

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Office: 107 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York 12305

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9am – 2pm

Parish Telephone: (518) 393-0742; **Fax:** (518) 393-4093

Web: www.saintgeorgegoc.com

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes, Presiding Parish Priest

Camille Kosloski, Parish Secretary



Sunday Services: Orthros – 9am; Divine Liturgy – 10 am
~ Weekday Liturgies as announced ~

Parish Council

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes
Presiding Parish Priest

Alexandra Casey
Maria Dostis
Evan Euripidou
Brian Goodale
Toni Kananis
Dimitri Koutsopoulos

Youth Advisors

Lucy Goodale
Paula Kingra
Angels/Hope/Joy

Anna and Scott Morlock
GOYA

Georgia Tsakopiakos
Youth Hellenic Dancers

Parish Ministry Leaders

Olga Delorey
Choir Director
Philoptochos Society President

Evan Euripidou
Head Chanter (Protopsaltis)

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

Eliana Georgelos
Paul Pagiotas
Fellowship Group Co-Presidents

JANUARY 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I have never been a big fan of New Year resolutions. They work great for the first few weeks or so, but then slowly begin to unravel and disappear. I understand the logic in waiting for the beginning of a new year to start fresh and make changes. It gives us a good starting point and it's easier to begin anew once the holiday season (and the craziness that comes with it) is over.

But why do we have such a difficult time maintaining these resolutions? Do we get bored? Lazy? Whatever the reason, it is a sad reflection on all of us when we can barely make something as vital (and simple) as a commitment to eat a bit healthier last for a month.

The reason that many of these failed resolutions are so upsetting when they don't last is because, in most circumstances, the resolutions made are ones that not only affect the one making the resolution, but others as well. Folks resolve to exercise: this affects the person as well as his/her loved ones who want the person to live a healthy, long life. Many resolve to stop smoking: as tough as this is to beat, it greatly affects those around the smoker, who don't want to see their loved one succumb to health problems.

One resolution that I hear many times is the following: "I will be coming to church more/on time." And naturally, as with other types of resolutions, this lasts briefly and fades away. The difficult thing about these resolutions is that they too, affect others. The Orthodox Church is one of community prayer. An Orthodox priest cannot celebrate a Divine Liturgy without the laypeople. Our Holy Services are structured so that we pray as a family- not individuals. When people don't attend the services, the family is less strong. All at the services feel the absence of those who are not there.

I have already given my thoughts in another setting concerning lateness to church. However, I will state that lateness has a profound effect on those who are on time to services. It can be disrupting to those trying to worship, and worse, it means that the late individual has less time within the communal prayer.

My hope is that this year we can take ourselves out the 'resolution equation' and consider those who are affected by what we resolve to do. Maybe by doing this, we will be more successful in doing what we set out do.

It's worth a try, right?

With Pastoral Love in Christ,
Fr. Sean



From the Parish Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year!!!

Thank you to all that participated in the General Assembly last month. It is so important to be involved in the decision making for the Church. Our children take notice of adults' participation in church and will hopefully want to do the same when they are older. After all, they are the future of the Church.

At the General Assembly, Evan Euripidou and Antonia (Toni) Kananis were elected to join Alexandra Casey, Brian Goodale, Dimitri Koutsopoulos, Maria Dostis-Koliatsis on the Council. Together, all of the members will work to oversee the day to day operations of the Church as they represent the Parish in decision making. There are still 3 vacancies. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, please contact Father Sean.

If you have not already fulfilled your 2017 pledge, please send in the balance by January 31, 2018. Pledge forms for the current year are available in the Church office and in the Hellenic Center.

As Charlie Contompassis, Athena Pagnotti and I depart from the Council, we have full faith that the current members will share their talents and work together for the good of St. George. Please help the Council in any way you can by promoting unity, harmony and love, the key components for a healthy parish.

May the blessings of God be upon us.

In Christ,
Lucy Brady



Stewardship Report

Pledge Goal: \$75,000

Total Pledged amount To Date: \$76,055
Total Received amount To Date: \$72,180

Platinum Level Stewards \$1,500+

Gold Level Stewards \$1,000 - \$1,499

Silver Level Stewards \$500 - \$999

Bronze Level Stewards \$499 or Less

Thank you to all who have pledged thus far!

There is still room on the list to add your name. Please submit and fulfill your pledge to St. George Greek Orthodox Church today

To receive a pledge form, please contact the Parish Office at (518) 393-0742, or ask any Parish Council member at Church.

