June of 2025. After five years, however, the reality of our limitations and the physical demands became apparent. We reinvented the Soup Kitchen ministry once before and we will do it again.

Starting in September 2025, the Philoptochos and Salvation Army will launch a new initiative. We are moving into a more administrative stance in support of this ministry. Actually, this "new" arrangement is a throwback to when we first began. After meeting with the Salvation Army Social Services Manager, it was agreed, and with the gracious support of Mike Euripidou and Pete Kalil, their staff will learn how to prepare nutritious Greek inspired meals for their consumers. Mike and Pete will cook a hot entrée (protein, starch, vegetable) in the Salvation Army kitchen for an average of 75 people each month, and the staff will "shadow" them during meal preparation. The staff will serve and clean up, thereby eliminating the person power that was required by our members over these many years. In addition, the Salvation Army has agreed to secure all food items which will eliminate the tasks of shopping, preparation and delivery which became a great burden for the Philoptochos Soup Kitchen team over this past year.

Through the generosity of our sponsors, Philoptochos will fund the meal as we have done since its inception. Meals are sponsored in memory of loved ones, and a Trisagion Service is performed by Father Neofitos on the Sunday preceding the Soup Kitchen meal. If you are interested in more information on becoming a sponsor, please speak with Olga Delorey, Soup Kitchen Chair. A limited number are available each year.

Everyone is excited about this new approach, and it offers many solutions to challenging circumstances for our Philoptochos and the Salvation Army.

Our heartfelt thanks to EVERYONE who has supported this vital ministry over the decades. May God bless you for all you have done in the name of Philoptochos and feeding the hungry.



Bag Lunch Team



Father Neofitos' First Soup Kitchen



The Chefs



Members of Soup Kitchen Team



Charlie and +Kathy

St. George Philoptochos

Why Philoptochos?



We are the arm of the church that

- serves the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fundraising efforts.
- promotes the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources.
- preserves and perpetuates Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs.
- promotes participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council. Why Philoptochos? Why not?

CHOIR

Why the choir? Participating in divine worship services as a choir member is a sacred responsibility, not to be taken lightly. Choir members, as other church musicians, offer their God-given talents to the faith for a variety of reasons. For most, it is a part of their stewardship – the giving of their “time and talents”. For others, it is something that is enjoyed and for still others, it is a social outlet. In Orthodox services, choir members represent the laity, responding to the liturgical dialogue set by the priest. This places a sacred responsibility on them during our worship services. They are called to be knowledgeable not only of the hymns and responses, but also about the correct order of the worship services. The choir is entrusted to be a participating part of the worship service, and its members must respond to the trust accordingly.

There are various aspects of being a choir member – most importantly, there is a liturgical role and, of course, there is a musical role. The music of the Orthodox Church is an integral part of worship services. Choral music must add to the liturgy, not distract from the prayerful environment of worship. The clergy stand in the place of Christ in creating the Liturgy as “heaven on earth”. They are the leaders and the ones who are celebrants of the mysteries of God, who is their Author. Those who sing represent the angels, who stand around His throne offering Him hymns of praise.

Not all choir members are or need to be trained musicians, able to read music or have experience singing with a group. However, even with “amateurs” and “volunteers”, choir members can grow in their knowledge of music and create a sound that matches the beauty of our services and their surroundings – the music, the chanting, the icons, the vestments all strive to be as perfect and beautiful as possible as we offer up worship to God.

~Excerpted from "The Roles & Responsibilities of Choir Members", National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.



FELLOWSHIP

Why Fellowship?

By Eliana Georgelos

Fellowship is defined as "a friendly association of people who meet to share companionship, sociability and mutual interests". This happens to be a perfect description of our St. George Fellowship group. We are a group of seniors who value friendship and social connections to others. We love getting together because we truly like each other. A meal is always a part of our gatherings. We meet at various local restaurants on a monthly basis, not only to share a meal together, but also to enjoy one another's company through lively conversation, prayer, and always having fun!



