

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Office: 107 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 am – 2 pm

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

Website: www.saintgeorgegoc.com

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes, Presiding Parish Priest

Cell: (248) 631-8110, E-mail: fr.govostes@gmail.com

Camille Kosloski, Parish Secretary



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

Parish Council

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes
Presiding Parish Priest

Evan Euripidou – President

Toni Kananis – Vice President

Brian Goodale – Secretary

Alexandra Casey – Treasurer

Maria Dotsis

Dimitri Koutsopoulos

Youth Advisors

Lucy Goodale
Paula Kingra
Angels/HOPE/JOY

Anna and Scott Morlock
GOYA

Evan Euripidou
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

Phil Menagias
Schenectady AHEPA 125 President

Chris Pappis
Webmaster

JUNE AND JULY 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I pray that all of you are well.

We are currently going through a few changes concerning the monthly newsletter, and we ask for your patience as there are a few kinks that need to be worked out.

Also, I would like to begin to offer the service of Paraklesis on a monthly basis. Some may wonder: what is this service? Simply put, this is a service done in times of sorrow or need and especially preceding the great Feast Day of The Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th.

We are living in a time, that, despite the technological advances in society, is as troublesome as it has always been. Disease, poverty, violence, etc. are still prevalent in a supposedly “enlightened” society.

This service is based on prayers to the Most Holy Mother of God to ask for her intercessions to God for healing and relief for our troubled world and any individual crises that we all endure. I ask that, once a day is chosen, that you please make an effort to attend, as “The Needs of the Many Outweigh the Needs of the One.” If you know of anyone who is ill or having trouble, please provide the office with a list of names to be read at the service- **or better yet**- bring it with you to attend.

Secondly, I have been asked to refrain from mentioning popular culture in my sermons, as some people don’t understand the references. Although I comprehend that and can sympathize, we must understand that one of the many issues facing our young people is that they have a difficult time relating to the Gospel. In a society where we **MUST** do all we can to retain the interest of our young people, I feel that this is not only timely, but appropriate. As one interested in the musical and visual arts myself, I find the parallels between the messages in the Gospels and, for example, film, to be strikingly important. As a priest of over 15 years, I assure you that Presvytera and I are still in contact with former youth in our past parishes who are grateful for the efforts made to include them and their “place in life” into our Faith for them. I will, certainly, vary my examples. However, we must remember that wisdom and spirituality can be found in very diverse places, if one searches for them.

Finally, I would like to offer my prayers to all of you for a wonderful Summer season. May you and your loved ones be safe and enjoy the time away, if vacationing, from work and school. Parents: Be Strong- it’s only 2 and a half months ;)

Never forget, I am here for all of you. I am very serious about my health now, and will do whatever I need to be healthy, but I will **ALWAYS** be here for each and every one of you. Please never hesitate to call me or talk to me if you need anything. Even just to chat.

With Pastoral Love in Christ,
Fr. Sean

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Summer! It has been a busy year working to lay the foundations for some wonderful programs and changes for our community. As we progress with these ideas, we will need all of you helping to bring these to life, but more importantly to ensure that we are doing the best for our community. In the meantime, we are gearing up our preparations for our Greek Festival in hopes of another record breaking year. My request to everyone is to step forward and volunteer your help. Too often I hear that people are upset they were not asked to help and I urge you to not be one of them. Many hands lighten the load so I hope you will all take this opportunity to step up and volunteer your time and talent.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our young adults graduating from High School. This year we have four High School graduates and we wish them all the best and promise to be here when they come home. Congratulations to Jessica Hinnners for being the recipient of the annual Greg Georgelos scholarship, awarded to a high school graduate going on to college.

Jessica Hinnners
Stavroula Avramidis
Michael Avramidis
Stavros Avramidis



Left to right: Stavros Avramidis, Jessica Hinnners, Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes, Michael Avramidis, and Evan Euripidou. Missing: Stavroula Avramidis

Finally, Greek Dance lessons have started up and anyone that is interested in joining should contact me for further details.

Wishing you all a blessed and safe summer!

Evan Euripidou

The Holy Martyrs of China

June 10

The Holy Martyrs of China were native Chinese Orthodox Christians brought up in piety at the Russian Orthodox Mission in Peking, which had been founded in 1685. During the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 against the foreign powers occupying China, native Chinese Christians were commanded by the Boxers to renounce Christianity or be tortured to death. Two hundred and twenty-two members of the Peking Mission, led by their priest Metrophanes Tsi-Chung and his family, refused to deny Christ, and were deemed worthy of a martyr's death.

(The commemoration date of the Chinese Martyrs varies between June 10th and June 11th in Orthodox practice throughout the world.)

