

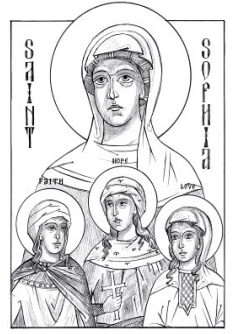


# NEPSIS

*Spiritual watchfulness and alertness. "Watch, therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42)*

Saint Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church  
325 Waring Road  
Syracuse, New York 13224

Phone (315) 446-5222  
Fax (315) 251-1654



## "Re-Creation"

In the opening verses of the Bible, we are told: "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2)

In this very early stage of creation, we see three distinct entities: the earth, the darkness, and God. Today the same three entities are still present, except for one difference: the earth is populated by human beings. You and me. Today, I would say the three entities are *humans*, darkness, and God.

The next event at Creation was: "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." Aha. The third verse of the Bible tells us that two of the three entities present in the beginning were opposed to each other: darkness and God. When God spoke, the opposite of darkness was created, and, as Moses tells us, "It was good." In God, darkness met its match and the earth (today, human beings) came to life because of the light.

Every advent season is a re-remembering of this creation story, which means that right now, as you read this, you are living through the re-creation of the world. This is why the calendar devotes so many days to the memory of Old Testament prophets: Obadiah (Nov 19), Nahum (Dec 1), Habakkuk (Dec 2), Zephaniah (Dec 3), Haggai (Dec 16), and Daniel (Dec. 17). These commemorations tell us that the calendar is taking us back to the Old Testament, to the time when darkness ruled, before the Messiah had come. The calendar folds back on itself, taking us back beyond the prophets to the creation, to a time before time (I say this because light needed to be created before there could be night and day, and thus, the passing of time) and brings us through the process of creation and re-creation. The calendar takes us to the arrival of the first light and the beginning of time. The birth of salvation.

The birth of salvation. The earth existed in the opening verses of Genesis - it was there! - but it had no form and was void. It existed, but it did not exist as it is now. Darkness covered it, controlled it, made it empty. The earth could not undo its formlessness by itself, in the same way that we cannot resolve our spiritual formlessness by ourselves. We need God, God and light. The moment in time that we read about in the third verse of the Bible describes the birth of salvation. God, and God's weapon against the darkness - light - gave the earth life and hope and time; in other words, salvation. God created the earth by dispelling the darkness, and salvation was born. The same happens today - God, and God's weapon against darkness brings salvation to His people.

"But," you might say, "we don't celebrate the creation of light at the end of Advent, we celebrate the birth of Christ." True! But look carefully at the words of the apolytikon of Christmas, and see how we rightly call this The Festival of Light: "Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord."

It's all about light. Christmas is indeed the festival of light. May we all learn, brothers and sisters, to worship the Son of Righteousness this beautiful Nativity season! I pray for a joyous and blessed celebration of this bright and glorious feast for you and your family!