Greetings from the Fellowship group!

We have all shared much joy in gathering together for lunch these past few months. However, we have also recently experienced profound sorrow as we mourn the passing on July 26th of our dear friend and long time Fellowship member Bill Manikas. Bill was an honorable man...a man who was the epitome of kindness and positivity despite his own serious health issues. He never complained. He was always present for his family...his own as well as his church family. Bill and his beloved wife Mary, who predeceased him, raised 6 children together. His pride and abundant love for all his children, plus his numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren was legendary. They were the joy of his life. We, his church family, also shared in the goodness and generosity of this man. He always gave of himself to us in so many ways, and we loved him deeply. He will be missed. May his memory be eternal!

During the spring and summer months, our Fellowship group has enjoyed gathering at several local dining spots including Top's Diner, the Bellevue Cafe, the Blue Ribbon Diner and the United Buffet. We always have fun wherever we meet for a meal. We are on hiatus during the months of August and September due to the festival, but will meet again in October...location to be announced. Our gatherings always take place at noon on the second Thursday of every month.

Our 49th annual Greek Festival is fast approaching. Fellowship members are always heavily involved in one way or another in preparations prior to opening, plus working at various booths during the festival. We cannot overstate the importance of our annual Greek festival for so many reasons, the first one being the income it generates which allows our church to maintain its existence and to flourish. Most importantly, however, through our music, dancing, food and hospitality our festival brings the presence of our Greek culture and philoxenia to the community, creating a sense of unity that brings people of all faiths and ethnicities together. We pray that our patron Saint George intercedes for all of us, that we may come through the days ahead with strength, good health, and safety.

In addition to our festival, the month of September also brings us two of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church...the Nativity of the Virgin Mary on September 8 and the Elevation of the Life-giving Cross on September 14. As Orthodox Christians, the personal expression of our faith takes place as we attend liturgy and other church services. We, therefore, encourage all St. George parishioners to come to church for both of these Great Feasts.



As always, we welcome all parishioners who wish to join the Fellowship group. With the majority of us being retired seniors, we are able to meet during the day. Therefore we have lunch together rather than dinner. So if you are available for a noon meal, retired or not, please join us. See Eliana for information on the location of our next luncheon which takes place on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at noon.





Blessing Of The Backpacks Sunday, September 21, 2025

Attention parents, teachers/educators and students of all ages

Please join us on Sunday, September 21 during Divine Liturgy for our "Blessing of the Backpacks".
Please bring your backpacks/bags to church to receive a blessing for the new school year!

All participants will receive an icon card to keep in their backpacks or their icon corner. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate and pray for our students and teachers/educators.

The Order of the Blessing: Following the Memorial Service Parents and Children will be invited to the solea for the blessing. Fr. Neofitos will welcome everyone and explain the blessing. We will chant the hymn of our Church, and the Pentecost Hymn, offer petitions for our students and families as they begin the new school year, and we will ask God's blessing for them.

We will take a picture together and have everyone return to their pew with an icon card.

God bless you as you begin the new school year!



Saint George - Theotokos Camp

We give thanks to God for a wonderful week at **St. George – Theotokos Camp!** Our children grew in their Orthodox faith, made new friendships, learned about our camp's patron saints (St. George and The Virgin Mary), and experienced the joy of fellowship in Christ. The week concluded with the **Divine Liturgy**, where campers came together to receive the Holy Eucharist—a beautiful reminder that Christ is at the center of our lives.

A heartfelt **thank you** to our parents, volunteers, and parish family who made this camp possible through their love, prayers, and support.

The journey continues! Stay connected through:

- **Bible Study (Tuesdays)**
- **Greek School & Dance programs**
- **Sunday School**
- **Praying daily at home**
- **Church attendance**

Parents, remember: children don't just listen—they imitate. Pray with them, lead by example, and help them grow in the love of Christ.