Apolytikion of Holy Martyrs of China

Let us the flock of Christ with love and piety now glorify with hymns and truly joyous odes the faithful Martyrs of the truth who suffered for Christ in China. For having confessed the Faith, they all bravely went unto death as lambs which were sacrificed for our Shepherd and Master Christ. And therefore to the Martyrs we cry out: Remember us all, who sing your praises.

Kontakion of Holy Martyrs of China

The divine Metrophanes, the martyred shepherd, with his great and faithful flock, have hallowed China with their blood; wherefore we praise them with sacred hymns, for they were faithful to Christ even unto death.



Dear Parishioners,

As many of us are aware, our young people are facing issues that are causing them, in many cases, irreparable harm. As a community of faith, it is incumbent upon us to provide as many resources for families as possible.

I am pleased to inform you that our Archdiocese has put together a pamphlet series in order to help our young people (and their parents) with some of these crucial issues. While, yes, they are simple pamphlets, they may help provide some level of comfort and offer ideas for assistance.

I plan to place them in the back of our church (near the candle area) for people to take them as needed.

I pray that, if in a critical situation, anyone in need will contact me or any trusted professional for help. No child should suffer. No adult Christian can ignore their concerns or pleas for guidance.

May God bless all of you.

In Christ,
Fr. Sean

Teen Survival Guide Pamphlet Series

Help teens navigate through tough issues by giving them the information they need: facts and statistics, the Church's response, Q&A's, and resources for further reading. These one-page handouts are great for starting discussions at home, in GOYA and during Sunday school. The series includes 10 copies of each of the following brochures: Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Managing Stress, Peer Pressure, Pornography, Sexual Purity, Life after High School, Gossip, Body Image, Suicide, Bullying.



St. George Website Report

It has been my honor to serve as webmaster for St. George Greek Orthodox Church since June 2016.

I spent the summer of that year working closely with Alexandra Casey on design work which entailed a complete restructuring of the old St. George website. Our efforts benefited greatly from the free services of the Department of Internet Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and wish to also thank them for their support.

In part, the design effort included development of web pages that enable individuals to learn about St. George, the Hellenic Center, Philoptochos, access the Monthly Newsletter and Sunday Bulletin and view special areas such as the Greek Festival, Parish Calendar, and a Photo Gallery that includes events such as the AHEPA Dinner Dance, St. George Fellowship Christmas Party, Palm Sunday and the Philoptochos Year End Picnic. Parishioners can also view the Monthly Newsletter online along with the weekly Sunday Bulletin, and also have the ability to donate online or pay stewardship via the "Support Our Ministries" button via the use of Pay Pal.

The website launched in July 2016, has been viewed by over 9,000 visitors, and is updated continually based on the needs of the community.

Your suggestions and comments are welcome by sending them to me via e-mail at cpappis@nycap.rr.com.

I look forward to continuing my relationship with the St. George Community and encourage all parishioners to access the website at <http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com>.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Pappis
Webmaster & Website Administrator
St. George Greek Orthodox Church



FELLOWSHIP NEWS FOR JUNE/JULY, 2018
GREETINGS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP!



Summer is upon us! June brings the end of the school year for our students, the month during which many graduations and subsequent parties take place, and the month of so many weddings! We enjoy such beautiful weather that we take every opportunity we can to spend time outdoors and participate in activities such as picnics, ballgames, swimming in pools and lakes in the area, and traveling. Many will leave town to vacation in places close by such as Lake George and Sacandaga Lake, or travel farther to summer destinations like Cape Cod, Maine, or Greece! So many options are available to us during this time of sunshine and warm weather, including the joy of just sitting on our front or back porches to enjoy the beauty of the day!

The summer solstice, also known as midsummer, arrives in June. This year, it falls on the 21st of the month during which we enjoy the longest period of daylight. The days then begin to shorten.....only by minutes, however, so we typically do not notice the change for several weeks or more.

The Fellowship group has been taking advantage of our beautiful weather to go on outings rather than have our meetings at the Hellenic Center. In May we met for lunch at the United Buffet on Watt Street. On June 18th, a group of 25 of us, including friends from St. Sophia and St. Basil, traveled to Cooperstown to enjoy the scrumptious buffet luncheon at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, New York. The setting of this beautiful hotel, which sits on the shore of Lake Otsego, is breathtaking! Although the outdoor temperature was hot and muggy, it was beautiful indoors. The buffet was fabulous, with so many wonderful selections to choose from. And the desserts....oh my! After lunch, some of us went for a walk around the lovely grounds of the hotel and others went to see the Thomas Cole exhibit at the Fenimore Art Museum. Many of us also went out on the porch overlooking the lake to sit for a while. Knowing it would be a hot day, our kind and thoughtful Theresa brought a bag full of beautiful fans which she passed out for our use! Now that's

fellowship!