Your affectionate servant,  
Fr. David

## DECEMBER 2023

### 2023 Parish Council

*Peter Manolacos*  
President

*Thomas Anthis Jr.*  
Vice President

*Christopher Shiomos, OD*  
Secretary

*Michael Copanas*  
Treasurer

*Robert Allen*  
*Joy Weatherup Anthis*  
*Dimitrios Giaprakis*  
*Eleni Kosmas, MD*  
*Martha Lemondes*  
*George Nardone*  
*John Potamianos*  
*Jeanette Capousis Vigliotti*

~~~~~  
Honorary  
Board Member  
*James Sakezles*



**VISIT THE  
PARISH  
WEBSITE**  
[stsophias.org](http://stsophias.org)





# **CHRISTMAS** **SERVICES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

**8:45 AM ORTHROS**

**9:00 AM ROYAL HOURS FOR NATIVITY**

**10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

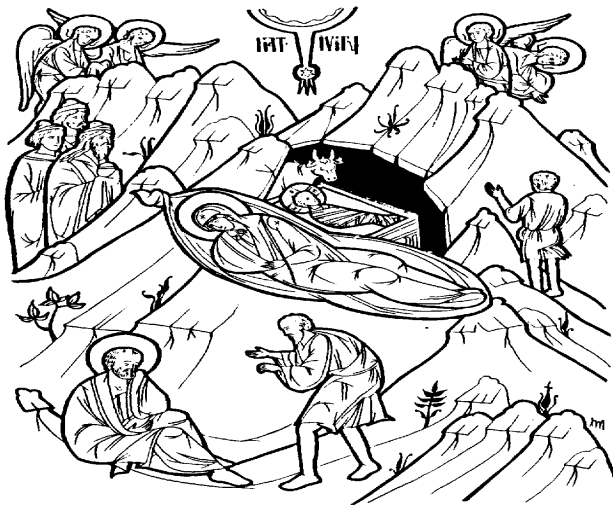
**6:00 PM VESPERAL LITURGY FOR NATIVITY**

**FOLLOWED BY CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY ~ MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

**NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**~~NO SERVICES~~**



*Christ  
is Born!*

*Glorify  
Him!*



*Sunday School*  
***Christmas Pageant***  
*Sunday, December 17*  
*Following Divine Liturgy*





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parish,

Moses turned away from the burning bush. Clearly it was no ordinary burning bush. It burned but was not consumed. When he spoke to God, God said that to look upon the face of God would destroy any man so God showed him the bush and then His back. And then there was Christmas.

When we pray to the Theotokos, we ask her to intercede for us. The same with prayers to the many saints. When we say the Jesus prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner", we are not praying to an intermediary. We are praying to God Himself.

Jesus said that we can only know the Father through Him. Yet Jesus IS God. He is not a lesser form of God. The Holy Spirit also is God since the triune God is One. We say "I believe in ONE God".

So what about Christmas? We say "Keep Christ in Christmas". That is definitely a good idea. But I think that we need to remember that keeping Christ in Christmas is identical to keeping God in Christmas. God became man. He suffered for us. He opened the door to salvation to us. Yet, like Moses, we cannot look directly upon Him. But we can look upon Jesus. So, as He told us, Jesus opens up the door to knowing the Father. "Seek and ye shall find, ask and the door will be opened".

Theosis, the Orthodox Church tells us, is how we know God. We participate in God's energies, not His essence. We fight the battles of unseen warfare, the struggle to purify ourselves, so that with His help and Grace, and only with His help and grace, we might experience the resplendent light. Christmas sets the stage for us to embrace Christ's message. Christmas opens the door to our journey to Pascha..

Christmas, the second holiest day in the Orthodox calendar, celebrates the incarnation of God The Son.. When we come to church on December 24, morning and evening, we must remember why we are there, understand the profundity of the gift we have received, and praise and truly thank God for His overwhelming generosity. Thanks be to God.

As you can see from the announcements in this Nepsis, there is a lot going on at St. Sophia's this December. Please join in and participate in all of these activities. We hope they bring you Joy, we hope they add to your celebration of that birth in Bethlehem.

The parish council wishes all of you a Holy, Joyful, and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,  
*Peter Manolakos*  
Parish Council President







# St. Sophia's Annual Christmas Card

JOIN US AND BE PART OF SHARING HOLIDAY  
WISHES WITH ALL ST. SOPHIA PARISHIONERS!

**PLACE YOUR ORDER:**

- THROUGH THE ONLINE GIVING OPTION AT [STSOPHIAS.ORG](https://stsophias.org)
- STOP BY THE SIGN-UP TABLE AFTER CHURCH ON SUNDAY'S, OR
- SEND YOUR DONATION TO ST SOPHIA'S CHURCH, 325 WARING ROAD, SYRACUSE, NY 13224. (BE SURE TO INCLUDE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME LISTED.)

**Minimum Donation: \$25**

**Don't miss out!**

**All orders must be in by December 3**





Honoring Past & Present  
Parish Council Presidents

# 50th ANNIVERSARY

## St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church Consecration Dance

James Sakezles  
Larry Tavlarides  
Nick Dusckas  
Dean Boucounis  
Spiro Tzetzis  
Dean Assimon  
Andy Boucounis  
Peter Lemoniades  
Peter Manolakos



**Greek Music  
from  
the Aegeans**

**Saturday, December 30th  
6pm-11pm  
325 Waring Road**

**Adult \$30 Children under 13 Free**  
\$40 after December 23rd

Serving heavy mezethes  
with a cash bar

Tickets online [stsophias.org](https://stsophias.org) or  
Eleni Kosmas 315-882-6507





# STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

We have heard from quite a number of you that the Stewardship breakfast was the best breakfast we have EVAH served. Once again, thanks to Kosta Kousmanidis, Evans Panos, Peter Lemonyades and all who helped to make the event a success.

Stewardship, as you all know, provides a significant share of the church's annual income. The next largest contributor is the Festival, which, over the last two years, has had record profits. That is certainly good news.

On the other hand, Stewardship, for the last ten years, has been relatively flat. What has not been flat is the cost of running the church. Inflation for the last five years has risen a little less than 20% and over the last ten years just shy of 30%.