Please enjoy our photo gallery of the children and some of our camp activities such as: Camp Fire, Via Aquarium, MiSci, Collins Park, Prosforo making, Epitaphio Decorating, singing time, crafts, and more!

Full Photo Gallery: <https://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/photos>

With gratitude,

Fr. Neofitos



SCIENCE FICTION



SCIENCE FUTURE









Preview of the Greek Festival – at Jay Street Park



St. George Greek Dancers



FREE RAFFLE

1. BOX OF GREEK PASTRY
2. SOUVLAKI LUNCH
3. LOUKOUMADES & DRINK

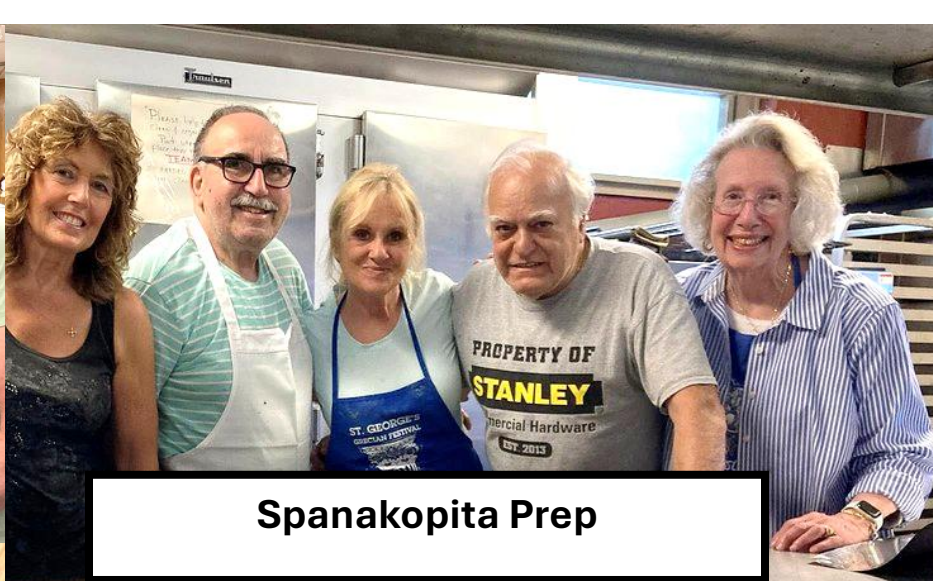
PICK UP AT
GREEK FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 6-8



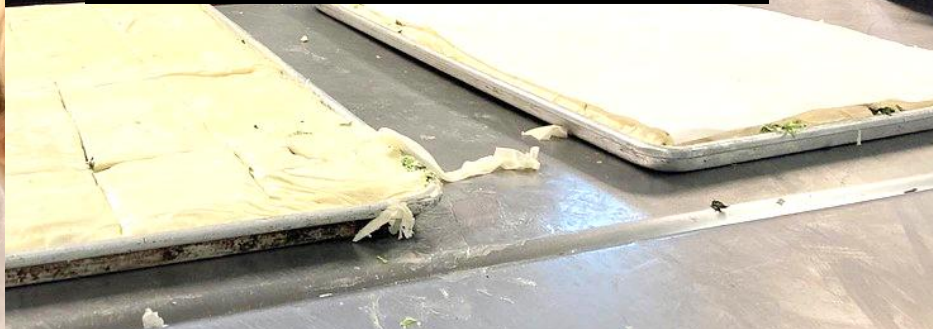
2025 Annual Servant Leadership Awards

**We honored Antonia Kananis and
Christina Esposito in June 2025**





Spanakopita Prep



Supreme President Tsivicos Attends St. Basil Academy's Graduation Event, Honors Prominent Ahepan



Headquarters

Washington, D.C. office

<https://ahepa.org/supreme-president-tzivicos-attends-st-basil-academys-graduation-event-honors-prominent-ahepan/>

Supreme President Savas Tsivicos attended the 2025 graduation ceremony for Saint Basil Academy this weekend. Saint Basil Academy is (according to their website), "the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's home for children in need (and their) mission is to provide a safe and loving Orthodox Christian environment where resident children, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, are nurtured to become healthy members of society with vision and hope."