July is a month where we commemorate some of the lesser known saints of the church such as, on July 11th, Saint Olga who was renowned for her wisdom and sobriety; also on July 11th, Saint Nikodemos and Saint Nektarios, both of whom embraced Islam and subsequently repented and became monks before accepting martyrdom for Christ; On July 12th, we commemorate the passing of St. Paisios of the Holy Mountain. He is our most recent Saint, having reposed in 1994 and is known for tirelessly receiving those thirsting for spiritual direction; On July 20th, we commemorate the Holy Glorious Prophet Elias whose name means "The Lord is God" and who appeared with Moses standing with Christ at the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. Although these saints are not well known, they each have a glorious history which we encourage everyone to research.

The Fellowship group will meet in July at the Hellenic Center and on Thursday, August 9th will travel to Lake George to visit the Lake George Dinner Theater. The featured play is a comedy entitled Jerry Finnegan's Sister. We will carpool there and enjoy a wonderful lunch prior to the show. If anyone is interested in joining our group, please see Eliana Georgelos for information on cost, meal selections and show times.

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

And finally, we congratulate our high school graduates who are going on to college and the fathers of our community who deserve their special day! Let us all enjoy the beauty of the summer season!





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS – JUNE

MEETING NOTES. At the meeting held on **May 17, 2018**, the membership approved the following donations:

Five P Minus Society
Schenectady Inner City Ministry – Summer Meals Program for Children
75th Anniversary Founders Fund (National Commitment)
Orthodox Christian Fellowship (National Commitment)
St. George Greek Orthodox Church (Festival Booth Sponsor & Journal Ad)

SOUP KITCHEN. On **Tuesday, May 22, 2018** our Philoptochos prepared and served dinner for **128 persons** at the **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen**. The Soup Kitchen was sponsored by **Kiki Jones In Loving Memory of her Husband, Ed Jones**. May his memory be eternal. A Trisagion Service was chanted by Father Sean on June 3rd. The dinner consisted of Chicken Florentine with 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, Pete Kalil, Steve & Alice Giakoumis, Phil & Norina McGowen, Gladys Paravalos, Scott Morlock, Olga Delorey, Kiki Jones, Eliana Georgelos, and Dom DiCocco**.

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

PICNIC THANK YOUS. We wish to thank everyone who attended our annual picnic on May 31st. Special thanks to the Co-Chairs Paula Kingra, Eliana Georgelos, Elaine Euripidou, Soula Tsakopiakos and Olga Delorey and to everyone who donated food and dessert items, assisted with set-up, serving, and clean-up. If we list names we may forget someone – you know who you are and, more importantly, God knows who you are.

We also wish to thank the guests who were in attendance – our Philoptochos sisters from St. Sophia and St. Basil, Father Dennis and Presbyteria Candice from St. Sophia, and the Thursday Morning Boys. The “Boys” provide invaluable support to the St. George Philoptochos by preparing the food we serve at the monthly Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. We could not do the work of this important ministry without their help.

Of course, we always look forward to having Gladys Paravalos serve as our “auctioneer” for the Pound Auction. Thank you, Gladys! It was a lot of fun and together we raised a nice donation for **IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)** and our **St. George Philoptochos**. Thank you to everyone who brought an auction item, bid on items and made donations to our Philoptochos.

NEXT MEETING. There are no meetings during the months of June-July-August. Our business meetings resume in September.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS may be arranged by contacting Coffee Hour Chair Lucy Brady at (518) 346-4722. A voluntary donation to the Ladies Philoptochos Society in addition to the expenses would be greatly appreciated.

JUNE AT A GLANCE

- Father Sean and Presbyteria Pamela Govostes will sponsor the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in memory of Father Sean’s beloved father, Norman Govostes.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS – JULY

SOUP KITCHEN SPONSORSHIPS. For the upcoming ecclesiastical year (September 2018 - June 2019), we will prepare and serve ten (10) Soup Kitchen meals. We serve an average of 150-175 persons each month. If you would like to become a sponsor for a Soup Kitchen meal the cost is \$200.00. (Note: A memorial service shall be offered on behalf of those who wish to sponsor a meal “In Memory Of”) The services/prayers are chanted by Father Sean at the Salvation Army prior to the meal being served. Sponsors are invited to participate in meal preparation and help serve the meal.

Our Orthodox Faith teaches us that doing an act of charity in memory of someone who has fallen asleep in the Lord is one of the most beneficial acts you can do for their soul.

Sponsorship is on a first-come, first served basis. We do have a few commitments as of this printing; however, several months are still available. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact the Soup Kitchen Chair, Kathy Koines, at (518) 885-1644 or kjkoines@nycap.rr.com.

The Soup Kitchen Team will be on hiatus over the summer months for a well-deserved rest. We thank our dedicated Soup Kitchen Team, Father Sean and all our sponsors for participating in this important ministry.