2017 St. George GOC Pledged Members To Date

Rev. Fr. Sean & Pamela Govostes & Family	Emanuel & Mary Ellen Contompasis
Faith Adamec & Family	Joan Contompasis
Paul & Tiara Antonovich & Family	Demetra Corsones
Angela Aretakis	Stephanie Cospito
Shannon Arrington	George & Constantina Cotzas
Stephen & Vicki Arrington	Rena Counavelis
John Behiri	Marianne Crary
Nicholas & Elene Behiri	Chris & Joanne Dafniotis
Susan Birbilis	Rev. Fr. Peter & Presbyteria Nina
Lucy Brady & Family	Daratsos
Sam & Deborah Bratsos	Olga Delorey
Ifigenia Brown	Joanne Diamantis
Arji Cakouros	Dorothy Dikas
Alexandra & Patrick Casey & Family	Maria Dostis-Koliatsis & Michael Koliatsis
Palymyra Catravas	Marguerite Doulides
Andreas Christou	Angela Economou
Andreas & Panayiota Christou	Evan Euripidou
Ariana Christou	Michael & Elaine Euripidou
Euripides & Eleni Christou	Morgan & Julie Gazetos
Catherine Contompasis	Helena Georgelas
Catherine Contompasis	Eliana Georgelos
Charles Contompasis & Laurie Ives	Panagiota Giakoumis
Emanuel & Mary Ellen Contompasis	Peter & Janet Giakoumis & Family
Joan Contompasis	Steve & Alice Giakoumis

Lucy & Brian Goodale & Family
Angela T Grivas
Dimitri & Nancy Grivas
Nicholas Hallas
Robert Higley
Tiffany Higley
Angeliki Jones
Thomas & Shannon Jones
Catherine Julius
Marina Kakavelos
Peter & Dayna Kalil
Evangelia & Stavroula Kalogeras
Antonia Kananis & Family
Steve & Fanny Karamanos
Nicole Kaya
John & Charlene Kennedy
Polixeni Kingra & Family
Charles & Kathleen Koines
Katina Kontakos
Maria Kontakos
Voula & Chris Kounoupis
Steven & Barbara Kouray
Barbara Koutsakis
Dunutruis Koutsopoulos
H & Connie Koutsopoulos
Patricia Lambert
Trifon & Zanetta Laskaris
Christine Legorius
Rosemary Legorius
Alexios & Betty Lekkas
William Manikas
Cathy Marco
Akrivi Markopoulos
Ann Markopoulos
Athena Markopoulos
Dimitryos & Joann Markopoulos
Phil & Norina McGowen
Anna Menagias
Fillipos & Erene Menagias & Family
Jerry & Angela Menagias
Antonia Mikropoulos

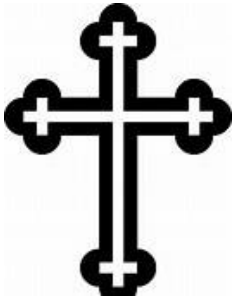
Demetra Mikropoulos
Scott & Anna Morlock & Family
Evangelos & Dina Nikolaidis
Katherine Orfan
Paul & Joann Pagiotas
Athena & Vito Pagnotti & Family
Peter & Penney Pagones
Kostantinos & Debra Papanikos
Nick & Glady Paravalos
Voula Paravalos
Gus and Maria Plakas
Fannie Pontisakos
Theodore & Angeliki Pontisakos
Tony Poulos
Frank & Jim Rossetti
Elena Sikamiotis
Ourania Sokaris
Roubina Spyros & Family
A & Starvroula Stamoulis
Maria Stamoulis
Van & Anita Stathis
James Stevens
Kaliopi Stuffolino
Olga Stryjski
Adam Svokos & Family
George & Christie Svolos
Themetria Svolos
Angela Theodore
Melissa Verrigni & Family
Dimitrios & Eugenia Vlahakis
Mark & Cait Wempe
Brian & Megan Whipple
Mary Wilson
Niki Wilson & Family
Peter H. Wilson
Steve & Sophie Zanaros
Anastasia Zoulas
Peter & Mary Zoulas

Thank you to everyone for your timely support.

If you have not already submitted your form, please do so at your earliest convenience. It will help us to stay within our budget and get all the Church bills paid.

Your pledge is not just about what you can do for the Church. It is about what your responsibility is based on the gives to you by God.