AHEPA has been the proud sponsor of St. Basil Academy since it's founding in 1944, consistently donating in pursuit of building new dorms, academic buildings and athletic facilities.

Taking this opportunity to honor a dedicated and admirable Ahepan at this wonderful event, Supreme President Tsivicos awarded Chris Pappis the AHEPA Heroes Medal. This award is given to exceptional Philhellenes, honoring their unwavering dedication to their communities in all that they do.

Congratulations to Chris Pappis and all the graduates at St. Basil Academy!

Congratulations Chris! We are all very proud of you and thank you for your service to our church, to all churches, and to our society.

St. George – Schenectady, NY





MEDITERRANEAN COOKING DEMONSTRATION

The Mediterranean Diet is a way of eating based on the authentic cuisine of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. The diet typically consists of the region's traditional fruits, vegetables, seafood, and olive oil, plus a glass or two of wine. Join us for a cooking demonstration of amazing recipes vital to the Mediterranean diet. You'll get first hand tips on how to make the recipes while enjoying a delicious lunch and learning from our chefs. It will be an afternoon to remember!

EVENT OVERVIEW

- Four-course luncheon and cooking demonstration including spanakopita, turlou turlou (vegetable stew), Greek salad, and baklava
- Door prizes, raffles, and shopping at our Agora for imported goods (honey, extra virgin olive oil, and oregano)

\$40
per person

Saturday December 13, 2025

1:00PM

THE HELLENIC
CENTER



RSVP: Jan Gallas

Phone: 518-596-0821

Email: jgjf@aol.com

All proceeds will benefit St. George



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Whitestone, NY

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Schenectady, NY

Pilgrimage to Constantinople & Northern Greece - Registration Form

February 13 – February 23, 2026 (One form needed for each individual)

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE _____

LAST NAME _____

(Important: Names must be given exactly the same as on your passport)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ What is your Home Parish?: _____

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

(Important: Expiration date must be no less than 6 months from date of Return to the U.S.).

COUNTRY OF ISSUE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ GENDER: M F (please circle one)

Please write the name of your roommate or circle Private Room:

Roommate: _____ or Private Room

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Please return this form with a \$500 payment to secure your spot & picture of your passport:

*Check payable to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
(memo: Pilgrimage 2026) or Credit Card (3.5% surcharge)*

Total: Double Room: \$3740 Single Room: \$4460

Amount Received: _____ Date: _____

Amount Received: _____ Date: _____

Amount Received: _____ Date: _____

**JOIN US FOR A
MEMORABLE
PILGRIMAGE!**



**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF WHITESTONE, NY**

AND

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY, NY**

PILGRIMAGE TO CONSTANTINOPLE & NORTHERN GREECE

February 13th – February 23rd, 2026

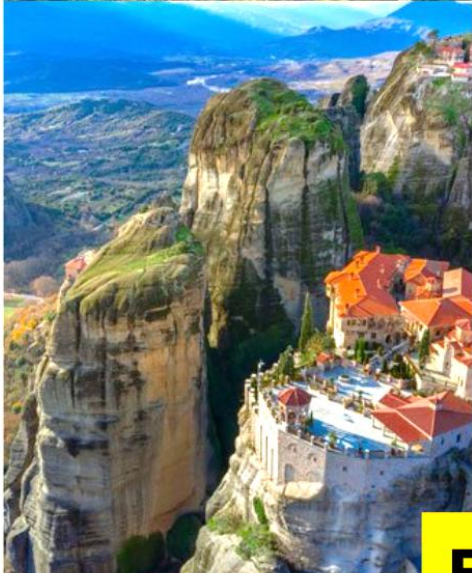
DESTINATION

Constantinople – Prigiponisa –
Sylviria– Souroti (St. Paisios) –
Meteora – Thessaloniki – Kavala –
Panagia Soumela in Veria and
much more!