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

GREEK FESTIVAL. We hope to see everyone at the 43rd Annual St. George Greek Festival September 7-8-9, 2018. We need EVERYONE’S help to make our festival a success. Please contact Festival Chair Evan Euripidou to volunteer! Many hands working together make the tasks lighter.

SAVE THE DATE. On Saturday, September 22, 2018 (9 am – 12 noon) the three Capital Region Philoptochos Chapters (St. George, St. Sophia and St. Basil) will sponsor a **Human Trafficking Symposium – “Casting a Light on Dark Secrets”**. The focus of this event is to help raise awareness of human trafficking – an initiative which has been embraced by the National Philoptochos and our Direct Archdiocesan District (DAD) Philoptochos. The symposium, which is free and open to the public, will take place at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany.

NEXT MEETING. There are no meetings during the months of June-July-August. Our business meetings resume in September.

WE WISH YOU A RELAXING AND SAFE SUMMER!





MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS



In Memory of

*Fanny Aliferis, Anna Argyros, Sophie Corsones, Mary Ferro,
Ann Lambrose, Helen Pagones, Irene Stathis,
Mary Stathis, Theresa Yavornicky*

Donated by

Pamela Anthony, Georgia Corsones Chamberas,
Demetra Corsones, Olga Delorey, Penney Pagones, Anita Stathis

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Charlie Koines, Steve Giakoumis, Bill Manikas
Phil McGowen, Dom DiCocco, Pete Kalil
for **Sponsoring the Mother's Day Coffee Hour**

Angelo and Jerry Menagias
for **Donating the Mother's Day Cake**



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Joanne Diamantis

for donating the bottles of wine for Father's Day

In Memory of

Nicholas Diamantis, Father

Chris Svolos, Grandfather

Alice Giakoumis

for donating the Father's Day Cake



Festival Planning Meeting

Please join us on June 5th for our first festival meeting in the Hellenic Center.

When: Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 PM

Where: St. George Hellenic Center

The annual picnic for Philoptochos members took place on Thursday, May 31, 2018 in the Hellenic Center. We were joined by our Philoptochos sisters and clergy from St. Sophia and St. Basil for the last event before summer break. The picnic went well and everyone had a lot of fun!



SCHENECTADY AHEPA NEWS



- 1) AHEPA has committed to assist/sponsor the souvlaki booth once again for this year's Greek Festival.
- 2) Our ANNUAL GREEK NIGHT BOAT CRUISE is June 30th at 7:00 pm. It is recommended to buy pre-sale tickets to secure your seat. \$40 per person is to be mailed to AHEPA 125 at 199 Woodsedge Court, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Please include the names of everyone in your party when sending payment.

The boat cruise is 3 hours, includes a variety of foods and desserts, Greek and American music, dancing, beautiful views of the Hudson, a Door Prize and a Raffle with a number of cool prizes, and cash bar all night long. Proceeds are to benefit Schenectady AHEPA's Philanthropic Efforts.

It's a must go to event! Don't miss it!

Any questions, do not hesitate to call Phil at (518) 857-2669.

Greek Night River Cruise 2018

Saturday June 30th



***7-10 pm Cruise, Cash Bar, Appetizers, Raffles,
Greek & American Music till 11 pm***

\$40 Pre-Sale Tickets Only For First 150 people

**Boarding Begins @ 6:30 pm
Boat Leaves @ 7 pm Sharp
Raffle Drawings @ 10:00 pm
Dutch Apple Cruises
141 Broadway, Albany, NY 12202**



**Book tickets prior to June 10th
Email AHEPA125@gmail.com
Andrew Chakmakas 518.470.2745
Charlie Koines 518.858.3337
Chris Damaskos 631.681.4042**

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 40 Day Blessing for Elliott Thomas Holzhauser	4 6:30 PM Orthodoxy/Bible Study	5 6:30 PM Festival Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 6:30 PM Greek Language Class	12 6:30 PM AHEPA Chapter 125 Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	18 11:30 AM Senior Fellowship Meeting Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY	19 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting	20	21	22	23 3:00 PM Zachary Menagias & Stravoula Tsakopiakos Wedding
24 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 40 Day Memorial for Peter Kounoupis	25 6:30 PM Greek Language Class	26 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen Prep 12:00 PM Soup Kitchen Serve – sponsored by Rev. Fr. Sean & Presbyteria Pamela Govostes in Memory of Norman Govostes	27	28	29 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Feast Day of Sts. Peter & Paul	30 7:00 – 10:00 PM Greek Night River Cruise sponsored by AHEPA on the Dutch Apple - 141 Broadway, Albany, NY

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	2	3	4 Independence Day Parish Office Closed	5	6	7 2:00 PM Baptism of Viviana Eirini Menagias
8 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	16	17 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting	18	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Feastday of St. Paraskevi	27	28
29 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	30	31				