Ευχαριστώ



FELLOWSHIP NEWS FOR JANUARY 2018

The Fellowship group extends our very best wishes to one and all for a happy, healthy and blessed New Year. If we all embrace one another with the values of kindness, decency, respectfulness and, most importantly love, then our St. George family will thrive in spite of any differences we may have. And what is a family without differences? Jesus was so clear about the importance of love with His message, “....a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another. As I have loved you, ye must also love one another.”



January brings us three important feast days. The first is that of St. Basil the Great, which falls on the first of the month. The second feast day falls on the 6th of January, and is that of Theophany, also known as Epiphany. This feast day commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ and the first appearance of the Holy Trinity. The final feast day of January falls on the 30th, and is that of the Three Holy Hierarchs (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom). Let us all worship together on all of these important feast days of the month!

January also brings us a change in the Parish Council. We extend our appreciation and thanks to Athena Pagnotti and Lucy Brady, whose terms have expired. They both worked tirelessly for our community and we are much appreciative of their dedication. New board members, Evan Euripidou and Toni Kananis have been newly elected for three year terms. We wish them both well as they begin their terms on the council. We know Evan and Toni to be active and committed parishioners who will work wholeheartedly for the good of St. George, as did Athena and Lucy before them. May God bless each and every one of the parish council members, both past and present, for your willingness to give of yourselves so selflessly to our community.



In lieu of a meeting in December, the Fellowship group met for a Christmas luncheon at Tops American Grill. Our host, Evan Christou, provided us with a lovely private room where we were able to gather with one another. We played games, awarded some prizes, sang Christmas carols, and enjoyed a delicious meal. Thank you Evan, for providing us with such a perfect venue! For those who are on line, photos of our gathering can be seen on the St. George web site.

Our January meeting will take place on Thursday, January 11th. February's meeting will take place on Thursday, February 8, 2018. Both will take place at 11:30 AM at the Hellenic Center. Lunch will precede the meetings.

As always, we continuously encourage newcomers to join our group. Unless there is a special occasion when we travel or meet at a restaurant, our typical meetings take place at the Hellenic Center on the second Thursday of every month at 11:30 AM. We always begin our meetings with a prayer and a meal. The cost for lunch is \$3 for members and \$5 for non- members. Dues are \$25 annually, to be paid during the month of March. Please contact our treasurer, Kathy Koines, or either of our co-presidents, Paul Pagiotas or Eliana Georgelos, for information.

Happy New Year to All!





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

MEETING NOTES. There was no business meeting held in December.

STEWARDSHIP (MEMBERSHIP) DUES. Please remember to pay your annual stewardship starting in January! The annual minimum is \$30.00. Please keep in mind, we must pay a \$23.00 per capita assessment for each member (\$15.00 to National Philoptochos and \$8.00 to Direct Archdiocesan District). The remaining amount of \$7.00 goes to our St. George Chapter. Any additional gift to the chapter, along with your annual dues, is always welcome.

VASILOPITA. On **Sunday, January 7, 2018** the Ladies Philoptochos will sponsor the Vasilopita which will be cut and distributed at the end of Divine Liturgy. We hope you will join us on this first Sunday of worship in the New Year. Who will get the lucky coin? Our heartfelt thanks to **Anna Ktenas and Gladys Paravalos** who make the Vasilopita for our parish every year. May God bless each and every one of you in the coming year.

SPECIAL THANKS. Our sincere thanks to all parishioners and Philoptochos members who made donations to the Ladies Philoptochos for the **St. George Parish Christmas Card** and purchased and/or made items for our **Mitten Tree**. Special thanks to **Toly Svolos and Helena Georgelas** who served as Co-Chairs of the Christmas Card. Finally, thank you to **Gladys Paravalos** who donated the favors for our Chapter Christmas Dinner which was held on December 4th. A good time was had by all!

SOUP KITCHEN. On **Tuesday, November 28, 2017** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **149 persons** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Thomas Jones In Memory of his beloved father, Ed Jones**. May his memory be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Sean. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with Vegetables and Pasta, Green Beans, Bread & Butter, Fruit Cup, Dessert, Juice and Coffee. Our heartfelt thanks to the following team members who helped prepare and/or serve the meal on this day: **Kathy Koines (Chair) Charlie Koines, Mike Euripidou, Steve & Alice Giakoumis, Phil McGowen, Kiki Jones, Eliana Georgelos, Olga Delorey and Dom DiCocco**.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 18, 2018**. The meeting will be preceded by a **Covered Dish Supper at 5:30 pm** followed by the **Business Meeting at 6:30 pm**.