The other critical issue is the fact that many of our long term festival volunteers are not able ,because of age and infirmity, to devote as much time to the effort. Some cannot participate at all. Getting new volunteers is no easy task.

If you attended the breakfast you heard me say that, if you have the financial wherewithal to increase your stewardship donation, please do it. We do not want anyone to create financial hardship for themselves or their family. Only you know and we understand. But, if you can increase your pledge where you really don't feel it, then we ask you to step up and move stewardship off its flat trajectory.

To many of you, it appears that the church has "a lot of" money. We really don't because we need to increase our financial resources so that we can insure the long term future of this church. We anticipate losing members and volunteers and the financial consequences of that are not hard to predict. Rising inflation and flat income also will take their toll.

Think about where we will be in 5, 10 years if current trends continue. With your help and with prudent investments, we can do a great deal to enhance the long term viability of St Sophia's.

People donate to non for profits because 1. they have a generous nature 2. they have means, and 3. because they see the need. Please be assured that the need is real. The rest is up to you.

Many thanks to our stewards and non-steward donors. For the entire parish council, I thank you for your past, present, and future support.

Yours in Christ,  
*Peter Manolakos*



## 2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

*St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church ~ 325 Waring Road Syracuse, NY 13224 ~ (315) 446-5222*

*In gratitude for God's blessing I/we pledge to contribute, for Christ's work at St. Sophia's Church, for 2024 a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*If you are interested in paying by Credit/Debit Card do so Online via the Church website [stsophias.org](http://stsophias.org)*

Please Print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COMPLETION OF THIS CARD IS A REQUIREMENT TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

## CHOIR

*We welcome everyone to join our Choir  
Check the Church Calendar for upcoming Choir Practices*



### Church Services & Events

Calendars are provided  
in the Nepsis or  
check the website at  
[stsophias.org](http://stsophias.org)  
for church services & events

*Mark  
your  
Calendar*



### St. Sophia's Website & Mailing List

Visit St. Sophia's website [www.stsophias.org](http://www.stsophias.org). There is a wealth of information on the website with the most up to date calendar on services and events, color photographs from recent functions, electronic sacrament forms to easily fill out and submit, and an online chapel highlighting the days readings and hymns.

Please subscribe to our mailing list to receive the latest information instantly. By subscribing to the mailing list you will be able to receive the electronic form of the Nepsis, the weekly bulletin, parish obituary announcements, and any other pertinent information. You may sign up by going to the website and clicking the tab titled "Subscribe to our Mailing List" or via this link: <https://www.stsophias.org/join-our-mail-list> It's that easy!

If you no longer require the paper copy of Nepsis through the mail, please notify Katina in the office so that you may be removed from the mailing list.



# Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37 News



Come celebrate our Christmas/ Initiation event on Saturday, December 16, 2023 as we induct the following new members into our Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37 family; 2pm at St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church.

- William Sakezles
- Nicholas Anastasiou
- Evangelos Dentes
- Peter Demas
- Pavlos Nestopoolos
- Antonino Ambroggio
- Anthony Tabone
- Blaise Anthis

Please join us in welcoming these new members to our organization! Refreshments will be served.

January 22, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37. Our members are working hard to celebrate this great achievement, the highlight of which will be a dinner dance for the community. Details to follow.

Thank you to our wonderful St. Sophia's parish community for their kind donations which allowed our Chapter to donate \$500 to the Greek Fire Fund and \$350 for the Maui Fire Fund.

Upcoming monthly meetings will be held on the following dates:

- November 21, 2023 6pm
- December 16, 2023 2pm (Christmas/Initiation event)
- January 23, 2024 6pm
- February 20, 2024 6pm
- March 19, 2024 6pm
- April 23, 2024 6pm
- May 21, 2024 6pm
- June 18, 2024 6pm

James Telonis, MD, President  
Syracuse AHEPA Chapter #37



## Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37

### Return of the Palikari

Every year on March 25th Greeks celebrate Independence Day. It was on this day in 1821 at the monastery of Agia Lavra that the Greek warriors took the oath of “Freedom or Death” from Paleon Patron Germanos. Following 400 years of slavery under the notorious Ottoman Empire and several failed attempts at revolution it was time for these brave men to put their lives on the line in order to attain freedom. The fighters dressed in their fustanellas (symbolizing bravery and heroism) with swords in hand and horses nearby set off to achieve their goal.