**PLEASE CALL THE HOLY CROSS
CHURCH OFFICE TO RESERVE
YOUR SEAT TODAY!**

718-767-2955

Scan QR code for details!



Honoring our Graduates of 2025



Festival Baking: Tsoureki

**Congratulations to
Edwin Premchan for his Baptism.
God Bless you and Welcome to our
Church!**



**Our Beautiful church decorated with
Ribbons, Altar Cloths, and Flowers
for Panagia**



Don't miss

Yia Yia's Treasures

at the Festival!



All proceeds go to the Friends of St. George for the continued upkeep and beautification of our St. George Church.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Sold By _____

SAMPLE



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Schenectady, New York

49th Annual Greek Festival Raffle Ticket

Drawing to be held at our festival on Sunday, September 7, 2025 @ 2:00pm

GRAND PRIZE – \$5,000 CASH PRIZE • 2ND PRIZE – \$1,000 CASH PRIZE

3rd Prize – \$1,000 Cash Prize

4th Prize – \$1,000 Cash Prize

5th Prize – \$500 Cash Prize

6th Prize – \$500 Cash Prize

7th Prize – \$500 Cash Prize

8th Prize – \$500 Sponsored by The Bellevue Café

9th Prize – \$250 Sponsored by Burnt Hills Café Inc.

10th Prize – \$250 Cash Prize

11th Prize – \$200 Sponsored by The Gateway Diner

12th Prize – 65" Smart TV (\$150 Cash Alternative)

13th Prize – 65" Smart TV (\$150 Cash Alternative)

14th Prize – HP 15.6" Touch Screen Laptop Computer

15th Prize – Apple iPad 11" 128 GB

Donation: \$100

➡➡➡ ONLY 700 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD! ⬅️⬅️⬅️

SAMPLE

Did you get your raffles yet?!

Last Chance for 2025! Reserve yours today!

— ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH —

GREEK FESTIVAL GRAND RAFFLE



GRAND PRIZE:

\$5,000 CASH PRIZE!



**AND OTHER EXCITING PRIZES
Including...**

- 13 Cash Prizes
- * Including Three \$1,000 Cash Prizes **
- HP 15.6" Touch Screen Laptop
- Apple iPad 11" 128 GB

ONLY 700 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

**JOIN THE EXCITEMENT &
RESERVE YOUR RAFFLE!!!**



FESTIVAL HOURS

September 5th 11am-10pm

September 6th 11am-10pm

September 7th 11am-3pm

DRAWING TO BE HELD:

Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 2:00pm

RAFFLE TICKETS

\$100 each

TEAR OFF AND RETURN LOWER PORTION WITH PAYMENT

YES! I would like to be included in this fabulous raffle to be held on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 2:00pm
For a Chance to Win the Grand Prize of \$5,000 or one of the other exciting prizes!

Please send _____ raffle ticket(s) at \$100 each.

Method of Payment being sent with this form: ☐ Cash or ☐ Check Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name (only one name per ticket): _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail completed form with payment to:

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

Upon receipt of this completed form with payment,
your ticket stub will be mailed to you

49TH ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL

presented by
St. George Greek Orthodox Church

SEPTEMBER 5TH, 6TH & 7TH, 2025

FRIDAY

11AM - 10PM

SATURDAY

11AM - 10PM

SUNDAY

11AM - 3PM



FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORED BY
THE DAILY GAZETTE
When Credibility Matters

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510 Liberty Street, Schenectady

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www.saintgeorgegoc.com

518-393-0742

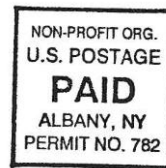
LIVE MUSIC BY PROMETHEUS

FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCES BY ST. GEORGE HELLENIC DANCERS

GREAT GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS

RAFFLES ~ CHURCH TOURS

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



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