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- Cutting of the Vasilopita Sunday January 7, 2018
- Covered Dish Supper and Business Meeting Thursday January 18, 2018
- Trifon and Zanetta Laskaris will sponsor the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in memory of their beloved parents, Nefton & Lucia Laskaris and George & Sophia Alevras



A BIG THANK YOU!

from the Ladies Philoptochos Society

On Monday, December 11, 2017, we delivered the following items to the CITY MISSION OF SCHENECTADY that you donated for our Third Annual Mitten Tree!

54 Hats

34 Pairs of Mittens & Gloves

28 Scarves

(above items included 6 "Sets" of Hats, Mittens and Scarves)

TOTAL: 116 Items!!



MEMORIAL SERVICES AND SPONSORSHIP OF A COFFEE HOUR

Please call the church office (518-393-0742) to schedule a memorial service. After receiving confirmation from our church secretary, please contact Lucy Brady, Coffee Hour Chairperson at 518-346-4722 or lukia@nycap.rr.com if you wish to sponsor a coffee hour.

The St. George Ladies Philoptochos oversees the coffee hours after church. For those who wish to sponsor a coffee hour, the following expenses should be expected.

Food: The food provided for a memorial is a combination of baked good items, cookies, etc. A quart of milk for the coffee and half-gallon of orange juice for the children is included. These items can be purchased by your family and brought to the Hellenic Center or Philoptochos will purchase the food for you and present you with receipts for reimbursement. **Specialty foods or additional items beyond the basics must be provided by the family if you wish to have them served.**

Coffee/Tea Paper: A flat fee for coffee, tea, and paper goods is charged. If there are multiple memorial coffee hours the cost is to be shared equally by the sponsors.

- \$35.00 (one sponsor)
- \$25.00 (per family if two sponsors)
- \$25.00 (per family if three sponsors)

Services: The Ladies of the Philoptochos Society will do grocery shopping for basic items, set up, serving and clean up for the coffee hours. In addition, a sign is prepared with the name of the sponsorship family and the person in whose memory the coffee hour is being held.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to provide aid to the poor, the homeless, the sick and the disadvantaged. Your generosity in making a donation to the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society in memory of your loved one would be greatly appreciated. For tax purposes, a letter acknowledging your donation will be provided.

KOLIVA

The Ladies Philoptochos Society will no longer be responsible for making koliva for memorial services. In recent years there are significantly fewer and fewer members who are able or available to make koliva. Therefore, this is a service we can no longer offer to our parishioners and families will be responsible for providing their own koliva.



AHEPA DINNER DANCE

The brothers of AHEPA Chapter 125 put on an elegant community event in Schenectady, NY on Saturday, November 11 with more than six courses of food, complimentary wine, full bar, and a seven piece band. The event was a success and raised money for youth programs in and outside of the St. George community. We were joined by AHEPA District 6 Secretary Chris Pappis, Albany Chapter 140 President George Pappis, and Troy Chapter 306 President Tom Suraci. It was a wonderful event and everyone had a good time. We hope to keep this momentum going in 2018.





Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM

**St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Schenectady, NY
518-393-0742**

**Informational Meeting for Greek Language Classes
(Conversation, Reading and Writing)**

Classes will be for all ages

Please attend for more information

Dinner to be served



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Feast of St. Basil	2	3	4	5	6 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Savior Jesus Christ and Blessing of the Water
7 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM Memorial service for Steve Karamanos Vasilopita Cutting	8 6:30 PM Informational Meeting for Greek Language Classes (Conversatioin, Reading & Writing) Classes for all ages Dinner to be served	9	10	11 11:00 AM Senior Fellowship Meeting	12	13
14 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	15 11:00 AM Orthodoxy/Bible Study 6:30 PM Orthodoxy/Bible Study	16	17	18 5:30 PM Covered Dish Supper 6:30 PM Philoptochos Meeting	19	20
21 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	22	23 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen Prep 12:00 PM Soup Kitchen Serve Sponsored by Trifon & Zanetta Laskaris in Memory of George & Sophia Alevras and Nefton & Lucia Laskaris	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	29	30 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Synaxis of the Three Hierachs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom	31			