In March of each year here in Syracuse we gather outside City Hall to celebrate Greek Independence Day. Adults and children gather to proudly display both Greek and American flags. The anthems of both our homeland and adopted homeland are sung. The mayor joins in by proclaiming the day as Greek Independence Day in Syracuse! The Greek flag is raised with its colors bathed in light throughout the night.

For many years there has been a proud palikari dressed in the uniform of revolutionary heroes “the fustanella”... his name is Stavros Tamoutselis. Standing straight and proud he was much younger when he began this tradition. As the years have passed he stoops a bit, suffers from an ever present tremor yet remains standing proud. Following the death of his beloved wife Polixeni it takes him longer to dress in his “uniform”. Even with this difficulty he is among the first to arrive at City Hall. He shakes and struggles with his balance as he assists the mayor pulling on the rope that raises the blue and white flag towards the top of the pole where it will proudly wave for the next 24 hours. The Greek flag is known as the “blue and white”. According to tradition the nine stripes represent the nine syllables of the phrase “Freedom or Death” (E-le-fthe-ri-ai Tha-na-tos in Greek), the motto of the Greek Revolution. The flag was officially adopted at the First National Assembly of Epidauros on January 13, 1882. Each year following the flag raising Stavros celebrates by having his picture taken with the current mayor.



*Continued on Page 10*

## Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37

# Return of the Palikari

*Continued from Page 9*

Stavros understands how important it is to celebrate freedom after so many centuries of oppression under Ottoman rule. His faith is very important to Stavros and when his wife was alive he celebrated his Feast Day on September 14th each year by welcoming anyone who wished to come to his house for food, sweets, music, singing and lively conversation. It was standing room only with many well wishers stopping by to wish him a Happy Name Day!

The elevation of the Holy Cross for which he was named was so important to him that while visiting his beloved village of Drosopigi in the year 2005 on the eve of the great holiday September 13th he invited the entire village to the local taverna “Poulia B” to celebrate his Feast Day with him. Stavros didn’t walk or take a car to the venue but instead dressed in his Tsolia uniform (fustanella) and on a horse borrowed from his brother proudly rode toward the taverna. Seeing him arrive in such a manner he was welcomed by all with tears in their eyes and was greeted with hugs and kisses. The village had welcomed back one its many sons who had left seeking a better life in America and who now returned having never lost his love for his country of birth. Stavros, overwhelmed with happiness and with his beloved Polixeni by his side entered the venue with tears streaming down his face welcoming everyone to join them in conversations about old times, music, dancing and plenty of food!

The whole village as well as surrounding villages heard of this great celebration and local newspapers published the story of Stavros’ “memorable and unrepeatable” celebration. The papers printed pictures of him on his horse surrounded by welcoming villagers and with his friends in the taverna. Stavros still has the article and photos framed and hanging on the walls of his humble abode. He is a simple man full of humility and burdened with physical incapacities but the love he has for his birth country, his adopted country and especially his faith in God keep him strong and act as a great example of how we should live our lives with such appreciation, passion and love.





## Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37



# AHEPA'S CREED

- 1.) To promote and encourage loyalty to the United States of America, allegiance to its flag, support to its constitution, obedience to its laws and reverence for its history and traditions; to instruct its members by precept and example in the tenets and fundamental principles of government; to instill in every member a due appreciation of the privilege of citizenship and the sacred duties connected with it, and to encourage its members to be interested and actively participating in the political, civic, social and commercial fields of human endeavor and always to strive for the betterment of society.
- 2.) To promote in the United States a better and more comprehensive understanding of the Hellenic people and nation, and to revive, cultivate, enrich and marshal into active service for America the noblest attributes and highest ideals of true Hellenism.
- 3.) To strive for the perfection of the moral sense in its members, to promote good fellowship among them and endow them with a spirit of altruism, common understanding, and mutual benevolence and to point out to them the advantages of education, the beauties of sacrifice and the deformities of selfishness.
- 4.) To champion the cause of education, to support the American system of public schools and to keep them free from religious prejudice; to promote and augment the education advantages of this country and to establish and maintain new channels for disseminating culture and learning.

Mike Labatos, Chairman

AHEPA Chapter 37, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



# PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

## SAVE THE DATE

### Philoptochos Membership Luncheon Meeting & Post-Holiday Celebration

Saturday, January 13, 2024 – at Bistro 1926 @ Drumlins

Check out this month's NEPSIS for more information on how to make a reservation.

## An Enormous Thank You!!!

### Pasta Luncheon - Farm-to-Table Event– Sunday, November 12, 2023

This fundraiser provided support to The Food Bank of CNY. A big thank you to the extremely engaged and committed team led by Presvytera Donna, Maria Allis, master chef Zack Papaleoni, Anthony Scaringe, GOYA Officers and youth, Parishioners that donated their time contributing to the preparations, serving the meal, and additional support led to a successful event. Special thank you to Boris and Ellen Tartakoff who donated the home-made Pesto Sauce, which provided a suitable Gluten Free option. **All expenses were absorbed by donations, and therefore ALL proceeds in the amount of \$1,135 will be forwarded to THE FOOD BANK OF CNY.**

### BAKLAVA HOLIDAY SALE EVENT

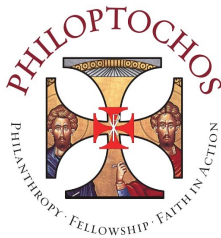
A big thank you to Frieda Meskos who once again led the incredible efforts for a successful Baklava Holiday Pan Sale that is slated to support our local community. Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time and expertise to prepare the baklava. The success of this event is a direct result of your efforts. Thank you!

### Membership information:

**Consider** becoming a Member of Philoptochos at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church.

**Share your gift of service bringing light and love in the spirit of helping those in need.**

**Reach** out to any one of the Board Officers listed below to learn how you can engage your time, effort and gifts to serve our community.



|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| President:                         | Theone Kalkinis     |
| Vice President (1 <sup>st</sup> ): | Vickie Mihou        |
| Vice President (2 <sup>nd</sup> ): | Patty Donahue-Carey |
| Treasurer:                         | Tina Carkey         |
| Assistant Treasurer:               | Frieda Meskos       |
| Secretary (Corr):                  | Cara Potamianos     |
| Secretary (Rec):                   | Chryssanthi Intze   |

Our meetings start with the Philoptochos Prayer as a reminder of our dedication to our mission.

O Lord Jesus Christ, we bow our heads before You, and with humble hearts we give thanks to You for the abundant blessings, which You have poured forth upon us. We praise You for gathering us together as members of the Ladies Philoptochos Society in the service to your Holy Church.

### **ΦΙΛΟΠΤΟΧΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΕΥΧΗ**

Κύριε Ιησού Χριστέ, σκύβουμε το κεφάλι μπροστά Σου, και με ταπεινή καρδιά Σε ευχαριστούμε για τις άφθονες ευλογίες, που χύσατε επάνω μας. Σας επαινούμε που μας συγκεντρώσατε ως μέλη της Εταιρείας Κυριών Φιλόπτωχου στην υπηρεσία της Αγίας σας Εκκλησίας.

With the Spirit of Philanthropy,  
Theone Kalkinis  
Philoptochos President



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024  
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
\$25/PERSON**

## **PHILOTOCHOS LUNCHEON**

**BISTRO 1926 @ DRUMLINS  
800 NOTTINGHAM RD**

**JOIN US IN WELCOMING  
NEW MEMBERS, A GIFT EXCHANGE  
AND A FORMAL MEETING**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE GIFT EXCHANGE,  
PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED GIFT  
(Value up to \$20)**

**RSVP AT CHURCH,  
CARA POTAMIANOS (315) 430-1907  
OR STAVROULA KIPOROPOULOS (315) 708-5003  
RESERVATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 27, 2023**



## PHILOPTOCHOS COFFEE HOURS

*Philoptochos Coffee Hours began again on September 10, 2023. If you are interested in scheduling a Coffee Hour, please call the Church Office. Fees for sponsoring a Coffee Hour are as follows, payable to the Philoptochos:*

\$50.00 Fee

*Philoptochos provides and serves the coffee, milk, sugar and juice. Parishioner provides pastries.*

\$150.00 Fee

*Philoptochos provides and serves the pastries, coffee, milk, sugar, juice.*

*There will be no sponsored Coffee Hour on Stewardship Sunday, Godparents Sunday and Cheesefare Sunday.*

*Just a reminder..... Please note that there will be no sponsored Coffee Hours during the Summer months of June, July and August.*

*Parishioner wishes to have a coffee hour during the summer months of June, July and August the fee, payable to the Philoptochos, is \$50.00. Philoptochos would provide coffee, cups, sweetener, creamer, stirrers and set up a serving table. The parishioner would be responsible to provide pastries, setup the serving station and tables, serve at the coffee hour and clean up following the coffee hour. Please call Vivian Alexander, Coordinator Coffee Server at (315) 673-2880 or (315) 430-6162.*



## December 2023 Volunteers To Serve Coffee Hour

*A special thank you to the following ladies of our community who have volunteered to donate their time to serve coffee:*

December 3, 2023

*Elizabeth Sakellariou  
Vasiliki Mihou*

December 10, 2023

*Christina Shiomos  
Garyfallia Papageorge*

December 17, 2023

*Stephen Pollastro  
Jeanne Sarigiannis*

December 24, 2023

*Kathy Shiomos  
Nikki Stamoulacatos*

December 31, 2023

*Alexandra Tavlarides  
Thalia Tonas*

*~ Also, first two weeks of January 2024 ~*

January 7, 2024

*Sofia Vasiliou  
Jeanette Vigliotti*

January 14, 2023

*Artemis Voudouris  
Sophia Wales*

~~~~~

*If you are not currently on our list of volunteers for coffee hours, a sign up sheet is in the gymnasium.*

*All are welcome.*





## December 2023 Memorials Eternal Be Their Memory

### December 3, 2023

- None Scheduled



### December 10, 2023

- None Scheduled

### December 17, 2023

- Memorial Service for Dilbera Malelis (3 Years)
- Trisagion Prayer for Stefanos Malelis (24 Years)



### December 24, 2023

- Memorial Service for Fani Kousmanidis (40 Days)



### December 31, 2023

- None Scheduled



## At St. Sophia's, we sing after the Divine Liturgy:



Σὲ ὑμνοῦ, σὲ ὑμνοῦμεν, σὲ εὐλογοῦ,  
εὐλογοῦμεν, σοὶ εὐχαριστοῦμεν, Κύριε,  
καὶ δεόμεθά σου, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν!

(Se im-nu, se im-numen, se evlogu,  
evlogumen, see evharistoumen, Kyrie!  
Keh deometha sou, O Theos eemon!)

*(We hymn you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you, Lord,  
and we pray to you, O our God!)*

## October 2023 Sacramental Registry

### Baptisms

~ None ~

### Weddings

*Brendan Boles & Gianna Branca*

### Funerals

*Alexandria Felahi*



## December 2023 Coffee Hours



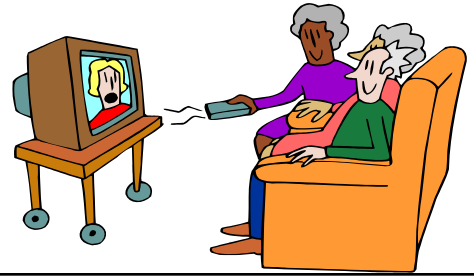
December 24, 2023

In Memory of  
**Fani Kousmanidis**  
Given by the Family

# December 2023

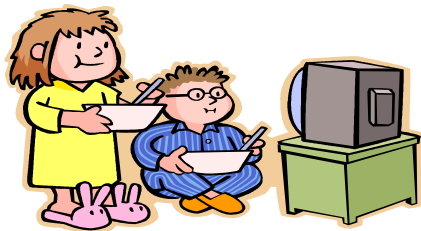
## Program Schedule For Cable Television

All Programs Air on Spectrum (Time Warner) Cable Chanel 98  
in Onondaga County



### Sunday Programs at 7:00 pm “Tradition Today” On Fox 68 WSYT *The series has ended* **(On Spectrum channel 98)**

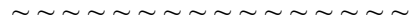
- December 3, 2023— No Feast is an Island
- December 10, 2023— Icon of the Nativity
- December 17, 2023— The Birth of the Transcendent One
- December 24, 2023— Silent Night
- December 31, 2023—Life Transfigured



### Monday Programs at 7:00 pm

*Fr. David’s “The Inner Way”  
series airs every Monday*

- December 4, 2023— Unseen Warfare, part 5
- December 11, 2023— Unseen Warfare, part 6
- December 18, 2023— Unseen Warfare, part 7
- December 25, 2023— Christmas Show
- December 31, 2023— Hesychasm



### Family Classic TV

Sponsored by  
St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church

Sundays at 5:00 pm

The Cisco Kid with Duncan Renaldo & Leo Carrillo  
(2 episodes)

**PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME**

Sundays at 6:00 pm

Sir Lancelot with William Russell

Sundays at 6:30 pm

The Adventures of Robin Hood with Richard Greene

Thursdays at 8:30 pm

Sherlock Holmes with Ronald Howard

Fridays at 8:00 pm

Jim Bowie with Scott Forbes

### **PLEASE NOTE.....**

*Our programs also air on Verizon FIOS cable channel 29,*

*Sunday at 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm*

*Thursday at 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm*

*Many programs also appear on the internet at [frdavidsmith.com](http://frdavidsmith.com)*



# *Philo-Sophia Bookstore*

*Shop the Philo-Sophia Bookstore  
for your holiday gift giving*



*We regularly offer for purchase  
an assortment of  
Icons, Books & Religious Items*

*Featured new items are:  
Small Icons*

*Daily Lives of Saints 2024 Calendar  
Christmas Cards*

*Holiday Ornaments*

*Now open on Sundays after Church !*

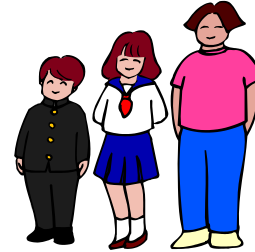




# 2023/2024 Youth Calendar for Sunday School

## Nov 2023

Nov 26—No Sunday School



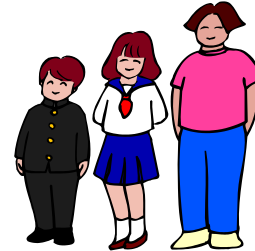
## Dec 2023

Dec 10—St. Basil and St. Nicholas Group Sunday School

Dec 17—Christmas Play

Dec 24—No Sunday School

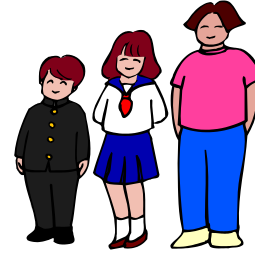
Dec 31—No Sunday School



## Jan 2024

Jan 7—Stay in Church: Blessing of Waters

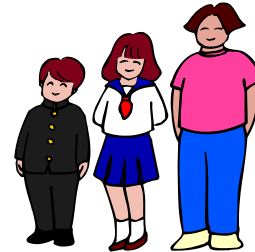
Jan 28—Children’s Sermon: All Classes in Church



## Feb 2024

Feb 18—No Sunday School

Feb 25—No Sunday School

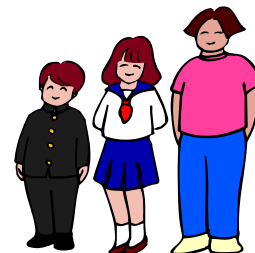


## March 2024

Mar 3—Carnivale Group Sunday School

Mar 24—Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession

Mar 31—No Sunday School



## April 2024

Apr 7—Cross Sunday: Children’s Sermon in Church

Apr 21—No Sunday School

Apr 28—Palm Sunday

## May 2024

May 5—Pascha

May 12—Mother’s Day

May 19—Sunday School Graduation

May 26—No Sunday School

## 2023/2024 Youth Calendar for GOYA & JR GOYA



### Dec 2023

Dec 9—Church Clean-Up and Christmas Tree 10:00 am to 1:00 pm,  
Basket Raffle (JR GOYA Invited)

Dec 17—Christmas Play

Dec 24—Christmas Caroling after Liturgy

### Jan 2024

Jan 12 to 13—Lock In, Meeting at 5:30 pm followed by 6:00 pm Family Night,  
Board Games, Slime, Pizza and a Movie

### Feb 2024

Feb 10—All Youth Dance in Gym 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Feb 11—Souper Bowl Sunday

### March 2024

Mar 10—Meeting at 12:30 pm

Mar 24—Greek Independence Day Performance

### April 2024

Apr 6—Koulourakia Cooking Class 10:00 am to Noon

Apr 27—Palm Folding: Open to all young people

### May 2024

May 19—Reception & Last Meeting





# Carrie Manolakos

**Saturday, December 2, 2023  
7:00-9:00pm**

**Hosmer Auditorium, Everson Museum of Art  
401 Harrison Street—Syracuse, NY 13202  
Phone (315) 474-6064**

**Tickets: \$40**

The Everson Museum of Art is proud to present singer, actress, songwriter, voice coach—and Syracuse native—Carrie Manolakos, for a one-night-only performance on December 2, 2023 at the Everson Museum of Art.

Carrie is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, who spent most of her life and career in New York City, and now resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Carrie starred as Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* on Broadway, and as Elphaba in the second national tour of *Wicked*. Film and soundtrack credits include *The Greatest Showman*, *Incredibles 2*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Croods: A New Age*, and more.

Carrie has sung on many renown stages and in February 2020, made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Pops, receiving a standing ovation mid-act singing her original song, *The Nothing*, with a full symphony orchestra.

In August 2023, Carrie performed at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, singing with her favorite band, *The Swell Season* (Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova), widely known and celebrated as the writers of *ONCE*. Other stages and performances include Madison Square Garden (with Phish) and The Metropolitan Opera House (with Hugh Jackman).





**SECTION 86**  
**ST. MARY'S CEMETERY**  
 Dewitt, New York

**Community Christmas Cookie Drive**

We will be collecting cookies or monetary donations to purchase cookies for the annual Community Christmas Cookie Drive. The cookies will be given to those in need at the Soup Kitchen of the Samaritan Center and the Salvation Army Women's and Children's Center.

If you would like to bake or buy cookies, we will be collecting them on Sunday, December 3 to Sunday, December 17—delivering the cookies on Monday, December 18th. Please drop off your donations to the upper level Church kitchen and please clearly mark the donations "Donation to Cookie Drive". Your generosity is greatly appreciated.





# HOLIDAY BAZAAR

*Middle Eastern Foods & Desserts . Handmade Jewelry  
Signs . Wreaths . Home Decor . Candles . Blankets &  
So Much More*

**Dec. 2nd 10-6 and  
Dec. 3rd from 1-6**



**St. Elias Orthodox Church  
4988 Onondaga Rd.  
Syracuse 13215**



*Free  
Admission!*



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

## **JAMESVILLE DEWITT ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY**



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

*The holiday season is fast approaching us. The Jamesville Dewitt Ecumenical Food Pantry depends on the generosity of the community to meet the needs of families who use the pantry. They will be distributing Christmas Presents for the children in the families that use the food pantry. We are collecting only monetary donations at this time to assist them as needed.*

**For Christmas Donations:**

*We will be collecting  
\$25.00 Gift Cards from  
either Target or Walmart*

*The gift cards are for  
Christmas gifts for  
the children in the families  
that use the food pantry*

*There will be a collection basket  
at the Philo Sophia Bookstore  
and we will collect gift cards  
until Sunday, December 10th*



***For questions, please call Ellen Tartakoff (315) 447-4701***

***Donations may also be mailed to:***

***Ellen Tartakoff  
4272 Taylor Road  
Jamesville, New York 13078***

***Thank you for your generosity and support!***

# St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS 7:00 PPM CARRIE MANOLAKOS AT THE EVERSON
3 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 14TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW <b>ORCHESTRA PLAYS DURING COFFEE HOUR</b>	4 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. BARBARA 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	5 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM COLGATE OCF	6 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER 6:00 PM NATIVITY AKATHIST 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	7 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 PM AMBASSADORS' ZOOM MEETING	8	9 10:00 AM GOYA & JOY CHRISTMAS DECORATING 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
10 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW	11 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	12 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. SPYRIDON	13 6:00 PM NATIVITY AKATHIST 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	14 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	15	16 10:00 AM ROMANIAN LITURGY 2:00 PM AHEPA INITIATION <b>YA ICE SKATING</b>
17 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW <b>CHRISTMAS PAGEANT GOYA CHRISTMAS CAROLING</b>	18 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	19 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	20 6:00 PM NATIVITY AKATHIST 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	21 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	22 9:00 AM ROYAL HOURS FOR THE NATIVITY	23 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 24 8:45 AM ORTHROS 9:00 AM ROYAL HOURS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 6:00 PM <b>VESPERAL LITURGY FOR NATIVITY</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 25 	26 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	27 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	28 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	29	30 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS <b>6 PM to 11 PM DINNER DANCE</b>
<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 31 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY						

# St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	3 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	4 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	5 <b><u>EVE OF EPIPHANY</u></b> <b>9:00 AM ROYAL HOURS</b>  6:00 PM <b>THEOPHANY</b> <b>VESPERAL LITURGY</b> <b>(IN ENGLISH)</b>	6 <b><u>HOLY EPIPHANY</u></b> <b>9:00 AM ORTHROS</b> <b>10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY</b> <b>(IN GREEK)</b>  5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
7 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST	8 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP  6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	9 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	10 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	11 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	12 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR ST. BASIL (ST. BASIL LITURGY DONE IN GREEK) <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>YOUTH FAMILY NIGHT</b> <b>LOCK IN</b>	13 <b>PHILOPTOCHOS</b> <b>LUNCHEON</b> <b>BISTRO 1926 @ DRUMLINS</b>  5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
14 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY	15 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP  6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	16 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	17 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. ANTHONY  6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	18 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	19	20 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
21 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	22 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP  6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	23 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY  6:00 PM AHEPA MEETING	24 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY	25 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. GREGORY  6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	26	27 <b>ALL YOUTH EVENT AT</b> <b>GREEN LAKES BOWLING</b>  5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
28 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	29 5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP  6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101	30 9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS	31 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY			